



City of Santa Barbara

Planning Division

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

April 2, 2015

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 1:03 P.M.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Addison Thompson, Vice-Chair John P. Campanella, Commissioners Jay D. Higgins, Mike Jordan, Sheila Lodge, June Pujo, and Deborah L. Schwartz.

STAFF PRESENT:

Allison De Busk, Acting Senior Planner
N. Scott Vincent, Assistant City Attorney
Steve Foley, Supervising Transportation Planner
Peter Brown, Mobility Coordinator
Julie Rodriguez, Planning Commission Secretary

II. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:

A. Action on the review of the following Draft Minutes and Resolutions:

1. Draft Minutes of March 18, 2015 Special Meeting / Workshop

MOTION: Jordan/Lodge

Approve the minutes as corrected.

This motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

2. Draft Minutes of March 19, 2015

MOTION: Jordan/Campanella

Approve the minutes as corrected.

This motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 6 Noes: 0 Abstain: 1 (Lodge) Absent: 0

- B. Requests for continuances, withdrawals, postponements, or addition of ex-agenda items.

None.

- C. Announcements and appeal.

None.

- D. Comments from members of the public pertaining to items not on this agenda.

Chair Thompson opened the public hearing at 1:07 P.M. and, with no one wishing to speak, closed the hearing.

III. DISCUSSION ITEM

ACTUAL TIME: 1:07 P.M.

BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

The City of Santa Barbara is updating its Bicycle Master Plan; the City last did a comprehensive Bicycle Master Plan in 1998. The Public Works Department will provide the Planning Commission with an update on the progress of the 2015 Bicycle Master Plan and the proposed public outreach strategy.

Contact: Peter Brown, Mobility Coordinator
Email: PBrown@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

Phone: (805) 897-2669

Peter Brown, Mobility Coordinator, gave the Staff presentation. Steve Foley, Supervising Transportation Planner was available to answer Commission questions.

Chair Thompson opened the public hearing at 1:23 P.M.

The following people commented on the project:

1. Ethan Shenkman was concerned about mobility access issues for the public, particularly the handicapped.
2. Scott Wenz, President, Cars Are Basic, submitted written comments and asked to be included as a stakeholder in future discussion. Concerned that no hard numbers on bicycle use will be collected.
3. Tom Becker, Automotive Coalition, was concerned that the data presented to City Council is not accurate or current. Stated that it is based on census data from 1998 and that SBCAG, who funded this plan, has the latest bike count and more accurate figures.

With no one else wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed at 1:33 P.M.

Commissioner's Comments:

Commissioner Schwartz:

- Suggested including a clear description of the project goals for the public.
- Asked that Staff return with a prioritization schematic on how priorities will be applied to the qualitative information.
- Suggested working with the consultant in adding a value to qualitative answers to determine level of importance and how this will translate to infrastructure improvements.
- Requested that Yardi Systems (Goleta), Citrex Online (Goleta), and Newshawk be included on the stake holder list.
- Requested that the Planning Commission be added to the project calendar, specifically the April and July meetings.
- Would like to see statistical or data analysis included in the consulting contract and asked that it be included in the project for a) refining the questions to be asked; b) how the data will be captured; c) how the data will be evaluated from qualitative data to quantitative information to determine what infrastructure projects will be recommended to Council and the Commission.

Commissioner Pujó:

- Would also like to see the project goals identified in the public outreach program. Does not see a basic outline of what the project is going to be and the expected time frame.
- Appreciated that there are Spanish handouts and workshops will be conducted in Spanish and hoped that they draw the Spanish-speaking community to attend a workshop.
- Appreciates the "8-80" concept for bike safety across all age groups.
- Suggested working with schools, Safety to Schools, and COAST for training and fostering safety and experience for grade school children.
- In addition to stake holder groups, suggested additional outreach.
- Suggested gearing the website and the survey to include both younger and older groups that will have different concerns and needs in bicycle use and safety.
- Suggested that survey framing include more opportunity for open-ended answers. Survey, as written, does not adequately capture information on the impediments to individual's increased bicycle usage.
- Stated that mapping should identify opportunities and locations where bike paths can intersect with multi-modal improvements consistent with key circulation elements and complete street's multi-modal goals.

Commissioner Jordan:

- Stated that this is an important task and shares some of the concerns about how it is being done.
- Would like a report on the existing status of bicycle routes, including cross-town routes, and constraints.
- Defines successful outreach as inclusive of the two public speakers heard today; people that are not necessarily in agreement with the Plan and people that typically would not have been involved.

- Suggested stake holder list have a middle or lower level of groups that could receive a packet, rather than make a stake holder meeting.
- Agreed that pedestrian improvements and bicycle planning be included.
- Stated that the overall goal should be that we should do everything possible to make it safer to ride a bicycle in the city and that we have a responsibility to work on the traffic congestion in the downtown area.
- Stated that we should do everything to promote employee biking in the downtown area.
- Would like to see the survey include questions about demographics. There are no age related questions on the survey.
- Stated that children riding bikes to school is a critical component.

Commissioner Schwartz left the dais at 2:09 P.M. and returned at 2:12 P.M.

Commissioner Campanella:

- Would be interested in seeing data on the use of bikeways as they now exist and conflicts and accident data for visitors versus residents.
- Stated that the plan should take into consideration people who are not familiar with biking in the area.
- Stated that this is a worthwhile effort and is a benefit with the increasing population and visitors. Would be interested in knowing how many people participate in the survey.

Commissioner Lodge:

- Concurs with many of the comments made by Commissioners and stated that workshops will more than likely be attended by bicycle riders and bicycle activists, and would like to see the workshops reach out to people that would not usually attend.

Commissioner Higgins:

- Agreed with many of the comments; finds the survey to be subjective and would like to see more objectivity.
- Would like to see more outreach done beyond the city, such as including commuters.
- Would like the public to weigh in on whether the objectives in the plan are still relevant or need to be updated.
- Suggested including taxi drivers and Uber drivers since they use the roads a lot.

Commissioner Thompson:

- Would like to see an effort made to reach out to organizations that are not bike oriented, such as car-oriented organizations.
- Noted that skateboarders are not addressed.
- Stated that the Bicycle Master Plan should include areas of the city that are not viable for bicycling, such as hillsides, and recognize this as a constraint. Only portions of the city are truly viable for bike riding.

The Commission looks forward to meeting with Staff again in July for an update.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

ACTUAL TIME: 2:48 P.M.

- A. Committee and Liaison Reports
1. Staff Hearing Officer Liaison Report
 - a. Commissioner Jordan reported on the meeting of April 1, 2015.
 2. Other Committee and Liaison Reports
 - a. Commissioner Campanella reported on Architectural Board of Review meeting of March 30, 2015.
 - b. Commissioner Higgins reported on the Citywide Way-Find Signage Program meeting of March 26, 2015.
 - c. Commissioner Lodge reported on the Water Commission hearing on March 9, 2015.
 - d. Commissioner Lodge reported on the Historic Landmarks Commission meeting of March 25, 2015.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 2:55 P.M.

Submitted by,



Julie Rodriguez, Planning Commission Secretary

