CITY OF MERCED
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION

M I N U T E S

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
678 W 18TH STREET
MERCED, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY
February 23, 2016

Chairperson TYLER called the meeting of the Bicycle Advisory Commission to order at 3:01 p.m.

(B) ROLL CALL

Present: Robert Tyler (Chairperson)
Justin Hicks
Lisa Kayser-Grant
Isai Palma
Jules Comeyne
Tom Hothem (Vice Chairperson)
Katy Oestman
`

Absent: (Two vacancies, two Ex-Officio)

Staff Present: Bill King, Principal Planner
John Sagin, Principal Architect
Joel Svendsen, Associate Engineer
Nicholas Fong and Thomas Dumas, Caltrans District 10

(C) APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2015

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER COMEYNE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HICKS, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (NO VACANCY), TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 8, 2015, MINUTES, AS SUBMITTED.

(D) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There was no oral communication.

(E) PLANNING FOR BIKEWAYS ON THE MISSION AVENUE INTERCHANGE

Principal Planner KING presented the report noting the importance that the Mission Avenue Interchange plays in connecting the City's planned Class I Bikeway in South

Merced on either side of the Mission Avenue/Campus Parkway interchange, and introduced Thomas Dumas and Nicholas Fong of Caltrans District 10. Both Caltrans representatives and City Staff noted that although there is room for bikeways on the overpass, that they were not installed because of the lack of bikeways in the area at the time the interchange was constructed. The Commission voiced their support for bikeways on the overpass with connections to the nearby growing urban neighborhoods. Discussion continued about need to restripe and associated costs and funding sources. The Commission concluded their discussion by discussing the importance of knowing what road projects are occurring and how they can be involved during the early design phase of the process, emphasizing that all roads in the City are important for bicycle transportation.

CAPITAL PROJECT RELATED ITEMS (Engineering Department)

(F) ROUND III ATP APPLICATIONS
1. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT
2. MOTEL DRIVE SIDEWALK GRANT

Principal Architect SAGIN presented a report about two draft Active Transportation Planning (ATP) Grant applications to: 1) fill in approximately 7,000 feet of missing sidewalk gaps around John Muir School; and, 2) to install approximately 2,000 linear feet of sidewalk and bikeways on Motel Drive (between Merced Avenue and Carol Avenue), and invited the Commission to comment. The Commissioners discussed the projects, and for the Motel Drive project recommended the use of either bike lanes or sharrows (whichever fits best), emphasizing that: 1) both sides of the road should be treated with the same type of bikeway facility; 2) use of signage on roadway and poles (which includes "bikes may use full lane," if sharrows are installed, 3) a multiuse pathway is not an appropriate facility along this road and generally not used except in very limited circumstances; and, 4) that Staff include proposals to add bikeway-related signage and marking improvements as necessary at the intersection of Motel Drive and State Highway 140 in the ATP application.

(G) BEAR CREEK BIKEWAY PROJECT - ALTERNATIVE DESIGNS

Principal Architect SAGIN presented a report about the draft application to compete for Caltrans Active Transportation funds to install bikeway features in the area just east of Bear Creek between 16th Street and 25th Street Plan, connecting to the Class I Bike Path that exists along the northeast side of the BNSF Railroad corridor near the Merced Marketplace Shopping Center. The Commission offered several ideas, notably the need to improve the exiting pathway crossing of Bear Creek at the BNSF rail line. Staff asked for

additional comments from the Commission to be provided at or before the regularly scheduled April 26, 2016, Bicycle Advisory Commission meeting.

(H) REVIEW OF DRAFT CITY OF MERCED STANDARD BIKEWAY-RELATED DESIGNS

Principal Architect SAGIN presented a report about the draft City of Merced Standard Bikeway-related Designs. The Commission requested additional time to review and comment, to which Staff granted, noting that Commission comments can be provided at or before the regularly scheduled April 26, 2016, Bicycle Advisory Commission meeting.

POLICY/BIKE PROMOTION/DEVELOPMENT RELATED ITEMS (Planning Department)

(I) BIKE MONTH AND 2ND ANNUAL DIRECTOR'S RIDE

Principal Planner KING presented the report, identifying April 23, 2016, as the date of the event. The Commission and City Staff assigned tasks in order to put on a successful event similar to last year.

(J) ANNUAL BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Principal Planner KING presented the effort to prepare an "Annual Bicycle Advisory Commission Report to the City Council" in the Spring of 2016, in order that the City Council may be kept abreast of the activities of the Bicycle Advisory Commission (BAC) and the roles City Staff play in the attainment of the purpose of Ordinance 2323, which created the BAC as an advisory body to the City Council on matters having to do with bicycle transportation within the City of Merced. The Commissioners discussed the topic and expressed their support for it, and then took action to establish a sub-committee.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HICKS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HOTHEM, DULY CARRIED BY A 7-0-0-0 VOICE VOTE (NO VACANCY, COMMISSIONER NO ABSTAINSIONS), TO FORM A TEMPORARY "ANNUAL BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE" WHOSE MEMBERS ARE COMMISSIONERS GRANT, HOTHEM AND HICKS IN ORDER TO, WITH PLANNING STAFF, MEET WITH CITY DEPARTMENT HEADS; REVIEW THE DRAFT REPORT; ASSIST IN STAFF

PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL; AND, WHOSE FINAL ACTION IS TO REPORT BACK TO THE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON JUNE 28, 2016.

OTHER

(K) BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION REQUESTS, INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. BEAR CREEK PROJECT ALTERNATIVE AND REPORT TO COUNCIL

Chairperson TYLER described the positive experience he had with the City Council stating that presenting the Commission's recommendation assisted the City Council in deciding their action to focus on the northern portion of the project.

(L) ADJOURN TO THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2016, AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ON MOTION FROM COMMISSIONER HOTHEM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GRANT, DULY CARRIED, CHAIRPERSON TYLER ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 5:05 P.M. TO THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2016, AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 678 W. 18TH STREET, MERCED, CALIFORNIA.

BY:

Bill King

BILL KING
COMMISSION SECRETARY

APPROVED:

Robert Tyler

ROBERT TYLER, CHAIRPERSON
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION