

BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 9, 2008

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Chairperson Wadler in Auditorium, Building A, VTA, 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

John Carpenter
Chris Fernandez
William Manry
Thomas Muniz
Jim Stallman
John Sullivan
Richard Swent, Vice Chairperson
Corrine Winter, Ex-Officio
Herman Wadler, Chairperson
Joe Walton

Representative Cities

City of Mountain View
County of Santa Clara
City of Monte Sereno
City of Gilroy
City of Saratoga
City of Santa Clara
City of Palo Alto
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
City of Campbell
City of Cupertino

Members Absent

Cheryl Bunnell
Anna Brunzell
Bruce Entin
Carl Hagenmaier
Jerri-Ann Meyer, Alt. Ex-Officio
Norma Rome
David Simons
Vacant

Representative Cities

City of Milpitas
Town of Los Altos Hills
Town of Los Gatos
City of Los Altos
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
City of Morgan Hill
City of Sunnyvale
City of San Jose

A quorum was present was not present and a Committee of the Whole was declared.

2. ORDERS OF THE DAY

There were no Orders of the Day.

3. **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

There were no Public Presentations.

4. **Committee Staff Report**

- Conditions of Approval Update

Chris Augenstein advised that the Conditions of Approval Update will be a standing item in the BPAC agenda to allow Members the opportunity to speak to specific on-going VTA programmed projects in their respective jurisdictions.

- Highway Program Update

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, reported that County Parks staff was in attendance at the Project Review Meeting for the U.S. 101 Widening Project. The meeting involved brainstorming discussions about different trails and the potential trail alignments that could potentially be integrated with the project.

- County Report

Dan Collen, County of Santa Clara, noted that the County will meet with the Committee next week to discuss the upcoming special planning study work for the pedestrian elements. He introduced new BPAC member, Chris Fernandez, representing Santa Clara County.

5. **Chairperson's Report**

Chairperson Wadler forwarded to staff the Rails to Trails article submitted by Member Stallman, which involved an alternative cost-effective material for trail surfaces.

Member Stallman noted that there is development along Santo Tomas Expressway between Central Expressway and Scott and expressed concern that a sidewalk or pedestrian access is lacking.

Chairperson Wadler referred to the Bicycle and Technical Guidelines and noted that as a long-term goal, he prefers that parks and trails be opened for 24/7 with necessary lighting.

The Agenda was taken out of order.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. VTA Sustainability Program

Tom Fitzwater, Environmental Planning Manager, discussed VTA's Sustainability Program goals and strategies. He also provided overview of the steps that VTA has already implemented to be more "green."

Member Carpenter took his seat at 6:18 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

Upon inquiry of Member Manry, Mr. Fitzwater responded that VTA currently does not have an employee telecommuting policy.

Member Sullivan expressed interest in the data regarding VTA employee usage of VTA transit services. He suggested that VTA consider replacing some of its cars with bicycles.

Chairperson Wadler suggested installing solar panels at VTA parking lots.

On order of Chairperson Wadler, there being no objection, the VTA Sustainability Program was received.

7. Election Process for Advisory Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

M/S/C (Stallman/Carpenter) to close the nominations and elect Richard Swent as Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chairperson for calendar year 2008 to complete the election process.

M/S/C (Stallman/Carpenter) to close the nominations and elect Joe Walton as Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Vice Chairperson for calendar year 2008 to complete the election process.

2007 Chairperson Wadler relinquished his seat as Chairperson to newly elected Chairperson Swent.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Minutes of December 12, 2007

Member Sullivan noted correction on Page 6 of 7, Announcements, first paragraph, to reflect Big Basin Way in Saratoga to Santa Cruz Avenue in Los Gatos.

M/S/C (Stallman/Wadler) to approve the Minutes of December 12, 2007, as amended.

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

REGULAR AGENDA (continued)

9. I-880/Brokaw Road Design Issues

Lam Trinh, Project Manager, distributed the I-880 HOV Lane Widening Project – Old Bayshore to SR 237 Fact sheet and the Draft Brokaw Road Geometrics. Marilou Ayupan, Deputy Project Manager, Mark Thomas & Company Incorporated, discussed the current bicycle and pedestrian conditions and conceptual plans for bicycle access route along Brokaw Road.

Member Stallman stated that VTA should restore the bicycle and pedestrian access along O'Toole as part of this project.

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, read into the record Member Brazil's e-mailed comments: "The City of San Jose's General Plan identifies Brokaw as existing bike lane. As you know, there's currently a gap in this bike lane facility. We hope that this project can close this gap by adding bike lanes, to the extent feasible."

Member Muniz noted that this is a good opportunity for VTA to work with the City of San Jose and other stakeholders to close the gap and install a sidewalk in the area.

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the I-880/Brokaw Road Design Issues were received.

10. Countywide Bike Plan – Draft Project List

Chris Augenstein, Deputy Director and Staff Liaison, provided a report on the update of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). He noted the challenges such as lack of fund estimates and the proposed changes on how monies will flow in to counties.

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, advised the Committee that there is a potential bike plan workshop in late February 2008. She discussed Attachment A – Completed Bicycle Expenditure Plan (BEP) Projects, Attachment B – Current BEP Project to Carry Forward into Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2035, Attachment B Continued – New Bicycle Projects submitted in response to the Call for Project for VTP 2035 and the next steps.

Member Stallman commented that some of these projects could be funded by its roadway counterpart and urged staff to find other sources of funding (i.e. RM 2) for the projects noted in the attachments.

Chairperson Swent encouraged Members to look at the list and bring it back to their cities' respective Bicycle Advisory Committees.

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the Countywide Bike Plan – Draft Project List was received.

11. Report from BPAC Subcommittee on Pedestrians on Expressways Issue

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, reported that the subcommittee composed of Members Sullivan, Stallman, and Simons will meet next Monday. She also reported that Member Fernandez requested to be added to the subcommittee.

M/S/C (**Stallman/Wadler**) to add Chris Fernandez as a member to the BPAC Subcommittee on Pedestrians on Expressways Issue.

OTHER

12. BPAC Work Plan

Dan Collen, Santa Clara County, noted the following County Items to be added to the work plan: Transportation Development Act (TDA) proposed projects for the next fiscal years, Draft Pedestrian Update on the Expressway Planning Study, Calendar Year 2008 Capital Project list, and the discussion about the annual meeting at the County.

Member Stallman requested to agendaize Coleman/I-880 Interchange issue regarding sidewalk.

Upon comment of Member Muniz, Chris Augenstein, Deputy Director and Staff Liaison, suggested that the discussion about funding sources and how these monies are expended be discussed during the April/May 2008 timeframe.

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

13. Announcements

Member Wadler announced that he invited Mr. Augenstein and Ms. DeRobertis or their representative to the Almaden Cycle Touring Club (ACTC) meeting on February 2008 to discuss the MTC issues.

Member Stallman stated that the new VTA service will commence on Monday, January 14, 2008.

Member Sullivan reported that the City of Santa Clara BAC will meet on January 23, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

Member Manry reported that the Highway 9 bike and pedestrian improvement work was postponed due to weather conditions.

Member Muniz reported that the City of Gilroy's bike and pedestrian group will meet on January 22, 2008. He requested that Members provide comments to him regarding pedestrian plans.

Vice Chairperson Walton noted that Cupertino's BAC will meet on January 16, 2008 and will discuss congestion on the tri-school area. He also reported that the work on the Mary Avenue Bridge will begin soon.

Chairperson Swent reported that the Palo Alto BAC met on January 8, 2008 and added that Palo Alto is trying to install their first sharrows. He requested that Members share with him any public education materials relating to sharrows. He also reported that the Amgen Tour of California will begin at Palo Alto on Sunday, February 17, 2008.

14. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine F. Baltao, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors