



**Palo Alto Pedestrian and
Bicycle Advisory Committee**

**Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.
Community Meeting Room, Ground Floor, City Hall
250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto**

1. CALL TO ORDER 6:00 PM
2. AGENDA CHANGES 6:01 PM
3. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES 6:05 PM
4. PUBLIC COMMENT 6:08 PM
5. SRTS UPDATE 6:10 PM
 - a. Recap of June 3rd Council Study Session
 - b. Stanford GUP Update
 - c. Bike to Work Day and BAFW Bash Recap
 - d. Clarke Ave Bridge Opening & AVID Student Program
6. STAFF UPDATES: 6:20 PM
 - a. Bike Boulevard Evaluation in August
 - b. Bikeshare/Scootershare Update
 - c. Staffing Update
 - d. Adobe Bridge Status
 - e. Newell Bridge EIR
7. DISCUSSION ITEMS: 6:35 PM
 - a. Bike and Pedestrian Transportation Plan Project Priorities
Enter your top five priority projects & programs at the [Google Doc Here](#)
For reference: [Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation Plan](#)
8. STANDING ITEMS: 7:45 PM
 - a. VTA BPAC Update
 - b. Grant Funding Update
9. ANNOUNCEMENTS: 7:55 PM
10. ADJOURNMENT 8:00 PM



Palo Alto Pedestrian and
Bicycle Advisory Committee

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

6:00 P.M.

ADOBE NORTH ROOM, MITCHELL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA

Members Present: Eric Nordman (Chair), Ken Joye (Vice Chair), Bruce Arthur, Bill Courington, Cedric de la Beaujardiere, Kathy Durham, Paul Goldstein, Robert Neff, Rob Robinson, Jane Rosten, Bill Zauman

Members Absent: Ann Crichton, Art Liberman, Steve Rock, Richard Swent

Staff Present: Sylvia Star-Lack, Rosie Mesterhazy, Shrupath Patel

Guest: Frisco del Rosario, Alan Wachtel, David Hirsch

1. CALL TO ORDER at 6:00 p.m.

2. AGENDA CHANGES

None

3. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES

Motion by Vice Chair Joye, seconded by Mr. de la Beaujardiere, to approve the minutes of March 5, 2019, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Frisco del Rosario wanted Caltrans to build bike shoulders on Highway 35. A person in the area is willing to donate funds for construction of bike shoulders to increase safety. Mr. del Rosario will attend the May meeting with additional information.

5. SRTS UPDATE

**a. Includes Bike Index Update/Orientation
Free bicycle registration used by SRTS**

Ms. Mesterhazy reported the Bike Index replaces bike licensing. Approximately 643 people have registered with Bike Index. The disadvantage of using QR Code stickers for identification is the stickers can be removed. Staff is encouraging the use of Bike Index with students. The Police Department supports the use of Bike Index but will not administer the program.

1 Community Service Officers will check Bike Index when bicycles are recovered. Ms. Star-Lack
2 added that high school students believe they are being targeted for bike theft. The Bike Index is
3 a means to collect data regarding bike thefts. Ms. Mesterhazy advised that an intergenerational
4 transportation safety pilot project will focus on compliance at the California Avenue tunnel.
5 Staff hopes to schedule four meetings to build consensus around safe use of the tunnel. Signage
6 has been installed at the tunnel. Bike to Work Day on May 9, 2019 will include a "bike away
7 from work" bash from 5:00-7:00 p.m. and a student-organized energizer station. Volunteers are
8 needed for Bike to Work Day.

9 In response to questions, Ms. Mesterhazy explained that Bike Index Palo Alto is a subgroup of
10 Bike Index. People should register with Bike Index Palo Alto. Several thousand bikes reported
11 stolen have been recovered through Bike Index. Ms. Mesterhazy will invite one or two PABAC
12 members to participate in meetings about the California Avenue tunnel. One meeting is being
13 planned for students and a second for individuals with strong concerns about safety in the
14 California Avenue tunnel. The third meeting will be joint between the two groups, and the
15 fourth meeting will serve as a follow-up meeting. The meetings will be held during business
16 hours and near the tunnel. Most of the students using the tunnel are traveling to Greene Middle
17 School.

18 Vice Chair Joye suggested staff contact the local chapter of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
19 about ambassadors for the tunnel meetings.

20 Mr. Arthur would agree to converting the tunnel to pedestrians only if half the Oregon
21 Expressway underpass is dedicated to bikes.

22 Ms. Durham felt having ambassadors present at Bike to Work Day events and stations is
23 important for achieving the goal of a 30 percent increase in bicycling.

24 **6. STAFF UPDATES:**
25 **a. Staff Resources/Projects**

26 Ms. Star-Lack reported the positions for Chief Transportation Official and Transportation
27 Planner remain vacant. The recruitment for planner closed on March 6, but staff reopened the
28 recruitment because the number of applicants was small. Staff is working on traffic counts, a
29 community survey, collision data analysis, interviews, and community engagement guidelines
30 for the bike boulevard evaluation. Staff is working with the Transportation Management
31 Association (TMA) regarding transportation demand management (TDM). Later in the year, the
32 TDM ordinance will be revised. Staff is reviewing development applications for transportation,
33 updating guidelines for bike/scooter share programs, addressing requests for bike racks and
34 SRTS issues, developing the budget, participating in the North Ventura Coordinated Area Plan
35 (NVCAP) project, and preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for shuttle services.

36 **b. Data Collection Status**

37 Ms. Star-Lack advised that Staff needs to develop protocols for counts. VIMOC has not
38 responded to the City's demands for data collected during the year VIMOC was under contract to
39 the City. Streetlightdata.com has presented information regarding big data to Staff. No agency
40 in the region is solely using streetlightdata.com's data because it cannot replace vehicle counts,

1 and there are questions about its accuracy. Obtaining big data is extremely costly. MTC's
2 bike/ped protocol working group has found multiple protocols for counting bikes and
3 pedestrians. MTC will attempt to develop a standard counting protocol and perhaps some
4 recommendations. Several companies collect and sell big data. Mr. Patel highlighted
5 deficiencies in big data.

6 In reply to inquiries, Ms. Star-Lack indicated staff utilizes cameras for bicycle counts and tubes
7 placed across the street for traffic counts. The consultant for grade separations has access to big
8 data. Staff needs to give additional consideration to the use of cameras in collecting data.

9 Mr. de la Beaujardiere suggested physical counts could be used to validate statistical trends
10 found in big data.

11 **c. Reports Regarding Crosswalk Speed Table on Park Near Sherman**

12 Ms. Star-Lack related that the speed table was a condition of approval requested by neighbors of
13 the development. The speed table was designed as a raised crosswalk at the level of the
14 sidewalk. Staff has received one complaint via the 311 app. After a year, staff will review the
15 crosswalk.

16 Vice Chair Joye hoped staff would measure community feedback about the crosswalk and
17 determine whether the feedback could be utilized in future plans for Park Boulevard. In answer
18 to Vice Chair Joye's questions, Ms. Star-Lack reported issues with the Ross Road bicycle project
19 were submitted via the 311 app, but the number of issues raised via emails to the Council and
20 Nextdoor were greater.

21 **d. Update on Park Blvd./Page Mill Rd Traffic Signal Timing**

22 Ms. Star-Lack advised that Mr. Rius is aware of the issue and will review it. She will forward
23 Mr. Rius' report to PABAC members once she receives it.

24 Vice Chair Joye related a conversation with Mr. Rius in which Mr. Rius suggested the PG&E
25 construction barricades could be the cause of the signal change.

26 **7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

27 **a. Consideration of NVCAP Suggestion of a Crossing at Oregon**
28 **Expressway/Ash St.**

29 Chair Nordman noted the Guide for Improving Pedestrian Safety at Uncontrolled Crossing
30 Locations indicates the appropriate countermeasures are an advance "yield here to pedestrians"
31 sign with a yield line, a pedestrian refuge island, or a pedestrian hybrid beacon. The average cost
32 of a basic pedestrian hybrid beacon is \$58,000, but it would probably be more expensive for a
33 street of this size.

34 Vice Chair Joye reported controlled crossings exist at the intersections of Page Mill with El
35 Camino and with Park. There does not appear to be high pedestrian demand at the Ash
36 intersection. He was not aware of any evidence that pedestrians are crossing in an unsafe
37 manner at Ash Street.

1 Mr. Arthur remarked that calculating demand based on the current configuration is difficult.

2 Mr. Goldstein suggested discussion of a crosswalk is premature.

3 PABAC members discussed Oregon Expressway being a County facility, informing the NVCAP
4 group of the standards and estimated costs for a crossing, a crosswalk facilitating pedestrian
5 traffic to California Avenue, the time needed to walk to the El Camino Real and Park Boulevard
6 crossings, a change in conditions caused by redevelopment in the area, the County not allowing a
7 signalized crosswalk but allowing an overcrossing if the City paid for it, and the County Bike
8 Plan's requirements for cross-barrier connections.

9 Ms. Star-Lack advised that the County would have to approve any type of crosswalk. Because
10 the County wants to maintain throughput on its expressways, it probably will not approve an at-
11 grade crossing. PABAC may want to prioritize other overcrossings and undercrossings ahead of
12 this location. There is pedestrian activity at the Ash intersection. A crosswalk at the intersection
13 existed at one time. The NVCAP group continues to discuss the street grid and connectivity and
14 has not made any decisions.

15 Chair Nordman recommended PABAC consider pedestrian areas that need addressing when
16 updating the Bike Plan.

17 **8. STANDING ITEMS:**
18 **a. VTA BPAC Update**

19 Mr. Neff reported the City of San Jose presented information regarding its new Bike Plan. The
20 County is developing guidelines and a process for distributing Measure B funding.

21 **b. Grant Funding Update**

22 Ms. Star-Lack reported staff has not applied for any grants. Use of the VERBS South Palo Alto
23 Bikeways grant will be delayed for a year because of the lack of staff resources. The El Camino
24 pedestrian and streetscape project will also be delayed. The Embarcadero and El Camino project
25 is on hold because of the grade separation discussion. Caltrans has not yet permitted the Adobe
26 Creek bike bridge construction.

27 **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

28 Mr. Robinson announced Pasteur Drive at the Medical Center is open.

29 **10. ADJOURNMENT** at 7:15 p.m.

30