

**CITY OF MERCED**  
**Planning Department**

TO: Bicycle Advisory Commission  
FROM: Bill King, Principal Planner  
DATE: December 13, 2016  
SUBJECT: Communication with City Council

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**BACKGROUND**

At their October 2016 meeting, under the agenda item, “2017 Strategic Work Plan,” the Bicycle Advisory Commission (BAC) identified 5 key work plan actions; 3 sought to improve communication between the BAC and City leadership. The BAC expressed a strong interest to open up a direct line of communication with the City Council at their regularly scheduled meeting. The BAC requested that an item be placed on the December 2016, BAC agenda where this topic could be discussed in greater detail.

**DISCUSSION**

At the October 2016, BAC meeting, the initial idea was for a designated spokesperson to address the City Council in a positive approach with a simple update of bike-related activities. The idea of presenting under the “Report” portion of a City Council meeting was also expressed.

Staff and the City Manager fully support and encourage the BAC to communicate via a simple presentation during the “Oral Communication” portion of the City Council meeting. In this setting, members of the City Council may ask questions of the BAC spokesperson, thereby opening up an opportunity for dialog. If deemed necessary, the City Council could opt to place a topic on a later agenda for a more in-depth conversation. Having a City Commission make a report to Council, however, would set a precedent that is not supported.

**ACTION**

Take a formal action regarding whether or not the BAC will work to create a written statement for presentation to the City Council. An ad-hoc working committee would need to be formed, members selected, and the motion needs to include an end-date of the work from this committee.