Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 6:15 P.M.
Join Meeting Via Zoom
Join Online: https://cityofpaloalto.zoom.us/j/95328566408; Dial-in: 669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 953 2856 6408

PART I: TDA 3 – BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PLAN UPDATE

No items are scheduled for this meeting.
No written comments were submitted by email to Transportation@CityofPaloAlto.org between 12:00pm on September 27, 2021 and 12:00pm on October 25, 2021.

PART II: OTHER ITEMS

1. CALL TO ORDER 6:15 PM
2. AGENDA CHANGES 6:16 PM
3. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES 6:18 PM
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS 6:23 PM
5. STAFF UPDATES 6:25 PM
   a. Charleston-Arastradero Road Project Plans Status
   b. Status of 101 Overcrossing
6. DISCUSSION ITEMS 6:35 PM
   a. Addison Ave repaving - Need PABAC recommendation: One-side sharrows or bigger project/Complete Streets waiver?
   b. Bol Park and Wilkie Bridge Letter – See attached letter 7:00 PM
   c. SVBC Bicycle Network Priority Analysis Tool Presentation 7:25 PM
7. STANDING ITEMS 7:50 PM
   a. Grant Update – NONE
   b. CSTSC Update – See attached meeting notes
   c. VTA BPAC Update
   d. Subcommittee Reports
   e. Announcements
8. ADJOURNMENT 8:00 PM
Tuesday, October 5, 2021
6:15 P.M.

VIRTUAL MEETING
Palo Alto, CA

Members Present: Ken Joye (Chair), Art Liberman (Vice Chair), Bruce Arthur, Arnout Boelens, Nicole Zoeller Boelens, Bill Courington, Cedric de la Beaujardiere, Kathy Durham, Penny Ellson, Paul Goldstein, Robert Neff, Eric Nordman, Rob Robinson, Jane Rosten, Richard Swent, Alan Wachtel, Bill Zaumen

Members Absent: Steve Rock

Staff Present: Sylvia Star-Lack, Shropath Patel

Guests: Ted Selker, Kate Conley, Kate Blessing-Kawamura

PART I: TDA 3 – BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PLAN UPDATE

No items

PART II: OTHER ITEMS

1. CALL TO ORDER – 6:17 p.m.

2. AGENDA CHANGES

Mr. Goldstein requested a discussion of the meeting with Parks and Recreation regarding the Foothills Preserve gate and reports from subcommittees.

Chair Joye advised that he received a request to move announcements to the end of the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES

Vice Chair Liberman added "in reference to the removal of a raised crosswalk and bulbouts on East Meadow Drive because of excessive weight on the existing bridge structure, noted in a letter to the September PABAC packet from Public Works containing an update to the pedestrian bicycle bridge project, Mr. Goldstein …" to the beginning of line 6 on page 2.
Motion by Ms. Ellson, second by Mr. Goldstein, to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2021 meeting as amended. Motion passed 16-0 with 1 abstention.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

5. STAFF UPDATES

a. Charleston-Arastradero Road Project Status

Mr. Patel reported Public Works is working with the contractor to obtain submittals, and the contractor is planning to begin construction of Phase 3 during the week or the following week. Work will begin in the section between Middlefield and San Antonio with curb extensions, underground work, and signal improvements. Plans for striping and signage are undergoing final review in the Office of Transportation. When the plans are approved, Public Works will post them to the website.

In response to Ms. Ellson's question, Mr. Patel advised that he would communicate with Public Works to ensure construction announcements are provided to the public.

b. PABAC 311's

Ms. Star-Lack related that the agenda packet contains PABAC 311 submissions that do not fit neatly in the existing 311 categories. Engineering will work with staff to develop criteria for prioritizing the submissions as projects. PABAC members may continue submitting issues. Some of the submissions will likely be included in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan Update, and others will be developed as projects once staff identifies resources for them.

Mr. Swent noted that some of the submissions are not controversial. However, some submissions require further discussion because not all PABAC members agree with elevating them to projects. Mr. Star-Lack clarified that staff will not pursue all of the submissions simply because they are listed as a PABAC issue.

Chair Joye noted that one of his submissions contained URLs, but the URLs are not contained in the report. Ms. Star-Lack encouraged PABAC members to use text rather than a hyperlink in their submissions.

Ms. Ellson expressed interest in any submissions related to bicycle/pedestrian facilities, crashes, and other topics within PABAC's purview. PABAC may prefer to receive the full data set rather than curated items from the data set. Chair Joye understood that a person submitting an issue is able to map other submissions. Ms. Star-Lack advised that reports of 311 submissions are generated based on the various types of service requests rather than key words such as bicycle or collision.

In reply to Mr. Goldstein's question, Ms. Star-Lack indicated that there are categories for bike racks and improvements to school bicycle and walking routes, but not a generic category for bike route. Mr. Goldstein noted that robust public engagement would occur during the Bike Plan Update.
6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Presentation of 525 E. Charleston Rd. Project

Ms. Star-Lack reported a Council prescreening of the housing project occurred on September 27, 2021. Ms. Ellson has raised concerns regarding traffic circulation in the area of the project.

Kate Conley, DJK Architecture, advised that a great deal of bicycle infrastructure borders the project site. PABAC’s feedback on the project is welcome.

Kate Blessing-Kawamura, Eden Housing, described Eden Housing and partner AbilityPath.

Ms. Conley discussed the project, community engagement, the building form, integration of community input, circulation, and entitlements, concessions, and waivers.

In response to questions, Ms. Conley related that the tree will be moved away from Charleston Road and the entrance to the bike path. Parking for non-standard bikes and specialized equipment can be explored with the focus group. Currently, there are no plans to widen the bike path. Disabled residents are expected to utilize public transportation, walking, and potentially bicycles. The community has expressed interest in the planting of drought-tolerant trees, but species of trees have not been chosen at the current time. Some of the bike racks for visitors can be moved near the lobby. The bike room is located within the building and accessed with a key fob. The project does not include underground parking. Paratransit vans will not back out of the driveway. The expected lifespan of the project is 55 years. Ms. Blessing-Kawamura indicated that occupancy will likely be 60 to 70 individuals. Nine parking spaces are available for residents with additional spaces available after the AbilityPath office closes for the day. City and County staff are discussing use of the fire lane for circulation. Ms. Star-Lack suggested Ms. Conley discuss adaptive biking and bike parking with the Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (BORP).

Ms. Ellson discussed traffic circulation on Middlefield Road, Charleston Road, and Nelson Drive, entry and exit from Charleston Shopping Center, the project site, and the Unitarian Church, and use of the fire lane.

Chair Joye announced a discussion of the fire lane will occur at the end of the meeting.

b. Addison Ave. Repaving

Ms. Star-Lack reported Public Works has advised staff of a project to repave Addison Avenue between Cowper Street and Middlefield Road over the next two years. Addison currently has sub-standard bike lanes. She reviewed the Bike Plan's recommended treatments, existing conditions for Addison Avenue, Alternative 1, Alternative 2, questions for PABAC, staff's ability to implement Alternatives 1 and 2, and public engagement.

Mr. Goldstein supported Alternative 2 with an 8-foot parking lane and parking "T" striping, sharrows, and the time-of-day restriction.

Mr. Wachtel indicated that Alternative 1 is not desirable. The sharrow is the best alternative, but many people will ignore the sharrow and ride close to parked cars.
Mr. Swent related that neither alternative is good. Alternative 2 has been implemented in other places without a parking "T" stripe. He urged staff not to use a parking "T" stripe. Signage should state simply "no parking 7 a.m. to 7 p.m."

Mr. Courington remarked that removing the bike lane from the door zone is the priority. Sharrows in both directions may be the simplest and clearest solution.

Mr. de la Beaujardiere suggested removing parking or, if that is not possible, sharrows in both directions with buffer striping to encourage cars to park close to the curb.

Mr. Neff recalled implementation of a bike lane on California and sharrows on Colorado and strongly encouraged staff to consider removal of parking and a reduction of the parking lane width to 4 feet. He proposed a third alternative to construct a 2-foot-wide center bicycle left-turn lane.

Vice Chair Liberman commented that the appropriate alternative depends on the type of cyclist to which the project is targeted. Statistics about dooring accidents would define the hazard more clearly for young bicyclists.

Mr. Goldstein noted that time-of-day parking has not been problematic and Addison is a school commute route. Biking Addison at night with parked cars but no marked lanes would not be a problem. Eliminating the sub-standard lanes is a step in the right direction.

Mr. Swent indicated that another possibility is a narrow parking lane on one side, a bike lane, and a wide area for vehicle travel with no center line. The parking line should not look like a bike lane.

Mr. Zaumen shared that a quick Google search revealed dooring accidents comprised 19.7 percent of all reported bike collisions in Chicago, 5 percent in Boston, and 16 percent in Santa Barbara.

c. Maintenance of Bol Park and Wilkie Bridges

Ms. Ellson recalled comments from PABAC members regarding the condition of bridges and complaints regarding the Wilkie Way and Bol Park bridges. She offered a letter for PABAC's consideration.

Chair Joye questioned whether the letter should be directed to Public Works or the City Council.

Mr. Wachtel remarked that somebody should know the types of surfaces available for bridges and their load-bearing capacities.

Mr. Nordman indicated the condition of bridges is a safety issue. The letter could be sent to Public Works and the City Council.

In reply to questions, Ms. Star-Lack explained that a bridge structural analysis is needed, and the City is planning to retain a consultant for an assessment. The question is whether the contract is
sufficiently funded to include these bridges. PABAC should send the letter to staff and the Council. Public Works may have funding for this work, but it may not be a priority.

Mr. Goldstein supported directing the letter to the Council and offered to work with a subcommittee to revise the letter, if needed.

Mr. Neff commented that a wooden surface seems to be the norm even though it is hazardous in wet and icy conditions. Tightening the bolts on the Wilkie Way bridge surface could help.

Motion by Mr. Swent, second by Mr. Goldstein, to create a subcommittee to draft a letter from the Chair to City Council recommending resurfacing of the Wilkie Way and Bol Park bridges and present the draft to PABAC at the next meeting for a vote.

Vice Chair Liberman advised that new materials are available for bridge decks. The City may not need a structural evaluation to repair the bridge surfaces.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Wachtel, Mr. Goldstein, Vice Chair Liberman, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Swent, and Ms. Ellson volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

7. STANDING ITEMS:
   a. Grant Update – None
   b. CSTSC Update
   c. VTA BPAC Update

Chair Joye reported an update regarding the City-School Transportation Safety Committee (CSTSC) was distributed in the packet. Mr. Neff previously indicated there was no VTA BPAC meeting and, consequently, no report. Chair Joye returned to discussion of use of the fire access road for circulation at 525 East Charleston Road and believed it could work but seemed highly infeasible because obtaining an easement for traffic was unlikely.

Mr. Neff did not view exiting the site onto Middlefield as a negative issue. There seems to be more bicycle traffic on Charleston than Middlefield; therefore, directing vehicle traffic onto Middlefield would be beneficial.

Mr. Goldstein agreed with exploring the concept.

Ms. Ellson advised that there is precedent for utilizing the fire lane.

Mr. Robinson noted that Google maps shows one-way arrows on what appears to be the fire lane.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Rosten announced a virtual Bike Palo Alto.

Mr. Goldstein related that he provided a written report of the subcommittee meeting. The issue of the gate into Foothills Park will likely be scheduled for the December meeting of the Parks
and Recreation Commission. Parks and Recreation Commissioners do not have favorable views
of bicyclists in parks.

Mr. de la Beaujardiere announced that legislation allowing bicyclists to treat stop signs as yield
signs was sent to the Governor. Mr. Wachtel added that the deadline for the Governor to sign or
veto the bill, AB 122, is Friday. Mr. Neff suggested supporters of the legislation send a note to
the Governor encouraging him to sign it.

8. **ADJOURNMENT** at 8:23 p.m.
Public Comment Instructions For
City of Palo Alto Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan Update

Members of the Public may provide public comments on the City of Palo Alto Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan Update as follows:

1. **Written public comments** (including visuals such as presentations, photos, etc) may be submitted by email to Transportation@CityofPaloAlto.org. Please follow these instructions:
   
   A. Please email your written comments **by 12:00 pm (noon) on the Monday the week before (eight days before) the upcoming Palo Alto Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (PABAC) meeting**, unless otherwise indicated. Details of upcoming PABAC meetings are available on the City’s [PABAC webpage](#). 
      - Written public comments will be attached to the upcoming PABAC meeting agenda packet.
      - Written comments submitted after 12:00pm (noon) on the Monday before the upcoming PABAC meeting will be attached to the following PABAC meeting agenda packet.
   
   B. Please **lead your email subject line with “BPTP Update”**.
   
   C. When providing comments with reference to the current City of Palo Alto Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan 2012, please be as specific as possible by indicating the chapter number, section heading number, and/or page number.

2. **Spoken public comments using a computer** will be accepted through the teleconference meeting. To address the Committee, click on the URL in the agenda packet for Zoom. Please follow these instructions:

   A. You may download the Zoom client or connect to the meeting in-browser.
      - If using your browser, make sure you are using a current, up-to-date browser: Chrome 30+, Firefox 27+, Microsoft Edge 12+, Safari 7+. Certain functionality may be disabled in older browsers including Internet Explorer.
   
   B. You may be asked to enter an email address and name. We request (but do not require) that you identify yourself by name as this will be visible online and will be used to notify you that it is your turn to speak.
   
   C. When you wish to speak, click on “raise hand.” Staff will activate and unmute speakers in turn. Speakers will be notified shortly before they are called to speak.
   
   D. When called, please limit your remarks to the time limit allotted by the Chair.
3. **Spoken public comments using a smart phone app** will be accepted through the teleconference meeting. To address the Committee, download the Zoom application onto your smart phone from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and enter the Meeting ID in the agenda. Please follow the instructions B-D above.

4. **Spoken public comments using a phone (cell or land line) without an app** will be accepted through the teleconference meeting. Use the telephone number listed in the agenda. When you wish to speak, press *9 on your phone to “raise hand.” You will be asked to provide your first and last name before addressing the Committee. When called, press *6 on your phone to unmute. Please limit your remarks to the time limit allotted by the Chair.
Honorable City Council,

Palo Alto Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee (PABAC) asks you to urgently make plans to resurface the aging, rough wooden Bol Park and Wilkie pedestrian/bicycle bridges. The wooden decks are so uneven and rough that they are painfully uncomfortable to ride on and create risk that bicyclists might lose control, fall, and be injured. In addition, these bridges become very slippery when they are wet from dew or rain, making them even more hazardous and forcing some bicyclists to dismount and walk. One of the Bol Park bridges has recently been inspected by a Public Works official who found a wooden beam on the surface to be cracked, presenting a structural problem and potential liability that should be investigated.

The worn, unsafe bridge surfaces are essential and integral parts of our off-road ped/bike infrastructure and are heavily used for regional and local commutes, including school bike commutes. In 2020, Wilkie Bridge carried on average 615 trips/day (see attached report). We suggest Council Members experience the surfaces for yourselves by bicycling or pushing a wheeled device such as a stroller. Please consider what the city response would be if a roadway surface were equally rough.

The rough bridge surfaces are a current safety problem caused by long-term inattention to basic maintenance. Now it appears there may be new low-cost resurfacing solutions, so perhaps it could be affordably done in the short-term. Please direct Public Works staff to coordinate with PABAC on identifying solutions to these problems.

Bridge surface maintenance already is mandated by the current Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation Plan and Comp Plan Policy T-1.20

“Regularly maintain off-roadway bicycle and pedestrian paths, including sweeping, weed abatement and surface maintenance.” It simply has been deferred for too many years, creating a safety problem that now requires urgent attention.

We believe this need warrants use of Public Works emergency repair/maintenance funds. Public Works has resources to repair potholes in roadways when they appear and are reported, and it has the charter to maintain roadway surfaces. It has the responsibility to do the same for essential bicycle infrastructure. Currently, there are signs on the Wilkie Way bridge warning bicyclists to walk their bikes when the path is wet. It is embarrassing for Palo Alto, with our Gold-level Bicycle Friendly certification and our commitment to bicycling, to have a critical part of our bicycle network with signs saying that it is dangerous for bicyclists. We ask you to prioritize this essential bridge maintenance in the near term.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Ken Joye
2021 Palo Alto Pedestrian & Bicycle Committee Chair
See links to photos, maps and bike count report for your additional information:

1. PowerPoint
   https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xl0ONpMvuRODv4XR7xRWXv1cW8vbiptE/view?usp=sharing
   with:
   • Bike route maps showing locations of the bridges in context of the existing and planned
     citywide bike/ped routes network, providing regional foot-powered connectivity and off-
     road school commutes.
   • Photos of bridge conditions.

2. Wilkie Bridge trips count report  https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q8bi-QDuee-
   6BKAB6DXuWmqvQ6OyefxH/view?usp=sharing
CITY/SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE
Minutes
Friday, September 24, 2021
10:00 a.m.
Zoom Virtual Meeting from Palo Alto, California

Present: Kara Baker (Escondido), Juan Caviglia (Duveneck), Audrey Gold (Gunn), Nicole Hindley (Addison), Joselyn Leve (JLS), Coco Matthey (JLS) Natasha Nicol (Fletcher and Briones), Rachael Panizzo (Fairmeadow), Jim Pflasterer (Gunn), Amy Sheward (Nixon), Tom Whinah (Duveneck) Bill Courington (PABAC), Arnout & Nicole Zoeller Boelens, Kim Brooks (All City Management Services).

Staff: Sylvia Star-Lack (City), Rosie Mesterhazy (City), Jose Palma (City), Ben Becchetti (PAPD), Terri Curtis (PAUSD), Mike Jacobs (PAUSD), Eric Holm (PAUSD)

Guests:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Mesterhazy reported the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) partnership has received a record number of back-to-school, bike safety, pedestrian safety requests, which means that people are paying attention and valuing transportation safety as a priority. Consequently, the partnership is receiving more comments than they can respond to. The meeting is an opportunity for staff to listen, prioritize requests, and ensure schools' concerns are being addressed.

September Executive Report Out

Ms. Mesterhazy noted that the Parent Teacher Association Council (PTAC) adopted a SRTS policy. Walk and Roll Day is coming up and will be celebrated in various ways at different schools. Hopefully, best practices will be shared as schools plan Walk and Roll Day. Bike counts are needed for Duveneck and Paly.

AGENDA

A. Introduction
   a. Share spreadsheet/Jam Boards
   b. Identify processes for prioritizing Boards

Ms. Mesterhazy explained the process for the conversation and the task list.

B. Dedicated School Based Time Allotments

Nicole Hindley, Addison Transportation Safety Representative (TSR), reported Asha Weinstein conducted bike counts the previous day and is working with students to enter a poster contest, and requested suggestions for locations of scooter and adult bike racks. The principal has placed signage in the bike lane to prevent cars from entering the bike lane for pick up and drop off. The signage is working, but permanent bollards may be better. Parents feel safer with bollards and would probably ride their bikes more. The curbs around Addison are not rolled, and children have difficulty rolling their bikes into the bike lane. Participants in the principal meeting talked about designating an area for parents to socialize so that they do not
block entry gates. Gates are being unlocked earlier and earlier, which helps ease congestion. Entry gates on Lincoln swing closed and make entering with a bike difficult for students. Propping the gates open is being explored. A curb cut at the official entry to Addison would be better than a rolled curb along the front of the school.

Rose Mesterhazy, El Carmelo TSR, indicated that issues pertain to traffic calming around the school, banners, a low travel tally response rate, bikes speeding around the school, and security for the building and entryways. Mr. Becchetti advised that police officers are present intermittently at the school.

Kara Baker, Escondido TSR, advised that a bike exchange, a store, and chalking are part of Walk-and-Roll festivities. Parents are overloaded with communications and new rules. School entry points are congested and have caused safety concerns.

Mr. Becchetti stated the Police Department often has some bikes it can donate to the store.

Jose Palma suggested TSRs share links to Spanish/English bike safety videos.

Juan Caviglia, Duveneck TSR, remarked that bike counts seem low, and congestion along Channing seems to be increasing.

Tom Whitnah, Duveneck TSR, advised that U-turns at Heather Lane continue to be an issue and questioned whether signage could be placed on the stop sign facing east. Plans for the Walk and Roll event include pencil giveaways, chalking, treats for crossing guards, potentially a virtual call for parents or TSRs, and Friday Folder flyers about driver safety.

With respect to East Meadow and Charleston, Ms. Mesterhazy reported staff discourages use of the parking lot and encourages use of the shared-use path or sidewalk. The Walk and Roll map should be clear about this, and it is a good talking point for the e-news.

Rachael Panizzo, Fairmeadow TSR, expressed concern about cross-traffic at the south corner of Fairmeadow. The time for the crossing guard at Waverley/East Meadow was changed, and the new time is working better. The time for the crossing guard at Charleston/Nelson has changed as well.

Ms. Mesterhazy reviewed issues pertaining to Charleston/Nelson and Middlefield/Charleston, vegetation impacting sightlines at Cowper and the JLS path, and signal timing for Charleston/Nelson. TSRs can help recruit crossing guards.

Mr. Becchetti noted additional locations where crossing guard times have been adjusted.

Kim Brooks, All City Management Services, offered to share crossing guard recruitment flyers.

Jessica Asay, Barron Park TSR, shared concerns about kindergarteners crossing from the parking lot to the school entrance, advised that bikes were not locked when she was conducting bike counts, and suggested including a skill for locking bikes in the bicycle rodeo.

Mr. Holm reported the Measure Z project is on hold.

Natasha Nicol, Briones TSR, indicated the problem of older students riding through the campus has been resolved with the change in bell schedules. The pedestrian crossing at El Camino Way is still not working. Someone previously requested a stop sign on El Camino Way to slow traffic.
Sylvia Star-Lack explained that the El Camino Way pedestrian crossing is solar powered, and nearby trees block sunlight to the battery. The crossing will be hardwired.

Jim Pflasterer, Gunn TSR, suggested installation of signage asking drivers not to use the Orme entrance between 8:00 and 8:15 a.m.

Ms. Mesterhazy noted that TSRs are needed for Palo Verde and Walter Hayes. Crossing guard and signal timing issues have been resolved.

Ms. Nicol, Fletcher TSR, shared parents' concerns about U-turns along Donald toward Arastradero. The student council will hold a raffle for Walk and Roll Day.

In reply to Audrey Gold's questions, Ms. Star-Lack indicated that negotiation of an agreement regarding the right-of-way on Churchill continues. Mr. Becchetti advised that officers could patrol the Miranda/Arastradero intersection.

Ms. Gold, Gunn TSR, reported a bikeway from Arastradero to Bol Park traverses the Gunn campus.

Ms. Mesterhazy reported staff will continue to monitor the issues contained in the task list.

Mr. Pflasterer indicated that more bike racks are needed on the east side of the Gunn campus.

**SRTS Monthly Updates**

None

Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.