

Date: November 14, 2007

Committee Meeting Date: N/A

Board Meeting Date: December 13, 2007

BOARD MEMORANDUM

ACTION ITEM

TO: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Board of Directors

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
General Manager

FROM: John H. Ristow
Chief CMA Officer

SUBJECT: 2007 Bicycle Technical Guidelines (BTG) Update

Policy-Related Action: Yes

Government Code Section 84308 Applies: No

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the updated 2007 Bicycle Technical Guidelines (Attachment A) with the edits suggested by the BPAC and the TAC at their November meetings.

BACKGROUND:

The first edition of VTA's Bicycle Technical Guidelines (BTG) was adopted by the Board of Directors in September 1999. Over the past ten months, VTA staff has been engaged in a process to comprehensively review and update, as needed, each section of the BTG. The updates include substantive changes as well as formatting, organizational, and editorial changes to make the document easier to use. In addition, new cross-references for the Board-adopted Community Design & Transportation Guidelines and Pedestrian Technical Guidelines have been added. These changes have been incrementally brought before the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) for comment at five prior BPAC meetings listed below.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>BPAC Meeting</u>
Freeway Interchanges	February 2007
Sharrows	February 2007
Drainage /Drainage Grates	March 2007
Bike Paths & Bike Bridges	March 2007

<u>Topic</u>	<u>BPAC Meeting</u>
Maintenance & Construction Zones	April 2007
Bikeways on Major Roads	June 2007
Bike Parking	June 2007
Intersections	August 2007
Local Roads/Bike Boulevards	August 2007

In addition, a BTG Working Group of VTA’s Technical Advisory Committee (composed of three TAC members) has reviewed the changes.

DISCUSSION:

The draft 2007 BTG expands and updates the 1999 document in several categories based on frequently-asked questions and on lessons learned over the past 7 years. The main new or expanded topics include:

- Discussion of new policies that have been adopted by federal, state and regional agencies pertaining to bicycle transportation (Chapter 1);
- Expanded discussion of bike-friendly freeway interchange design and new illustrations on striping bike lanes through freeways interchanges (Chapter 5.3);
- Addition of the new Caltrans-approved pavement marking called a shared-lane marking or “Sharrow” (Chapter 7.3) for use on roadways that are too narrow for bike lanes;
- Expanded and updated discussion on bike parking, including acceptable bike rack designs, the many variations of Class 1 parking including those made possible by new technology, and their advantages and disadvantages (Chapter 10);
- Addition of a chapter on bike paths, (Chapter 9) citing the design details that make bike paths better transportation facilities

In September 2007, the preliminary draft document was sent by email link to all BPAC members, the BTG Working Group (composed of three TAC members), and to Caltrans District 4 staff. In addition, the draft document, as well as selected sections, was circulated internally at VTA. Written comments have been received from the County, numerous cities, the Silicon Valley Bike Coalition (SVBC), and some BPAC members. At its October 10, 2007 meeting the BPAC again reviewed and discussed the revised BTG. All comments received through this process were reviewed by staff and at BPAC meetings and incorporated as appropriate into the final draft document.

The Final Draft BTG was presented to committees in November. The BPAC recommended that the Board of Directors adopt the BTG with some minor edits, such as the inclusion of signs that were in the 1999 manual that had been inadvertently left out; inclusion of a Revisions page so that future updates can be easily monitored; inclusion of hyperlinks to the California Vehicle Code in the online version of the BTG; and corrections to names and affiliations on the Acknowledgements page. The TAC did not have a quorum, but individual members also made some useful suggestions including expanding Figure 7-4 to show the full T- intersection.

The schedule to complete the 2007 BTG update is shown in the table below.

Milestone	Type of Action	Date
Comments Due		October 12, 2007
BPAC	Action	November 7, 2007
TAC	Action	November 8, 2007
CMPP	Meeting Canceled	November 15, 2007
Board	Action	December 13, 2007
Public Release revised BTG		January 2008

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board of Directors may revise the BTG or choose not to adopt the updated guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no impact to the VTA Enterprise fund.

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