

**City of Los Angeles
Bicycle Advisory Committee Minutes
August 4, 2009**

**Parker Center Auditorium
100 N. Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

BAC Members In Attendance

Alex Baum	Mayor's Office (BAC Chairman Emeritus)
Glenn Bailey	Mayor's Office (BAC Chairman)
David Wolfberg	Mayor's Office
Jay Slater	Mayor's Office (BAC Vice Chairman)
Larry Hoffman	CD-4
Aaron Kirsch	CD-6
Bart Reed	CD-7
Aubrey Provost	CD-8
Ron Skarin	CD-9
Donald Rosenberg	CD-12
Joe Linton	CD-13
Brad House	CD-15

BAC Members Absent

Nidia Garcia	CD-1
Paul Backstrom	CD-2
Barry Seybert	CD-3
Jonathan Weiss	CD-5
Yolanda Davis-Overstreet	CD-10
Kent Strumpell	CD-11
Brian Frobisher	CD-14

City Staff

Michelle Mowery	LADOT Bicycle Planning and Outreach
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Guests

Tana Ball	LAUSD
Jeffrey Greer	LAPD Commanding Officer of Operations
Dorothy Le	LACBC
Hector Rodriguez	Metro Administration and Financial Services Manager

- 1. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M. by Committee Chairman Glenn Bailey.

Presentations and Updates

- 2. Los Angeles Police Department Update** - No report.

3. Safety Programs Update – Tana Ball from LAUSD reported on the Bike/Walk to School Day which will be held on October 7th. She encouraged all members of the BAC to participate. She reported that Wendy Greuel will hold her annual Child Health and Safety Fair in October.

Tana Ball reported that she will be attending and presenting at the Safe Routes to School National Conference to be held in mid August. She will report back to the BAC about the event in the upcoming October meeting.

4. Safety Program Update- Pat Hines – Not present but submitted an electronic report: there were a total of 636 seminars, 80 bicycle rodeos which results in a total of 85,548 students educated in bicycle safety.

5. Los Angeles Bicycle Coalition – Dorothy Le – Gave an overview of the active projects conducted by the LACBC. LACBC will conduct a bicycle count on Tuesday September 22, Wednesday September 23 from 7:30am to 9:30 am and 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm and Saturday September 26 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The bicycle count makes use of volunteers to count the number of pedestrians and cyclists at key intersections throughout the city to track year-to-year changes in walking and cycling as policy and urban infrastructure change. Bicycle counts are basic city planning tools that help change policy to encourage cycling. Most major US and European cities have them. The bicycle count will use Alta Planning's bicycle count methodologies. The overall goal is to make the data available for Transit, Public Health agencies and the City of Los Angeles so that policy makers can make more informed decisions with respects to bicyclists and pedestrians. Other projects include education and outreach for the 4th Street bicycle boulevard, City of Lights program which works to increase safety awareness to low-income communities, and LACBC members are submitting comments regarding the City of Los Angeles Bicycle Plan.

6. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – One public comment suggesting the BAC list email addresses or allow a place to make comments on the BAC website so that the public can offer input to agenda items.

Action Items

- 7. Approval of June 2, 2009 Minutes** – Approved.

8. Bicycle Plan Update - No Report. Michelle Mowery stated that Planning will coordinate responses and forward comments to Alta Planning. The policy document will soon be posted on the website. The Planning Department is accepting comments to the plan, comments can be made online via the website.

9. LAPD Officer Education and Training- Jeffrey Greer - Report from Jeffrey Greer, the Commanding Officer of Operations, regarding his specific duty to be the liaison between LAPD, BAC and facilitate bicycle related queries. He can be contacted at the following number: Jeffrey Greer, Commanding Officer of Operations, (213) 847-1998

Larry Hoffman reported about an officer bicycle training course in Massachusetts that provides a complete bicycle training course for officers to enforce bicycle laws. The program is free and specifically targeted at Law Enforcement groups. Larry further suggested that Jeffrey Greer contact this group to set-up training for LAPD.

10. Expo Line Phase 2- Kent Strumpell email report- BAC Planning subcommittee recommends that the Expo Bikeway be elevated with the train in the vicinity of the Pico-Gateway intersection. This would require including an additional 14 feet on bridge. BAC passed unanimously.

11. Pico-Olympic One-Way Street Conversion – Kent Strumpell email report- BAC planning subcommittee recommends that bicycle lanes be included in any revised Pico-Olympic one-way street conversion. BAC motion passed: 11 ayes and 1 abstained.

12. Metro Bikes-on-Rail Policy- Hector Rodriguez Metro Administration and Financial Service Manager- Hector reported on the current policy that limits bicycles on Metro trains during peak hours. This is increasingly becoming a sensitive issue as Metro ridership grows. In general there are various considerations for Metro regarding bicycles on trains which include the limited space in trains, different dimensions between light rail trains vs. subway trains and missing signage to identify ideal boarding location for bicyclists on subway. There are three points to stress: 1) Remove peak hour restrictions for bicycles, 2) Designate Bicycle locations on trains 3) Increase signage on trains and platforms. The Metro legal department is working on the legal opinion of risk for bikes, strollers, and baggage on board Metro Trains. Metro is working with several stakeholders to create a unified plan for bicycles and rail policy which includes: Metro Bicycle Department, Metro Marketing Department, Metro Planning, Metro Safety Division, LACBC and bicyclists at large. He also reported that there is a lack statistical data available on bicycle ridership aboard Metro, but hopes that new Transportation Census in the Fall will provide more information. Hector also explained current litigation that is taking place with bicycles as some cyclists leave bicycles unattended and bicycles become projectiles. Hector commented that even though a census will be conducted the figures may not show entire picture and recommends working together with several groups to find

a policy that works for everyone. Hector mentioned that Metro can work on better enforcement of current policies such as keeping the doorways clear, creating a better education campaign for all riders and increasing signage for bicycles to board trains.

BAC motion: The BAC supports the removal of Peak Hour bicycle restrictions aboard Metro trains. The BAC recommends and supports proper signage on Metro rail cars to indicate bicycle entrance. The BAC recommends that BAC members be added to and participate in the Metro Unified Plan for Bicycle and Rail Policy. Motion is passed unanimously.

Public comment:

Two public comments:

1) noting that removing peak hour restrictions on trains would be a big improvement. Pointed out that in Denver the policy allows for unlimited bicycles depending on train capacity. He also suggested that Metro create policy that allowed a minimum number of bicycles if the bus/train is crowded.

2) noting there are no restrictions on other users; why are there restrictions on bicycles?

13. Bicycle Rides in Each Council District - Aubrey Provost – Reported that there is no better way to increase awareness about bicycles than riding a bicycle. For example, CD 4 has conducted the Tour LaBonge bicycle rides for the past two years. Aubrey proposes a ride in all the districts and that CD 8 will conduct the Crenshaw Crush on September 27th at 9am starting in Leimert Park. Aubrey will present to the transportation committee the details of the ride.

BAC motion: Support the Crenshaw Crush bicycle ride. Motion is unanimously passed.

14. Blockage of Bicycle Lanes by Large Trucks, Unhitched Trailers etc.

Difficult to enforce since construction and other vehicles habitually obstruct bike lanes. If it is reported often times there is no resolution as the area has to have a no parking sign. Michelle Mowery explained that CA Vehicle Code (CVC) does not make it illegal to park in a bike lane. CVC guidance on this issue required vehicles to park within 18 inches of curb. The only restriction is if the bicycle lane is next to the curb then the LADOT policy is to post no parking or tow away signs. It is difficult to cite unhitched trailers which usually do not have a license plate.

BAC motion: Oppose blocking bicycle lane by large trucks or any other vehicle. Motion passed 11 ayes and 1 abstained

Two public comments one noting that an additional problem includes movie shoots where 20 different trucks are blocking the bike lane and forcing bicycle riders to ride in traffic and another commenting that there is no clear policy on what a film closure entails and it is unclear from the top-down.

15. Pending City Council Motions Relating to Bicycles- Glenn Bailey- Glenn would like to include status updates of bicycle motions when they are before the BAC or a subcommittee.

- 1) Motion to establish a bicycle facility in El Pueblo Plaza – Item referred to Advocacy and Education Subcommittee
- 2) Bicycle racks in all city facilities – Item referred to Advocacy and Education Subcommittee
- 3) York Boulevard bicycle parking in public right of way taking away vehicle parking for a bicycle corral. – Item referred to Advocacy and Education Subcommittee
- 4) Bike on sidewalk – no report

Public Comment:

One public comment noting that neighborhood councils are looking at an open and accommodating situation for everyone. Currently, there are no bicycle racks at the community civic auditorium which makes bicyclists feel like 2nd class citizens.

16. Alternative BAC meeting Locations- Glenn Bailey- Glenn reported that the Deaton Civic Auditorium will have a grand opening at the end of October. The BAC should be able to make reservations for the December meeting. The layout of the area is more open and friendly. He noted that there were a total of 17 bicycle racks near the area but was not sure if there were any bicycle racks near the auditorium. Glenn will attend the grand opening in October and report back on the facilities.

17. Schedule BAC Brown Act Training by City Attorney- Glenn Bailey- According to provisions in the City Council the BAC is subject to training regarding the Brown Act. Glenn will find out how long the training is and report back to BAC and either attend as appropriate or schedule accordingly.

Reports

18. Subcommittee Reports – Reminder Agenda's are due one week before the meeting date and please submit a copy to the whole committee.

Advocacy and Education – Ron Skarin – No Report. Meeting tentatively scheduled for September 15.

Bikeways- Joe Linton – No meeting.

Planning – Kent Strumpell – In action items

19. Bicycle Program Report – Michelle Mowery

Michelle provided an update on the bicycle plan: the policy document is being circulated around through different departments. There were a total of 5 summer bike rides in CD 4 of the Tour LaBonge rides. The department is keeping an eye on the 6th Street Bridge which is in the EIR process and is to include enough

width for a future bicycle lane. Update on the Sidewalk U-Rack parking project; the new Meter Hitch Bicycle Parking project; status update on budget and staffing issues: staff is on Furlough. The bikeways department is functioning with less people and less time: the bikeways group is functioning at 67% of what the staff situation was 5 years ago. The coordinator position is still vacant and the section is functioning with 40% of the staff.

20. Bikeway Engineering Report – Michelle Mowery Reporting for Paul Meshkin.

Michelle reported on the LA River Bike Path between Fletcher and Oros is under construction and bicyclists should expect a detour until March when the project will be complete. The department is working with the Expo authority and is submitting environmental clearance reports with the Federal Administration. The City of Santa Monica has finished their EIR and is ready to proceed with the Expo project. Taylor Bridge is pending and may require additional funding due to issue with at grade crossings. Status update on Sharrows: CD 13 is looking for funding, LADOT will fulfill the funding gap. Reseda Boulevard Bike Lane stopped because conflicts with peak hour lanes, this is an ongoing issue as many bike lane projects have been designed but ultimately stopped due to peak hour lane restrictions. The issue is under internal discussion within the department. In order to remove an existing bike lane a public hearing is required.

21. BAC Member Reports/Comments

Jay Slater announced that the Brentwood Gran Prix will take place Sunday August 9th from 7:00 am to 4:50 pm. He reported that the event will be bigger and better than last year and encourages everyone to attend.

22. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 9:34 PM

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