CITY OF MERCED
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION

M I N U T E S

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
678 W 18TH STREET
MERCED, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY
April 23, 2013

Chairperson GUZZETTA called the meeting of the Bicycle Advisory Commission to order at 3:01 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 (excused)
Jules Comeyne (unexcused)
(One vacancy – Ex-Officio member)

Staff Present: Bill King, Principal Planner
Kim Nutt, Recording Secretary/Planning Technician II

(C) APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2013

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KAYSER-GRANT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TYLER, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (TWO ABSENT), TO APPROVE THE MARCH 26, 2013, MINUTES, AS SUBMITTED.

(D) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Griselda VILLA, of Golden Valley Health Center (GVHC), Merced, gave a summary of their Bicycle Summit held last year, stating that the attending community members agreed on three priorities: teaching bike safety in schools, connectivity, and providing hazard-free, safe connections. She informed the Commission that GVHC is working on providing a Bike to School and Work Day energizer station for schools and the general public and are working with Reyes Elementary School on a bike challenge and bicycle safety education.

(E) CMAQ BIKE LANE STRIPING GRANT

John SAGIN, Principle Architect/Engineering Department, updated the Commission on the bike grant project in progress and explained the project map. He informed the Commission that staff would be taking the project to City Council on May 6, 2013, to decide whether to eliminate parking on Childs Avenue in order to put in bike lanes, or to install "sharrows" road markings, or to do nothing to the area with regards to bike facilities.

There was a discussion regarding why sharrows were determined to be inappropriate on M Street between W. 16th and W. 18th Streets. In other areas of the project, Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT stated that the sharrow spacing should be closer together than 250 feet, so that drivers see the markings more frequently. Mr. SAGIN said he would verify the spacing, and added that education on how to use the sharrow markings will be very important for both drivers and cyclists.

(F) 2013 BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

Bill KING, Principle Planner, presented the staff report for this item.

Questions from the Commissioners and discussions regarded clarification of the tables provided in the attachments, projects on the priority lists, and concerns about the narrowness of the existing bike lane standards. It was felt that new lanes should be constructed with wider/safer widths, rather than using the minimum standards that, in some places, would be too narrow for the location. Mr. KING stated that widening the minimum standards for bike lanes in the City could be added to the project list. Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT requested bike parking projects and bike safety education be included on the list, as well.

Chairperson GUZZETTA allowed public comment as follows:

Mike CUCHNA, Merced, states that he rides an adult tricycle on the bike paths and lanes in Merced and finds that the tricycle is too wide for most lanes in town, including two of the newer projects: G Street and Yosemite Avenue in front of Raley's shopping center; and, G Street and Bellevue Road near the new high school. He stated his support for widening the bike lane standards before constructing new lanes, as it makes better sense than having to go back and fix lanes that are too narrow.

During discussion, Commissioner TYLER suggested a subcommittee or study group be formed to be able to focus on the list of projects to be prioritized. Chairperson

GUZZETTA and Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT agreed. Mr. KING added that the list compiled as a result of the subcommittee's time could be rolled into the draft final plan to be presented at the June meeting. Commissioners TYLER, KAYSER-GRANT, Chairperson GUZZETTA, and Ex-Officio Commissioner BAUER volunteered for the subcommittee. Recording Secretary NUTT verified Ex-Officio BAUER is a non-voting member of the Commission, so there would not be a quorum under Brown Act meeting rules if he participates.

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SIMS-CULOT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TYLER, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (TWO ABSENT), TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONERS TYLER AND KAYSER-GRANT, CHAIRPERSON GUZZETTA, AND EX-OFFICIO COMMISSIONER BAUER TO A STUDY GROUP SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSES OF MAPPING THE AFFECTED AREAS, AND EVALUATING AND PRIORITIZING WITH CONSIDERATIONS OF NEED, EFFECTIVENESS, AND PUBLIC COMMENT, WITH THE GOAL OF PREPARING A MODIFIED LIST FOR THE DRAFT BIKE PLAN, AND TO REPORT BACK TO THE COMMISSION AT THE JUNE 25, 2013, MEETING.

(G) INFORMATION ITEMS

1. ADD-ON INFORMATION-SHARING ITEMS

Commissioner NOBLE reported that UC Merced's Bike to Work Day energizer station will be on the campus this year. He also added that he will be on university business for the next meeting in June, so today will be his last meeting. Staff expressed their thanks and appreciation for his service on the Commission.

Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT reported on the Merced Bicycle Coalition's efforts for Bike to Work Day and month. They are working on energizer stations at the Promenade Center on E. Yosemite Avenue, Golden Valley Health Centers, the Mercy Hospital sites on G Street/Mercy Avenue and M/W. 27th Streets, and downtown at Bob Hart Square. She also announced that the Bicycle Coalition is bringing back the All-Merced Road Ride on May 4, 2013, which meets at Kevin's Bikes at 8:30 a.m. and rides to Snelling.

Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT also presented her alternative proposal to the City's Bear Creek Bike Path extension project, after having learned some details about the project from Engineering staff. She proposed that the project details be brought to the Commission at the next meeting so that they can have input.

(H) ADJOURN TO THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2013, AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ON MOTION FROM COMMISSIONER NOBLE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TYLER, DULY CARRIED (TWO ABSENT), CHAIRPERSON GUZZETTA ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 4:55 P.M. TO THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING ON TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2013, 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