
PETALUMA PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 2

11 English Street, Petaluma, CA 94952

Roll Call: Committee: Album, Arras, Asselmeier, *Choi, Tacy, Webster
Staff: Frank Penry, City Traffic Engineer * Chairperson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 11, 2007 minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Committee will hear public comments only on matters over which it has jurisdiction. There will be no Committee discussion or action. The Chairperson will allot no more than five minutes to any individual. If more than three persons wish to speak, their time will be allotted so that the total amount of time allocated to this agenda item will be 15 minutes.

Jack Balshaw – Would like to see a “street” striped through the Airporter parking lot to better delineate where traffic should drive in the area.

Tom Maunder – In the 20 years he has lived in Petaluma, he has never seen traffic as bad as it is now and commended PBAC on their good works to try to remedy this.

Phil Boyle – Phil is an Associate Planner and wanted to introduce himself to PBAC members that may not know him. He is also a member of the Petaluma Green Team and mentioned that they may want to team with PBAC for future events (and thanked PBAC for sharing booth space during Butter and Egg Day street fair). One idea the Green Team had identified was asking PBAC to organize bike rides to the Green Building Expo on October 13. Phil will meet with PBAC at a later date to discuss this event.

STAFF: Larry Zimmer, Capital Improvements Division Manager, will discuss bike lanes on the Bodega Avenue / Washington Street Corridor. – Larry came to PBAC once more to try to get PBAC’s direction on how to proceed with Bodega Avenue between Howard and Webster. The bikeway map shows this as a proposed Class II route, but due to the restricted right-of-way and on-street parking, this is almost impossible. Frank also mentioned that his hands are tied when it comes to applying for grants for a Class III route until the bikeways map is changed. PBAC members were hesitant to make modifications to the bikeways map without additional information. Larry agreed to provide PBAC with a memo describing existing conditions and possible design solutions. It was agreed that bikeway classifications for the entire Bodega/Washington corridor will be discussed at the May 9 meeting.

Larry also updated us on the River Trail segment between Lakeville Street and Washington Street. The General Plan recommends extending Copeland Street to Petaluma Boulevard North, and if this is adopted, this extension would affect the proposed location of a bicycle and pedestrian bridge across the river. The consultant will develop a new trail design that should be completed next year that will determine the site of a new river crossing and alignment of trail at Copeland.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

1. Compliance and Safety – Dave mentioned that there is often nowhere for pedestrians to walk along Lakeville Street near Petaluma Boulevard North (along brick building) because cars are parked where a sidewalk should be. Bernie noted that there needs to be better signage at the railroad tracks crossing North McDowell Boulevard so bicyclists know to be careful when crossing the tracks (existing sign tells bicyclists to walk their bikes).
2. Grants/Funding – Two grant deadlines are coming up in May: Lifeline Transportation Program and the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Program. Public Works is reviewing possible projects.
3. Reports:
 - A. SCBC – Tom Maunder gave a report of the April 18 meeting. One highlight is that the Sonoma County Transportation Authority is providing \$60,000 to SCBC for five years (beginning FY 07/08) for Bike to Work Week (\$5K) and Safe Routes to Schools (\$45K). It was also mentioned that SMART may fund 75% of the bicycle and pedestrian facilities along the SMART corridor within the cities. Tom has been conducting bike rodeos around the county as part of Safe Kids Sonoma County, and will hold one at Valley Vista Elementary School on May 15.
 - B. County Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee – Bernie said that the County has said that they will search and apply for grants to help fund the Petaluma Boulevard North bike lanes. Western Avenue continues to be a hot topic with the Committee. Andy Eber would like to see it funded and completed as one project rather than two phases. A letter writing campaign will probably be the next step.
4. New Business
 - A. East Washington Place DEIR – comments due on April 30. – Members discussed some of the issues raised in the subcommittee’s latest document and how to construct the final document.
 - B. Bike to Work/School Week – We have gathered an impressive number of donations so far. Posters advertising the week’s events will start going up next week.
 - C. Butter & Egg Days Parade and Booth – Becky asked for volunteers to help out with the booth.

ADJOURNMENT

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