

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chairperson Walton in Auditorium, Building A, VTA, 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Richard Ruh	City of Monte Sereno	Present
Paul Goldstein	BPAC Alternate Ex-Officio	Absent
Cheryl Bunnell	City of Milpitas	Absent
Bruce Entin	Town of Los Gatos	Present
Chris Fernandez	County of Santa Clara	Present
Carl Hagenmaier	City of Los Altos	Absent
Nancy Ginzton	Town of Los Altos Hills	Present
Jerri-Ann Meyer	City of Mountain View	Present
Thomas Muniz	City of Gilroy	Present
Marian Sacco	City of Morgan Hill	Absent
David Simons	City of Sunnyvale	Present
Jim Stallman	City of Saratoga	Present
John Sullivan	City of Santa Clara	Present
Richard Swent	City of Palo Alto	Present
Herman Wadler	City of Campbell	Present
Joseph Walton	City of Cupertino	Present
Jana Zavala	City of San Jose	Present
Corinne Winter	SVBC	Absent

2. ORDERS OF THE DAY

Staff requested removal of Agenda Item #7, Development Review Update & Proactive CMP Report from the Consent Agenda and place on the Regular Agenda.

M/S/C (Simons/Wadler) to accept Orders of the Day.

Members Muniz and Ginzton took their seats at 6:05 p.m.

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

3. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no Public Presentations.

4. Committee Staff Report

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, reported the following: 1) Bike to Work Day is scheduled on May 14, 2009 and noted the VTA energizer stations; 2) Over and Under Tour is scheduled for Sunday, May 17, 2009, and volunteers are needed for the River Oaks Bridge. The City of Santa Clara's San Tomas Aquino Trail's new undercrossings between Scott and Monroe will not participate in the Tour; 3) VTA's Congestion Management Agency (CMA) Division is holding its green commute challenge; 4) Bike E-lockers promotion is doing well and information is available in the VTA website, www.vta.org; 5) Invited other members to participate in the New Member Orientation; and 6) The Metropolitan Transportation Commission required Routine Accommodation checklists be completed by May 20, 2009.

- **Highway Program Update**

There was no Highway Program Update.

- **Conditions of Approval Update**

There was no Conditions of Approval Update.

- **County Report**

Dan Collen, Santa Clara County Roads and Airports Department, reported his group has more participants now for the Bay Area May Bike Challenge.

5. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Walton reported the Deputy Sheriff involved in a fatal accident at Steven's Canyon last year pleaded guilty.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Minutes of April 08, 2009

M/S/C (Wadler/Swent) to approve the Minutes of April 8, 2009.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Proactive Development Review Program Enhancements and Quarterly Report

Robert Swierk, Senior Transportation Planner, briefly discussed the Development Review Program and its purpose and objectives. He explained the need, opportunities, and enhancement approach the program utilizes. The program's activities are produced

on a quarterly basis in the form of the Proactive CMP Report, which now include a Geographic Information System (GIS) Map.

Member Swent expressed support for inclusion of a map and suggested creating hyperlinks within the map or table.

Member Simons commented VTA should look into creative ways to encourage more transit ridership through Eco Pass for new developments or projects.

Vice Chairperson Stallman suggested staff consider building into the program better coordination between project sponsors and VTA to ensure regional impacts are evaluated and mitigated.

On order of Chairperson Walton and there being no objection, the Committee received a presentation on the Proactive Development Review Program Enhancements and Quarterly Report.

The Agenda was taken Out of Order.

9. Advisory Committee Enhancement (ACE) Subcommittee Report

Member Wadler noted the ACE Subcommittee discussed a need to change Committee bylaws to be able to provide the Board of Directors more input.

8. Advisory Committee Enhancement Update: May

Jennie Loft, Public Information Officer, noted the priorities and strategies of the ACE Subcommittee. These include: 1) Add the Advisory Committee votes/comments/concerns to the board memos to improve communication to the Board of Directors; and 2) Advisory Committees need bylaws changed to allow them to put items in the agenda. The ACE Subcommittee was not able to discuss a strategy for the third priority, "reviewing and providing input in early development of the project/process and not final completion stage."

On order of Chairperson Walton and there being no objection, the Committee received a report on the Advisory Committee Enhancement.

10. Adopt 2009 Bicycle Expenditure Program (BEP) Project List

Ms. DeRobertis noted the following projects were re-scored and are now part of the BEP: 1) B85 - Campbell's Los Gatos Creek Trail east side widening; 2) B56 - San Jose's Thompson Creek Trail: Class 1 bike Path from Eastridge Transit Center to Evergreen College; 3) B86 - Los Altos' Miramonte Avenue Bikeway Improvement Project; 4) B78 - Santa Clara County (SCC) Parks Los Gatos Creek Trail - Lark Avenue to Bl Hill Drive; and 5) B79 - SCC Parks Coyote Creek Trail - Silicon Valley Blvd. to Metcalf Road.

Ying Smith, Transportation Planning Manager, explained the BEP is a long-term planning document. When funds come in for programming, such as the TDA3 funds, that is when the money is available for construction of projects.

M/S/C (Swent/Simons) to recommend to the Board of Directors to approve the 2009 Bicycle Expenditure Program project list as shown on the staff report.

11. FY 2009/10 TDA3 Project Priorities

Upon inquiry of Chairperson Walton, Ms. DeRobertis explained cities are allowed to save Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 dollars if cities do not have projects to spend the money on. They could use these “banked funds” for future projects.

M/S/C (Wadler/Swent) to recommend to the Board of Directors to Adopt a resolution approving the project priorities for the FY2009/10 Countywide Transportation Development Act Article 3 Program as shown in Attachment A.

12. Bike Capacity on Transit Subcommittee Update

Art Douwes, briefly explained Sportworks’ 2 and 3 Position Bike Racks, new bus specification language, and VTA’s bike on bus policies. Mr. Douwes explained the issues concerning the 3 position bike racks and why it cannot be installed at VTA buses at this time. Mr. Douwes also discussed AB 652 (Skinner) Bus Rack Capacity Increase and noted the bill was amended late April 2009 to limit this initiative to AC Transit. Mr. Douwes noted the bus specification for the new procurement is available in the VTA website.

Vice Chairperson Stallman noted the following concerns should be addressed at the next bus procurement: 1) wider rear doors; 2) more folding seats at buses; and 3) more room at the back of the bus. Mr. Douwes responded VTA follows the American Public Transportation Association’s (APTA) guidelines and standards on rear doors. With regard to folding seats, Mr. Douwes explained staff can look further into the idea but noted passengers prefer seating facing the front of the bus rather than the side of the bus. Mr. Douwes noted based on current codes, VTA buses cannot extend more than 40 feet, thus, there cannot be more room at the back of the bus.

Member Swent noted the importance of training bus drivers on proper use of bike racks.

On order of Chairperson Walton and there being no objection, the Committee received an Update on the Bike Capacity on Transit Subcommittee.

13. Bicycle & Pedestrian Education & Training and
14. Countywide Study of Bicycle & Pedestrian Collisions

Chairperson Walton noted the need for training safety video for adults and kids on VTA website to prevent bicycle and pedestrian accidents. He commented it maybe helpful to outsource production of the video to Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC).

Member Simons expressed concern about the inconsistencies of data collection for bicycle and pedestrian accidents. This information is needed to determine the real need for safety programs and also to justify the funding for the program.

Member Sullivan noted the California Highway Patrol has a database containing information about major accidents. However, this database does not track non-major or non-injury accidents and the data collected is not consistent.

Member Meyer noted the importance of bicycle and pedestrian safety outreach for motorists and suggested creating a subcommittee to determine the goals, type of program, and target audience of the safety program.

The Committee directed staff to invite John Brazil at a future meeting to discuss bicycle and pedestrian accidents in Santa Clara County.

On order of Chairperson Walton, the following were appointed to the subcommittee to discuss bicycle and pedestrian education and training: Members Meyer, Simons, Swent and Wadler.

15. County Earmark Proposals for Federal Surface Transportation Program Reauthorization Legislation (County Item)

Mr. Collen noted the following projects are proposed: Page Mill Road/I-280 Interchange Improvements; San Tomas Box Culvert Repair; Capitol Expressway Pedestrian Improvements; and DeWitt Avenue S-Curve Realignment.

M/S/C (Wadler/Fernandez) to recommend that the Board of Directors support the County's projects for inclusion in the Federal Surface Transportation Program reauthorization legislation.

OTHER

16. County Roads Capital Projects Update

Mr. Collen provided a brief update on the two Economic Stimulus Projects and noted the difficulties due to time constraints and noted the contracts for those two projects will not be awarded until mid-August 2009.

On order of Chairperson Walton and there being no objection, the Committee received the County Roads Capital Projects Update.

17. BPAC Work Plan

Mr. Collen requested adding to the work plan potential County ordinance that will address parades.

Ms. Smith noted the items for future consideration will be added to next month's work plan, including the invite to John Brazil.

On order of Chairperson Walton and there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the BPAC Work Plan.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Ruh noted he is the new representative for the City of Monte Sereno. He noted he is an avid cyclist.

Member Zavala noted there will be free helmets at the energizer stations during Bike to Work Day. She noted she will send a link to staff regarding a survey and invited Members to participate.

Member Swent noted the energizer station locations in Palo Alto for Bike to Work Day. He noted Palo Alto's Finance Committee is currently meeting and will consider funding a feasibility study for Adobe Creek year-round crossing of U.S. 101.

Member Simons noted the Mary Avenue/I-280 bridge is well used.

Member Meyer announced the Stevens Creek Trail is now open and can be used until it reaches Sleeper Avenue. The bridge over Moffet Boulevard will open by the end of May 2009. She also announced SVBC parties to be held in San Jose (Plant 51) and San Mateo (St. James Irish Pub) tomorrow.

Member Entin reported Whole Foods sponsored City of Los Gatos' energizer stations. Music in the Park in Los Gatos will be held on June 2009.

Member Wadler reported he completed training another bicyclist. The League of American Bicyclists will hold an Educational Conference on June 18, 2009.

Member Muniz announced the next Gilroy BPAC will meet on May 26, 2009.

19. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Walton and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine F. Baltao, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors