

## Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Wednesday, July 8, 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 6:07 p.m. by Chairperson Walton in Auditorium, Building A, VTA, 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

#### 1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Cheryl Bunnell	City of Milpitas	Absent
Bruce Entin	Town of Los Gatos	Absent
Chris Fernandez	County of Santa Clara	Present
Carl Hagenmaier	City of Los Altos	Present
Nancy Ginzton	Town of Los Altos Hills	Present
Jerri-Ann Meyer	City of Mountain View	Present
Thomas Muniz	City of Gilroy	Present
Richard Ruh	City of Monte Sereno	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	Absent
Corinne Winter	SVBC	Absent
Paul Goldstein	Alt Ex-Officio, SVBC	Present

A quorum was present.

#### 2. ORDERS OF THE DAY

There were no Orders of the Day.

#### 3. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There was no Public Presentation.

#### 4. **Committee Staff Report**

- **Highway Program Update**

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, reported the following: 1) Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) Highway Program Semi-Annual Report was prepared in April 2009, noting the link will be forwarded to the Committee; 2) Route 237 Auxiliary Lane project is no longer included in the Highway Program; and 3) E-locker Program is on-going and E-lockers have been installed at 8 VTA Park and Ride Lots with the goal to install approximately thirty-five more.

Vice Chairperson Stallman queried about the E-locker Smart Cards. Ying Smith, Transportation Planning Manager and Staff Liaison, responded VTA's subsidizing is part of a Bike to Work Month Promotion to encourage the use of the E-lockers. Ms. Smith stated the pre-loaded \$20.00 E-locker Smart Card was available for purchase for \$10.00 through June 30, 2009.

Ms. DeRobertis noted the City of Gilroy will be revising its Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) reporting process including its developing and review process.

Member Muniz stated the goal is to streamline and make the process automatic to allow developers to view the projects and attain project approval through the Gilroy City Planning Commission and City Council.

Upon query from Vice Chairperson Stallman, Ms. DeRobertis noted the Complete Streets Workshop scheduled on July 10, 2009 in Sacramento will be hosted by the Local Streets and Government Commission.

- **Conditions of Approval Update**

There was no Conditions of Approval Update.

- **County Report**

There was no County Report.

- **Bay Trail Update**

Laura Thompson, Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), provided a brief presentation entitled, "San Francisco Bay Trail," highlighting: 1) Bay Trail Vision; 2) Shoreline Recreation; 3) Transportation; 4) Bay Trail Statistics; 5) Bay Trail Non-Profit; 6) Bay Trail Project Partnerships; 7) Bay Trail Grant Program; 8) South Bay Grant Projects; and 9) Key South Bay Gaps.

Ms. Thompson reported the Bay Trail is a regional project and when completed the 500 mile trail will form a continuous hiking and biking corridor around San Francisco Bay passing through 47 cities, 9 counties, and crossing 7 toll bridges. The Bay Trail provides Shoreline access for recreation, education, and transportation. The Bay Trail is part of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Regional Bicycle Plan.

Ms. Thompson commented 293 miles of the 500 mile trail system are complete, noting 80 percent of the complete trail segments are paths separated from traffic. In Santa Clara County there are approximately 46 total miles of the Bay Trail spine with 33 miles existing and 13 miles proposed. The primary segments the public visit include Palo Alto Baylands, Mountain View Shoreline, Sunnyvale Baylands, Alviso Marina, and Coyote Creek Trail.

The Bay Trail Projects is a non-profit organization, which is administered by the ABAG and currently has three full time planners that reports to an independent non-profit Board of Directors. The Role of the Bay Trail Project is to provide regional oversight of the project; to coordinate with local governments, regional, and state agencies and park districts; to provide technical assistance; to provide education and outreach to the community; and assist local communities to seek funding for planning and construction of trail segments.

The completion of the Bay Trail segments can only be accomplished through partnerships, which include public agencies at the local, regional, state and federal levels; special districts; private landowners; non-profit organizations; community groups; and individuals. The Bay Trail Project primary partners are the Bay Conservation and Development Commission; Coastal Conservancy; MTC; Transportation Agencies; Park Districts; Land Trusts; and 47 cities and 9 counties.

The Bay Trail Program goals are to speed the construction of the Bay Trail; leverage State funding; to foster project partnership; and complete feasibility studies. The Bay Trail received \$21 million from the State over six cycles with Coastal Conservancy oversight. The Bay Trail allocated 112 planning and construction grants to local jurisdictions and land managers in all nine counties. When all the program grants are completed the result will be 53 miles of new trail construction with over 122 miles of planning analysis.

Ms. Thompson noted the South Bay Grant Projects are San Tomas Aquino Trail; Guadalupe River Bridge; Moffett Field; Fremont Gap; Alviso Marina in San Jose; Lockheed Reach in Sunnyvale; and EcoCenter Trail in Palo Alto.

Ms. Thompson commented on the Key South Bay Gaps, noting the obstacles impeding the completion of the following projects: sale and land transfer for Moffett Field; funding shortfalls for the Guadalupe Bridge; funding and project analysis issues for the Zanker Road and Los Esteros Road area; and project delays due to the economy crisis for the Fremont Gap.

Vice Chairperson Stallman noted the importance for the Committee to be apprised of Bay Trail's projects and funding issues, noting the Committee's role and responsibility as the Countywide BPAC for Santa Clara County to ensure bicycle and pedestrian projects have the ability to move forward.

Vice Chairperson Stallman requested Ms. Thompson provide a list of projects and project amounts in order for the Committee to forward the information to be considered for inclusion into the Bicycle Expenditure Plan (BEP).

**On order of Chairperson Walton**, the Highway Program Update, Conditions of Approval Update, County Report, and Bay Trail Update were received.

## 5. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Walton noted a correction to the June 10, 2009 Minutes to reflect him as absent. He was unable to attend the June 10, 2009 BPAC Meeting due to his wife being injured in a bicycle trail accident and requiring medical attention.

Chairperson Walton reported the following: 1) update from the Subcommittee on the bicycle and pedestrian education, training, and collisions will be provided at the August 12, 2009 BPAC meeting; 2) received a brief report on the Bike Collision Study from John Brazil, City of San Jose, at the June 10, 2009 BPAC meeting; and 3) suggested the bicycle accident prevention item remain on the BPAC agenda for the next meeting.

Vice Chairperson Stallman encouraged Members to seize the opportunity to receive the free bike racks in its community by identifying locations and providing the street name and photo to VTA.

Member Swent stated the City of Palo Alto did receive bike racks but stated the free bike rack program has specific guidelines that must be followed. Ms. DeRobertis stated the Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) grant was intended for the installation of bike racks where none existed in order to encourage the use of bicycles.

Ms. DeRobertis noted the bike racks need to be installed in places that serve the public and community. VTA submitted its final report on June 30, 2009 deadline for reimbursement of the bike racks and installations.

Upon inquiry from Vice Chairperson Stallman, Ms. Smith responded AB652 relating to three bike racks on the transit system applies only to AC Transit system.

Ms. DeRobertis responded staff will report back to the Committee with additional information related to three bike racks on the transit system.

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve the Minutes of June 10, 2009.

## REGULAR AGENDA

6. Minutes of June 10, 2009

Vice Chairperson Stallman noted the following correction under Roll Call: Chairperson Walton should be reflected as absent at the June 10, 2009 BPAC Meeting.

**M/S/C (Stallman/Wadler)** to approve the June 10, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended.

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

7. **Advisory Committee Enhancement Update: July**

Jennie Loft, Public Information Officer, reported the ACE met on June 24, 2009 and discussed strategies to improve the Advisory Committee process with focus on increasing meeting efficiency, communication, and collaboration.

Ms. Loft commented on some of the issues identified as well as possible solutions suggested by the ACE Subcommittee. The ACE Subcommittee did not support the Hay Group recommendation to combine the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) into one group. The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) serving in the capacity as policy stakeholders was not endorsed by the ACE Subcommittee.

Member Wadler referenced his suggestion to eliminate the bicycle representation position from the CAC and the position given to another unrepresented group to serve on the committee.

Ms. Loft commented the ACE Subcommittee suggested the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and Committee for Transit Accessibility (CTA) should serve in the capacity as expert working groups to the TAC. This suggestion will be further discussed at the next ACE Subcommittee and an update will be presented to the Advisory Committees.

The ACE Subcommittee supported the suggestion to conduct joint meetings and/or workshop meetings in lieu of regular scheduled advisory committee meetings.

The next ACE meeting is scheduled on July 22, 2009 and if needed, a tentative additional meeting is scheduled on July 29, 2009. Staff will present a report on the status of the ACE recommendations at the August 20, 2009 Administration and Finance Committee meeting.

Chairperson Walton encouraged the Committee to provide pictures to display on the back wall of the committee meeting room.

**On order of Chairperson Walton** and there being no objection, the ACE Update for July 2009 was received.

8. **Advisory Committee Enhancement (ACE) Subcommittee Report**

Vice Chairperson Stallman noted the importance for Members to forward comments to its ACE Subcommittee Members for consideration before the July 22, 2009 ACE Subcommittee meeting.

Vice Chairperson Stallman reported many of the ACE Subcommittee suggestions were already in place, such as sharing information between the Committees; the Consolidated Board and Committee Workplan; and the inclusion of Advisory Committee comments in Board Memorandums.

Member Simons noted the ACE Subcommittee will continue to focus on the Advisory Committee structures.

**On order of Chairperson Walton** and there being no objection, the ACE Update for July 2009 was received.

9. **Grant Application – Regional Measure 2 (RM2) – Safe Routes to Transit**

Ms. DeRobertis reported the Regional Measure 2 (RM2) Safe Routes to Transit grant application submittals are due August 12, 2009. VTA intends to apply and submit one grant application. Staff will present the RM2 information at the July 9, 2009 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to encourage the cities to apply for the grants. Ms. DeRobertis stated VTA is considering developing a grant application pertaining to the Bicycle Share Program.

Ms. Smith reported the Bicycle Share Program Implementation is ready to move forward for the competitive process.

Vice Chairperson Stallman noted the importance to look for worthy projects that will benefit the community, such as the San Rafael Richmond Bridge by dedicating RM2 grant funding to the project.

**On order of Chairperson Walton** and there being no objection, the Grant Application – Regional Measure 2 (RM2) – Safe Routes to Transit was received.

10. **Revisions to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Checklist – Transportation Section**

Ms. DeRobertis reported the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines provide guidance to agencies in assessing environmental impacts from projects. The CEQA checklist is used to assist agencies to assess if a project might have an environmental impact. At this time the CEQA transportation analysis does not contain any questions that pertain to bicycle and pedestrian mobility, transit operations, and traffic safety.

Ms. DeRobertis stated Caltrans submitted a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) on February 2, 2009 with specific suggestions to improve the transportation section of the CEQA checklist.

Ms. DeRobertis noted VTA intends to provide input during the Natural Resource Agency’s comment period. VTA staff requests the BPAC endorse VTA sending a letter to the Resources Agency supporting the changes suggested by the OPR as well as sending additional proposed recommended changes by VTA staff to the Transportation Section of the CEQA checklist.

Alternate Ex-Officio Member Goldstein directed attention to Attachment 10.c. “OPR Proposed CEQA Guidelines Amendments,” and suggested the wording be revised in Section XVI. Transportation /Traffic to reflect the following: “Exceed the capacity of the existing circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation, including non-motorized travel and all relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit.”

The Committee expressed support for VTA staff to send a letter to the Resources Agency supporting the changes suggested by the OPR as well as the proposed recommended changes by VTA staff to the Transportation Section of the CEQA checklist.

Ms. Smith encouraged the Members to urge its cities to send a letter supporting the changes to the Resources Agency. Ms. Smith stated VTA staff is available to provide assistance to the cities in preparing its letter to the Resources Agency.

Ms. DeRobertis noted two public hearings scheduled on August 18, 2009 in Sacramento and the other meeting in Los Angeles.

The Committee requested staff provide the Members with a sample letter and the comment period deadline.

**On order of Chairperson Walton** and there being no objection, the Revisions to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Checklist – Transportation Section was received.

**11. Draft Ordinance - Special Events (County)**

Chairperson Walton requested an action item be agendaized for the August 12, 2009 BPAC Meeting regarding the County Code relating to bicycles and skateboards referenced at the June 10, 2009 BPAC Meeting.

Ms. Smith responded staff will forward the Committee's action item request to Dan Collen, Santa Clara County representative, in order for the item to be prepared for the August 12, 2009 BPAC Meeting.

**On order of Chairperson Walton** and there being no objection, the Draft Ordinance – Special Events (County) was deferred to the August 12, 2009 BPAC Meeting.

**OTHER**

**12. BPAC Work Plan**

Ms. Smith noted the Committee's action item request to Dan Collen, Santa Clara County representative, regarding the County Code relating to bicycles and skateboards be agendaized on the August 12, 2009 BPAC.

Ms. Smith referenced the BPAC Workplan dated June 24, 2009, noting several of the items should be reflected as Information not Action. Ms. Smith directed attention to the Items in Queue on the Workplan and asked the Committee for input.

Vice Chairperson Stallman referenced Document Id# 2123, noting the request to Bay Trail to provide a list of projects with the project amount to be scheduled for a future BPAC Meeting.

Ms. Smith stated staff will provide a status update on the Bicycle Expenditure Plan (BEP) to be scheduled for a future BPAC Meeting.

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

### 13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Walton announced he and Vice Chairperson Stallman escorted Ying Smith and Michelle DeRobertis over the Mary Avenue Bridge in Cupertino.

Alternate Ex-Officio Member Goldstein urged bicyclist to be careful in Portola Valley due to a concentrated effort by the local police to ticket bicyclists. Alternate Ex-Officio Member Goldstein stated the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC) will work with Portola Valley and other agencies to address the concern.

Alternate Ex-Officio Member Goldstein announced the appointment of Ina Gerhard, new coordinator to Caltrans District 4, noting the next Caltrans District 4 Bicycle quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2009.

Alternate Ex-Officio Member Goldstein announced SVBC is a recipient of a “Bike to the Movies” grant from REI.

Member Wadler announced he trained two new cyclists. Member Wadler noted the Campbell City Council Meeting is scheduled within the next two weeks. Member Wadler noted the League of American Bicyclist meet two weeks ago, where he co-host a presentation with John Brazil, Bicyclist and Pedestrian Program Coordinator for the City of San Jose.

Member Meyer noted the City of Mountain View 2009 Summer Concert Series “Downtown Thursday Night Live on Castro Street” free evening concerts between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Member Meyer noted the City of Mountain View BPAC is on vacation and the next scheduled meeting is in August.

Chairperson Walton reported Member Meyer was invited to speaker at the League of American Bicyclist Conference.

Member Swent reported Board Member Yoriko Kishimoto will term out as City Council Member for Palo Alto; therefore, Ms. Kishimoto will run for State Legislator.

Member Hagenmaier requested assistance from the Committee Members regarding information on applying for Bike Friendly City designation, noting the information could be provided offline after the meeting.

Member Sullivan announced the San Tomas Creek Trail opening, noting the Ribbon Cutting Event scheduled on Friday, July 10, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. Member Sullivan stated more information is available on the City of Santa Clara website.

Member Muniz reported on his intention to pursue opportunities for pedestrian usage along the maintenance roads for Llagas Creek and Uvas Creek in the South County. The next Gilroy BPAC meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2009.

Member Muniz announced the Gilroy Garlic Festival scheduled from Friday, July 24 through Sunday, July 26, 2009, noting this year there are additional accommodations for bicyclists.

Vice Chairperson Stallman noted the City of Saratoga has received several of the Measure B bicycle racks. Vice Chairperson Stallman offered his advice and guidance to the Members regarding how to deal with Goat Head Puncture Thorns.

Chairperson Walton announced the City of Cupertino Park and Recreation Department will administer enrollment of a Bicycle Educational Training Program for youth and adult participation.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**On order of Chairperson Walton** and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle M. Garza, Board Assistant  
VTA Board of Directors