CITY OF MERCED BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION

<u>MINUTES</u>

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS 678 W 18TH STREET MERCED, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY March 26, 2013

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

(B) ROLL CALL

Present: David Guzzetta (Chairperson)

Lisa Kayser-Grant Kara Middlebrooks Jules Comeyne Robert Tyler David Noble

Patrick Bauer (Ex-Officio member)

Absent: Julianne Sims-Culot (excused)

(One vacancy – Ex-Officio member)

Staff Present: Bill King, Principal Planner

Kim Nutt, Recording Secretary/Planning Technician II

Isai Palma, Planning Intern

(C) <u>APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2012, AND FEBRUARY 26, 2013</u>

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MIDDLEBROOKS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COMEYNE, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, ONE ABSENT, TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 11, 2012, AND FEBRUARY 26, 2013, MINUTES, AS SUBMITTED.

(D) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no oral communications to report from the audience.

(E) <u>2013 BIKE PLAN UPDATE – PUBLIC COMMENTS</u>

Planning Intern PALMA and Principal Planner KING presented staff's report for this item. The Commissioners thanked City staff and volunteers for providing the public an opportunity to participate in the update process.

(F) <u>2013 BIKE PLAN UPDATE – PROPOSED PROJECTS, OBJECTIVES, AND RANKING</u>

Principal Planner KING gave a PowerPoint presentation for this item. He asked the Commissioners to rank proposed projects and stated that the Cost Objective would be deferred to a later time, when looking at feasibility of a project already prioritized.

Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT stated that the focus of the Bicycle Transportation Plan should be the on-street Class II and III facilities, not Class I, which though they are an element in bicycle transportation, she considers them more recreational-related, given the obstacles commonly found on them.

Chairperson GUZZETTA accepted public comment:

Joe BRUCIA, a resident on El Portal Drive, Merced, stated he does not know what a support facility or sharrow is and how to connect to the transit bus. He also asked if the Bike Plan could explain what a sharrow facility is, rather than it stating that explanation of its meaning would come with public outreach later. Also, he stated that he and his neighbors question an undercrossing at McKee Road, which is listed under proposed improvements for East Merced, in favor of a "safe crossing," citing problems they have observed with undercrossings already in the area. (Secretary's note: Mr. Brucia made this comment during Item E. – however, he was commenting on the topic for Item F., so his comment is moved to this section of the minutes.)

Isai PALMA, Merced, restated that there are hazards that could also be safety concerns, so he asked for that to be clarified.

Rod WEBSTER, Merced, stated that in the Objective entitled *Project Readiness*, the factor "Focus on projects that are fully or partially funded" should be a *Cost* objective factor. He also stated that repair and maintenance should go under *Safety*, as it is not an enhancement of an existing system. He also added that under *Project Readiness*, staff should be providing the Commission with background information when it comes time to evaluate a project.

There were no other comments from the public.

Commissioner NOBLE agreed with Mr. BRUCIA's comment that the implied decision to place an undercrossing at McKee Road is premature, stating that it is just an idea at this time, and suggested the wording in the draft plan could be changed to include consideration of other types of crossings. Commissioner TYLER added that recognizing funding sources that are tied to specific developments' improvements should be recognized.

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To summarize, the Commission's changes to the Project Ranking Worksheet were, by Objective:

- Connection to Activity Centers: give heavier weight to "Providing access to local and regional centers."
- Safety: delete the word 'barriers' from "Eliminates existing hazards and barriers;" add "and Education" to the title of the Objective; move "Bridging gaps in existing bikeways" to the objective Enhances Existing System; change "Enhances bikeways in areas of high population density" to "Improve bikeway safety in areas of high population density;"
- Enhances Existing System: Create a new ranking factor in this objective named "Eliminate existing barriers" and give heavier weight to this factor; delete the factor "Connects regional or county networks" entirely; add a factor dealing with repair and maintenance.
- Transit Access/Support Facilities: change "Provide connections to support facilities..." to "Provide and connect to support facilities...."

Though a vote was not taken, there was a general consensus of the above changes. The Commissioners then ranked the Categories individually on their scoring sheets and submitted them to Mr. KING.

(G) <u>SECOND REVIEW – DRAFT BICYCLE PARKING ORDINANCE</u>

Chairperson GUZZETTA reviewed the changes that the subcommittee of he and Commissioner NOBLE had made. Using the Bicycle Parking Guidelines from the 2008 Bike Plan, the subcommittee recommended keeping the guideline document's recommended 10% for commercial bike parking spaces and increasing the number of spaces for public buildings to 20%. The subcommittee also commented on the *Merced Vision 2030 General Plan* bike parking policies. Staff advised that no changes are being made to the General Plan policies; however, the changes suggested can be used towards the Bicycle Parking Ordinance Code being drafted.

A motion by Commissioner TYLER, seconded by Commissioner NOBLE, was made to accept the changes made by the subcommittee to the Bicycle Parking Guidelines. Before the vote was finalized, Planning Technician NUTT asked for clarification of the motion. Realizing a conflict between the draft ordinance and the bike parking guidelines, the Commission abandoned the current vote in favor of further discussion.

For non-residential developments, the Commission agreed that a percentage of 8% of vehicle spaces required would ensure a compromise between the CalGreen Code and the City's established guidelines. The Commissioners also agreed to include

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requirements addressing public buildings and parks, so those areas are assured enough parking.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER MIDDLEBROOKS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NOBLE, ONE ABSENT, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, TO ACCEPT THE DRAFT ORDINANCE FOR RESIDENTIAL USES AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF; TO ACCEPT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL USES AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF, EXCEPT TO CHANGE THE RECOMMENDED PERCENTAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR: SHORT-TERM BICYCLE PARKING, FROM FIVE PERCENT (5%) TO EIGHT PERCENT (8%), AND LONG-TERM BICYCLE PARKING, FROM FIVE PERCENT (5%) TO EIGHT PERCENT (8%); AND TO INSERT REQUIREMENTS THAT ADDRESS BICYCLE PARKING IN PUBLIC PLACES AND BUILDINGS TO PROVIDE BICYCLE SPACES NUMBERING TWENTY (20) PERCENT OF VEHICLE PARKING NORMALLY REQUIRED, OR IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE IN THE FACILITY FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES SUCH AS MUNICIPAL OFFICES, PARKS, SWIMMING POOLS, AUDITORIUMS, CHURCHES, AND SIMILAR USES, AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS KAYSER-GRANT, MIDDLEBROOKS, COMEYNE,

TYLER, NOBLE, AND CHAIRPERSON GUZZETTA

NOES: NONE ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: SIMS-CULOT

(H) <u>2012-2013 BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION ANNUAL ATTENDANCE</u> REPORT

1. ACTION: REVIEW AND APPROVE

Commissioners TYLER and KAYSER-GRANT both stated their desire for reappointment. Commissioners MIDDLEBROOKS and NOBLE stated that they would not like to continue serving as Commissioners after their term expires at the end of June. One non-voting Ex-Officio member seat remains vacant at this time, and Ex-Officio Commissioner BAUER stated his agreement with the attendance data. The Commissioners had no questions or concerns with the data.

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

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(I) <u>INFORMATION ITEMS</u>

1. ADD-ON INFORMATION-SHARING ITEMS

Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT submitted a proposal entitled "Alternatives to Class I Bike Path on Bear Creek Drive between (West) 25th Street and (West) 16th Street, City of Merced Bikeway Project 'In Progress' as of 3-2013."

Additionally, she announced that the Fresno Bicycling Coalition is putting together an LCI Training Seminar in early Summer, which requires a prerequisite class of Traffic Skills 101 that she can teach. She is interested in setting up a Traffic Skills 101 class in early June 2013 for those interested in taking it. She also announced that she is trying to organize a ride with Planning and Engineering Departments for possibly the first Saturday in June for the purpose of experiencing and discussing bikeways in Merced.

Commissioner TYLER asked Mr. KING to update the Commission on the status of the Ten-Mile Grant. Mr. KING said that he would ask Engineering staff to provide an update via e-mail.

(J) ADJOURN TO THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2013, AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ON MOTION FROM COMMISSIONER TYLER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COMEYNE, DULY CARRIED (ONE ABSENT), CHAIRPERSON GUZZETTA ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 5:17 P.M. TO THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 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