



DRAFT MINUTES
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION

August 16, 2023

Draft Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Ilango Ganga, Grace John, Hervé Marcy (VC), Joel Wolf (C)

Absent: John Zhao

Staff: Marlon Aumentado, Staff Liaison

Others Present: Cherie Walkowiak, Safe Routes to School Coordinator

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. July 19, 2023 Bicycle Pedestrian Commission Minutes

MOTION: Vice Chair Marcy moved, seconded by Commissioner John to approve the minutes as presented.

MOTION PASSED: 3-0, Ganga & Zhao Absent

POSTPONEMENTS

No postponements

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Erik Lindskog, public speaker remarked that biking on De Anza Boulevard was not recommended. The lanes were narrow; he encouraged the installation of a buffered bike lane.

Senna Rogoyski, public speaker requested bollards on the bike lane at the intersection of Bubb Road and Columbus Avenue to protect cyclists. Many students used this bike path and there was heavy traffic there.

Commissioner Ganga joined the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Aryan Doshi, public speaker requested the addition of bollards on Stevens Creek Boulevard and Phar Lap Drive. This increased bicycle safety. Vehicles that drove these roads drove at high speeds.

Jennifer Shearin, public speaker requested an agenda discussion to lower speed limits on certain primary residential roads and to add plastic bollards where there was already buffered bike lanes.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

OLD BUSINESS

2. Future Agenda Items (Wolf)

Work Plan

- Bicycle Facilities – In Progress
- Vision Zero – In Progress
- Lawson Middle School Bikeway – Completed
- New Bicycle Pedestrian Plan (FY 24-25)

Grants

- Know/Understand Fed Grant Funding with Caltrans on updated bike ped planning
- Understand/Educate on what funding standards are (Fed/State)

Studies / Plans

- Staff update - Rodrigues Ave Speed Study and Street Crossing Behavior
- Staff update - Stevens Creek Corridor Vision Study
- Examine Pedestrian Walkways for Safety
- Install Bollards at existing buffered bike lanes (Public Request)
- Path between Lincoln Elem and Monta Vista HS
- Regnart Creek Trail Crossing at Blaney Avenue
- Speed Limit Reduction Study on Blaney, Rodrigues, McClellan (Public Request)

Projects

- Staff update - Stevens Creek Boulevard, Phases 2-3
- Staff update - Safe Routes to School (SR2S)
- Staff update – De Anza Blvd Buffered Bike Lanes
- Carmen Road Bridge

Education

- Adult Bicycle Education
- AB 43 – Summary: How can commission support implementation to reduce speed limits
- Impact of Semi-Rural Designation on Bike and Ped Projects/Priorities
- Lead Pedestrian Walk Interval (LPI) – Start pedestrian green before vehicles

Miscellaneous

- Bicycle Licensing (Theft Prevention)
- Review Progress toward BPC Objectives & Grant Applications (6 mo.)
- Status – VTA BPAC Adult Bicycle Education (Lindskog)
- VTA Pedestrian Access to Transit Plan – Focus Area J: Cupertino (SCB & Stelling)

NEW BUSINESS

3. 2023 Fall Bike Fest Planning and Coordination (Walkowiak)

Cherie Walkowiak, Safe Routes to School Coordinator gave a presentation on the 2023 Fall bike Fest and Coordination planning.

Ms. Walkowiak wondered if Chair Wolf needed help recruiting chaperones with Walk Bike Cupertino. Chair Wolf wanted to test ride the long bike ride to see if there were problems. If there were more than 20 riders, he suggested more volunteers in case people got spread out.

Commissioner Ganga commented that more chaperones on the smaller rides was good. He suggested at least two additional volunteers for the short ride, and more for the longer one.

Ms. Walkowiak added that Black Mountain Composite was joining the ride, and they said they would round up five additional volunteers.

Erik Lindskog volunteered for the long ride. Chair Wolf commented that Commissioner Zhao may be able to volunteer as well.

Ms. Walkowiak set up the pre-ride coordination meeting for the long and short bike rides. She promised to share Bike Fest logistics, specifically the time each person needed to check in.

NO ACTION TAKEN

4. Regnart Creek Trail Crossing at Blaney Avenue

Commissioner Ganga recused himself from this item due to living close to Regnart Creek Trail (RCT). He left the room and asked to be notified once the discussion for this item was complete.

Marlon Aumentado, Assistant Engineer requested to hear public speakers first.

Seema Lindskog, public speaker brought out the repeated discussion of how unsafe the intersection was, how cars sped near this intersection, and how the alert beacons were not enough. The alert beacons gave a false sense of safety because drivers did not see them.

Jennifer Shearin, public speaker relayed a near miss encounter at this intersection. She notified David Stillman, Transportation Manager several times about how cars did not stop when the flashing beacons were activated.

Henry Widjaja, public speaker echoed the previous speakers' comments. When he drove that street, he did not see the flashing beacons. There was heavy school traffic; he recommended some speed reducing mechanisms.

Mr. Aumentado recapped an incident of a bicyclist versus vehicle at the RCT crossing at Blaney Avenue. He and Mr. Stillman met with the Sheriff to verify specifics of the incident. Per the Sheriff, the bicyclist was traveling westbound on RCT when they approached the crosswalk still on the bike, did not use the push button to active the Rectangular Rapid-flashing Beacon

(RRFB), and immediately proceeded into the intersection behind two northbound vehicles clearing the crossing on Blaney Avenue. As the bicyclist continued through the crossing, a vehicle traveling southbound did not see the bicyclist as it was passing behind the two northbound vehicles, and a collision then occurred mid-crossing. The bicyclist did sustain minor injuries. However, the Sheriff determined the bicyclist to be the party at fault. Mr. Aumentado repeated that the bicyclist did use the crosswalk but did not use the flashing beacon. This was a discussion about how to enhance the safety at this intersection. There was some shrubbery that was blocking the sign, which has since been resolved as staff asked the property owners to trim it back.

Mr. Aumentado shared some pictures of RCT and suggested possibly moving the cross button facing people as they exited the trail, so it was more visible.

Chair Wolf asked what the speed limit was on Blaney Avenue. Mr. Aumentado confirmed it was 30 miles per hour (MPH). Chair Wolf brought this item up because someone had gotten hit; he noticed that cars did not stop when the flashing beacons were illuminated. He wanted to know what prevented staff from putting in a speed bump or a speed table. Mr. Aumentado mentioned the neighborhood Traffic Calming Program and said the residents needed to be taken into consideration. The neighbors needed to agree on the specific measure to slow traffic down. Chair Wolf clarified that if the neighbors decided they did not want a speed bump, then one would not be installed. Mr. Aumentado said yes.

Chair Wolf inquired what was needed to install a stop sign. Mr. Aumentado replied that a stop sign warrant was needed, which considered traffic volumes, among other criteria.

Vice Chair Marcy mentioned that the original study dealt with a refuge island. Mr. Aumentado said that may have been discarded from the RCT conceptual design. He was not involved in the design but agreed to look into it.

Chair Wolf wanted to know if there were any other infrastructure solutions that could slow traffic down in this area. He felt the flashing lights did not do any good, they were not bright enough and drivers did not see them. He suggested lights on the road that flashed. Mr. Aumentado replied that those lights were costly.

Mr. Aumentado reiterated that staff was taking all input from commissioners, people from the public, and no final decisions were being made today.

There was discussion of a speed table. Mr. Aumentado interjected that putting a speed table in advance of the crosswalk was different from putting it in at the crossing. Putting in speed bumps before the crossing meant it was in front of people's houses; putting a speed bump at the crossing was different because it was in line with the trail.

Commissioner John suggested a traffic light. Chair Wolf mentioned Vision Zero and knew there would be accidents, even if people followed all the rules. He remarked that if a study was performed then it could be determined if a stop sign was needed.

Mr. Aumentado explained a little about stop sign warrants and how engineers performed the study among looking at other factors. Vice Chair Marcy said there was a need to be aggressive with the speed of cars.

Vice Chair Marcy said the RCT has been open for four months and already there was an accident. Regarding Vision Zero, this was not a good sign.

Chair Wolf suggested that enhancing the safety at that intersection was going to increase the use of the trail. A resident told him she did not want to let her child use this trail just because this crossing was unsafe.

Mr. Aumentado was taking notes of the suggestions and said: 1) revisit the raised crosswalk; and 2) pedestrian refuge island. Commissioner John asked to add a stop light.

Chair Wolf suggested a combination of a stop sign with a raised sidewalk. The raised sidewalks at the San Jose Airport seemed effective.

Chair Wolf inquired about reducing the speed. Mr. Aumentado said there would need to be an engineering and traffic speed survey to justify the speed reduction. Chair Wolf wanted to know how quickly these things could happen. Mr. Aumentado said there was someone surveying how many people used the trail right now. There was also discussion about how to improve things and the question about cost.

NO ACTION TAKEN

Commissioner Ganga rejoined the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

5. Staff Update and Commissioner Activity Report (All)

Erik Lindskog gave a presentation on the VTA BPAC. Commissioner Ganga asked about the pollution data base. Mr. Lindskog was unsure.

Chair Wolf said there was no Mayor's meeting last month. Marlon Aumentado, Assistant Engineer said the City Council were in recess for the month of August. He asked if there was a summary from the Mayor's meeting from July. Commissioner John said they discussed book clubs, and she updated people on the Bike Fest. Vice Chair Marcy was to take the next Mayor's Meeting and Safe Routes to School meeting.

Chair Wolf asked if there were updates from the Commissioners. Vice Chair Marcy relayed a decision from the Sunnyvale Council Meeting to remove the parking on Homestead Road and replace with a bike lane. He suggested coordination with the City of Sunnyvale.

Mr. Aumentado said the Regnart Creek Trail (RCT) was going to be closed this week and next, because Valley Water Management needed to examine the vegetation on RCT before the rainy season began.

Vice Chair Marcy mentioned trash along RCT that needed to be cleaned up. Mr. Aumentado said it was Public Works Grounds, but if it was the creek, it was Valley Water's jurisdiction.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Marlon Aumentado, Staff Liaison

Note: Any attachments can be found on the Cupertino Website
<https://www.cupertino.org/our-city/agendas-minutes>