



**Palo Alto Pedestrian and
Bicycle Advisory Committee**

**Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.
Matadero Room, Mitchel Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto**

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| 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 |
| 6. STAFF UPDATES | 6:20 PM |
| a. Transportation Staffing | |
| b. Bike Boulevard Evaluation | |
| c. Bikeshare/Scootershare | |
| d. Adobe Bridge | |
| e. Newell Bridge EIR | |
| f. Bikeway via Mercedes Project Condition of Approval | |
| g. Charleston-Arastradero Corridor | |
| h. Caltrans Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons | |
| 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS | 6:40 PM |
| a. Bike and Pedestrian Transportation Plan Project Priorities View the Google Doc Here | |
| 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, June 4, 2019

6:00 P.M.

COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM, CITY HALL

250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, CA

Members Present: Eric Nordman (Chair), Ken Joye (Vice Chair), Bruce Arthur, Bill Courington, David Hirsch, Art Liberman, Robert Neff, Rob Robinson, Steve Rock, Jane Rosten,

Members Absent: Ann Crichton, Cedric de la Beaujardiere, Kathy Durham, Paul Goldstein, Richard Swent, Bill Zauman

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

Guest: Alan Wachtel

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

2. AGENDA CHANGES

None

3. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES

MOTION

Motion by Mr. Rock, seconded by Mr. Robinson, to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2019, meeting as presented. Motion passed 6-0 with 3 abstaining.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Rock noted the bike parking in the parking lot near CVS on Middlefield Road was almost full prior to the meeting. Another parking area may be needed. Mr. Robinson added that the bike area is now reflective covered.

5. SRTS UPDATE

a. Recap of June 3rd Council Study Session

Ms. Mesterhazy reported she shared data, similar to the data she presented to PABAC, with the Council.

1 In response to questions from PABAC members, Ms. Mesterhazy indicated the Council
2 suggested gamification to encourage students to utilize alternate modes for commuting to school;
3 however, gamification is not necessarily a strategy staff wishes to utilize. A 1-3 percent increase
4 each year is a significant increase. Students need to have more of a presence in the Safe Routes
5 to School partnership. Ms. Star-Lack added that parents have discouraged the use of prizes for
6 younger children.

7 **b. Stanford GUP Update**

8 Ms. Star-Lack noted the agreement between Stanford University and PAUSD regarding the
9 General Use Permit may not be fulfilled. The County has released recommended conditions of
10 approval for the project, and Safe Routes to School is mentioned in some of the conditions. If
11 development on the Stanford University campus causes PAUSD to redraw attendance
12 boundaries, the changes will impact identified suggested routes to school. The proposed
13 conditions of approval require Stanford University to pay for an analysis of routes and
14 infrastructure and to pay its fair share of infrastructure changes such crossing guards.

15 **c. Bike to Work Day and BAFW Bash Recap**

16 Ms. Mesterhazy advised that 2,400 bicycles visited the four energizer stations. The bash was
17 well attended and encouraged Redwood City to hold its own bash. Eighty students attended a
18 bike to breakfast event at Hanover while 197 students visited the station at Bryant and Lowell.
19 City bikes were available for staff to bike to the employee bike picnic. Approximately 90
20 volunteers participated at each energizer station and the bash.

21 Ms. Mesterhazy announced she would bike from Santa Cruz to San Luis Obispo to raise funds
22 for organizations that are working to stop climate change.

23 **d. Clarke Avenue Bridge Opening & AVID Student Program**

24 Ms. Mesterhazy related that staff with the help of students created an East Palo Alto Walk and
25 Roll Map. Staff and 16-20 students biked from Greene, over the Newell Bridge and the new 101
26 Bridge, to East Palo Alto. East Palo Alto officials were present to welcome and encourage
27 students to bike.

28 In reply to inquiries, Ms. Mesterhazy reported the cost of the Newell Bridge project was
29 approximately \$14 million. The Achievement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program is
30 similar to a college preparatory program for students who may be the first college graduates in
31 their families. Safe Routes to School maps do not include routes to private schools. When a
32 private school contacts staff about beginning a Safe Routes to School program, staff supports the
33 school's efforts as much as possible and encourages private schools to use already published map
34 resources.

35 **6. STAFF UPDATES:**

36 **a. Bike Boulevard Evaluation in August**

37 Ms. Star-Lack reported staff will prepare a staff report that includes the data promised to the
38 public for a City Council meeting. The date of the presentation to the Council has not been set.

1 Essentially, the staff report will review Phase I items that were built, the components that worked
2 well and didn't work well, lessons learned, and future actions. A decision has not been made to
3 present the staff report to PABAC prior to the Council meeting.

4 **b. Bikeshare/Scootershare Update**

5 Mr. Patel advised that the City Manager's Office is reviewing draft guidelines, a permit
6 application, and a City process for reviewing and approving/denying applications. Once
7 approved, the documents will be placed on the website, and staff will begin receiving
8 applications.

9 In answer to queries, Mr. Patel indicated he has reviewed guidelines and processes of other cities
10 as well as reports from national organizations. Permits will limit the number of devices a vendor
11 may place in the City. If demand is sufficient, staff may increase the number of devices for
12 vendors. Ms. Star-Lack reported staff is not actively coordinating with Stanford University but
13 has been in contact with Stanford Research Park. Staff there are interested in having devices
14 capable of traveling up the hill. Mr. Patel added that vendors have stated Stanford University is
15 interested in a bikeshare/scootershare program. The vendors will have to obtain permission from
16 Stanford University to place devices on Stanford University property. The guidelines will state
17 riding devices on sidewalks is prohibited. In addition, vendors will have to educate the
18 community regarding proper use of devices. Staff will work with the permitted vendors to
19 distribute devices around the City. Users will be able to return the devices anywhere. Mr. Patel
20 advised that he has spoken with Mountain View and Menlo Park, but they are still developing
21 their pilot programs. Because Mountain View is limiting its pilot program to bikes, a smaller
22 number of vendors are interested in the Mountain View program. Ms. Star-Lack clarified that
23 the vendor is responsible for picking up devices returned in Mountain View and redistributing
24 them. The City Manager's Office can change or end the pilot program and suspend a vendor's
25 permit during the pilot program.

26 **c. Staffing Update**

27 Ms. Star-Lack related that she will interview candidates for the Senior Planner position in the
28 next two weeks. Interviews for Chief Transportation Official (CTO) have occurred, but she is
29 not aware of the results of those interviews. The most recent news is that hopefully a new CTO
30 will be onboard in July. Within the fiscal year 2019-2020 proposed budget, staff has requested
31 the two part-time positions on the Safe Routes to School team be converted to one full-time Safe
32 Routes to School Coordinator position. If the Coordinator position is approved, staff will seek
33 someone with a planning or engineering background.

34 **d. Adobe Bridge Status**

35 Ms. Star-Lack read an email from a Public Works engineer, stating Caltrans has approved the
36 project design and issued the right-of-way certification on May 29. Staff anticipates Caltrans
37 approval of an encroachment permit and the E-76 in June or July. If the E-76 approval is
38 received as anticipated, the project can be released for bids in July or August with construction
39 potentially beginning in the fall of 2019 and ending by the winter of 2020. The East Palo Alto
40 bridge received its approvals more quickly because the bridge design with a center support is

1 standard. Palo Alto's Adobe Bridge design does not include a center support, and Highway 101
2 will have to be closed overnight for installation of the bridge's center section. In addition, the
3 location of the Adobe Bridge requires coordination with multiple jurisdictions.

4 **e. Newell Bridge EIR**

5 Ms. Star-Lack noted the public comment period for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has
6 opened. Public meetings will be held to obtain comments. The bridge will have 14-foot lanes
7 with sharrows. The bridge could be striped as 10-foot lanes with a shoulder.

8 In response to inquiries from PABAC, Ms. Star-Lack indicated design probably is not underway
9 because a preferred design has not been selected. The project manager will provide information
10 about the cost estimate and increases in construction costs.

11 PABAC members remarked that a 4-foot shoulder would be sufficient for a bike lane and that the
12 sidewalk width could be reduced by 1 foot to increase the shoulder width to 5 feet. Mr.
13 Robinson preferred to take the road rather than travel in a bike lane. Mr. Neff noted the traffic
14 volume on Newell is currently 3,400. Newell is a busy street for a shared lane. Having
15 bicyclists merge before the intersection is a bad design.

16 **7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

17 **a. Bike and Pedestrian Transportation Plan Project Priorities**

18 Following a discussion of the best way to categorize the list of projects and programs, including
19 by theme, value, bike plan versus bike boulevard, and use of the 2012 criteria and whether to use
20 cost and feasibility as factors, PABAC members agreed to form a subcommittee that will
21 categorize the list using the categories and criteria developed for the 2012 Bicycle and Pedestrian
22 Transportation Plan. Messrs. Arthur, Joye, Neff, and Nordman and Ms. Rosten volunteered to
23 serve as members of the subcommittee. PABAC members shared their rationale for proposing
24 each of the projects and programs. Ms. Star-Lack noted a pedestrian hybrid beacon will be
25 installed across El Camino at Olive to improve access to the Palo Alto Square cinema; the
26 protected intersection at Embarcadero and El Camino is on hold because of the grade separation
27 discussion; bike lane improvements along Hanover are included in the recommended conditions
28 of approval for the Stanford University GUP; construction of the Adobe Creek Bridge should
29 begin soon; and Caltrans will install a pedestrian hybrid beacon at El Camino Real and College
30 Avenue.

31 **8. STANDING ITEMS:**

32 **a. VTA BPAC Update**

33 Mr. Neff reported County Supervisors were scheduled to approve funding for striping
34 improvements for Page Mill/280 in May. BPAC has discussed a process to rank programs for
35 the Measure B funding cycle. A project for a new facility will receive more points than a project
36 to improve an existing facility. BPAC heard a presentation regarding San Jose's Better Bike Plan
37 2025. San Jose has a stress map of all its bike routes.

38 In response to questions, Mr. Neff explained the methodology for determining the stress level of
39 bike routes. The methodology is somewhat subjective.

1 **b. Grant Funding Update**

2 Ms. Star-Lack indicated the El Camino and the South Palo Alto Bikeways grants have been
3 delayed a year due to the lack of staffing. Staff continues to participate in meetings regarding
4 criteria for Measure B bicycle projects.

5 **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

6 Chair Nordman announced the July meeting is canceled.

7 **10. ADJOURNMENT** at 8:02 p.m.

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