

MINUTES OF THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE LOS ALTOS YOUTH CENTER, ONE NORTH SAN ANTONIO ROAD, LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA

PRESENT: Wes Brinsfield (Chair), Suzanne Ambiel (Vice-Chair), Randy Kriegh, Nadim Maluf, Jerry Chester, Cedric Novenario (Staff Liaison)

ABSENT: Steve Hindman, Jim Fenton

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Arnold Ambiel, representing GreenTown Los Altos, requested the BPAC consider further outreach partnership opportunities around bicycle and pedestrian safety. Bike to Work Month is one example of an outreach partnership opportunity or a GreenTown hosted event with guidance from the BPAC.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. Minutes

On a motion by Commissioner Ambiel, seconded by Commissioner Kriegh, the special meeting minutes for November 30, 2016 is approved. Passed 5-0.

2. University Avenue and Lincoln Avenue Crosswalk Improvements

Staff presented a 35% design of the crosswalk improvements at the intersection of University Avenue and Lincoln Avenue. The improvements consist of a new raised crosswalk, new ADA ramps, rectangular rapid flashing beacons, new storm drain facilities, and advanced signage and markings. In general, the BPAC was supportive of the project.

A member of the public provided the following comments:

- Support the project
- Completes the path to and from Gardner Bullis Elementary school
- The raised crosswalk can also help slow vehicles down

3. Engineering and Traffic Surveys (Speed limits)

Engineering staff and traffic enforcement staff provided an overview of Engineering and Traffic Surveys, survey/speed limit development, and enforcement impacts. Staff proposed raising the speed limits commensurate with the Engineering and Traffic Survey, which allows the use of radar or lidar enforcement.

Members of the public in attendance provided the following comments:

- Don't see a benefit to raising speed limits
- Do capital improvement projects first before raising speed limits
- Support raising the speed limits to allow speed enforcement, which improves traffic safety overall

- Suggest performing additional public outreach regarding Engineering and Traffic Surveys and speed limits prior to presenting to City Council
- Engineering and Traffic Surveys are too much in favor of cars
- Not enough emphasis is given to cyclists and pedestrians
- Miramonte Avenue should be 25 mph.
- There is no place to walk or bike on Miramonte Avenue, raising it to 30 mph would not be good
- Higher speeds would raise road noise levels
- Surveys ignore intangibles like crosswalks

The BPAC provided the following comments/questions:

- What is the social media impact on enforcement?
- If speed limits are raised, how would enforcement adapt?
- Support increase of speed limits and implement traffic calming to keep speeds low
- Do study session with Council
- Support speed limit increase with increase of enforcement
- Enforcement is a blunt tool to regulate speeds since implementing infrastructure can be difficult
- Motorist self-select the safe speed which is reflected in the 2013 and 2016 85% data presented
- This would benefit from additional public outreach

On a motion by Commissioner Ambiel, seconded by Commissioner Maluf, the BPAC recommended approval of Engineering and Traffic Surveys to the City Council. Passed 5-0.

4. Stop Sign Policy

Staff presented a draft STOP Sign Policy, which was based on a similar policy from the City of San Mateo. The policy describes the process and requirements to install stop signs, as well as, outlines an appeal process for those that object to the installation of stop signs.

The BPAC provided the following comments:

- Supportive of the policy
- Suggest revising the final decision on any appeals reside with the City Manager
- Include a statement in which consideration of area wide traffic impacts be considered when installing stop signs
- Describe the variety of stop sign designs available (blinking, reflective pole, etc)
- Craft policy with Vision Zero and Complete Streets in mind
- Update BPAC when stop signs are installed

On a motion by Commissioner Kriegh, seconded by Commissioner Ambiel, the BPAC recommended approval of Engineering and Traffic Surveys to the City Council. Passed 5-0

5. Work Plan Process

The BPAC discussed potential work plan items for the 2017/2018 Commission year. A member of the public in attendance provided the following comments:

- Keep pushing the Pedestrian Master Plan projects
- Re-educate Los Altos residents on the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan

The BPAC provided the following general comments:

- Expand BPAC's role into traffic
- Less on the work plan can result in a more effective BPAC
- Review NTMP
- New Bicycle Transportation Plan data needed
- Continue with Pedestrian Master Plan Projects
- Wayfinding maps are needed
- Consider Vision Zero and Complete Streets
- Monitor high density and in-fill development
- Understand implications of Measure B
- Make 2017/2018 a strategy year
- Help City Council make the hard decisions

It was decided to form a subcommittee at the next BPAC meeting to help staff prepare a draft work plan

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. Monthly Staff Reports

Staff liaison updated the Commission on related City Projects.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wes Brinsfield adjourned the meeting at 9:57 P.M.