



BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 7, 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 6:02 p.m. by Chairperson Swent in Auditorium, Building A, VTA, 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Anna Brunzell
Cheryl Bunnell
John Carpenter
Bruce Entin
Chris Fernandez
Carl Hagenmaier
William Manry
Jerri-Ann Meyer, Alt. Ex-Officio
Thomas Muniz
Lane Parker
David Simons
Jim Stallman
John Sullivan
Richard Swent, Chairperson
Joe Walton, Vice Chairperson

Representative Cities

Town of Los Altos Hills
City of Milpitas
City of Mountain View
Town of Los Gatos
County of Santa Clara
City of Los Altos
City of Monte Sereno
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
City of Gilroy
City of San Jose
City of Sunnyvale
City of Saratoga
City of Santa Clara
City of Palo Alto
City of Cupertino

Members Absent

Herman Wadler
Corrine Winter, Ex-Officio

Representative Cities

City of Campbell
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

A quorum 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

John Brazil, Interested Citizen, informed the committee of the City of San Jose's Celebrity Bike Ride and distributed fliers.

Member Brunzell took her seat at 6:05 p.m. and the quorum was declared.

4. Committee Staff Report

Highway Program Update

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, provided an update on the Highway program noting that the Tully Interchange and the DeLaCruz Interchange designs are going forward and being designed as 90 degree ramps. Ms. DeRobertis provided information on the 101 widening project that is going forward in the South County.

Conditions of Approval Update

There was no Conditions of Approval Update.

County Report

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, announced that VTA is participating in Bike to Work Week and is sponsoring two energizer stations and conducting an internal Green Commute challenge for employees.

Dan Collen, Santa Clara County, thanked the committee members for their review of and suggestions for the pedestrian element maps. Mr. Collen noted that he was working to get maps into a finished format and is proposing a policy advisory meeting in September. A draft element text is expected to be ready and brought to BPAC in August.

Mr. Collen provided information regarding the Traffic Safe Communities Network Grant which will be given to schools and traffic safety committees to be used to increase walking and biking to elementary schools. He noted that if the committee would like a presentation regarding the program it could be arranged.

5. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Swent noted the effect of high gas prices on everyone due to the increase in goods, including bicycle parts. Chairperson Swent indicated that people need to be shown that biking and walking are convenient and safe ways of traveling in an effort to get them out of their cars.

Chairperson Swent expressed concern with the discrepancy in the numbers for the bicycle and pedestrian counts in the 2006 and Draft 2007 Monitoring and Conformance Findings.

Member Muniz took his seat at 6:10 p.m.

Member Fernandez took his seat at 6:10 p.m.

Member Sullivan noted that the question had been posed to staff and Chris Augenstein, Staff Liaison, indicated that he would research it and report back to the committee.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Minutes of April 9, 2008

M/S/C (Stallman/Hagenmaier) to approve the minutes of April 9, 2008.

7. Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report for January – March 2008

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report for January – March 2008 was received.

8. Approval of the Draft 2007 Monitoring and Conformance Findings.

Adam Burger, Transportation Planner, addressed the issue of the discrepancy in numbers of the bicycle and pedestrian counts for the 2006 Monitoring and Conformance Findings, noting that the sub consultant that was hired to collect the data may have made some errors in calculations and VTA cannot trace where the problem occurred. Mr. Burger suggested that the information from that year be thrown out as an aberration.

Vice Chairperson Walton asked if bicycle counts on the expressways can be included in the report.

M/S/C (Stallman/Hagenmaier) to review and recommend approval of the Draft 2007 Monitoring and Conformance Findings.

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Project priorities for the FY2008/09 Countywide Transportation Development Act Article 3 Program.

Member Sullivan inquired about the requirement for specifics in proposed projects noting that some of the cities suggested improvements were generic.

Member Simons took his seat at 6:25 p.m.

M/S/C (Stallman/Hagenmaier) to review and recommend to the Board the approval of project priorities for the FY2008/09 Countywide Transportation Development Act Article 3 Program.

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

10. Cross County Bicycle Corridor network be revised per the proposed changes and additions.

Member Muniz commented that the committee was not provided the latest map for review.

Chairperson Swent noted that the changes that were made since the last review were being approved, and not the finalized plan.

John Brazil, City of San Jose's Bike and Pedestrian Program, presented the committee with the minor revisions that the city is requesting that VTA incorporate into its Countywide plan. Mr. Brazil noted that some of those changes include, adding a few facilities, alternate routes for those who are not experienced cyclists and providing safe and easy ways to get over freeway. Mr. Brazil pointed out revisions for the Cross County Corridor in San Jose. Minor changes noted were cross barrier connections, corridors that are less busy, and more feasible street crossings.

Member Muniz requested an updated underlying base map.

Member Stallman made a motion to add a continuous route on the north side of SR237 trail to the proposed Cross County Bicycle Corridor plan.

M/S/C (Stallman/Muniz) to review and recommend to the Board that the Cross County Bicycle Corridor network be revised per the proposed changes and additions to include adding a continuous route on the north side of SR237 trail to the proposed plan.

11. 2008 Countywide Bicycle Plan Status Update

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, provided an update on the 2008 Countywide Bicycle Plan. Ms. DeRobertis noted that the proposed timeline is to have the plan adopted at the August Board Meeting.

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the 2008 Countywide Bicycle Plan Status Update was received.

12. Bicycle Expenditure Plan (BEP) Evaluation Criteria

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, offered suggestions on prioritizing plans and changing the way points are awarded.

Member Stallman pointed out that certain areas are not organized or visible and may get neglected. Member Stallman suggested that the evaluation mention the Metropolitan

Transportation Commission's identification of communities of concern to make sure those areas don't continue to be neglected.

Vice Chairperson Walton mentioned that the process was successful in 2004 and noted he didn't have a problem with the current evaluation plan.

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the Bicycle Expenditure Plan Evaluation was reviewed.

13. Countywide Expressway Plan Bicycle Element Project List

Dawn Cameron, Santa Clara County, provided a progress report of the 2003 Countywide Expressway plan, noting that of the bike element component, 8 of the 11 projects have been completed. She stated the three projects not completed were linked to larger roadway projects and will carry over into the 2008 project update.

Member Swent requested that signs be placed on shoulder loops which instruct bicyclists to stop on the sensors to request a green light.

Member Hagenmaier indicated that bike accommodation southbound at Foothill and El Monte is extremely poor and requested remedial work at that intersection.

Member Muniz suggested adding Monterey Road to a plan to add bicycle accommodations before the area is further developed.

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the Countywide Expressway Plan Bicycle Element Project List was received.

14. BPAC Subcommittee Report on County Expressway Planning Study Update -- Pedestrian Element

Member Sullivan provided a brief report from the BPAC subcommittee on the County Expressway Study. Member Sullivan gave an update on the project planned near Central Expressway and San Tomas. He noted that the plan included additional sidewalks but that the adjacent bus stop pad is not in use under the current service.

Member Stallman noted that activity had begun onsite and suggested that the county seize opportunities to request for additional sidewalk along the expressways.

Dan Collen, Santa Clara County, noted that the county can not provide a document to support the sidewalks until the Expressway Study Update has been completed.

Member Stallman questioned if this was on a project list and suggested that VTA send a letter to the City of Santa Clara requesting continuous sidewalks.

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the BPAC Subcommittee Report on County Expressway Planning Study Update -- Pedestrian Element was received.

OTHER

15. BPAC Work Plan

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, announced that there was nothing time sensitive in June, and the BPAC meeting may be cancelled. She noted that items slated for the June Agenda would be moved to the July 9, 2008 meeting, and any items needing approval would be forwarded to the Board in August.

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

16. Announcements

Alternate Ex-Officio Member Meyer announced Bike to Work Week and asked for volunteers for the energizer stations.

Member Entin announced that Los Gatos BPAC is working with Whole Foods to man the energizer stations along the Los Gatos Creek Trail.

Member Carpenter announced that the Mountain View energizer station would be at the Transit Center.

Member Carpenter provided an update on Mountain View's project Steven's Creek Trail extension project which should be completed in 2009. He announced the plan to begin the Permanente Creek trail crossing between Old Middlefield and 101 starting in 2009.

Member Stallman provided an update of the work on the new bike lanes on Highway 9 between Saratoga and Los Gatos which will continue throughout the summer.

Member Stallman announced the Metropolitan Transportation Commission regional outreach meeting on May 8, 2008 at the MLK Library.

Member Sullivan announced that Santa Clara's energizer station will be at El Camino and Lincoln.

Member Muniz announced the City of Gilroy meeting on May 27, 2008.

Vice Chairperson Walton provided an update on the status of the removal of a portion of the sound wall on the bridge from the 85 east to the 280. He noted that a platform is being graded behind the wall to accommodate the South Tower which should be completed in a year.

Chairperson Swent announced that there will be four Bike to Work energizer stations in Palo Alto which will be located at Palo Alto High School and Stanford University.

17. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Swent, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Menominee L. McCarter, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors