

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was called to order at 6:09 p.m. by Chairperson Swent in Auditorium, Building A, VTA, 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Herman Wadler	City of Campbell	Present	
John Carpenter	City of Mountain View	Present	
Chris Fernandez	County of Santa Clara	Present	
Bruce Entin	Town of Los Gatos	Absent	
Cheryl Bunnell	City of Milpitas	Absent	
Anna Brunzell	Town of Los Altos Hills	Present	
Richard Swent	City of Palo Alto	Present	
David Simons	City of Sunnyvale	Present	
Thomas Muniz	City of Gilroy	Present	
Jim Stallman	City of Saratoga	Absent	
John Sullivan	City of Santa Clara	Present	
Lane Parker	City of San Jose	Absent	
Joseph Walton	City of Cupertino	Present	
Carl Hagenmaier	City of Los Altos	Absent	
William (Bill) Manry	City of Monte Sereno	Absent	

Marian Sacco	City of Morgan Hill	Absent	
Corinne Winter	Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition	Absent	
Jerri-Ann Meyer	Ex Officio Alt - Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition	Absent	

A quorum was not present and a Committee of the Whole was declared.

2. ORDERS OF THE DAY

Member Simons requested that Agenda Item #8., VTP Highway Program Semi-Annual Report - April 2008, be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda.

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the Orders of the Day were accepted.

3. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no public presentations.

4. Committee Staff Report

Chris Augenstein, CMA Deputy Director and Staff Liaison, provided a brief update on the bike funding element of the Regional Transportation Plan. He noted that it is proposed that \$1 billion be dedicated to regional bike plan with the following language, "fully fund regional network with exception of toll bridges facilities." Mr. Augenstein noted that VTA wants to make sure that funding "should be regional and countywide bike network." Mr. Augenstein urged BPAC members to pay attention to the color of money (where money will come from).

Mr. Augenstein introduced new staff Aiko Cuenco, Transportation Planner.

Michelle DeRobertis, Sr. Transportation Planner, thanked Ms. Cuenco for her diligent work on the Bike Plan. Ms. DeRobertis noted that the following three projects will be considered by the Board in August 2008 for CMAQ funding: Lower Guadalupe River Trail, Foothill Expressway and Loyola Crossing, Santa Clara Station Tunnel Extension.

Ms. DeRobertis noted the other efforts: the retrofitting of 61 bike lockers at six Light Rail Stations is almost ready to go; staff is reviewing park and ride lots to ensure that there are bike lockers available; new bike information at the VTA website; staff will add the Bicycle Technical Guidelines (BTG) to the website.

Member Brunzell took her seat at 6:15 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

- **Highway Program Update**

There was no Highway Program Update

- **Conditions of Approval Update**

There was no Conditions of Approval Update

- **Santa Clara County Report**

Dan Collen, Santa Clara County, noted that the Roads Department staff are working on securing a permit for the Lance Armstrong LiveStrong Challenge, which will be held in Santa Clara County this coming weekend.

5. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Swent commented that there are more bicyclists and transit riders now because of the increasing gas prices. He noted the BPAC's important role of opposing bad ideas and advocating for new good ideas to have a safer and improved access for pedestrians and bicyclists. He noted that he received an e-mail from an Interested Citizen that suggested a third bike rack on buses, especially for heavily used bus lines. He suggested that VTA survey bike use on buses.

Chairperson Swent expressed opposition to the proposed licensing of bicyclist, noting that it would adversely affect children.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Approve Minutes of May 7, 2008

M/S/C (Wadler/Carpenter) to approve the Minutes of May 7, 2008.

7. Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Project Quarterly Status Report

M/S/C (Wadler/Carpenter) to receive the report entitled: Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Project Quarterly Status Report.

8. (Removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda.)

Receive the report entitled: VTP Highway Program Semi-Annual Report.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. VTP Highway Program Semi-Annual Report – April 2008

Member Simons summarized the e-mailed comments from Member Stallman. At the request of Chris Augenstein, the following is the language of the e-mail from Member Stallman, dated July 8, 2008:

NOTE: M/S/C MEANS MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED AND, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

“101/DelaCruz Interchange Makeover Project - point out that there is still sidewalk missing on Dela Cruz - that the project needs to comply with RA when designed/built. Caltrans added a lot of sidewalk to the existing 101 overpass (which will likely get razed) and that County failed to complete the sidewalk when the end of Central Expressway project was built. Also, Central Expressway needs a sidewalk from Lafayette to Dela Cruz - a grade separated RR crossing which should also show on the ABC list. This VTA project is a great opportunity to put in full RA features, finally.

The 101/Blossom Hill Interchange Makeover Project - ask how it will comply with RA. Pedestrians are allowed on Blossom Hill and need to be accommodated on Blossom Hill the whole way - no steepchase. Also show how transit/Park and Ride/101 bus stops will be accommodated. This project is on top of a Caltrain Station so it needs to provide good transit access as well as comply with RA.

Mary Bridge over 101/237 - The EIR is being redone to encompass the project's effect on local roads' - unlike the initial issue EIR. This project needs to be agendized for BPAC review and input so that it doesn't end up as brain dead as the Moffett Towers project which it serves. There are multiple 6 story 1/2 block parking garages already built (with zero bike parking) and a substandard brand new bike lane. The light Rail Station still has no access to Moffett Drive where it is located and there are no sidewalks either. The Moffett Towers project is becoming a poster child for how to skirt and subvert all of the planning requirements which LORS dictates. A neighboring company, Lockheed, was told that there would be no traffic issues because everyone would commute using light Rail.”

Member Stallman suggested that VTA staff look into the lack of sidewalks at the Light Rail station near Moffet Drive.

Ms. DeRobertis referred to the 101/Dela Cruz Project and noted that there is a draft design for the over crossing and interchange ramps. She noted that there are constraints on the right of way to the east of the project because that property belongs to the Airport. The current proposal for the project is a sidewalk on the west side. She urged the Members to provide input regarding the project via e-mail. Chairperson Swent expressed support for sidewalks on both sides.

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the VTP Highway Program Semi-Annual Report was received.

9. Adopt Countywide Bicycle Plan

Ms. DeRobertis noted that there is a Revised Table 4-1 - Freeway Arterial Crossings with no Bike Lanes or Shoulders. She also noted addition of planned bike plan project on Llagas Road between Monterey Rd and Llagas Ct. to Table 4-3 - Safe Routes to Transit Potential Projects, as requested by the City of Morgan Hill. Staff is still working on the number of crossings and interchanges that need bike lanes or ramp reconfiguration. Staff is also working on the cost estimates and these will be available before the August 2008 Board Meeting.

Ms. DeRobertis noted Member Stallman’s e-mailed comments, including: addition of a bullet point under Implementation for Policy D; clarification whether the City of Saratoga has a bike plan; recommended addition of a section called “private property owners” for

trails; add a goal “comply with Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, & Standards (LORS)” under Appendix A Section D-1; and recommended removal of "Land Use Obstructions".

Jon Graff, Interested Citizen, expressed concern about the lack of the S.R. 237 bicycle path in the Countywide Bicycle Plan.

Ms. DeRobertis referred to Mr. Graff’s comments and noted that S.R. 237 bicycle path is included in the plan. The plan recommends completion of the missing pieces of the bike plan.

M/S/C (Wadler/Brunzell) for the BPAC to adopt the 2008 Santa Clara Countywide Bicycle Plan with the noted changes.

10. BEP Evaluation Criteria

Upon inquiry of Chairperson Swent, Ms. DeRobertis responded that the actual criteria will be presented to the Committee next month.

Ms. DeRobertis discussed the existing BEP Project Evaluation Criteria, the Analysis, and the staff recommended changes.

Upon inquiry of Member Muniz, Ms. DeRobertis noted that there will be an initial screening before the Evaluation Committee subject the proposed project to the point-system.

Chairperson Swent recommended incorporating a maximum points allowed to the criteria.

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the Committee received and commented on BEP Evaluation Criteria potential revisions.

11. County Item - Oregon Expressway Improvement Project Overview and Almaden Expressway Improvement Project Overview-

Oregon Expressway Improvement Project Overview

Mr. Collen provided the Committee a brief overview of the Oregon Expressway Improvement Project noting the project background, project funding, public outreach process involved in the project, proposed improvements, public meetings, and proposed project schedule. He introduced the Project Manager for Oregon Expressway Improvement, Masoud Akbarzadeh. Mr. Collen noted that staff is still gathering input from the public and encouraged BPAC members to visit www.OregonExpressway.info for more information and to provide comment.

Chairperson Swent noted the following concerns regarding Oregon Expressway: 1. closer medians are inconvenient; 2. Bryant Street bike boulevard lane width need to be kept the way it currently is; and 3. proposed improvements for Middlefield Road has a lot of opposition because it will remove trees and cut back buffer strips between sidewalk and street. He inquired why the six-phase operation can only have one crosswalk. He noted that pedestrians’ safety should always be considered.

Mr. Collen noted that Chairperson Swent's comments on six-phase operation can be rolled in to the traffic study to get a more quantified response.

Mr. Akbarzadeh noted that all the improvements mentioned in the staff report have geometric improvement features that are not highlighted. There are many bicycle and pedestrian elements in each of the options.

Upon inquiry of Vice Chairperson Walton, Mr. Akbarzadeh responded that the goal is to begin construction by 2010. He added that the schedule depends on how the community supports the project.

Member Brunzell expressed support for improvements of traffic flow along Oregon Expressway. She suggested restriction of left hand turn be changed from 6 to 9 a.m. to 7 to 10 a.m.

Almaden Expressway Improvement Project Overview

Mr. Collen reviewed the project limits of the Almaden Expressway Improvement Project through the map presented at the Meeting. He noted that the County of Santa Clara currently is in the preliminary design phase. Mr. Collen noted that this project will improve traffic congestion, improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and improve safety. Mr. Collen reviewed the proposed treatments for sidewalks and other proposed options. Mr. Collen noted that some of the existing problematic conditions were inherited from when the facility was constructed.

Member Simons inquired why the bike widths noted in the proposal is only six feet while the recommended width in the Bicycle Plan is eight foot. Mr. Collen responded that the Bicycle Accommodation Guidelines notes that a six foot minimum bike width is desirable minimum for expressways.

Chairperson Swent expressed concern about having too many different bike guidelines. Mr. Augenstein noted that there are a lot of commonality between VTA's guidelines and the Santa Clara County's guidelines. Member Wadler commented that Santa Clara County should adopt VTA's Bicycle Technical Guidelines.

Member Wadler commented that Almaden Expressway is challenging and expressed appreciation to the proposed improvements.

Member Carpenter expressed concern about the sharp right turns.

Member Simons inquired what it will take County Roads to unify the policies. Mr. Collen responded that the guidelines and policies are not too far apart. He added that County Roads will coordinate with VTA staff.

Member Sullivan noted that the BTG is more technical and incorporating it to Santa Clara County Roads policy will make the BTG more useful.

Member Simons noted the importance of consistency between guidelines.

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the Committee received project overview of Oregon and Almaden Expressway Improvement Projects.

OTHER

12. BPAC Subcommittee Report on County Expressway Planning Study Update -- Pedestrian Element

Member Simons stated that he will speak with the BPAC Chairperson and VTA staff to find out how the Sub-committee recommendations can be considered for BPAC's action. He added that he will be scheduling a Sub-committee meeting to discuss pedestrian accommodation issues that are recently brought up.

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the Committee received the BPAC Subcommittee Report on County Expressway Planning Study Update -- Pedestrian Element.

13. BPAC Work Plan

Chairperson Swent requested addition of the study of bikes on bus to determine supply and demand for bike racks on buses.

Member Muniz referred to a recent development involving a county hospital in Gilroy. He noted that the bicycle and pedestrian access should be addressed upfront. Mr. Augenstein encouraged the Members to notify VTA with future developments happening in their jurisdiction earlier so that VTA could comment.

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the Committee work plan was reviewed.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Wadler announced that the Campbell BAC received presentation on differentiation between streets and bike lanes and the idea of split speed limits for bike lane. Member Wadler stated that there are many bicyclists on the road that do not know how to safely ride. Member Wadler reported that the Almaden Cycle Touring Club (ACTC) Academy will hold another 12-week bicycle riding safety class on late July 2008.

Member Carpenter stated that the City of Mountain View Council will soon consider the city's Bicycle Plan.

Member Sullivan noted that the Homestead bike lane striping project in the City of Santa Clara is nearing completion. The remaining work between Kiely and Homestead was delayed due to the resurfacing work.

Member Simons reported that a group from Los Altos, which is now working on the Stevens Creek Trail, is working with the City of Sunnyvale for a joint cities agreement on

the plan. He noted that there may be a need for passing underneath SR 85 using the creek. There also may be some construction and will possibly include the Mary-280 bridge as part of the non-creek section. Member Simons congratulated Ms. DeRobertis for being appointed to the Caltrain Pedestrian Advisory Committee. He stated that he was appointed to the same Committee.

Member Brunzell noted that this will be her last BPAC meeting and Nancy Ginzton will be the new representative from the Los Altos. She inquired if there are any guidelines for spare the air day.

Vice Chairperson Walton reported that the first tower of the Mary Avenue Pedestrian Bridge will be installed this Sunday.

Chairperson Swent thanked Members Brunzell and Carpenter for their service to the BPAC. Chairperson Swent noted that Jerri-Ann Meyer will be the new Mountain View representative.

15. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine F. Baltao, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors