



BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

7:00 p.m., Wednesday April 15, 2009
Hillview Community Center-Room 18
97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, California 94022

Roll Call: Carl Hagenmaier (Chairperson), Scott Chan (absent), Bill Crook, Jim Fenton, Chris Hlavka, Henry Pastorelli and Randy Rhody ; Staff Liaison Kathy Small

Public Comments:

See item 3.

Discussion:

1. Minutes of March 18 2009 BPAC meeting were approved (6-0)
2. Discussion of 2009 goals. We agreed to keep the 2009 goals as a “working” document and to put them on the web site.
3. Identify and Prioritize Intersections for Pedestrian Improvement
James Wing, a Los Altos resident, addressed the committee. His written statement is appended to these minutes. Bill Crook’s list of intersections was adopted with minor changes and intersections were assigned for members to survey. We agreed on the information we would gather and Carl volunteered to design a form. Members should complete the survey and return the forms to Carl by May 13.
4. Stevens Creek Trail update. Four cities meeting is now scheduled for May 11. We are standing by.
5. Bike to Work Day: Date is May 14. Henry P is coordinating. Kathy will arrange for tables, and Randy will pick up on the 13th. Chris will bring banner on the 14th or get it to Henry before then.
6. Traffic Commission Update: Bill presented an update of TC activities.
7. VTA BPAC update: Carl presented an update:
 - a. SCT is on the BEP funding list.
 - b. Country Roads will be letting the contract for widening Foothill expressway shoulders on the Loyola Corners underpass on 5/5. Using stimulus funds for this project.
8. Capital Improvement Programs status (Kathy Small): Kathy presented an update on the city activities. There were no significant changes.
9. Next meeting May 20. The agenda will include:
Approval of minutes (action), Intersection pedestrian improvements (action), SCT update (discuss), BTWD (discuss), TC update (inform), VTA update (inform), CIP update (inform)

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Carl Hagenmaier

Public Comments by James Wing

Traffic Commission Member

Subject: Traffic Commission 2/25/09 Meeting, Discussion Item 4 Pedestrian Street Crossings

Thank you for your interest in improvements to Los Altos pedestrian street crossings. Your interest is greatly appreciated and I feel you will be able to help many needed projects get started. I would like to offer some projects for your consideration.

Right turn lane Northbound Foothill Expressway to Eastbound Main [300 Pedestrians/day]

Visibility of pedestrians about to enter Foothill right turn crosswalk is restricted by County streetlight pole, two traffic signal boxes, shrubs, and one pine tree. Critical eye contact is very hard to establish between pedestrians and approaching high speed Foothill Expressway right turn drivers. My efforts over the past three years with County staff have not resulted in any improvements. Traffic Commission's influential opinion on this issue would be helpful.

Orange avenue crosswalk twenty feet prior to "Y" intersection with Lincoln [20 Pedestrians/day]

Several years ago a much-needed ADA accessible crosswalk was built at this intersection which links three churches. Weekends are when it gets heaviest use. Curbs were rebuilt with ramps and visibility impaired bumper pads. No crosswalk white striping has been provided on Orange to warn drivers to look for pedestrians. Curbs next to crosswalk have not been painted for "no parking" and often crosswalk is blocked by parked cars. City staff has been notified of this but no response. Traffic Commission's influential opinion on this issue would be helpful.

Right turn Eastbound University to Milverton [40 Pedestrians/Day]

Pedestrians who exit Milverton and walk across University must stand in the right turn lane to look for approaching University cars. Ability of pedestrians to make eye contact with drivers is restricted by trees, shrubs, and street drainage erosion at pavement edge. Pedestrians need a place to stand that is out of the way of Eastbound University cars turning right to Milverton [150/day]. Staff [prior Public Works Director James Porter, Traffic Engineer Tom Ho] proposed a design that provided a safe place for pedestrians to stand. This design was added to a Traffic Calming project that has been stalled for several years. I recommend Traffic Commission review design and make it a stand-alone project.

Right turn Southbound Foothill Expressway to El Monte towards 280 [60 Pedestrians/day]

Visibility of pedestrians about to enter Foothill right turn crosswalk is restricted by County streetlight pole, shrubs and ten feet high soundwall. Critical eye contact is very hard to establish between pedestrians and approaching high speed Foothill Expressway right turn drivers. The County recently rebuilt this right turn lane to be high speed [20mph], high capacity [3500 cars/day], and unrestricted with dedicated lane on El Monte. County does not have funds to make pedestrian improvements at this time. It would helpful if Traffic Commission provided visibility of this problem since citizen's voice at County does not carry much weight.

San Antonio pedestrian crossings at Pepper, Hawthorne, and Hillview [35 to 70 Pedestrians/day/crossing]

A super-majority of pedestrians who frequently use these crossings say drivers **do not see embedded flashing lights**. They also say improvement is needed and overhead flashing beacon lights would be the most effective. Council has not signed-off on project installed one year ago and has asked Traffic Commission for a recommendation. I hope that Traffic Commission will "listen to customers" when they make their recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration, Jim Wing, Milverton Road, Los Altos, CA