CITY OF MERCED
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION

M I N U T E S

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
678 W 18TH STREET
MERCED, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY
October 23, 2012

Chairperson GUZZETTA called the meeting of the Bicycle Advisory Commission to order at 3:06 p.m.

(B) ROLL CALL

Present: David Guzzetta (Chairperson)
Lisa Kayser-Grant
Julianne Sims-Culot
Robert Tyler
David Noble
Patrick Bauer (Ex-Officio member)

Absent: Kara Middlebrooks (unexcused)
Jules Comeyne (unexcused)
(One vacancy – Ex-Officio member)

Staff Present: Kim Nutt, Recording Secretary/Planning Technician II
John Sagin, Senior Architect
Ken Elliot, Assistant Engineer

(C) APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 28, 2012

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TYLER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NOBLE, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (TWO ABSENT), TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 28, 2012, MINUTES, AS SUBMITTED.

(D) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no oral communications to report from the audience.

(Secretary's note: upon staff's request, Chairperson GUZZETTA agreed to take Item. J. before item E., to accommodate Engineering staff's schedule)

(J) SOUTH MERCED BIKE LANE STRIPING PROJECT - UPDATE

John SAGIN and Ken ELLIOT, Engineering Department, presented the South Merced Bike Lane Striping Project to the Commission, explaining the updated plans for the project, which will include the use of "sharrow" road markings, new bike lanes, and new signage. After a short discussion with the Commissioners, Mr. SAGIN stated that the final plans will likely be ready to show to the Commission by the next meeting.

(E) 2013 BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE – DRAFT SECTION 1 (INTRODUCTION)

Planning Technician NUTT accepted comments from the Commissioners as follows:

- *Section 1, Population*: is UC growth being considered in future population estimates? UC's enrollment goal for year 2020 is to have 10,000 students, and 2/3 of those students will live in the City limits.
- *Section 1, Area Climate-Summer Heat*: rephrase to, "…with July and August temperatures averaging 95 and 96 degrees Fahrenheit, respectively."
- *Section 1, Area Climate-Winter Fog*: rephrase to, "Separate and well-marked bike paths would create a safer environment for cyclists riding in inclement weather and at night."
- *Section 1, Purpose*:
  - Rephrase to, "…reduce dependence on motorized vehicle travel by providing…"
  - Add sentence, "This would help the City become eligible for funding from [name possible sources of funding]."
  - Provide a reference for the U.S. Census community survey
  - Are college and university students included in the statement "these figures do not include students commuting to school"?
  - rephrase to "...network, enhancing bicycling benefit..." and explain why the bike paths would provide benefits to the non-cycling public
  - Rephrase to, "…therefore…is expected to raise the percentage…"
  - What is the source of the 5% expectancy?
  - Rephrase to, "…increase is expected to be supplemented…growth in recreational cycling and the use of the bicycles for other excursions (e.g., shopping, etc.)
  - Rephrase second paragraph to, "An increase in bicycle use is dependent in part on the availability of bicycle facilities. As bicycle use increases, continued improvement in bikeways and facilities will be required."

- Be consistent with inclusion of students in ridership statistic percentages (example: document states 1.3% of the workforce not including commuting students; then it is stated that implementation including employees *and students* will raise to 5% - not consistent); are employees at schools listed counted as students?

- *Section 1, 2003 Bike Plan*: is there going to be a technical advisory committee for the 2013 bike plan? If the BAC is the only technical advisory committee used, then give the BAC a more active role.
- *Appendix F; Planning Process Narrative*: other public input methods suggested: online survey, for those who cannot commit to attending a workshop, interactive mapping, and virtual open house.
- *Appendix F; Plan Stakeholders*: include Golden Valley Health Center and other organizations that have participated in the process; more stakeholders should be involved in the process, including non-traditional stakeholders such as business communities, freight interests, emergency services, automobile clubs, school districts and school safety representatives, youth and older adult, lower-income minority and immigrant populations.
- *Appendix F; Phase 2, Step 6*: correct misspelling in heading (should be "Effect")
- *Appendix F; Phase 3, Step 1*: the general public and stakeholders need to be involved in providing the data to create the map.
- *Appendix F; Phase 2, Step 4*: the general public and stakeholders need to be involved in prioritizing bike-related projects.
- *Appendix F; Phase 2*: add step to evaluate how much of the 2008 bike plan has been implemented.
- *General*: are the BAC meetings considered public hearings for the bike plan update, and if so, were they officially promoted as such; where UC Merced Transportation is mentioned anywhere in the document, correct to "UC Merced Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS)."

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER SIMS-CULOT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TYLER, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (TWO ABSENT), TO ACCEPT THE DRAFT SECTION 1 (INTRODUCTION) OF THE 2013 BIKE PLAN AS PRESENTED, WITH MODIFICATIONS AS NOTED IN THE DISCUSSION.

(F) <u>2013 BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE – DRAFT SECTION 2 (VISION/GOALS/POLICIES)</u>

Planning Technician NUTT accepted comments from the Commissioners as follows:

- *Vision*: should be more in terms of an overall vision, rather than limiting it to the expansion of the bikeway system (as presented, is mostly an engineering vision), i.e., "a community where bikes are a way of life, etc."; "the bike plan hopes to (will) inspire, educate, and support our community for a lifetime of healthy choices and activities through cycling."; should be precise and not "wordy."
- *Education, Goal*: add, "…education on safety, bicycle handling skills, traffic skills, vehicular cycling."
- *Encouragement (general)*: following the recommendations of the LAB Bicycle Friendly Community Feedback, add a goal of passing an ordinance or code that requires larger employers to provide bicycle parking, shower facilities, and other end-of-trip amenities.
- *Enforcement, Goal*: revise to be more appropriate for enforcement (language presented is more geared for engineering); need a real enforcement goal; consider if enforcement means writing tickets?
- *Enforcement, Policies*: reconsider whether providing police patrol on bike paths or reducing thefts are policies or goals
- *Evaluation, Goal:* add, "…condition of bikeway facilities, and to determine the need for revisions and improvements to the plan, goals, and policies."; should also evaluate the plan itself.
- *Evaluation, Policies*: remove "Explore the possibility of forming a Bicycle Advisory Committee…agencies." This is out of date.
- *General*: need more public and BAC input on policies (not complete); goals conflict with policies; perhaps policies should be called objectives, as in the 2008 and prior bike plans; hierarchy of Section 2 needs to be improved.

The Commissioners stated that, though additional work is needed (as provided in the comments above), this section is proceeding in the proper direction.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER KAYSER-GRANT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SIMS-CULOT, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (TWO ABSENT), TO ACCEPT THE DRAFT SECTION 2 (VISION, GOALS, & POLICIES) OF THE 2013 BIKE PLAN AS PRESENTED, WITH MODIFICATIONS AS NOTED IN THE DISCUSSION, AND WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE POLICIES PRESENTED ARE STILL PRELIMINARY.

(G) <u>CANCELLATION OF THE DECEMBER 25, 2012, MEETING (TO BE HELD DECEMBER 11, 2012)</u>

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER KAYSER-GRANT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NOBLE, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (TWO ABSENT), TO CANCEL THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 25, 2012, DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.

(H) 2013 NATIONAL BIKE MONTH (MAY 2013) – DISCUSSION

1. POSSIBLE ACTION: NOMINATE BIKE MONTH BAC COMMUNITY LIAISON AS IN YEARS PRIOR

Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT requested that the City consider waiving the $35 Use of City Property application fee for the Merced Bicycle Coalition's Bike-to-Work Day energizer station at Bob Hart Square as a contribution to the Bike-to-Work Day efforts. Planning Technician NUTT stated that she would look into this request. Commissioner BAUER offered to pay the application fee, if the City does not waive it, on behalf of AAA Insurance.

Commissioner SIMS-CULOT suggested that there be an effort to get more community and business involvement in hosting the energizer stations. Ms. NUTT suggested an effort to start a competition between businesses.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER KAYSER-GRANT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TYLER, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (TWO ABSENT), TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONERS MIDDLEBROOKS AND COMEYNE TO BE THE COMMUNITY LIAISONS FOR THE 2013 BIKE MONTH.

(I) INFORMATION ITEMS

1. PUBLIC WORKS' RESTRIPING PROGRAM

There was a short discussion about the information. Commissioner TYLER suggested that there should be more 'bike lane' arrows along with the striping to combat wrong-way riders.

2. ADD-ON INFORMATION-SHARING ITEMS

Chairperson GUZZETTA announced information regarding the South Merced Bike Summit on Saturday, October 27, 2012 at Tenaya Middle School Multipurpose Room, 760 W. 8th Street, Merced, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Commissioner TYLER recounted his experience at the 2012 Pedal Merced event and stated that he was very impressed.

Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT announced that the next Merced Bicycle Coalition meeting will be Saturday, November 10, 2012, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

(J) *(Secretary note: this item was heard previously, before Item E. above)*

(K) ADJOURN TO THE ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING OF TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2012, AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ON MOTION FROM COMMISSIONER TYLER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NOBLE, DULY CARRIED, CHAIRPERSON GUZZETTA ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 4:48 P.M. TO THE ADJOURNED REGULAR BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2012, AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 678 W. 18TH STREET, MERCED, CALIFORNIA.

BY:

KIMBERLY NUTT
COMMISSION SECRETARY

APPROVED:

DAVID GUZZETTA, CHAIRPERSON
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION