

**CITY OF SAN JOSÉ**  
**BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
6:15- 8:00 P.M. May 2nd, 2022  
Remote Meeting

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**(a) Call to Order/Introductions** – The meeting was called to order at 6:54 P.M.

**Members Present**

Brandon Alvarado, Chair  
Aarshdeep Kahlon, Vice-Chair  
Daniel Burdick  
Bobby Gonzalez  
Diane Solomon  
Emily Schwing

**City Staff**

Ryan Smith, Department of Transportation  
Liz Sewell, Department of Parks, Recreation, and  
Neighborhood Services

**Members of the Public**

None

**Members Absent**

Shannon Knepper  
Ben Kennedy  
Jake McCluskey  
Nancy Macias

**(b) Approve Order of Business**

Item f(1): San Jose Trails Network Annual Update moved to fall after Item (c): Public Forum.  
Approved with no objection.

**(c) Public Forum**

No public comments received.

**(d) Approve Minutes of March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 BPAC Meeting**

No changes or comments on the minutes from the committee.

Motion

So moved - Daniel Burdick  
Seconded by - Aarshdeep Kahlon

No final discussion.

Roll Call vote:

Brandon Alvarado: yes  
Aarshdeep Kahlon: yes  
Daniel Burdick: yes  
Bobby Gonzalez: yes  
Diane Solomon: abstain  
Emily Schwing: yes

Motion passes. March 28<sup>th</sup> minutes approved.

**(e) Old Business**

**(1) VTA Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting Update – *Informational Item***

No update. The last VTA BPAC meeting was canceled.

**(2) BPAC Committee Effectiveness Update – *Informational Item***

Alvarado sent an email out to the Mayor regarding the Council Liaison change; the Committee has yet to hear anything from the Mayor's Office.

Alvarado also reached out to Councilmember Davis's office to confirm she is still interested and reached out to Councilmember Jimenez to see if he could help keep the process going.

Solomon commented that it might be beneficial to try and talk to the City Clerk to see what could be put in place and commit this to writing.

Alvarado confirmed he would reach out to the Clerk to see what could be done to change the Council Liaison.

**(f) New Business**

**(1) San Jose Trails Network Annual Update – *Informational Item***

**Staff Presented the following:**

- San Jose Currently has 62.51 miles of class 1 trails.<sup>1</sup> The 15<sup>th</sup> annual trails survey and count showed that that 48% of trail use in 2021 was for health and fitness, and 15% was for active transportation/commuting.
- The percentage of commuters using the trail dropped during COVID-19 by about 35-50%. The number of trail users stayed roughly the same, however, but were redistributed to different user groups. For example, urban trails like the Guadalupe River Trail saw decreased ridership while rural/recreational trails, such as the Three Creeks Trail grew in ridership.

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<sup>1</sup> San Jose Trails Network Site: <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments/parks-recreation-neighborhood-services/outdoor-activities/trail-network>

- Based on the survey, the top three issues that discourage trail use are litter, pavement condition, and general maintenance. Other issues identified include social issues, design, operational impacts, and user conflicts.

### **Next Steps for Trails Program improvement**

- Capital and Maintenance team collaboration.
- Private vehicle and dumping prevention initiative, involving multiple departments and agencies, including the County.
- Capital improvement trail assessment to prioritize what needs to be repaved.
- Safe Trail Pilot Initiative funded by the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities grant through the City's Housing Department. The funding is used to partner with the Conservation Corps for light maintenance and light vegetation removal. The Conservation Corps members wear branded safety vests and act as eyes on the trail to ensure the safety of all trail users.<sup>2</sup>
- San Jose Police on trails Program. There are two officers on bikes on trail at a time. The program strives to run seven days a week, but the officers participate as voluntary overtime. Currently, most shifts are being filled. Their primary purpose is to be a presence on trail and to work with the unhoused and trail users. The program is funded by the City and Santa Clara Valley Water District..

### **Trail Development:**

Trails go through a six-step process before they are operational.

1. Identify: Basic analysis
  2. Study: Technical analysis
  3. Plan: Environmental analysis outreach
  4. Design: Engineer and design trial
  5. Build: Construction
  6. Open: Operation and maintenance
- The City recently finished two more miles along the Coyote Creek Trail, including the Singleton Crossing and the Three Creeks Trail..
  - The City is currently working on a connection between the Los Gatos and Three Creeks Trail
  - The Lonus Avenue to Three Creeks Trail connection is still in the planning phase and could be done in a few years.
  - The Five Wounds Trail feasibility study is in the planning phase and has local funding and funds from the Coastal Conservancy. The study is expected to be complete in June 2022. The trail will connect to the BART station with Silver Creek and the Coyote Creek Trail.

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<sup>2</sup> Both the safety trail pilot and SJPD on trail programs are on the Coyote Creek trail.

- The Coyote Creek Trail will go to construction this fall to connect Maybury Road to Empire Street.
- Guadalupe River Trail and Three Creeks Trail connection to Tamien Station will need to be elevated. The project is currently waiting on a flood improvement study being from the Army Corps of Engineers.

**Discussion Following the presentation:**

Committee Member Gonzalez commented that he has only seen officers on bikes once while using the Coyote Creek Trail. Most of the time he sees them, they have been in their police vehicles, either parked or driving the trail. He has also seen some police vehicles with two bikes on the bike racks in the back. He is concerned that it is intimidating for them to be in their vehicle and may pose a safety hazard to trail users.

Staff commented that depending on where one is on the trail, the police vehicle may have been part of a separate patrol that uses that section of trail. Staff remarked that it is disappointed that Gonzalez has not seen officers on bikes, and they can work with other divisions that run this program and to address the issue.

Committee Member Solomon was interested in knowing when the Los Gatos Creek Trail will be completed beyond Meridian, where it currently ends. Staff commented that this might be a joint Department of Transportation and Parks and Recreation collaboration as the trail will likely need to be on-street and not along the creek.

Solomon also restated the questions that she asked in the previous BPAC meeting and that had been sent to Trail Program staff following the meeting. These questions include the fatality on the Guadalupe River Trail from a speeding bicyclist. Solomon would like an update on the issue. Additionally, Solomon commented that The Coyote Creek Trail south of Phelan Avenue needs a connection and the Penitencia Creek Trail needs wayfinding.

Staff said that improvements had been made to the trail following the fatality on the Guadalupe River Trail, including new signage, new striping, pavement markings, and speed bumps. Work was done along with the Department of Transportation's Vision Zero team. There are also plans to put together a cost estimate for a realignment of the trail. Regarding the Penitencia Creek Trail, staff commented that they intend to ride the trail and see what funding they can find to enhance wayfinding. Solomon is to check back in with staff in 6 months.

Committee Member Burdick mentioned that the Conservation Corps should look at the Guadalupe River Trail beneath Highway 101 as it sometimes floods, bringing dangerous sediment onto the trail.

Staff said that sediment and other flooding concerns can be emailed to [parkconcerns@sanjsoeca.gov](mailto:parkconcerns@sanjsoeca.gov)

**(2) 2022 San Jose Ride of Silence Update – Informational Item**

Alvarado is currently organizing the San Jose Ride of Silence to honor those who have been killed or seriously injured while cycling. The tentative date is Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Alvarado would like to see the Ride of Silence be an official yearly BPAC-sponsored event.

**(3) Quimby Road Bikeway Discussion and Committee Action – Action Item**

Staff provided the following background: Each year, the City of San Jose enhances larger streets with progressive designs to reconfigure traffic lanes, reduce traffic volume and make it easier and safer to bike and walk. A previous BPAC meeting discussed Quimby Avenue possibly receiving a lane reduction. Since that meeting, the public has contacted the City with many concerns around Quimby. This could be an opportunity for the Committee to act in some official capacity and write a letter of support for what changes the committee thing is appropriate for Quimby

Gonzalez expressed that he would be interested in crafting a letter of support on behalf of the Committee. He also commented that he has a personal connection to Quimby because he grew up in the area. He commented that Quimby is an essential East-West connection, and there is currently no bike lane, so cyclists are on the sidewalk. He is also concerned about the recent fatality along Quimby and that a lane reduction is needed to install a protected bikeway. He has also been in contact with the Thompson Creek neighborhood organization regarding this issue

Gonzalez proposed a motion to draft a letter from BPAC in support of a lane reduction on Quimby Road, with final approval from the BPAC Chair.

Motion

So moved – Bobby Gonzales  
Seconded by - Daniel Burdick

Committee member Kahlon commented that he also lives on Quimby and has regularly seen people riding horses on Quimby. That detail may need to be added to the letter as well. Kahlon will forward the email he sent to staff on the subject to Gonzalez.

Roll Call vote:

Brandon Alvarado: yes  
Aarshdeep Kahlon: yes  
Daniel Burdick: yes  
Bobby Gonzalez: yes

Diane Solomon: yes  
Emily Schwing: yes

Motion passes

**(4) Bike to Work Day Volunteer Opportunity – *Informational Item***

To be sent out via email

**(5) FY 22-23 Transportation Development Act, Article 3, Project Recommendations –  
*(Committee Review Item)***

Postponed to next BPAC meeting.

**(6) Appoint FY 22-23 San Jose Representative for VTA BPAC – *Action Item***

Postponed to next BPAC meeting.

**(g) Chairperson's Comments**

No comments at this time.

**(h) Committee Comments**

Kahlon asked staff about work occurring on White Road. Staff confirmed that they would follow up with Kahlon later as they do not know all the details on White.

**(i) Adjourn** Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.