

## Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Chairperson Swent in Auditorium, Building A, VTA, 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

#### 1. ROLL CALL

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Representative Cities</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
Cheryl Bunnell	City of Milpitas	Present	
Bruce Entin	Town of Los Gatos	Absent	
Chris Fernandez	County of Santa Clara	Present	
Carl Hagenmaier	City of Los Altos	Absent	
Nancy Ginzton	Town of Los Altos Hills	Present	6:15 PM
William (Bill) Manry	City of Monte Sereno	Absent	
Jerri-Ann Meyer	City of Mountain View	Present	
Thomas Muniz	City of Gilroy	Present	
Lane Parker	City of San Jose	Absent	
Marian Sacco	City of Morgan Hill	Absent	
David Simons	City of Sunnyvale	Absent	
Jim Stallman	City of Saratoga	Present	
John Sullivan	City of Santa Clara	Present	6:12 PM
Herman Wadler	City of Campbell	Present	
Richard Swent, Chairperson	City of Palo Alto	Present	
Joseph Walton, Vice Chair	City of Cupertino	Present	

Celia Chung	Alt. Ex-Officio SVBC	Present	
Corinne Winter	SVBC	Absent	

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

## 2. **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

Chairperson Swent noted that the Santa Clara County's Comprehensive Expressway Planning Study document had some changes since the BPAC action last month. He noted the urgency of adding this as an emergency item to tonight's agenda because the Policy Advisory Board will consider this item at their meeting the tomorrow night. The Committee can take a vote as soon as a quorum is declared.

Member Stallman requested that the following be moved from the Regular to the Consent Agenda: **Agenda Item #11.**, Adopt the revised Bicycle Expenditure Plan (BEP) Evaluation Criteria.

**On order of Chairperson Swent**, there being no objection, the Orders of the Day were accepted.

## 3. **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Chad Brower, Interested Citizen, noted that there is an increased distribution of higher-speed bikes in the market with speeds of 20 miles per hour or more. He noted that faster bikes should be considered when designing bike systems.

Member Sullivan took his seat at 6:12 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

## 4. **Committee Staff Report**

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, referred to Member Sullivan's e-mail regarding bikes in buses. She noted that VTA's policy on bikes in buses has not changed and bikes are still allowed in buses when bike racks are full.

Ms. DeRobertis requested Member Walton to forward to VTA specific language adopted by the City of Cupertino regarding the Bicycle Technical Guidelines (BTG). She added that she will be sending copies of the BTG to each city. Member Walton responded that the City of Cupertino is in the process of updating their bicycle plan and stated that he will forward the draft version to VTA.

Ms. DeRobertis announced that Lincoln and Rocklin has a Neighborhood Electric Vehicle Program. She added that the California Bicycle Advisory Committee will have a field trip in January 2009 to observe the program and the possible dedicated lanes for electric vehicles.

- Highway Program Update

There was no report on the Highway Program Update.

- Conditions of Approval Update

There was no report on the Conditions of Approval Update.

- County Report

There was no County Report.

Member Ginzton took her seat at 6:15 p.m.

## **5. Chairperson's Report**

Chairperson Swent thanked Jim Stallman for bringing to the Committee's attention the signing into law of AB 1358 (Leno) Complete Streets Legislation last October 8, 2008. Chairperson Swent expressed support for AB 1358 noting that it would have a major impact to the policies and plans for the future. He read an excerpt of the bill, "This bill would require, commencing January 1, 2011, that the legislative body of a city or county, upon any substantive revision of the circulation element of the general plan, modify the circulation element to plan for a balanced, multimodal transportation network that meets the needs of all users of streets, roads, and highways, defined to include motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, children, persons with disabilities, seniors, movers of commercial goods, and users of public transportation, in a manner that is suitable to the rural, suburban, or urban context of the general plan. By requiring new duties of local officials, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program."

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **6. Minutes of September 10, 2008**

M/S/C (Wadler/Muniz) to approve the Minutes of September 10, 2008.

### **11. Adopt Bicycle Expenditure Plan (BEP) Evaluation Criteria**

M/S/C (Wadler/Muniz) to recommend that the Board of Directors to adopt the revised Bicycle Expenditure Plan (BEP) Evaluation Criteria.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **7. Election Process for 2009 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson**

M/S/C (Walder/Muniz) to appoint Members Muniz, Walton, and Stallman as the Nominating Subcommittee that will identify Committee members interested in serving as the chairperson or vice chairperson for 2009.

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

**8. Presentation on San Jose Airport Construction Project - Pedestrian Access During and After Construction**

Rich Dressler, Mineta San José International Airport Media Relations, provided a presentation highlighting the following: 1) Airport Fast Facts; 2) Current Facilities, including Terminal A, Terminal C, and International Arrivals facilities; 3) New Airport Plans which includes improved roadways, new Terminal B, new consolidated rental car facility; future parking garage, and remodel of Terminal A; 4) Terminal B North Concourse history, planned changes, current construction activities, and expected completion date (2010); and 5) Terminal A history and planned changes to curbside. Mr. Dressler noted that the public can view current construction updates by visiting or subscribing to [www.flysanjose.com](http://www.flysanjose.com) or by calling 408.501.0979.

Upon inquiry of Member Wadler, Harry Freitas, Mineta San Jose International Airport, responded that three raised tabletop crosswalk will be installed for pedestrian crossing. These crosswalks are designed to keep the vehicular speed low. He also explained that pedestrian bridges were not included in the plan because the current plan calls for one area for passenger pick-up and drop-off.

Mr. Freitas presented the “Mineta San Jose Airport - Bicycle and Pedestrian Goals and Objectives” Point. He reviewed the roadway major elements, which include optimized connections to terminals. The goals of the program are to have quality bicycle and pedestrian environment and have connections to trails, regional bicycle networks, and local sidewalk networks. The current plans call for sidewalks throughout the terminal area, bicycle accommodating roadways, pedestrian traffic signals, bike racks in parking garages, and eco-pass program for all employees.

Member Wadler inquired why there are no bike racks that are closer to the airport facilities. Mr. Freitas responded that there was a lot of push back for bicycle lockers from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) as people can use the lockers as hiding places.

Chairperson Swent recommended that the Airport purchase the best type of bike racks so bicyclists can secure their bikes.

Member Meyer inquired what methodology was used to determine how many bike racks need to be installed. Mr. Freitas commented that bike racks are not utilized to its capacity at this time but noted that more bike racks could be installed, should the need arise.

Mr. Freitas discussed the connections to Guadalupe River Trail and the trail connections at Skyport Drive, Airport Parkway, rental car island, and South Campus, connections to regional bicycle network and local sidewalk network. He noted that there are gaps that are not included in the project which needed to be connected in the future. Mr. Freitas noted that the capital improvement program project is locally funded and a small portion is from federal monies.

Member Sullivan inquired if the Airport will continue to subsidize the airport shuttles after the capital improvement project completion. Mr. Freitas noted that there are no plans of changing the current shuttle service.

Member Stallman inquired about the timeframe for closing the gaps to connect the airport to the regional bicycle network. Mr. Freitas responded that the gap closure is not part of the current project and added that staff needs to search for separate funding to be able to close that gap in the future. Mr. Freitas noted that there are preliminary proposals that are not yet accepted at this time.

Charles Brower, Interested Citizen, expressed concern about the speeds of the motorists in the airport campus. Mr. Freitas noted that the posted speed limit at the airport is 25 miles per hour. There are police officers present to enforce the speed limit.

John Carpenter, Interested Citizen, stressed the urgency of AB 32 (California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006) and its impacts to the airport improvements. Mr. Freitas noted that the airport has its own green vision that strives for energy efficiency and less congestion and carbon footprint.

Mr. Freitas noted that detailed plans of crosswalks for the airport is available at the back table for interested parties to review.

**On order of Chairperson Swent**, there being no objection, the Committee received a presentation on the Mineta San Jose International Airport.

**12.X. Santa Clara County's Comprehensive County Expressway Planning Study, Draft 2008 Update**

Chairperson Swent noted that a quorum is now present and the Committee can vote to add an emergency item to tonight agenda, per Section 5.8 of the BPAC bylaws. The emergency item to be added is Santa Clara County's Comprehensive County Expressway Planning Study, Draft 2008 Update.

**M/S/C (Stallman/Muniz)** to add as an emergency item to tonight's BPAC agenda as Agenda Item #12.X the reconsideration of Santa Clara County's Comprehensive County Expressway Planning Study, Draft 2008 Update.

**9. Advisory Committee Enhancement Process Update**

Jennie Loft, Public Information Officer, reported that each advisory committee formed an Advisory Committee Enhancements subcommittee. Staff will complete the first set of meeting with each subcommittee within the week. Topics of discussion for the first meeting include individual committee bylaws, roles, and responsibilities, mission and vision statements. Each subcommittee is expected to conclude within two to four months and provide update to their respective Advisory Committee. Subsequently, a few members from each subcommittee will form a Taskforce to review the Advisory Committees' roles and tasks as a whole and present a report to the Board of Directors.

**On order of Chairperson Swent**, there being no objection, the Committee received an update on the Advisory Committee Enhancements.

**10. Advisory Committee Enhancement Subcommittee Report**

Stephen Flynn, Senior Management Analyst, noted that the Advisory Committee Enhancement Subcommittee Report will be a standing item in the BPAC Agenda to apprise other Members regarding the activities/work of the subcommittee.

Member Stallman noted that the subcommittee developed a draft mission statement that reads, “1. The VTA BPAC advises on the development and implementation of a countywide transportation plan (Valley Transportation Plan); 2. The BPAC coordinates technical and policy matters with member agencies and other organizations; 3) The BPAC also provides input for VTA and the County of Santa Clara for projects affecting bicycle and pedestrian mobility and access including: project origination, design, and prioritization recommendations, punchlist, and final closeouts.; 4) The VTA BPAC also serves as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee for the County of Santa Clara.

Dan Collen, Santa Clara County Roads and Airports Department, clarified that a punchlist is a tool that describes the deficiencies that need to be corrected prior to releasing final payment to the contractor.

**On order of Chairperson Swent**, there being no objection, the Committee received the Advisory Committee Enhancement Subcommittee Report.

**11. BEP Evaluation Criteria**

**(Removed from the Regular Agenda and placed on the Consent Agenda.)**

**12. Land Development/Roadway Project Approval Process -Moffett Towers Example**

M/S/C (Wadler/Walton) to defer the Land Development/Roadway Project Approval Process - Moffett Towers Example.

**12.X. Santa Clara County’s Comprehensive County Expressway Planning Study, Draft 2008 Update (continued)**

Mr. Collen stated that the Comprehensive County Expressway Planning Study, Draft 2008 Update will be forwarded for consideration to the Policy Advisory Board (PAB) tomorrow night. Mr. Collen stated that Page 3 of the County of Santa Clara staff report provides the staff response to each of the points raised by the BPAC the previous meeting. Mr. Collen stated that the 2008 update is a supplement and not a replacement of the 2003 Expressway study. He recommended that the BPAC explicitly note which text of the 2003 Study they want to retain.

Chairperson Swent commented that the BPAC action with the inclusion of the three statements from Mr. Akos Szoboszlay including “wide shoulders” were vague and may create confusion. Chairperson Swent further commented that after the BPAC meeting last month, the County of Santa Clara staff added a specific statement that reads, “the 2008 Update Pedestrian Element completely replaces the 2003 Pedestrian Element, including all policies, project lists, and recommendations.” The plan that the PAB will vote on tomorrow is not exactly the same plan that the BPAC voted on last month because the BPAC voted on it as an update not a replacement. Hence, there is a need to

add the County Expressway Planning Study - 2008 Update as an emergency item in tonight's agenda to revisit and clarify the issues.

Member Stallman stated that if there are County Board of Supervisors adopted policies that the 2008 Plan may undo, the County staff should explicitly state it in the report.

Chairperson Swent commented that the current plan is better for pedestrians because it calls for sidewalks along the whole expressway system rather than utilizing shoulders. He reiterated that only the pedestrian element has significantly changed in the plan. The bicycle element remains the same.

Chairperson Swent noted that the BPAC can take any of the following actions: 1) recommend that the PAB approve the plan that the BPAC approved last month; 2) recommend that the PAB direct staff to bring back the plan to the BPAC; or 3) vote on the added statements as reflected in the staff report.

Mr. Collen noted that the pedestrian prohibitions for using the shoulder vary city-by-city and usually happens when there is no pedestrian facility available in the area.

Member Sullivan commented that there is no basis in saying that using shoulders as pedestrian access is dangerous. He expressed interest in seeing the study that depicts otherwise.

Member Bunnell expressed support for dedicated pedestrian facility along expressways. She noted that the Committee should advocate for a dedicated pedestrian facility rather than using shoulders for pedestrian access along expressways.

Member Stallman stated that his only contention is there should be no pedestrian prohibitions (i.e. there should be no pedestrian prohibition signs) unless the local jurisdiction adopted an ordinance that prohibits the pedestrians from accessing expressways. He added that he does not want to lose the "informal pass."

Upon inquiry of Member Stallman, Mr. Collen responded that the County staff is not seeking or proposing any new pedestrian prohibition in the plan because prohibition is a city jurisdiction and not the County's.

**M/S/F (Walton/Wadler)** on a vote of 8 ayes, 2 noes, and 0 abstention to recommend that the PAB consider the recommendations relating to the Comprehensive County Expressway Planning Study, Draft 2008 Update, with the changes noted in the County staff report dated October 9, 2008. Members Stallman and Sullivan opposed.

### **13. County Item - San Tomas Expressway/ Hamilton Intersection Improvements**

Tong Hong and Christine Li, Santa Clara County Roads and Airports Department, provided a visual and explained the plans for the San Tomas Expressway and Hamilton Avenue Signing and Striping Intersection Improvements. Mr. Hong noted that the objective of this project is to increase the level of service. In order to achieve that goal, the project calls for additional left turn lanes on northbound San Tomas Expressway and eastbound and westbound Hamilton Avenue, modification to signal timing, coordination

**NOTE: M/S/C MEANS MOTION SECONDED AND FAILED.**

of signals between county and adjacent city signals, and landscaping improvement. In addition, there will be bicycle and pedestrian facilities including the widening of the existing shoulder curb to avoid choke-point and maintain minimum shoulder.

Member Meyer inquired if there will also be loop detectors for bicyclists who will make left turns in the intersection. Mr. Collen responded that the bicycles ride over the vehicle detection sensors. On all four quadrants of the intersection, there are “porkchops” that allow separate bike slots and there will be separate bike detection. Mr. Collen noted that more information is available at [www.expressways.info](http://www.expressways.info).

Charles Brower, Interested Citizen, expressed concern that there is significant pedestrian traffic in the project area. He referred to San Tomas Expressway and commented that although bike lanes are present, the width becomes narrow at intersections. He inquired how the project will affect the existing width of the bike lane. He also inquired if there are plans of reducing travel speeds.

Mr. Collen responded that the project will improve the conditions because the width will be five feet. Mr. Collen stated that the vehicle travel speeds on roadways near the expressway are the city’s jurisdiction. He added that the project will do coordination of traffic signals, which will help the travel time and speeds.

**On order of Chairperson Swent**, there being no objection, the Committee received a presentation from the County on the San Tomas Expressway/ Hamilton Intersection Improvement Project.

## **OTHER**

### **14. BPAC Work Plan**

Ms. DeRobertis stated that the Funding Sources and Cash flow for the Bicycle Expenditure Plan will be deferred to a future meeting. The Routine Accommodations will be part of the Complete Streets Program because they are related. Staff can provide information about the DD 64 update as part of this issue.

Chairperson Swent recommended that staff consider adding to the work plan the Bike Sharing Plan.

Member Muniz referred to the Gilroy County Medical Center and expressed concern that there is no pedestrian access plan to get to the hospital and there are gaps in the sidewalks. He requested that staff include this issue in the work plan so that the Committee can find out what happened and avoid the same situation in the future.

**On order of Chairperson Swent**, there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the work plan.

### **15. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Member Walton announced that the Mary Avenue Bridge in the City of Cupertino is making progress and the ribbon cutting ceremony is slated for April 2009.

Member Muniz stated that the Gilroy Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board will meet on October 28, 2008. He solicited help from other Members in obtaining a safety related video that can be used as a link in a web page.

Member Sullivan stated that the Santa Clara BAC will have its last 2008 meeting in two weeks.

Member Bunnell reported that the Milpitas BAC is in the final stages of developing its Bike Master Plan and will present it to the Milpitas City Council by mid November 2009.

Member Stallman commented that the website for the VTP 2035 is a good showcase of all projects. Member Stallman informed members that there is a public meeting on October 29, 2008 in the City of Milpitas regarding the I-880 HOV Lane Widening Project - U.S. 101 to SR 237, which includes the Brokaw Interchange.

Member Meyer announced that the City of Mountain View maintained its Bronze Award Status from the League of American Bicyclists and is still a bike friendly community.

Member Wadler noted that the Campbell BPAC will have a booth at the October 19, 2008 Oktoberfest to talk about bicycles and the Committee's role in the City. He announced that he reached 20,000 miles on his bike on a period of approximately five years.

Ex Officio Member Chung announced that the SVBC general meeting will be held on October 16, 2008. She encouraged all members to attend. She stated that SVBC is accepting applications for the position of Program Director. She also announced that there is a bike exchange coming up on Saturday at the City of Mountain View.

Chairperson Swent announced that the Palo Alto BAC met last night and set their goals for next year. He stated that bike parking is a big issue at the City of Palo Alto and its schools. He noted that they are coordinating with the Public Arts Commission to discuss the policy of creative bike racks, for which the public arts could help fund.

## **16. ADJOURNMENT**

**On order of Chairperson Swent**, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine F. Baltao, Board Assistant  
VTA Board of Directors