

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ December 20, 2007

Committee Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_ N/A

Board Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_ January 3, 2008

**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:** Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Appointments

---

**Policy-Related Action: No**

**Government Code Section 84308 Applies: No**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Ratify the following appointments to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee for the term ending June 30, 2008:

- Chris Fernandez, County of Santa Clara
- Cheryl Bunnell, City of Milpitas

**BACKGROUND:**

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) advises the VTA Board of Directors on planning and funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects and issues. The BPAC consists of 16 voting members, one appointed by each of VTA's 16 Member Agencies (the 15 cities in the county and the County of Santa Clara), and one non-voting member (the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition).

The BPAC bylaws specify that each Member Agency appoints one representative to the BPAC and that the SVBC appoints one representative and one alternate. The bylaws also specify that the appointment term is two years and that members may be appointed to successive terms. Committee members must live, work or both in Santa Clara County during their term. Voting members of the Committee must also be a representative of the Member Agency's local bicycle advisory committee or, for Member Agencies without a local bicycle advisory committee, their representative must be an individual who lives or works in the local jurisdiction and is interested in bicycle or pedestrian issues. BPAC members are also precluded from representing a Member Agency that is their employer.

In accordance with the bylaws, the process to fill BPAC vacancies is that staff notifies the appointing authority of the vacancy or approaching term expiration. They also provide current membership requirements and advise the appointing authority of the standing of its current representative. The appointing authority then appoints one member for the designated membership position. For vacancies occurring in mid-term, the bylaws specify that they be filled for the remainder of the term by the appointing authority. In both cases, the VTA Board must ratify the appointment.

**DISCUSSION:**

The BPAC positions representing the City of Milpitas and the County of Santa Clara recently became vacant. Milpitas' representative, Bill Reisinger, recently resigned due to relocating out of Milpitas and therefore no longer serving on the Milpitas BPAC. For the County, its representative, David Kobayashi, had to leave the committee when he became a VTA employee (the BPAC bylaws specifically preclude VTA staff from serving on that committee).

To replace Mr. Reisinger, the City of Milpitas has appointed Cheryl Bunnell as its BPAC representative. Ms. Bunnell, who is the chairperson of the Milpitas BPAC, is a long-time resident of the county and has resided in Milpitas for the last 31 years. She works for the City of Sunnyvale, currently as an information technology manager and previously as a finance manager. Ms. Bunnell is especially interested in pedestrian and bicycle safety issues and encouraging people to walk or cycle, rather than drive cars.

To fill its vacancy, the County of Santa Clara has appointed Chris Fernandez. Mr. Fernandez, a 41-year resident of Santa Clara County, is retired. He previously worked for the City of Santa Clara's Engineering Department from 1961 until his retirement in 2000, serving as the City Traffic Engineer for 15 years. Mr. Fernandez has a BS degree in Civil Engineering from San Jose State University and has his professional engineering license in Civil and Traffic Engineering.

Since both vacancies occurred mid-term, both appointments are to complete the term that ends June 30, 2008. Due to the qualifications, experience and knowledge of bicycle, pedestrian and trails issues of these individuals, staff recommends that the Board ratify both appointments.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The Board could choose to not ratify one or both of these appointments.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Stephen Flynn, Sr. Management Analyst