



**Palo Alto Pedestrian and  
Bicycle Advisory Committee**

**Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.  
Adobe North 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. Adobe Bridge                         |         |
| b. Newell Bridge EIR                    |         |
| c. Charleston-Arastradero Corridor      |         |
| d. Caltrans Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons   |         |
| 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:                    | 6:35 PM |
| a. 2020 PABAC Meeting Location and Time |         |
| b. 2020 Chair and Vice Chair Election   |         |
| c. Guest Speaker: Safety on Rural Roads |         |
| 8. STANDING ITEMS:                      | 7:15 PM |
| a. VTA BPAC Update                      |         |
| b. Grant Funding Update                 |         |
| 9. ANNOUNCEMENTS                        | 7:25 PM |
| 10. ADJOURNMENT                         | 7:30 PM |



Palo Alto Pedestrian and  
Bicycle Advisory Committee

**Tuesday, October 1, 2019**

6:00 P.M.

**ADOBE NORTH ROOM, MITCHELL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER**

3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA

Members Present: Eric Nordman (Chair), Cedric de la Beaujardiere, Kathy Durham, David Hirsch, Art Liberman, Robert Neff, Rob Robinson

Members Absent: Ken Joye (Vice Chair), Bruce Arthur, Bill Courington, Ann Crichton, Paul Goldstein, Steve Rock, Jane Rosten, Richard Swent, Bill Zauman

Staff Present: Sylvia Star-Lack, Joanna Chan

Guest: Owen Longstreth, Alan Wachtel, Penny Ellson, John Cordes

**1. CALL TO ORDER** at 6:06 p.m.

**2. AGENDA CHANGES**

Chair Nordman advised that Item 7a will be heard when Mr. Cordes arrives.

**3. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES**

**MOTION**

Motion by Mr. Liberman, seconded by Mr. Robinson, to approve the minutes of September 3, 2019, as presented. Motion passed 3-0 with one-member abstaining.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Robinson announced Bike Palo Alto was a success.

**5. SRTS UPDATE**

Ms. Star-Lack reported Walk and Roll Week began with Bike Palo Alto. Duveneck held a pedestrian safety dance for Walk and Roll Week. Based on the number of bikes parked at schools, the number of students biking has increased by 500 in comparison to the 2018-19 school year despite a decrease in total enrollment. The number of middle school students increased from 50 percent to 63 percent, the number of high school students increased from 46 percent to 51 percent,

1 and the number of elementary school students increased from 15 percent to 16 percent. She shared  
2 a parent's positive review of a middle school bike skills class held during the summer.

3 Chair Nordman shared information from the City-School Traffic Safety Committee meeting.  
4 PAUSD has prepared a grant application to fund new bike racks at schools. PAUSD is planning  
5 to purchase a new style of bike rack called Campus Rack, which provides better organization and  
6 denser spacing of bikes. Thirteen minor bike-vehicle collisions were reported. Six bicyclists were  
7 at fault, five motorists were at fault; and fault was not determined in two accidents. The Police  
8 Department issued 40 citations, 38 to children and 2 to adults. More than 1,000 bikes are registered  
9 in Bike Index. A bicycle count found 93 percent of bicyclists wear helmets.

10 In response to questions, Chair Nordman advised that the report did not include the age of  
11 bicyclists and motorists involved in accidents or the locations of accidents. Ms. Star-Lack did not  
12 know if the report given during the meeting pertained to only youth involved in accidents. The  
13 County maintains a database of bicycle collisions; therefore, staff does not track collision data.

14 Ms. Durham remarked that discussions of bike collisions do not include the number of riders  
15 compared to 2005, 2010, or 2015 or a consistent definition of collision.

16 **6. STAFF UPDATES:**

17 **a. Bike Boulevard Evaluation**

18 Ms. Star-Lack indicated a date for a Council review of data has not been scheduled. Staff will  
19 likely share the report with PABAC prior to providing it to the Council in late 2019 or early 2020.

20 **b. Adobe Bridge**

21 Ms. Star-Lack announced bids would be opened the following day. A construction contract could  
22 be presented to the Council for approval in November.

23 **c. Newell Bridge EIR**

24 Ms. Star-Lack stated the comment period for the Newell Bridge Environmental Impact Report  
25 (EIR) has closed, and the City is preparing responses to comments. The Council will consider  
26 certification of the EIR in January. Staff anticipates the Architectural Review Board (ARB) will  
27 review the EIR in November or December.

28 **d. Charleston-Arastradero Corridor**

29 Ms. Star-Lack reported improvements to the Charleston-Arastradero Corridor are being refined,  
30 including edge striping, signage, reflectors, and curb paint. Landscaping is underway. The San  
31 Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) frontage will be redone after the Los Altos Hetch  
32 Hetchy path is widened. The project is awaiting SFPUC approval of an updated license agreement  
33 for use of the SFPUC parcel.

34 In answer to queries from PABAC members, Ms. Star-Lack agreed to clarify the party responsible  
35 for ongoing maintenance of the path. The medians will be landscaped.

1           **e.       Caltrans Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons**

2 Ms. Star-Lack reported Caltrans is waiting for the City to provide power to the five El Camino  
3 locations for beacons. Communications regarding the use and purpose of the beacons will begin  
4 soon.

5 Mr. Robinson commented that beacons in Redwood City, Menlo Park, and Mountain View are  
6 operational because PG&E has provided power to the beacons in those cities.

7 [The Committee heard Item 7b before taking up Item 7a.]

8 **7.       DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

9           **a.       SVBC BPAC Survey Results**

10 Mr. Cordes, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, reported the survey was the first step in creating a  
11 training program for BPAC members. The survey solicited public opinion regarding local BPACs.  
12 SVBC sent 200 surveys to BPAC-related city staff, BPAC members, and city council members in  
13 Santa Clara County and received 60 responses. Four responses were received from Palo Alto. Mr.  
14 Cordes reviewed responses to survey questions. The training program is scheduled to begin next  
15 week in San Jose and BPAC-related city staff, BPAC members, and city council members are  
16 invited. Subsequent programs will be held in different parts of the county.

17           **b.       Subcommittee Report: BPTP Project Priorities**

18 Chair Nordman advised that the subcommittee categorized projects using categories from the  
19 Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan (Plan). Cost was not a critical factor because the cost  
20 of many projects is unknown. The list is intended to inform an update of the Plan. The  
21 Margarita/Loma Verde train project would be a tunnel. The California Avenue undercrossing  
22 project would upgrade the undercrossing. The data collection project would involve protocols for  
23 and regular collection of bicycle and pedestrian data.

24 Mr. Robinson suggested vision should be the primary factor for prioritizing projects.

25 In reply to inquiries, Chair Nordman indicated the cost estimates were obtained from the 2012  
26 Plan. The projects highlighted in green are the subcommittee's favorite projects. The spreadsheet  
27 does not indicate the projects that are partially or fully constructed. Ms. Star-Lack related that the  
28 Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is working with various Bay Area agencies to  
29 draft standards for data collection. The City has grant funding for the South Palo Alto Bikeways  
30 project and the El Camino project and funding for the Embarcadero project, implementation of  
31 bike boulevards, and spot improvements. Ms. Chan reported MTC plans to have factor groups  
32 ready by the end of 2019. Mr. Neff suggested the \$50,000 cost for Bike Palo Alto may contemplate  
33 an open streets event.

34 Mr. Wachtel objected to the El Camino Grand Boulevard Initiative because El Camino with many  
35 uncontrolled intersections and many high-traffic commercial driveways is the worst possible  
36 location for a cycle track. Ms. Star-Lack stated two alternatives were prepared for the initiative,  
37 and the Planning and Transportation Commission (PTC) did not believe either alternative should  
38 advance. Community outreach would be needed before the initiative could advance.

1 PABAC members discussed the VERBS grant and the project it funds.

2 Mr. Hirsch expressed his continued interest in prioritizing a sidewalk on the west side of Alma  
3 from the Home tunnel to Hamilton and Caltrain. The cost of a project should relate inversely to  
4 its ranking.

5 Mr. de la Beaujardiere clarified the proposed ranking of projects and the weighting of categories.

6 Mr. Robinson preferred to rank projects using numeric scores rather than designations of L, M,  
7 and H.

8 Ms. Ellson suggested PABAC define and utilize categories that are important to members.

9 **c. Leading Pedestrian Interval Ordinance**

10 Mr. Neff advised that a bicyclist should proceed when the traffic signal or the bicycle signal is  
11 green at intersections utilizing a leading pedestrian interval. Typically, states promulgate rules for  
12 bicycle behavior at intersections with a leading pedestrian interval. For a city to promulgate rules  
13 different from state rules, the city must conduct pilot programs and surveys before and after pilot  
14 programs.

15 **8. STANDING ITEMS:**

16 **a. VTA BPAC Update**

17 Mr. Neff indicated the VTA BPAC discussed grant criteria for Measure B funds and plans for the  
18 De La Cruz to Trimble crossing of Highway 101 at its most recent meeting. The Board of  
19 Supervisors will review the Measure B grant criteria on October 3.

20 **b. Grant Funding Update**

21 None

22 **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

23 Ms. Durham thanked volunteers for helping make Bike Palo Alto a success and shared experiences  
24 from Bike Palo Alto. Ms. Ellson added that 904 people participated in Bike Palo Alto, and  
25 feedback has been fantastic.

26 Mr. Cordes reported SVBC is leading infrastructure rides for BPAC members, council members,  
27 and city staff. The City of Fremont adopted a Vision Zero Plan in 2015 and has reduced fatalities  
28 by 40 percent since 2015. The next infrastructure rides are scheduled for October 4 in Cupertino  
29 and October 5 in Sunnyvale. Hopefully, an infrastructure ride can be planned for Palo Alto in the  
30 spring.

31 Ms. Star-Lack advised that the 2019 workplan for the Council Priority of Transportation and  
32 Traffic is on the Council's agenda for October 7. The Policy and Services Committee reviewed  
33 the workplan in April or May. The workplan lists a few of the projects on which staff is working.

1 In reply to Ms. Ellson's inquiry, Ms. Star-Lack indicated the SRTS annual report to the City  
2 Council is usually scheduled for May or June.

3 Mr. Robinson noted a new schedule of PABAC meetings and locations needs to be prepared.

4 Mr. Neff reported a group of Cupertino residents consistently opposed a proposal to install a bike  
5 path along a creek. After an all-night meeting, the Cupertino City Council approved an alternative  
6 proposal.

7 **10. ADJOURNMENT** at 8:00 p.m.

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