



**Palo Alto Pedestrian and
Bicycle Advisory Committee**

**Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.
Matadero Room, Mitchel Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Rd, 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 |
| 6. STAFF UPDATES | 6:20 PM |
| a. CTO Introduction | |
| b. Bike Boulevard Evaluation: Counts, Bollards, Tweaks | |
| c. Adobe Bridge | |
| d. Newell Bridge EIR | |
| e. Charleston-Arastradero Corridor | |
| f. Caltrans Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons | |
| 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS | 6:40 PM |
| a. Subcommittee Report: BPTP Project Priorities
View the Google Doc Here | |
| b. SVBC BPAC Survey Results | |
| 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, August 6, 2019

6:00 P.M.

MATADERO ROOM, MITCHELL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA

Members Present: Ken Joye (Vice Chair), Bill Courington, Cedric de la Beaujardiere, Kathy Durham, Paul Goldstein, Art Liberman, Robert Neff, Rob Robinson, Steve Rock, Richard Swent, Bill Zaumen

Members Absent: Eric Nordman (Chair), Bruce Arthur, Ann Crichton, David Hirsh, Jane Rosten

Staff Present: Rosie Mesterhazy, Sylvia Star-Lack

Guest: Owen Longstreth, Alan Wachtel

1. CALL TO ORDER at 6:03 p.m.

2. AGENDA CHANGES

None

3. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES

MOTION

Motion by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Rock, to approve the minutes of June 4, 2019, as presented. Motion passed unanimously with Mr. Goldstein and Mr. Zaumen abstaining.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. SRTS UPDATE

Ms. Mesterhazy reported she presented "Creating Safe Routes to School Programs" at the Bike Summit the prior week. A second Safe Routes to School Coordinator position has been posted. The next City/School Traffic Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for August 22 when incoming transportation safety representatives will receive training. Staff wants to obtain parent feedback via a parent survey regarding bike boulevards and to correct the misconception that a

1 bike boulevard means only projects that resemble the Ross Road project. Ms. Mesterhazy
2 requested suggestions.

3 Mr. Rock noted the different needs and wants of work commuters and school commuters with
4 respect to traffic, speed, and safety. Perhaps staff should have two classifications of bicycle
5 boulevards. Bill remarked that the Ross Road project was extremely different from other bike
6 boulevards in Palo Alto. Mr. Liberman suggested staff should obtain parent feedback early in the
7 planning phase of a project. Ms. Star-Lack advised that staff obtained parent feedback regarding
8 the Ross Road project in 2012. Mr. Liberman stated the 2012 students are no longer in elementary
9 school, and the information needs to be presented again. Mr. Goldstein suggested staff learn what
10 parents want in a project such that they will encourage their children to ride their bikes to school.
11 Mr. Longstreth suggested student input is needed because they are the commuters. Surveys are
12 probably the best method to obtain student input. Ms. Durham indicated the safety benefits of bike
13 facilities are unknown to the general public, and safety is a fundamental responsibility of a bicycle-
14 friendly community.

15 Ms. Mesterhazy related that staff hopes to move forward with components of the Bicycle and
16 Pedestrian Transportation Plan. She clarified that she meant to request PABAC's thoughts about
17 the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Transportation Plan as it relates to the Ross Road project being a
18 component of the Plan. Prior to the Traffic Safety Committee meeting, she needs to find the best
19 way to share information and obtain feedback regarding the Plan and the Council review of bike
20 boulevard data.

21 Mr. Goldstein concurred with obtaining student feedback; however, students don't vote. Perhaps,
22 Ms. Mesterhazy could talk about the purposes of the Plan and recognize the issues around the Ross
23 Road project. Bill felt the public developed negative perceptions of the project because of the
24 difficulty of traversing Ross Road during construction. Mr. de la Beaujardiere suggested student
25 feedback could indicate the safety and support of Ross Road users.

26 **6. STAFF UPDATES:**

27 **a. Transportation Staffing**

28 Ms. Star-Lack announced Philip Kamhi has been hired as Chief Transportation Official and will
29 begin work on August 19. Joanna Chan has been hired as Senior Transportation Planner.

30 **b. Bike Boulevard Evaluation**

31 Ms. Star-Lack reported she has not been able to determine a date for a staff presentation of bike
32 boulevard data to the Council. A draft staff report is being prepared but is not available for review.

33 **c. Bikeshare/Scootershare**

34 Ms. Star-Lack indicated the City Manager has not yet approved the draft guidelines, permit
35 application, and process for reviewing applications for the pilot program.

1 **d. Adobe Bridge**

2 Ms. Star-Lack advised that Caltrans approved an encroachment permit in June and is awaiting the
3 federal funds authorization (E-76). As soon as the E-76 is approved, the project will be released
4 for bid, which hopefully will occur in August. Construction could begin in the fall and be complete
5 by early 2021.

6 Mr. Neff inquired whether the undercrossing may be closed prior to September 29. The
7 undercrossing is part of the Bike Palo Alto route.

8 **e. Newell Bridge EIR**

9 Ms. Star-Lack noted the comment period for the EIR ended July 30. The EIR is scheduled for
10 certification later in the year. Staff continues to submit applications for regulatory permits and
11 construction funding. Under a best case scenario, the project will be released for bid in 2020 with
12 in-channel work beginning in the summer of 2020 if feasible. The current design includes stop-
13 controlled intersections, solid white shoulder lines, and 10-foot-wide travel lanes with sharrows.
14 Staff will continue to work with Caltrans to determine if alternatives are feasible.

15 Mr. Neff inquired whether the bridge can remain open to bicyclists and pedestrians during
16 construction.

17 **f. Bikeway via Mercedes Project Condition of Approval**

18 Ms. Star-Lack explained that a condition of approval for the Mercedes dealership project requires
19 the construction of a bicycle path along East Bayshore and Embarcadero Road on private property.
20 The condition of approval is consistent with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan and
21 will help cyclists navigate to Geng Road.

22 **g. Charleston-Arastradero Corridor**

23 Ms. Star-Lack reported the paving for Phases I and II is complete. Median curbs and permanent
24 striping will be complete prior to the beginning of school. Minor concrete work and landscaping
25 at medians will follow median curb installation.

26 Mr. Wachtel expressed concern that dashed bike lane striping in front of driveways will lead
27 motorists turning into driveways to cut off bicyclists rather than to merge into the bike lane in
28 advance of the turn. Green paint in the bike lane as it approaches an intersection may discourage
29 motorists from merging toward the curb before turning at the intersection.

30 Mr. Neff added that improvements to Middlefield may occur in Phase III. Ms. Mesterhazy
31 indicated the earliest Phase III could begin is November.

32 **h. Caltrans Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons**

33 Ms. Star-Lack advised that Caltrans is working on several pedestrian hybrid beacons on El Camino
34 due to pedestrian fatalities. Electrical work and ADA curb ramps have been completed for the
35 beacons located at El Camino/Vista and El Camino/Wilton/Barron. Electrical work is not

1 complete and the ADA curb ramps have not begun for the beacons located at El Camino/Fernando
2 and El Camino/College. For the beacon located at El Camino/Palo Alto Avenue, neither electric
3 work nor curb ramps have begun.

4 In response to questions, Ms. Star-Lack did not believe bike detectors would be installed because
5 the projects respond to pedestrian fatalities. Caltrans will not install bike detectors. The beacons
6 display a solid red light that stops traffic for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross the street. Safe
7 Routes to School maps direct students to cross El Camino at full signals, not hybrid beacons.
8 Posters and the Safe Routes to School website demonstrate usage of beacons.

9 Vice Chair Joye noted the curb has been installed at El Camino/Wilton, but the street pavement
10 has not been merged with the curb.

11 Mr. Neff explained that the El Camino/Palo Alto Avenue beacon controls the slip lane only.

12 Ms. Star-Lack related that she complained to Caltrans about the pedestrian timing for the signal at
13 Matadero, and Caltrans agreed to fix the issue.

14 **7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

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

16 Vice Chair Joye reported the subcommittee attempted to rank the programs and policies from
17 Table 7.1 and the ideas discussed at the June PABAC meeting. PABAC may wish to complete
18 the rankings and discuss folding the ideas into Table 7.1.

19 PABAC members supported prioritizing the Park Boulevard bike boulevard project. Ms. Star-
20 Lack advised PABAC members to make their opinions known to Council Members.

21 Mr. Neff suggested the subcommittee review plans for Park Boulevard and lessons learned from
22 the Ross Road project and consider the components that are critical for an improved Park
23 Boulevard project. Mr. Goldstein suggested two or three members meet with Council Members
24 after the subcommittee prepares its concepts for Park Boulevard. Mr. Zauman advised that
25 PABAC is advisory to staff; therefore, PABAC members as individuals should approach Council
26 Members. Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC) may be the appropriate group to advocate for
27 bicycle projects before the Council. Mr. Courington felt PABAC can write a letter to staff
28 expressing its collective opinion, and staff can submit the letter to the Council. Mr. Rock suggested
29 experimenting with changes to the Ross Road project. Ms. Star-Lack indicated all future projects
30 will involve a trial of temporary improvements. An industry for substantial temporary
31 improvements is developing and will be another tool for staff to utilize.

32 **8. STANDING ITEMS:**

33 **a. VTA BPAC Update**

34 Mr. Neff related that BPAC approved the criteria for the Measure B bicycle grant program in July,
35 and the Board approved the program in August. The grant program will emphasize community
36 support for new projects, connections to jobs and schools, cross-barrier connections, and
37 connections between communities. BPAC discussed a project list to provide to MTC for its 2050
38 transportation modeling. The vision of projects beyond completion of BART was virtually

1 nonexistent except for completing freeway interchanges and adding lanes. After further
2 discussion, the list submitted to the Board included projects to underground light rail through
3 downtown and to grade separate light rail across the entire system.

4 In reply to questions, Mr. Neff explained that a bicycle/pedestrian crossing over Alma and the train
5 tracks could qualify for a Measure B grant on the basis of bicycle commuter traffic, cross-barrier
6 connection, and a new project.

7 **b. Grant Funding Update**

8 Ms. Star-Lack reported grant funds for the El Camino streetscape project remain on hold.

9 **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

10 Ms. Durham encouraged PABAC members to participate in Bike Palo Alto as volunteers and to
11 share bicycle projects with cyclists. The date is September 29, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Mr. Neff explained
12 the roles and times people can volunteer for the event.

13 Mr. Neff invited PABAC members to join him at the Midtown Residents Association's ice cream
14 social to discuss bicycling in Palo Alto. The date is September 15 at Hoover Park.

15 Mr. de la Beaujardiere and Mr. Goldstein volunteered to participate in the Bicycle and Pedestrian
16 Transportation Plan subcommittee.

17 **10. ADJOURNMENT** at 7:40 p.m.

18