

August 19, 2008

Executive Summary for BPAC Update Committee

The purpose of this executive summary is to describe the formation and process of the BPAC Update Committee, to draw attention to some of its recommendations, and to bring to the attention of the City Council several observations and recommendations of the citizen members of the Update Committee which pertain to, but are not incorporated in, the final draft of the BPAC update. We also want to thank the consultants and City staff who participated in the update process, in particular Jill Barnes.

Citizen members of the Update Committee were Bob Gordon, Carl Weissensee, Dr. Joan Steidinger, and John Leonard. Councilmember Ken Wachtel was the Council liaison. Staff members assigned to the Update Committee were Jill Barnes, Angel Bernal, and Tom Zonarini. Alta Consultants advised the Committee.

The Update Committee met on April 30, May 29, June 24, and July 24. The stated purpose of the Committee was to assist with the required update of the BPAC Plan adopted in 2003. Jill Barnes chaired the first meeting and outlined the process and purpose of the BPAC update, which involved bicycle and pedestrian facilities and education, in connection with eligibility for revenues related to proposed improvements. At the conclusion of the meeting the citizen members indicated a preference for the Update Committee to be chaired by a citizen member.

At the May 29 John Leonard volunteered and was unanimously voted to act as Chair by the Update Committee. Also at this meeting, it was decided that the third meeting needed to be one which provided for public input regarding the draft elements of the update, particularly since this was the last meeting budgeted for the participation of the Alta consultant. At the conclusion of the third meeting, on June 24, the Update Committee members felt that the public input received and questions raised necessitated a fourth meeting, and this was scheduled for July 24 to facilitate the presence of interested members of the public. Greg Moore and Rick Misuraca were present at this fourth meeting. Tom Zonarini was unable to attend. A major concern raised at this meeting was public notice of maintenance or rehabilitation work on segments of the City's bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. The Committee agreed that the City should develop means of notifying affected property owners and users about maintenance or rehabilitation work.

Proposed bicycle infrastructure improvements fall into two broad categories, major improvements as part of the Miller Avenue streetscape update and lower-cost targeted improvements in the areas of signal activation, information, and parking opportunities for bicyclists. Of particular note is the Committee's recommendation of "share the road" signs for Sycamore Avenue from Camino Alto to Locust, since many bicyclists use this route as a natural continuation from the Mill Valley/Sausalito multi-use path. With regard to Miller Avenue, in addition to the recommendations in the BPAC update, the Committee members felt the intersections that posed the greatest problem for bicyclists

and pedestrians on Miller were those at Miller and Evergreen and at Miller and Montford/La Goma.

Pedestrian improvements similarly fall into the categories of more and less expensive improvements. Of interest in this Plan Update is that whereas in 2003 the most controversial aspect of the Plan involved route proposals for bicycles over the Corte Madera Grade between Mill Valley and Corte Madera, in the current Update more questions were raised concerning City priorities for pedestrian facilities, particularly with regard to pedestrian evacuation routes recommended by the Fire Department and the Emergency Preparedness Commission.

In order to provide momentum for improvements in our bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, with the goals of increasing safety and use of this infrastructure, it is recommended that the City proceed with funding of what can be termed the low-hanging fruit. Analysis of the BPAC update recommendations shows that an investment of \$50,000-\$75,000 for bicycle infrastructure improvements, and a similar amount for pedestrian facility improvements, can help get the BPAC Plan Update off to a good start in terms of what the citizen members of the Update Committee desire, namely that the BPAC Plan be considered a programmatic document in addition to its statutory function as a funding template.

Finally, in connection with the last comment, the citizen members of the Update Plan recommend to the City Council that Mill Valley establish an ongoing Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

John Leonard, Chair

2008 BPAC Plan Update Committee