CITY OF MERCED BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS 678 W 18TH STREET MERCED, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY April 24, 2012

Chairperson GUZZETTA called the meeting of the Bicycle Advisory Commission to order at 3:00 p.m.

(B) ROLL CALL

Present: David Guzzetta (Chairperson)

Lisa Kayser-Grant Julianne Sims-Culot Kara Middlebrooks

Robert Tyler David Noble

Patrick Bauer (Ex-Officio) Robert Smith (Ex-Officio)

Absent: Jules Comeyne (unexcused)

Staff Present: Bill King, Principal Planner

Kim Nutt, Recording Secretary/Planning Technician II

(C) APPROVE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 25, 2011

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TYLER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NOBLE, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (ONE ABSENT), TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 25, 2011, MINUTES, AS SUBMITTED.

(D) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no oral communications from members of the audience.

Principal Planner KING reminded the Commission that laptops and cell phones should not be used at the dais by the Commissioners during meetings.

(E) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BIKEWAY PROJECT – PARSONS AVENUE

Principal Planner KING explained the project and long-term plans for Parsons Avenue. He stated that City Council had recently budgeted funds for the project, and the City Bicycle Advisory Commission Minutes April 24, 2012 Page 2

Engineer is now looking for input regarding striping for bikeways in order to draw the plans for the segment from Santa Fe Avenue to Bear Creek Drive.

After discussion, the Commission recommended striping a generous bike lane, wide enough for vehicle parking along the curb. Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT suggested a width from curb at fifteen feet, which would provide for the parked vehicle and distance parked from curb, the car door, and a five-foot bike lane. Additionally, as there is a school and a park nearby, the road should be center-striped for vehicles, with bike lanes on each side, to encourage drivers to share the road and to expect bicycles in the bike lane. Commissioners TYLER, SIMS-CULOT, and MIDDLEBROOKS also noted that more children may be riding their bicycles to school because of decreases in school bus transportation and will need the bike lanes. Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT stated that a bike lane should be installed with the project, regardless of the nonexistence of lanes north and south of the project.

(F) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BIKEWAY PROJECT – BIKE LANES

Principle Planner KING stated that the Engineering Department has received a grant for painting ten miles of bike lanes in mainly South Merced, and is looking for Commission input as to whether there are alternative roads in South Merced they should be installed on and/or if the Commission is satisfied with the roads proposed in the map provided at Attachment A. Commissioner MIDDLEBROOKS stated her agreement with W. 8th and W. 11th Streets and M and R Streets as shown on the map.

Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT asked if the grant was for new bike lanes or if the funds could be used to restripe bike lanes that are severely faded. Mr. KING stated that his assumption would be that it could include restriping as well as new installations. Chairperson GUZZETTA stressed that the bike lanes should be painted with a higher-quality paint that would add to the lane-striping project's longevity and cost-effectiveness. Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT also added that restriping should not be done to lanes that could be deemed unsafe due to seams in the asphalt, standing water, and other hazards, those that are too narrow, or place bicyclists in the "door zone."

Commissioner SMITH suggested that the proposed lane on W. 8th Street be joined to W. 13th Street using K Street, so that the lane on W. 8th Street does not dead-end into Martin Luther King Jr. Way. He suggested that same should be done with the E. 11th Street bike lane near Don Stowell Elementary School, by using the north/south connection of E Street next to the school. Commissioners also suggested N Street as an alternative to M Street.

There was concern from the Commission regarding the condition of roadways and whether striping should be placed on those streets, as well as the quality of paint materials. They expressed that they may need time as a group to investigate these concerns further. Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT suggested that the Merced Bicycle Coalition organize a ride to survey the area.

Chairman GUZZETTA accepted public comment from the audience.

Griselda VILLA, Golden Valley Health Centers, assisting the Healthy South Merced project, stated her support for striping bike lanes in South Merced, stating that bike lanes are something that the community members and schools have expressed is a need in the area.

There were no other public comments.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER TYLER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KAYSER-GRANT, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (ONE ABSENT), TO CONTINUE THIS ITEM TO THE JUNE 26, 2012, MEETING IN ORDER TO GIVE MEMBERS TIME TO SCOPE OUT THE SUBJECT AREA WITH THE HELP OF THE MERCED BICYCLE COALITION IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MORE INFORMED COMMENTS AT THE JUNE MEETING.

(G) <u>BELLEVUE CORRIDOR COMMUNITY PLAN – INTRODUCTION & DISCUSSION</u>

Principal Planner KING introduced the Bellevue Corridor Community Plan, explaining the geographic area that the plan would encompass and how a community plan is used.

Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT stated that the northwest/southeast high-power tension line area and the Lake Road/UC Community area should definitely be connected with a Class I facility, taking them through the housing developments and business parks that will eventually go in. The facilities should be planned first, and everything else should be filled in around them, much like the street network. For further effective mobility, she stated she also would encourage Class I bike paths cross busy streets with the use of above- and below-grade crossings and that they be planned for long in advance. Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT stated that strategically-place over- and underpasses along Bellevue Road would be desired.

Commissioner SMITH suggested connecting the open space/park areas to the regional park and noted, as the Bellevue Corridor will eventually be a major connection to the Castle Business Park and use of Castle by UC Merced will likely continue, placing Class I paths along Bellevue to west of M Street, then continuing past Highway 59 to Castle, should be considered. He also added that, as standards are developed for the business parks, qualifying businesses should be required to provide lockers and showers to their employees to encourage bike commuting.

Chairperson GUZZETTA stated that he would like to see a physical separation of bicycles from traffic lanes, to encourage bike transportation to and from the university. He also suggested a connection from Lake Road and across the Lake Yosemite dam leading to Old Lake Road.

Commissioner MIDDLEBROOKS stated that bicycle detectors at intersections should be part of the plan, and Commissioner NOBLE recommended a thorough plan for consistent maintenance of bike paths and lanes.

(H) 2013 BIKE PLAN UPDATE

Principal Planner KING explained that the Merced Bike Plan is an implementation tool of the General Plan, essentially a foundation document for grant applications to the California Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA). He explained that policies within the bike plan should be consistent with the General Plan, where establishment of new policies should also be done. He further reviewed the work to be done, listed on the task list, in 2012.

Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT presented information regarding a bicycle master plan seminar in Portland, Oregon, and suggested that it would be wise to send a representative to the seminar in order to learn how to craft the City of Merced's vision. She suggested the City's bike plan representative from MCAG, Janelle YORK. Commissioner NOBLE stated his support for this idea.

Mr. KING stated that review of the bike plan update process will be brought to the Commission at the June meeting.

Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT stated that she would like to see more personal invitations to indentified community groups to invite them to the public meetings and the public meetings themselves developed into a directed input process. She also stressed the importance of including education, enforcement, and encouragement projects and programs, not just infrastructure items.

(I) <u>2012 NATIONAL BIKE MONTH (MAY 2012) – UPDATE REGARDING</u> <u>COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES FROM COMMISSIONER SIMS-CULOT (2012</u> BIKE MONTH COMMUNITY LIAISON)

Commissioner SIMS-CULOT reviewed the list of activities that are being planned for Bike to Work Day on May 18, 2012. Five energizer stations are planned by Mercy Hospital at the hospital at G Street and Mercy Avenue and at M and W. 26th Streets. UC Merced will host an energizer station at the Promenade Center at Yosemite and Parsons Avenues, Golden Valley Health Centers will host one at their administrative location at N Street and Childs Avenue, and the Merced Bicycle Coalition will host a station at the Bob Hart Square. She also explained that Commute Connection is also offering incentives on their website for pledging to ride to work.

Commissioner NOBLE stated his understanding that the Boys and Girls Club may have approximately twenty bicycles in storage that perhaps the Merced Bicycle Coalition could use as an opportunity to offer a bike rodeo or bike safety clinic to that organization.

Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT added information about MBC activities, and reminded the Commission about the National Bike Challenge spanning from May 1 through August 31, 2012. She added that the All-Merced Road Ride and Ride with the Mayor would probably not happen this year due to the original organizer moving out of the area and late notice to Commute Connection, respectively.

(J) <u>BIKE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY APPLICATION – DISCUSSION:</u> <u>GATHER COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS AND DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONING A 2012 UPDATE APPLICATION TO JULY 2013</u>

Planning Technician NUTT asked the Commission to report any progress that may have been made around the community over the past year that staff is not aware of. She suggested that, if there has not been any significant progress, that an update application for the LAB's Bike Friendly Community Program be skipped this year. She emphasized that the City's Fall 2010 recognition as an Honorable Mention Community has not changed.

Commissioner NOBLE suggested that there will likely be more significant progress next year, in 2013, to be able to add significant achievements to an update application then, naming several projects now in progress that will connect or repair facilities. He

stated that perhaps there will be education/encouragement projects begun by then, as well.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER NOBLE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MIDDLEBROOKS, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (ONE ABSENT), TO POSTPONE THE WORK ON A BIKE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PROGRAM UPDATE APPLICATION TO NEXT YEAR (2013), AS THERE HAS NOT BEEN ENOUGH SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS MADE ON THE BFC GOALS THIS YEAR.

(K) <u>2011-2012 BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION ANNUAL ATTENDANCE</u> <u>REPORT</u>

1. ACTION: REVIEW AND APPROVE

The Commissioners had no questions or concerns. Ms. NUTT explained that Commissioner NOBLE's one absence, which put his attendance percentage below 70%, was acceptable, given the cancelled meetings during the year.

ON MOTION OF CHAIRPERSON TYLER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KAYSER-GRANT, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (ONE ABSENT), TO ACCEPT THE ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT AS WRITTEN.

(L) INFORMATION ITEMS

ADD-ON INFORMATION-SHARING ITEMS

- a) Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT reminded the commission that May 8, 2012, is the LAB's first annual National Bike to School Day. There was a short discussion about next year's Bike Month activities, to organize additional energizer stations for UC Merced and other schools.
- b) Commissioner TYLER asked staff for an update on any pending bike path construction projects. Mr. KING stated that he understands that the Cottonwood Creek path connection south of Yosemite Avenue from Lake Road may be moving to fruition. He also stated that there may be an interagency project in the works about a bike lane project along Santa Fe Road.
- c) Mr. KING briefly explained how budget cuts have affected the Development Services Department relevant to servicing the Commission and asked for their understanding and cooperation in keeping focused on its goals.

- d) Planning Technician NUTT shared that she attended a webinar on February 15, 2012, put on by the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) entitled "Land Use Planning: Routine Inclusion of Bicycling and Walking in New Developments." She stated that she would like to share the webinar's PowerPoint presentation and other information with the Commission at a future meeting. Chairperson GUZZETTA stated they would appreciate the training, and Commissioner TYLER suggested occasional study sessions for training of these types of materials.
- (M) <u>ADJOURN TO THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF</u> <u>TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2012, AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS</u>

ON MOTION FROM COMMISSIONER MIDDLEBROOKS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SIMS-CULOT, CHAIRPERSON GUZZETTA ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 5:07 P.M. TO THE ADJOURNED REGULAR BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING ON TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 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