

CITY OF SAN JOSÉ
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
6:15- 8:00 P.M. November 29th, 2021
Remote Meeting

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

(a) Call to Order/Introductions – The meeting was called to order at 6:20 P.M.

Members Present

Brandon Alvarado, Chair
Aarshdeep Kahlon, Vice Chair
Daniel Burdick
Emily Schwing
Diane Soloman
Bobby Gonzalez (New)
Nancy Macias (New)
Ben Kennedy (New)

Members Absent

Jake McCluskey
Melvin Velazquez
Shannon Knepper

City Staff

Ryan Smith, Department of Transportation
Nick Danty, Department of Transportation
Deanna Skaggs Department of Transportation

Members of the Public

Diego Ortiz – VTA BPAC

(b) Approve Order of Business –

Chair Brandon Alvarado entertained a motion to move item (f)- New Business right behind item (c) Public Forum to respect the time of guest presenters.

Motion

- So moved - Committee Member Emily Schwing
- Seconded by Vice-Chair Aarshdeep Kahlon.
- No final discussion.

Roll call vote:

- Brandon Alvarado (Chair): Yes
- Daniel Burdick: Yes

- Bobby Gonzalez: Yes
- Aarshdeep Kahlon (Vice Chair): Yes
- Ben Kennedy: Yes
- Nancy Macias: Yes
- Emily Schwing: Yes
- Diane Soloman: Yes

Motion passes. Item (f) New Business will be moved to directly under item (c) Public Forum making item (f) item (d)

(c) Public Forum – No members of the public made comments or requested to comment.

(d) New Business

(1) Welcome New BPAC Members – Informational Item

Bobby Gonzalez introduction: Lifelong resident of San Jose, has been biking since 5th grade and is passionate about all things local government, including mobility and biking.

Nancy Macias introduction: Grew up in Gilroy moved to San Jose for college.

Ben Kennedy introduction: Has lived in San Jose for almost five years and is interested in safer streets for cyclists and pedestrians. He feels one should not have to have a car in the 10th biggest city in America.

Ryan Smith: Been with the city of San Jose for ten years. Ryan is the new Bicycle and Pedestrian Program manager and has been working on staffing the BPAC committee for the last 7-8 years.

Nick Danty: Transportation planner with the city of San Jose with Ryan, focuses on the implementation of the better bikeways plan 2025, and handles most things bike lane related in the city.

Daniel Burdick: Been on BPAC for a year to year and a half.

Diane Soloman: Started on BPAC in 2019, member of the Silicon Valley Bicycle colocation, involved in San Jose Bike Party, and started a bicycling history project. Interested in making biking safer because that is one of the biggest barriers to getting people to bike.

Aarshdeep Kahlon: Has been on BPAC since 2020.

Diego Ortiz: Not an official member of BPAC is a representative from the VTA BPAC for about a year. Is a member of the Cal Train Pedestrian and Bicyclical advisory committee.

Emily Schwing: Been a member of BPAC since 2019. Specifically interested in families who want to go out and cycle with young children.

(2) DOT Annual Bikeways and Pavement Program Workplan Review – Informational Item

DOT Staff Nick Danty provided the following overview:

- Annual implementation of on-street bikeways (separated, buffered and non-buffered) Typically do 30 – 60 streets a year. (Each street typically entails about a mile of bikeways work. 60% of which is updating the old bike ways and 40% is adding in new bikeways)

- Staff uses expert judgment as well as council-approved plans and community plans to inform the type of bike lane staff recommends on what streets. Many members of staff and directors are bikers or have experience designing bike lanes.
- Projects follow a five-phased approach that includes, Workplan development, project feasibility, project development, construction, and closeout.
- Staff commented that they would like to see more BPAC involvement in project feasibility, project development, and construction sections of the projects. What's to use the information that PBAC members have gathered through their connection with the community(s)

Staff commented that the work that the paving program does is one of the most important avenues the city has for implementing the 2025 bike plan and making sure BPAC is included in multiple parts along the way.

DOT Staff Nick Danty provided the following 2022-2023 Program Update:

- February 2021. BPAC reviewed payment list for upcoming pavement cycle 2022-2023
- July 2022 BPAC will be updated on the streets presented in Feb.
- September 2022 (may get pushed to Feb 2023) BPAC will give input on the designs of the streets and bike lanes.
- 2021 Overall saw the development of about 14 miles of new and enhanced bikeways, and 43 miles of new and enhanced bikeways were deferred to spring 2021 (winter suspension)
- 2022 pavement list was finalized and will include 27 miles of new and enhanced bikeways. Initial recommendations (BPAC provided some of the recommendations) have been submitted to consultants, and road diets are still under review. Road diets are proposed for Quimby Ave, Coleman Ave, Skyway Dr, and Prospect Rd; these are being reviewed internally.
- 2023 High-level staff review is in progress, and BPAC review is to follow the staff review in February.

Staff confirmed they would use the format for presenting the pavement list to BPAC for comments that was provided by Soloman

DOT Staff Nick Danty provided the following overview of MTC Quick Strike

- Quick Strike money is provided to improve access to alternative modes of transportation, e.g., walking and biking
- San Jose's quick-strike projects include Downtown bikeways, El Movimiento quick build network¹, Bascom Ave protected bike lanes and complete streets, and Julian Street and McKee Rd vision zero complete streets.

¹ <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/transportation/projects-planning/east-san-jos-mtip/en-movimiento-quick-strike-project>

- Projects are geared at installing hardscape improvements; these are not quick build projects; they are perinate, concrete, and civil works projects
- Designs are in progress for quick-strike projects; final plans dude September 2022, construction set to occur between fall 2022 and summer 2025
- Nick Danty will give an update at the February meeting (tentative) with more detailed designs for 2022 projects and the 2023 pavement list.

Staff provided additional background information and clarified that: Quick Strike Is a one-time grant that is funding for protected bike lanes and pedestrian safety project in San Jose that is separate from the TDA Grant that is State Grant that is funneled through MTC and VTA to the city and is provided on an annual basis.

TDA comes to BPAC every year BPAC can review and approve TDA (Transit Development ACT) projects in April. Staff to provide contact information for Devin Gianchandani, the Grants program manager, to Soloman. (Contact information was provided to the Committee via the zoom chat.)

(e) Approve Minutes of October 25th, 2021 BPAC Meeting

- Soloman commented that section three about the city council liaison is missing a big chunk of information.
- Staff confirmed that the section of information appears to be missing from the draft. There was a transcript of the conversation about the city council committees in the minutes that were not transferred over to draft form, so they will be added to the draft.

There are no objections; therefore, the approval of the minutes is deferred to the next meeting.

(f) Old Business

(1) Update from BPAC Effectiveness Ad Hoc Committee – Informational Item

There are no updates at this time.

- Chair provided background about the Ad Hoc committee and the city council liaison to new members and summarized what as was discussed in the last meeting in October:
 - A Hoc committee was created to request a new city council member liaison that is a Transportation and Environment Committee representative.
 - The next step is having BPAC members and staff review the draft letter that is going to be sent to the mayor's office requesting a change in liaison and the process that goes on to appoint a liaison. Also, committee is to follow up with Dev Davis's office and Staff is to set up a time for the Ad Hoc Committee to meet to discuss this further.

(2) VTA Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting Update² – Informational Item

² <http://santaclaravta.igq2.com/Citizens/Board/1007-Bicycle--Pedestrian-Advisory-Committee>

Diego Ortiz provided the following summary of VTA BPAC: The BART Silicon Valley Phase 2 extension was discussed at the last VTA BPAC meeting and the VTA BPAC got an in-depth presentation about the four proposed stations on that line.

- The stations are 28th Street and Little Portugal, Downtown, Diridon, all underground and ground-level station in Santa Clara.
- At the VTA BPAC meeting there was a discussion about calming the streets surrounding the stations.

Ortiz clarified that he would provide the link to the VTA agenda packet for members to review (pages 175-180).

- VTA updated its project timeline and predicted that the stations will be done in the spring of 2023.
- Over the next 18 months, VTA plans to work with the city of San Jose, engage with the community, and put together more future planning studies.

Ortiz discussed that there was an interesting public comment about the financing of the plans noting that the project has doubled its funds. More details are in the VTA Agenda Packet, pages 181-184, designs and plans for station entrances and exits.

VTA Committee recommended that the board of directors adopt the 2021 congestion management plan. The plan looks at congestion at workplaces as it is impacted by remote work, condensed workweeks, and other tele-commuting plans tech companies have in the area.

Gonzalez commented that he is concerned that the plans show a lot of stairs, and BART does not have a reputation for having good access to elevators and escalators for bikes. Is there any way to add to the plan to allow for a groove that helps move your bike up?

Ortiz mentioned that such concerns were also raised during the VTA meeting and was told that bike channels were something that was going to be considered.

(g) Staff Report

A staff report for this week was sent out with the minutes.

DOT Ryan Smith provided the following overview:

The Active Transportation Program Team is going through some changes.

- John Brazil has been promoted to manager of the transportation options team. Ryan Smith has filled Brazil's old position as the Active Transportation Program Manager
- Jonathon Yuan has joined DOT to manage micro-mobility
- Deanna Skaggs has joined as a Graduate Student Intern and will be supporting BPAC among other things
- DOT is currently recruiting a full-time transportation specialist for the active transportation program

(h) Chairperson's Comments

No additional reports or updates for this meeting.

(i) Committee Comments

- Macias noted that a lot of the items and topics discussed in this meeting were all bike-related and wants to know how the pedestrian side of the committee work and how do members approach that and make the city more walkable and safer for pedestrians.
 - Alvarado commented that asking questions like the one Macias asked is how you get the pedestrian side of things into the meeting. He also mentioned that this point gets brought up about every six months amongst the Committee and that the Committee does need to be more aware of the concerns of pedestrians.
 - Staff provided additional background that the active transportation program used to be all about pedestrians 20 years ago and pedestrian infrastructure. But ten years ago, a lot of funding for bike projects became available, and the focus shifted. Simultaneously the vision zero group has taken on a lot of the pedestrian side of planning and projects. Staff is trying to bring those two programs together to better coordinate on projects and bring the pedestrian side of things back into BPAC. The city is in the process of developing a pedestrian master plan and will get BPAC will be more involved.
 - Soloman suggested looking into Walk San Jose and Vision Zero Coalition.
- Kennedy asked if there is a motorist advisory committee to make streets safer and ensure that motorists do not collide with pedestrians or other vehicles?
 - Staff suggested that those interested in this topic should look into the Vision Zero Task Force.
 - Soloman clarified that although there is no committee for motorists if one wishes to get involved with that topic, public project meetings such as road diet public meetings are a great place to discuss those concerns and issues.

(j) Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

