

APPROVED MINUTES
CITY OF MILPITAS

Minutes: Bicycle Transportation Advisory Commission (BTAC)
Date of Meeting: June 12, 2006
Time of Meeting: 7:00 P.M.
Place of Meeting: Milpitas Sports Center Conference Room

I. CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL &
PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE**

BTAC Members

Present: Rene Briones, Cheryl Bunnell, Bill Reisinger (Chair), Nawal Stanojevic,
Wesley Roediger, Fred Zeise (Vice Chair)
Staff: Janice Nadal, Jaime Rodriguez

Absent: Miljon Buquing, Vice Mayor Armando Gomez

Quorum was established.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. VTA BPAC meeting report- Chair Reisinger

Chair Reisinger reported the June meeting was cancelled. At the May meeting, VTA General Manager George Burns gave a quarterly report. There was a preview of the new River Oaks Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge Project. The grand opening celebration was held on May 17, 2006.

2. Appointments to the Commission

Staff Janice Nadal reported that at the May 16 City Council meeting, Wesley Roediger was appointed to the Commissioner as Alternate # 2, Commissioner Cheryl Bunnell was moved up to Alternate # 1, and Commissioner Miljon Buquing is now a standing member on the commission. Ms. Nadal distributed new contact information. Commissioner Roediger requested by-law, mission statement, and work plan information. Ms. Nadal will email the information requested to the group. Commissioner Bunnell asked how expiring commissioners receive notice. Ms. Nadal stated they will receive a letter by the City Clerk requesting continuance on the Commission

3. Commission Announcements

Commissioner Zeise mentioned there are decorative pipe bicycle structures for parking in Hawaii. Resident Rob Means stated he has images of this "pipe parking" structure on his website www.electric-bikes.com/option.htm.

Commissioner Roediger had a few questions. Does BTAC have a charter or mission statement with goals? Chair Reisinger stated these are available and not on the website and can be added. Ms. Nadal stated there is also a work plan that can be added to the website.

**IV. APPROVAL OF
THE AGENDA**

MOTION to approve the June 12, 2006 agenda
M/S: Briones/Bunnell
All Ayes

V. APPROVAL OF

MOTION to approve the April 10, 2006 BTAC minutes.

THE MINUTES

Commissioner Bunnell had a to clarify again for the April 10, 2006 minutes. The trailers are not blocked, when they drive to the truck stand, on Piper and Aames- little pieces of wood- blocking- is a tipping hazard. This is under the landing gear One on Piper and one on Aames. Commissioner Bunnell needs someone to look at it. Ms. Nadal said she would look at this and forward to our Neighborhood Preservation section as well. The way the trailer is being "blocked" is creating a tipping hazard. We'll let code enforcement and police know.

M/S to approve April 10, 2006 BTAC minutes with changes: Briones/Bunnell

VI. CITIZEN'S FORUM

Rob Means, 1421 Yellowstone Avenue. Mr. Means, along with Chair Reisinger, are a part of the Traffic Reduction on Escuela Drive committee. Chair Reisinger and Mr. Means were tasked to take a look at what suggestions could be made to increase bicycle transportation to the area. Less cars, more cars, eases congestion. Mr. Means stated the group meets every two months, he distributed an update of the suggestions. If the Commission has any suggestions, to contact the Chair. They will provide information with the group.

Chair Reisinger also added that the Air District liaison Jim Smith is coordinating a meeting with Corinne Winter, executive director of Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition for education pieces to teach the kids to ride to school safely.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Open Government Training

Ms. Nadal reminded the Commission of the Open Government training that was received at the April 10, 2006. Ms. Nadal collected the Commissioner-signed Declaration of Attendance forms required by each Commissioner. Ms. Nadal will ask the City Clerk when the next training will be held for new Commissioners. Ms. Nadal also had copies of the Open Government Training Presentation as well as the ordinance.

2. Events

a. Bike to Work Day, May 18, 2006

Chair Reisinger noted the Bike to Work Day was a success with special thanks to Ms. Nadal for coordinating. There were over 150 bicyclists that passed by one of the three-energizer stations hosted by the City of Milpitas. Ms. Nadal stated she emailed pictures to BTAC. Chair Reisinger and Commissioner Briones also participated.

b. Coyote Creek Trail Opening, June 3, 2006

Chair Reisinger attended the event. Staff Jaime Rodriguez was the Master of Ceremonies of the event. The Coyote Creek is beautiful extending from Highway 237 north to Dixon Landing Road. It gets bicyclists off McCarthy Boulevard. Regionally, there is a pledge to continue the trail system.

3. Commission By-Laws

Ms. Nadal reported that this item is mainly a discussion on our work plan. This quarter, BTAC has accomplished most of the items which were mainly Bike to Work Day related. For the next quarter, July-September 2007, the next items included participation in the Art & Wine Festival, Crossing Guard reminders about bicycle helmet education, and coordinate with Milpitas police to host

bicycle helmet safety assemblies. Ms. Nadal stated since there is a special task group for the Escuela schools, BTAC can participate as the BTAC Chair is already a member. Chair Reisinger said BTAC would work with Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition along with the traffic congestion group on Escuela drive. Commissioner Roediger asked if education could be tied into the Art and Wine Festival in August. Chair Reisinger stated the festival is mainly as a bicycle corral, to have a fair would be difficult since most visitors are not locals. Chair states there is Milpitas bicycle information distributed. Commissioner Briones requested the Work Plan be posted or redistributed.

Commissioner Briones addressed the by-laws and commissioner attendance. He feels it should be implemented. Should a commissioner miss 3 meetings, action must be taken. Ms. Nadal stated she spoke to the City Clerk's office and the commissioner can be addressed requesting attendance at the next meetings or go through City Council to remove the commissioner from the commission for lack of attendance.

4. VTA BPAC Representation

Chair Reisinger addressed the Commission for a new representative. Meetings are at the VTA, the second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm. Commissioner Roediger stated he could be the representative.

5. Projects in Progress

a. Bicycle Map on the City of Milpitas website

Commissioner Bunnell will contact the GIS Manager regarding a BTAC update.

b. Historical Map

Staff is still working on the update of the map.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

a. Montague Expressway Study- *postponed to August Meeting*

Ms. Nadal stated the next meeting staff from the County Airport and Roads department will have an update. Commissioner Roediger asked if there are any short-term updates as Montague at Capitol is a "fatality waiting to happen". Mr. Rodriguez stated with the North San Jose Development Plan, there is potential funding to improve Montague Expressway. Mr. Rodriguez also stated the City's Transit Area Plan will also develop the area and include traffic calming efforts. Commissioner Bunnell added that interim measures should be made near the crossing of Capitol Avenue West of Montague Expressway. Vehicles do not stop when turning right. There should be additional enforcement made. Commissioner Roediger added that as a cyclist commuting to work, if you are going north or south on Capitol/Great Mall. If you are cycling north bound, there is a small gap for bicyclists to travel between the 6-inch rise concrete curb and a 2-inch rise of asphalt. There is only 12 inches of travel space, which, if hitting either side, the cyclists can fall into traffic. Mr. Rodriguez stated the City does not maintain Montague Expressway. The intersection is County owned. Mr. Rodriguez offered to contact the County to review. Anything the City would like to build would have to be approved by the County. An urban

interchange project is in the City's 2030 plan, which would grade-separate Capitol and Great Mall from Montague Expressway.

Commissioner Briones asked if the timing of the signal lights on Montague Expressway also controlled by the County. At McCandless and Montague, Commissioner Briones stated his bicycle couldn't be detected.

b. Proposed Passenger Loading Zones on Escuela Parkway & Washington Drive

Mr. Rodriguez reported that Traffic Engineering staff has been involved with the special traffic committee to address Escuela Parkway congestion. As a result of the meeting, several traffic engineering requests have been made. Last month, a passenger loading zone was installed on the east side of Arizona, south of Midwick, approximately 200 feet long. This offers an alternate drop-off zone for Milpitas High School. Staff would like to continue additional passenger loading zones on Escuela. Currently, drivers picking and dropping off students are parking along Escuela Parkway. Staff would like to convert the bicycle lanes to bicycle routes. Bicycle routes are not striped but designated for bicycles.

On Escuela, staff found that parents are parking in the bicycle lane and waiting. Most times, the police ask the parents to move, causing safety concerns for students walking and crossing the street, as the cars are in and out of the lanes. Staff would grind the bicycle lanes and remove the bicycle lane sign, but add signs that would have a green background sign that would say "No Parking" on the top half "Passenger Loading Zone, 7am-4pm, School Days Only".

Commissioner Bunnell asked if the bicyclists could be routed somewhere else. Ms. Nadal stated a count was performed by staff at Jacklin and Escuela, bicyclists were actually traveling on the sidewalk. There was a minimal amount of student bicyclists into and out of Escuela Parkway. Mr. Rodriguez stated there aren't any major changes, this recommendation is to make official what is already done.

Commissioner Roediger asked if the street could be widened. Mr. Rodriguez stated the median island is protected by the Hetch Hetchy Creek right of way, it would take an act of congress to change it.

Commissioner Zeise asked for a bicycle path down the center of the median island on Escuela. Staff would have to review with the Hetch Hetchy. Commissioner Stanojevic said that there is still traffic and pedestrian traffic as they cross the street. Should it be the wish of the Commission, staff can forward this request to the VTA to explore the bicycle paths along Hetch Hetchy.

Chair Reisinger stated the situation at Escuela Parkway is an ongoing issue, even with staggered start and end time schedules. The committee working on there is addressing these issues. This proposal is one of many that the committee has to alleviate. The new loading area on Arizona is working

very well as the Chair lives close to the new loading zone.

Commissioner Stanojevic also added the traffic is really terrible as it carries onto Jacklin and Escuela.

Mr. Rodriguez also added that staff would like to do a no-left restriction from westbound on Washington into Pomeroy school. Cars travel up from Jacklin to Escuela, make a left onto Washington and then another left into the parking lot. Pomeroy has asked to restrict the left turn to have drivers make a U-turn at Escuela where they can be greeted by the school's student valet program and/or the new passenger loading zone. Commissioner Briones added that when making that left into Pomeroy school, you block cars.

Chair Reisinger stated the studies are ongoing situations. When the new school year starts we hope to have some of these in place, without a lot of expenditure. If it turns into a loading zone instead of a bike lane, for most of the day, the road will be clear.

Chair Reisinger recommend we move forward with this trial to see how the traffic works. The lanes that will be removed are just the south bound bicycle lanes.

Commissioner Bunnell stated since this is the first she's heard of this proposal, she'd like to go out to the site with her bicycle to review the situation. Commissioner Roediger agreed.

Chair Reisinger asked Mr. Rodriguez if we could go back to BTAC in August. Commissioner Stanojevic stated school starts in August and the City tends to start the projects right when school starts and that's when traffic is bad.

Commissioner Bunnell does not mind to come back with her response before August. Mr. Rodriguez offered we could put the signs in, he requests the commission to look at the site and email Ms. Nadal or him. When the next round of projects for the schools are listed, we will put it as a trial basis. If it doesn't work, then we'll go back to the as-is.

Staff is requesting a motion to move forward for a trial basis for the conversion of the bike lane to bike route on Escuela Parkway. Mr. Rodriguez asked for a final vote by Friday, June 16, 2006 emailed or phoned into Ms. Nadal.

Stanojevic: Motion to have a trial run, for the school year, of the proposed changing the bike lanes to bike route and passenger loading zone.

M/S: Stanojevic/Zeise

Ayes: Reisinger, Stanojevic, Zeise

Nay: Briones

Additional research: Bunnell/ Roediger

Mr. Rodriguez flashing beacons will be added on Escuela Parkway. The beacons are to assist in the safety of pedestrians.

c. Bike Lane Removal on North Main Street

As part of the Midtown Specific Plan, the City will be removing bicycle lanes on Main Street and adding them onto Abel Street. The first phase of bicycle lane installation on Abel Street from Great Mall Parkway to Corning is under construction. By next summer, the street improvements will be complete by Summer 2007. Eventually, there will be bicycle lanes from Great Mall Parkway to Weller.

Major construction on Main Street from Weller Lane to Carlo Street. In order for new improvements to come in, the bicycle lanes are being removed by August. The construction will narrow the roadways to make it pedestrian friendly. In the area will have a new Library, Senior Housing, and County Health facility?

Commissioner Briones asked if this would be connecting to Jacklin. Mr. Rodriguez, there is only enough funding to create lanes in the Midtown area.

Commissioner Zeise proposes to investigate looking at a bike route through the Hetch Hetchy path between Russell and Washington Drive. Ms. Nadal proposes to add onto the next agenda so staff can contact the appropriate regional agencies.

d. Open Forum

2. Safety

a. Open Forum

Commissioner Briones asked who handles the traffic signal length on southbound Main Street to East Great Mall Parkway? Mr. Rodriguez stated it was just re-timed last October 2006. Commissioner Briones stated turning left on his bicycle, the light isn't long enough and turns yellow midway through. Mr. Rodriguez added it is a difficult intersection because of the size of the intersection as well as the Light Rail on a bridge.

3. Public Awareness

a. Art & Wine Festival- August 19 & 20, 2006

Chair Reisinger requested volunteers at the bicycle coral on one or both of the days of the festival, 10am- 6pm. Commissioner Stanojevic is available to volunteer the Saturday morning. Commissioner Bunnell can also volunteer Saturday as well. Ms. Nadal will email a reminder for commissioners to volunteer.

b. Open Forum

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn at

9:00 p.m.

M/S: Briones/Bunnell

All Ayes

BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES
June 12, 2006

ASSIGNMENT SHEET

Janice Nadal
City of Milpitas Staff

- Provide BTAC Work plan and bylaws on the City's website
- Contact the City Clerk on the next Open Government training.
- Contact the VTA regarding VTA BPAC representative
- Forward Art & Wine Festival to BTAC members

Jaime Rodriguez
City of Milpitas Staff

- Review the movement on Capitol/Great Mall, specifically the right turn from Montague Expressway to Capitol/Great Mall as there is only a 12-inch space for bicyclists to safely travel.
- Contact the County on the intersection at McCandless and Montague Expressway. Bicycles can not be detected in the left turn lane on McCandless onto Montague.

Bill Reisinger
BTAC Chair

- Contact Corinne Winter, SVBC, regarding involvement at the Art and Wine Festival.
- Coordinate Art & Wine Festival

Cheryl Bunnell
BTAC Commissioner

- Contact Alan Rich, City of Milpitas IS department regarding the bike map on the website

All Commissioners

- Check availability to volunteer at the Art & Wine Festival, August 19 and 20, 2006