

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Wednesday, October 7, 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 6:05 p.m. by Chairperson Walton in Auditorium, Building A, VTA, 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

Aaron Faupell, future BPAC member representing the City of Milpitas, introduced himself as a long time recreation and utilities cyclist. He has been a member of the Milpitas BPAC for a year and has been attending the Milpitas BPAC as a member of the public one year before he became a member.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Bruce Entin	Town of Los Gatos	Present
Chris Fernandez	County of Santa Clara	Absent
Carl Hagenmaier	City of Los Altos	Absent
Nancy Ginzton	Town of Los Altos Hills	Absent
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, Vice Chairperson	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, Chairperson	City of Cupertino	Present
Jana Zavala	City of San Jose	Present
Corinne Winter	SVBC	NA
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

Aaron Faupell, Interested Citizen, expressed concern regarding unmaintained bike paths. He used the San Jose/Caltrans bike path parallel to State Route (SR) 237 as an example. Dan Collen, Deputy Director, Santa Clara County Roads and Airports Department, provided the County's contact information where issues and complaints should be sent.

Mr. Faupell inquired on the policy regarding bicycle lane detectors on expressway intersections. He asked if symbols could be painted to identify the bicycle detectors. Mr. Collen responded it is County standard to have symbols on expressway cross street locations. He requested Mr. Faupell provide details regarding the specific expressway cross street so County staff could check on it.

Member Swent recommended marking symbols to help bicyclists identify bicycle detectors on expressways and its cross streets.

Member Wadler commented bicycle symbols are not being marked on repaved streets in the City of San Jose. Member Zavala stated she will inform City of San Jose staff.

4. Committee Staff Report

Ying Smith, Transportation Planning Manager and Staff Liaison, reported on the status of the Advisory Committee Enhancement (ACE) process. She stated the Administration and Finance Committee (A&F) directed staff to go back to the ACE Task Force to finalize recommendations for improving the process and streamlining resources required to support the committees. The next meeting of the ACE Task Force is on October 28, 2009, at 11:30 a.m.

Ms. Smith provided details regarding BPAC Member appointments. She explained appointments go the A&F Committee and to the Board of Directors for approval. Appointment of Aaron Faupell is going to the A&F Committee this month, and to the Board of Directors at its November 5, 2009 meeting. She stated Mr. Faupell would be an official BPAC Member at the November 10, 2009 BPAC meeting. She noted the same process would be applied for Jim Bell, future BPAC Member representing the City of San Jose. Mr. Bell's appointment would go to November A&F meeting and December Board of Directors meeting.

Ms. Smith reported on the Third Annual River Oaks Bridge count. There were 596 bicyclists and pedestrians. She noted more details about the bridge count would be provided at a future meeting. She expressed appreciation to Chairperson Walton for his participation.

Ms. Smith reported on the memorandum entitled, "Hybrid Bus Procurement." She stated the memo addresses the following requests by the Committee: 1) wider rear doors; and 2) install three-position bike racks.

Vice Chairperson Stallman expressed appreciation to staff on increasing the rear door requirement. He suggested VTA's lobbyists should propose legislation to eliminate or change the bus length regulation so VTA would have more options in the future. He expressed concern on the following: 1) recommendation of the RIDES Task Force; and 2) process of selecting new bus equipments. He noted the Advisory Committee's involvement in the selection of new bus equipments could be improved.

- Capital Program Update

There was no Capital Program Update.

- County Report

Dan Collen, Deputy Director, Santa Clara County Roads and Airports Department, reported on the status of the following projects: 1) Almaden Expressway widening; 2) Oregon Expressway signal improvements; and 3) Central Expressway planned auxiliary lanes.

Ms. Smith announced that due to the Veterans Day holiday on November 11, 2009, the next BPAC meeting will be on Tuesday, November 10, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.

Alternate Ex-Officio Member Goldstein commented the new pavement of the bicycle lane under the Loyola Bridge is uneven.

On order of Chairperson Walton and there being no objection, the Committee Staff Report was received.

5. Chairperson's Report

There was no Chairperson's Report.

6. BPAC Subcommittee Reports

Member Swent reported the subcommittee met with Silvia Gallegos, Deputy County Executive, County of Santa Clara, and was tasked to provide solutions on the following issues: 1) rewording the Special Events Permit Ordinance; 2) acquiring permits for bicycle events; and 3) establish methods to inform the public about bicycle events.

Member Zavala inquired on the jurisdiction of the ordinance and the community's opinion regarding bicycle events in the City of San Jose. Member Swent responded the ordinance only apply to County Roads and unincorporated districts. He added the community's reaction to bicycle events was not discussed at the meeting.

On order of Chairperson Walton and there being no objection, the BPAC Subcommittee Reports were received.

CONSENT AGENDA

7. Minutes of August 12, 2009

M/S/C (Stallman/Wadler) to approve the Minutes of August 12, 2009.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. Funding Program for County Expressway Pedestrian Projects

Marcella Rensi, Transportation Planning Manager, provided background information on the Community Design and Transportation (CDT) Program, and Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 funds and how they are distributed. She noted staff proposes to use up to \$150,000 per year from the Bicycle Expenditure Program's (BEP) 30 percent of TDA Article 3 funding, and make them available to fund these projects. To receive the funds, the county and the respective cities where the project is located would be required to jointly sponsor the project, coordinate planning, and commit equal amounts of matching funds which would be matched by VTA on equal one third shares.

Dan Collen, Deputy Director, Santa Clara County Roads and Airports Department, expressed appreciation to staff for finding a source of funding for pedestrian projects. He also expressed appreciation to the Committee for their suggestions to resolve the funding issue. He recommended the Committee Members to inform its respective cities about the funding program and identify pedestrian projects that needs funding.

Member Swent inquired if it is permissible to transfer money from the CDT to the BEP. Ms. Rensi responded with this action, the Board of Directors could change the allotted amount going to the different programs.

Member Swent expressed concern on the requirement to have the respective city match the funds provided by the County and VTA. Ms. Rensi responded the reaction from different cities would be determined at the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) where this funding program would also be presented. She stated the City of Santa Clara is eager to utilize the program for one of their projects.

Mr. Collen provided examples of pedestrian projects that were partially funded by the respective cities. He noted the proposed funding program is an attractive program for the cities because it provides additional funding. He stated the expressway update that identified the planning process for pedestrian routes helped city staff understand and prioritize the need to fund pedestrian projects.

Member Meyer inquired on the County's source of funding to match funds provided by VTA and the respective city. Mr. Collen responded the County has been budgeting funds for this program from the gasoline tax.

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

Member Meyer inquired on the process if the County or city is unable to match the required funds. Ms. Rensi responded the funds would be banked while waiting for the remaining funds. The program may come back to the Committees and the Board of Directors for alteration if the remaining funds are not received within two to three years. Staff would determine a different approach to fund the project.

Member Meyer requested an explanation on the proposed movement of funds versus a direct CDT program transfer. Ms. Rensi responded pedestrian projects are not the best candidates for CDT program because of the following: 1) CDT program prefers projects costing \$500,000 or more; and 2) some pedestrian projects may have eligibility challenges with the type of federal funds received by the CDT. She noted that for ease of administration, staff proposes to use TDA Article 3 funding.

Member Muniz inquired about the following: 1) process of selecting projects eligible for the new funding program; and 2) is the new funding program limited to pedestrian projects. Ms. Rensi responded the County will be working with the respective Cities to select projects eligible for the new funding program.

Mr. Collen responded the program was developed to address pedestrian use for Expressways, but it is also flexible for bicycle projects.

Ying Smith, Transportation Planning Manager and Staff Liaison, explained the new funding program is going to be cost neutral to the BEP and the proposed movement of funds is for ease of administration. She noted a small portion of the CDT program would be used for the new funding program.

M/S/C (Wadler/Muniz) to adopt New Funding Program for County Expressways Pedestrian Projects.

9. Bay Trail Update – Project List

Ying Smith, Transportation Planning Manager and Staff Liaison, provided a supplemental handout entitled, “Bay Trail Gaps in the South Bay.” The handout contains a list of unfinished projects in Santa Clara, Alameda, and San Mateo Counties. She stated the list was provided by Laura Thompson, staff of the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Vice Chairperson Stallman commented the projects contained in the list should not be neglected and should be incorporated in the next BEP review. He expressed interest in completing the connection from Santa Clara County to the Dumbarton Bridge.

Aaron Faupell, Interested Citizen, commented the trail along east side of Coyote Creek from Dixon Landing to SR 237 is not incorporated in the list of Bay Trails. Ms. Smith responded the comment would be forwarded to Laura Thompson.

On order of Chairperson Walton and there being no objection, the Bay Trail Update – Project List was received.

10. Appoint a Subcommittee to Nominate New BPAC Chair/Vice

Ying Smith, Transportation Planning Manager and Staff Liaison, explained the election process for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson: 1) appointing the nominating subcommittee; 2) report from the nominating subcommittee; and 3) election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Member Swent, Member Sullivan, and Chairperson Walton volunteered to serve for the nominating subcommittee.

M/S/C (Wadler/Meyer) to appoint a nominating subcommittee to identify Committee member interested in serving as the BPAC chairperson or vice chairperson for 2010.

OTHER

11. Local Jurisdiction Project Review Report

Ying Smith, Transportation Planning Manager and Staff Liaison, explained this Agenda Item was created for the Committee to share their questions and concerns on projects at their local jurisdictions.

Member Muniz inquired about VTA's role on the planned High Speed Rail. Ms. Smith responded the High Speed Rail would utilize the Caltrain alignment from the Diridon Station in San Jose to San Francisco, and as a member of the Caltrain Joint Powers Board, VTA has a role to ensure proper work will be done along the corridors and stations.

Member Meyer reported on the status of the Permanente Creek Pedestrian/Bike Bridge overcrossing Highway 101 in the City of Mountain View. She stated the project is mostly funded by North Bayshore and construction is scheduled to begin January 2010.

Member Swent reported the City of Palo Alto has a CDT project in progress, the intersection of Stanford Avenue and El Camino Real.

Chairperson Walton reported the bollards on both ends of the Mary Avenue Bridge were moved and widened to accommodate the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) width. He added the pathway would also be widened.

On order of Chairperson Walton and there being no objection, the Local Jurisdiction Project Review Report was received.

12. BPAC Work Plan

Ying Smith, Transportation Planning Manager and Staff Liaison, provided a handout entitled, "VTA Bike Program Priorities June 2009 – June 2010." She stated the handout presents staff's work program schedule. She requested for the Committee's input to further develop staff's work program.

Member Muniz commented the staff work program should also include pedestrian projects. Ms. Smith responded staff is in the process of enhancing the pedestrian program. She noted the following needs to be accomplished: 1) determine a funding source; and 2) update the Pedestrian Technical Guidelines.

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

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chairperson Stallman announced the de Anza Trail will be going out for bid this month. He stated the bridge needs to be extended.

Member Muniz requested to have the Pedestrian Technical Guidelines uploaded on the VTA website. Ms. Smith responded due to VTA's accessibility requirement, staff is unable to upload the Pedestrian Technical Guidelines on the website. She stated electronic and hard copies would be provided upon request.

Member Sullivan announced part of the San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail was opened this past summer. He expressed concern on the increased cost to open that segment of the trail. He also expressed concern on the cost to build pedestrian projects along Expressways, and noted it may raise safety issues for both bicyclists and pedestrians.

Member Zavala announced the City of San Jose recently voted on their fiscal year priorities. She added the City also has a trail program underway that would harmonize bike trails and improve directional signs.

Member Swent announced the City of Palo Alto's Bicycle Advisory Committee approved signs to be installed in various locations around the City. The signs would help the public locate bike paths.

Member Meyer announced the appointment of Helen Kim, new staff person for the City of Mountain View. She noted Ms. Kim works well with the City's BPAC.

Member Meyer inquired on the Google Earth Bike Maps as listed on the VTA Bike Program Priorities. Ms. Smith responded the Google Earth Bike Maps provides detailed information regarding bike trails. She noted the link to Google Earth Bike Maps will be forwarded to the Committee.

Member Entin announced the Town of Los Gatos would be sending three grant applications. He expressed appreciation to Chairperson Walton, VTA staff, and the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition for sending a letter of support.

Member Wadler announced the City of Campbell has an opening on the BPAC and is currently looking for a member to fill the position. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Collen regarding the widened bicycle lane at the underpass along Foothill Expressway.

14. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Walton and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Diaresco, Board Assistant
Office of the Board Secretary