

**MILL VALLEY BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**April 26, 2013
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM**

**Upstairs Conference Room
MILL VALLEY CITY HALL
26 Corte Madera Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941**

Committee Members: David Griffis (Chair), Bob Gordon (Vice Chair), Carter Zinn, Elisabeth Thomas-Matej, , and Tricia Satake

Also Present: Public Works Director Jill Barnes, Associate Engineer Cecilia Zamora, Transportation Consultant David Parisi, Councilmember Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Joan Murrays, and SLP Volunteer Victoria Talkington,

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Griffis opened the public hearing at 7:03 PM

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of February 13, 2013 Meeting Minutes, 5/0

C. PUBLIC OPEN TIME

Michael Mooney, resident of Mill Valley for about 8 years, lives at 30 Sycamore Avenue. He requested that Sycamore Avenue become a bike boulevard, and also suggested improvements to the City crosswalks. He would like the City to use better quality paint in the crosswalks. He contacted the City Manager Jim McCann about this issue and had a positive reaction and feedback. He has mentioned the crosswalk issues a few times over the past year and has seen some improvement in the last few years, but still more should be done. He would like to see Miller Avenue Streetscape plan implemented now, rather than in a few summer, with regard to the sidewalk and bike way improvements. He thanked the committee for their work.

Committee member Carter Zinn asked Mr. Mooney to explain what he meant by bike boulevards. Mr. Mooney mentioned that he researched the City of Berkeley's efforts on creating bike lanes, how to build bike lanes and their benefits. He would like to see not necessarily bike lanes, but improvements like additional signs, arrows, and other elements that identify the bike boulevards. He believes this is a safety issue rather than

a traffic calming issue based on recent developments in the City. He also expressed that education for motorists, bikers, and pedestrians is needed.

SLP Volunteer Victoria Talkington introduced herself and mentioned that she came to the meeting because the work plan included SLP items. She was involved in the development of the SLP list and map. She thanked the City for the traffic circle that is planned for installation at Molino and Cascade Avenues. She requested that the garbage trucks be given adequate access to Cascade/Molino and adjacent areas.

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Joan Murray introduced herself, and mentioned that she came to the meeting to learn about Steps, Lanes, and Paths.

Transportation consultant Parisi mentioned that the intersection at Cascade/ Molino is a very dangerous one. The circle will first be installed with paint to test it out, and if it works, an application of thermoplastic will follow. Drivers' behavior will be monitored. Trucks can go over the circle striping as needed. Maybe in the future something like an island or a redwood can be installed in the middle of the circle.

Question about safe routes to one of the public schools? Which one?

Mr. Mooney had talked with the former head of school, and at that time, there weren't many viable safe routes to that specific school. However, since then, many sidewalks have been installed, so maybe now there is an opportunity. Councilmember Moulton-Peters expressed that this was an important question, and she would like this public school to be able to participate in SR2S. She can intervene for the school. Chair Griffis mentioned that safe routes is going to be working on creating maps with safe routes to school and that with that information he hopes the BPAC and the City can eventually create dedicated bike routes.

C. CONSENT ITEMS

Public works director Jill Barnes explained that this section is new to the committee. Staff followed similar format used by City Council and SASM Board. Barnes explained that the committee can take any of these items out of consent if they feel that further discussion is needed.

Consent item #1 "Bike Map Kiosk Update" was moved to be approved by???? and second by Chair Griffis. Consent item #2 "MUP Improvement update" and item #3 "BPAC Work Plan" was moved out of the consent calendar unanimously.

1. MUP Improvement Update - Associate Engineer Zamora gave an update on the upcoming improvements for the County multi-use path. She explained that the County bike sign project is still in the planning and design process, and that the City does not know when the County Kiosk prototypes will be ready. The resurfacing project of the MUP is currently in the environmental application phase, and if it gets approved on time, the resurfacing of the path would happen this fall or winter. The County is currently updating the traffic circle layout proposed for the intersection of

Sycamore and the MUP. The update will incorporate SR2S and BPAC feedback that County staff received two weeks prior to this meeting. County staff is supposed to send the updated plan to her next week. The County project will be coordinated with the City's Sycamore Avenue Bike Path project. Construction of both projects is expected to begin summer 2014.

Member Thomas-Matej mentioned at the last BPAC meeting Associate Zamora was asked to check if County staff could meet the BPAC to talk about signage (bike and pedestrian) and pavement markings. She enquired about an update about the items discussed at the roundabout meeting with the County. She mentioned that the County was under the impression that they could not differentiate any longer because of **legal concerns?** They cannot exclude any user group from any portion of the path. Council member Moulton-Peters asked if there were any plans to have the County present to the group regarding this topic. Associate Zamora said she will try to get a County presentation for June.

Councilmember Moulton-Peters mentioned that member Carter had additional suggestions for traffic calming at this intersection that he could share with the County. Member Carter mentioned that he rides his bike on the MUP as fast as he can, and as a fast rider he is aware of the problems this creates on the MUP. He suggested to attempt to encourage road riders particularly during weekends to divert off the MUP somewhere near the Tam High track, and direct them to Miller Ave and then to Camino Alto since they are generally trying to get to the Camino Alto grade. He mentioned that Councilmember Mouton-Peters talked to him about the City's plans to install bike lanes on Camino Alto, but didn't know when that would take place.

He would like to see County staff take his suggestion into consideration and also post speed limits north of this location. Member Thomas-Matej mentioned that there are signs already posted for 15 mph, but they are not very visible. Member Carter responded that he has never seen any of them, and recommended enforcement. This proposed location for the diversion near TAM High would need improvement. Currently the location is full of gravel and bikers would have to come to a complete stop to safely get off the path. Member Carter also talked about finding a way to get onto the MUP from Almonte when traveling southbound. Transportation consultant Parisi mentioned that there will be a bicycle left turn. Chair Griffis agreed that most cyclists would appreciate an easier transition off the MUP. He suggested addressing these issues when County staff presents their project to the BPAC.

Parisi talked about his challenges developing signs and striping for the beach front in Santa Monica. Slow zones for bikes, separated areas for pedestrians and bicycles, shared areas, special signs and markings were created. He mentioned that the MUP is 10 feet wide with shoulders, not providing much space at the intersection to allow bikes off the path. Member Carter asked Parisi if the left turn lane on Miller would be for bikes only and how cyclists were going to get from the right lane to the left turn pocket. Parisi explained that the two lanes on Miller as they approach Almonte will merge to one, and car right turns will be made from that single lane. Therefore, it will be safer for bikes as they will need to cross only one lane to get to the left turn pocket.

Chair Griffis asked about a Camino Alto bike lane update, and if that is different than the Miller to Sycamore path project. Director Barnes explained that the two are different projects. Bike lanes are part of the bike and pedestrian plan, and are meant to serve people who want to ride on the street. The work will probably require some changes to the median. DPW doesn't have plans to address the bike lanes yet, but it is something we will be working on soon. Addition of bike lanes going north on Camino Alto is possible without removal of parking spaces. Installation of bike lanes southbound would require removal of parking spaces north of Sycamore, and in front of Safeway.

Member Carter asked Director Barnes if the City had construction dates in mind so the committee could start working with the public. Director Barnes said that there were no dates and that the City's first priority was to build the multi-use path and eliminate the elevated section along Camino Alto. Maybe next summer we can start talking about the bike lanes, request CIP funding and research grant opportunities. Director Barnes proposed that she and Associate Zamora could work on proposals to present to the County about the MUP and present the ideas discussed today. Chair Griffis asked if the BPAC would be allowed to give input to the County project. Associate Zamora suggested setting up a meeting with County staff to discuss the improvements. Councilmember Moulton-Peters asked Associate Zamora if the County had money for the round-about improvements. Associate Zamora said just the paving. Member Thomas-Matej suggested differentiating pedestrian and bike zones by having different colors. Chair Griffis said signage goes as a long way as exemplified at Crissy Fields and the Golden Gate Bridge.

2. BPAC Work Plan, goals and objectives - Member Thomas-Matej opened the conversation with item# 3 in the revised work plan. Associate Zamora talked about the previous meeting discussion on adding bike parking facilities at parks. Chair Griffis reiterated that this needs to be addressed. He suggested handouts talking about carpool and saying "ride your bike to the park." He would like to see this effort integrated with the Parks and Rec. He wanted to know what kind of suggestions, or requirements, the City makes to organizations such as Little League, Soccer at Boyle Park, etc. Member Thomas-Matej talked about generating bicycle parking for these events. Griffis used Boyle Park as an example of a facility that has no bike racks and real bike ways.

Commissioner Joan Murrays asked about field use policy and the negotiations with sport organizations. Griffis asked if bike rack installation in parks would need to go through Public Works or Parks and Rec. Murrays talked about how Parks and Rec would need to approve the installation, and asked would it be possible to get one of the sports organizations to pay for it. Director Barnes agreed with this suggestion.

Councilmember Moulton-Peters asked if Parks and Rec could request as condition of field use installation of a bike rack, and is there already a requirement for these organizations to promote biking. Murrays said they asked the organizations to promote garbage collection and carpooling informally, but not as part of the field use policy. Director Barnes mentioned that Public Works could find the resources to install the bike racks and would coordinate with Parks and Rec commission to find the best locations that would not impact the use of the fields. Member Thomas-

Matej asked Director Barnes if the City has already adopted standards on bike racks. Barnes mentioned that the staple type has not been adopted by the City, but are recognized as the most functional. Chair Griffis suggested to have artists design the bike racks.

Volunteer Talkington mentioned that item #2 in the work plan seems to be part of what Parks and Rec does. She talked about the 3rd edition of the SLP map. Parks and Rec can promote the information and make sure that SLP maps are available Memorial Day Weekend and for other events. She suggested we can focus less on what infrastructure should be constructed, and more about how to use what is available now. Member Thomas-Matej explained that this item also includes needed public information concerning safe biking around cars. The idea of creating a webpage with information was briefly discussed by the members. Thomas-Matej suggested that language in the General Plan (M12-3 Mobility Section) be incorporated into this work plan item to promote information. Maybe reference the General Plan in the actual Work Plan. Director Barnes asked for recommendations in the first column of the Work Plan so that everyone could understand. Barnes suggested adding Parks and Rec under the Responsibility section of item 2 in the Work Plan. It was agreed that the general plan should not reference the work plan as the work plan will change constantly. Thomas-Matej suggested changing the item "Consider biking to help reduce congestion" to "encourage people to bike to City's recreational events."

Commissioner Murrays showed an old SLP map, passed it around, and talked about the vendor locations. Chair Griffis asked if the map could be available online or even provide a scan bar for phones. Carter asked if there would be any copyright issues or if the City owns the information. Talkington answered that the City has the rights. Associate Zamora agreed to make the 3rd edition of the SLP available on the website.

Chair Griffis started discussions on school related items. Councilmember Moulton-Peters suggested that item #3 should be about discussing the safe routes projects. Griffis would like the BPAC to piggyback off SR2S efforts with the City's support. The group discussed and suggested to change the description of this item to "Review and discuss issues identified by SR2S task force including suggested walking and biking routes."

Member Thomas-Matej talked about the General Plan M12-3 Mobility section. She suggested picking one item from this section. She asked if the committee wanted to add one of the items to item #2 in the Work Plan. The committee decided to reference the General Plan in the Work Plan. This would need to be approved by the Planning Commission and City Council. Associate Zamora will e-mail section M12-3 of the draft General Plan so that the committee can discuss what to add to the work plan at the next meeting.

Chair Griffis started discussion on SLPs, item #8 in the Work Plan. He referenced Rick Misuraca's presentation at the last meeting. He asked for information on how the City prioritizes SLPs and what should the BPAC do next. Volunteer Talkington explained the first ped plan in 2003 gave an inventory of many of the paths, and directed the City to fund the improvements of these paths at \$150,000 per year. The City started improving one path per year. In 2005/2006, volunteers started

rebuilding these paths. In 2007/2008, the County approached the City, with funding available, requested the City prioritize them. The County then picked 6 paths from the list to be improved. The 2008 bike ped plan shows the top 25 to be improved. The BPAC was established that same year to enable the City to apply for bike funding per state requirements. The committee looked at the top 25 list and accepted them through a public hearing process. The City Council then adopted it. After legal proceedings, some paths were taken off the list by City Council.

Talkington suggested getting money allocated for the paths again, and for staff to pick one path per year and fix it. She further suggested that staff reports to the BPAC what path is being done in what year. Talkington mentioned that the top 25 list included more than 25 paths since they included paths from the bottom up. She believes half of the paths have been completed and suggested that staff fill in from the bottom up. Talkington does not believe volunteer efforts can do the top 25 as they are more complicated and need engineer involvement. Talkington, other DPW and Fire staff plan to meet a week for this meeting to talk about other paths that could use volunteer help. The \$10,000 that gets allocated every year is to help with volunteer projects. The volunteer projects work well in providing emergency routes. Chair Griffis suggested adding this into the City Budget. Director Barnes suggested looking at the top 25 and identifying which paths needs to be improved to create a stronger budget adjustment request. A suggestion to change the language in this item to “continue to improve the top 25 SLPs...” was made. Griffis suggested that the Talkington presentation at the next meeting provide suggestion for the BPAC. Talkington invited everyone to the meeting to discuss volunteer projects. Member Satake asked Talkington how volunteers were being picked. Talkington responded that anyone can just approach Parks and Rec and volunteer. She suggested that the BPAC contact Jenny Rogers to help develop a volunteer program.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Bicycle Parking Facilities Action Plan – Transportation Consultant Parisi talked about bicycle parking and bike corrals in Down Town Mill Valley. Member Satake, Thomas-Matej, and Parisi talked about their walk in downtown and presented an inventory of existing bike parking racks. They found 6 bike racks of different types including one on private property. Parisi presented design elements of the proposed bike corral project, and 7 possible locations in down town Mill Valley. The possible locations are La Coppa Coffee, LF store, Sweetwater, Noci, Depot Plaza, Sunnyside Bus Stop, and Beerworks. Other locations such as the Mill Valley Market and Peets were also considered, but are not recommended. Parisi recommends installing a bike corral at Beerworks. Another good location is Sweetwater.

Member Carter asked if all the improvements would be in the roadway. Parisi mentioned that the Depot Plaza location could be a sidewalk installation, but some people might not agree with it. Parisi directed the committee not to pick more than two locations for the project to be successful. Thomas-Matej asked about lighting at Beerworks and parking at night time. Parisi reminded the committee that unless we are providing safe places and promoting bike parking, people are not going to use

their bikes as often. It is important to choose a location that is heavily used in order to get the demand. Eventually we will get other locations out of down town.

Parisi mentioned that the installation of each corral is about \$2,000. Other Cities that have implemented this require agreements with the property for installation and maintenance. Parisi recommended creating a standard look and guidelines. Councilmember Moulton-Peters asked how this project can be moved forward. Parisi suggested contacting the owners, come up with cost, and working with DPW on the maintenance agreement which is very important since they cannot be street swept. Chair Griffis asked if the second corral had to be down town, what about Miller. Carter suggested that if two locations were chosen, they should be in down town. Parisi believes that once a corral is installed, other merchants will request to get them as well. Director Barnes mentioned that she would like to encourage the merchants to pay for the Bike Corrals. The group agreed. Director Barnes suggested working with the chamber of commerce. Griffis agreed and believes this could generate more business down town. The group agreed to develop a bike corral at Beerworks. Griffis suggested choosing the second location at the next meeting. The subcommittee will develop cost estimates and start working on guidelines with DPW. Griffis asked if cost estimates would be ready for the next meeting.

2. Public Education – Item was moved to next BPAC meeting.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. BPAC Table at Bike to Work Day – Member Carter talked about getting a table at the bike to work day event on May 9. He asked for the commission to support this idea. He talked to Marin County Bike Coalition and arranged for a spot without having to pay for it. The BPAC table will be located next to MCBC and the Transportation Authority. MCBC asked to direct those who visit the BPAC table to the MCBC table and encourage them to sign for membership with MCBC in exchange of the free spot. Carter mentioned that his main focus as part of the committee is on the MUP. He suggested creating a poster with information about the BPAC and providing a comment sheet for suggestions. The event represents an opportunity to get feedback from the public.

Carter is comfortable giving his e-mail address as contact information, but would also like to see other members get involved. Carter invited other members to join him for the event. Councilmember Moulton-Peters and member Thomas-Matej volunteered to help at the table. The only cost would be to get a banner - if time permits – with the City logo and BPAC information. The budget is \$100 and can be used again in the future. Director Barnes said that there were funds for the banner. Stake asked if the committee could get a BPAC.com Mill Valley address. Director Barnes doesn't think it is possible at this point. All were in favor of having a BPAC station at the bike to work day event.

2. "5 E's" Program Model – items was moved to next BPAC meeting.

G. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

H. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:57 pm.