

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIKEWAY AND WALKABILITY  
COMMITTEE**

**February 1, 2017**

These meeting minutes represent an “action minute” format. A copy of the meeting audio tape can be obtained at the Public Services Department’s front counter located on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Costa Mesa City Hall. The Bikeway and Walkability Committee (BWC) of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in a regular meeting session at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 1, 2017.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ralph Taboada at 6:31 p.m. at the Costa Mesa Senior Center 695 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Costa Mesa, California.

**2. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Committee Members Present: Chair, Ralph Taboada,  
Vice-Chair, Cynthia McDonald,  
Member Cindy Brenneman,  
Member Jim Erickson,  
Member Leah Ersoylu,  
Member Maggie Gallagher,  
Member Richard Huffman II,  
Member James Kane,  
Member Jim Kerins,  
Member Flo Martin,  
Member John C. Merrill,  
Dr. Kirk Bauermeister, NMUSD

Committee Members Absent: Member Russell Baldwin,  
Member Andrea Marr,  
Member Brian Valles,  
Brent Stoll, Chamber of Commerce

City Council Liaison Absent: Katrina Foley

Staff Present: Raja Sethuraman, Interim Public Services Director,  
Elizabeth Palacio, Engineering Technician,  
Ruth Smith, Consultant

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments on items not on the agenda.

Chair Ralph Taboada requested public comments related to items on the agenda be made at the time item is up for discussion. Chair Ralph Taboada also requested moving Committee Member Comments, City Council Liaison Comments, and Staff Comments portion of the meeting to follow New Business. Public, Committee Member, and Staff Comments were welcomed during the item being discussed.

## 7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Ralph Taboada opened the items for discussion.

After discussion from the committee, Member Cindy Brenneman made a motion to approve the December 7, 2016, meeting minutes. Member Maggie Gallagher seconded the motion, the motion passed 11-0, with Member Jim Erickson abstaining from the vote.

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

None

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

### a. West 19<sup>th</sup> Street Bicycle Trail Project

Chair Ralph Taboada opened the item for discussion and invited Cindy Black to make a presentation on impacts of the West 19<sup>th</sup> Street Bicycle Trail Project to the Talbert Nature Preserve biological resources and sensitive habitats. Raja Sethuraman, Public Services Director, clarified the status of the project. The City Council, at their January 17, 2017 meeting, authorized staff to proceed with environmental review for the project. The environmental review will address impacts mentioned by Ms. Black and will provide mitigation strategies to address those impacts.

Public Comments:

- 1) Kevin Nelson, resident, has known Talbert Park and used to ride in it. He worked with Jay Humphrey on stopping the OC Pipeline Project out of love for Talbert Park. He states Talbert Park is rare and has an organic feel. The fact that it does not have infrastructure is what makes it organic.
- 2) Jay Humphrey, resident, continued Kevin Nelson's statement. He talked about the existing easement and added that the Southern California Edison trucks are rare in the area. He mentioned the willows that were removed. He is concerned with concrete being added. Runners do not like concrete either and he is totally against the project.
- 3) Kim is in favor of the bike path and is in favor of preserving nature. She wants both.
- 4) April Cray, bicyclist, agrees with Kim, and loves nature. She is concerned with safety and would love to see something that is both.
- 5) Member of the public, stated she is Native American, and is disgusted by the "progress" that destroys nature.

Committee Member Comments:

- 1) Member John C. Merrill asked what is being asked of the committee for this item. Raja Sethuraman, Public Services Director clarified that staff is following City Council direction to go forward with the environmental study. Member John C. Merrill asked if there was a need for this trail. Raja Sethuraman, Public Services Director responded that it is necessary to close important gaps in the bikeways system. He mentioned

we have secured grant funding and cannot go back and change the project unless the environmental report requires the city to do so.

- 2) Member Flo Martin stated she is in favor of expanding bikeways in Costa Mesa. Talbert Park is not Costa Mesa. She would like to stay within the city boundaries.
- 3) Member Jim Erickson suggested this conversation would be better after the environmental study is complete. He also noted that the south west corner of the City is expanding greatly.
- 4) Member James Kane, mentioned that if the bike trail project goes through, he favors the purple path shown in the project presentation.
- 5) Member Cynthia McDonald, asked when did Southern California Edison get the easement? Memos dated 2005 by Peter Naghavi do not mention the SCE easement.
- 6) Member Richard Huffman II, asked if the proposed trail would be allowed to flood.
- 7) Member Dr. Kirk Bauermeister asked if we didn't have the funds to construct the trail, would we be doing it.

b. East 19<sup>th</sup> Street Neighborhood Traffic Management Project

Raja Sethuraman, Public Services Director, provided the background for the project. East 19<sup>th</sup> Street is a connector from Irvine Avenue to the 55 Freeway. The City is trying to preserve the feel of the neighborhood while making it safer. He shared the positive outcomes of the Broadway Traffic Calming Project and referred to follow up studies that prove the project improved the quality of life of the residents. The City Council has awarded the project and has asked staff to present it to this committee.

Public Comments:

- 1) Geoff West, resident, mentioned East 19<sup>th</sup> Street is narrower than Broadway. This might slow the traffic too much if you consider the chokers and the sharrows being implemented. Costa Mesa Street will be next to be overloaded with cars. Geoff also asked if there were plans for a monument sign on the east entrance.
- 2) Mary McKenna, Broadway Street resident, supports this project. Broadway Street is very different now and she can finally sleep.
- 3) Jay Humphrey, resident, mentioned East 19<sup>th</sup> Street has been a concern since the 80's. He is concerned that the cars will be diverted.
- 4) Syndy Neyland, Broadway Street resident, used to not drive on Broadway before the project. She drives it now. Vegetation slows people down. She asked staff when sharrows or bike lanes can be introduced. Raja Sethuraman, Public Services Director clarified that E. 19<sup>th</sup> Street is already a bike route.

- 5) Kerry Weisbruch, Broadway Street resident, stated there are negatives too. The street has been narrowed down, but there were sidewalks added. She mentioned people do hit the medians sometimes. The speeds have been reduced as well as the noise. The East 19<sup>th</sup> Street Project will only be a benefit.

Committee Member Comments:

- 1) Member Flo Martin mentioned her son lives on Church Street and is in favor of this project.
- 2) Member Richard Huffman II, knows Broadway is safer since the project, the speeds have been reduced. This method has been used everywhere. The traffic volumes do not get reduced. He is glad that the public got a chance to express how much the Broadway project has improved their quality of life.
- 3) Member James Kane agrees with the project, except that it's not too bike friendly. He would like to add a "Bikes May Use Full Lane" sign because people do not know what sharrows are.
- 4) Member John C. Merrill said this project is like Broadway, but smarter. It will be better than Broadway.
- 5) Chair Ralph Taboada asked staff if sharrows can be implemented on E. 19<sup>th</sup> Street. Raja Sethuraman, Public Services Director told him they can be implemented.

Chair Ralph Taboada called for a vote supporting the East 19<sup>th</sup> Street Neighborhood Traffic Management Project. Member John C. Merrill made a motion to support the project. Vice-Chair Cynthia McDonald seconded the motion, the motion passed 11-1, Member Cindy Brenneman voting no.

c. Request for Vacation of Right-of-Way at 152 East 19<sup>th</sup> Street

Raja Sethuraman, Public Services Director, presented the history and proposal to vacate excess right-of-way at 152 E. 19<sup>th</sup> Street. Staff needs a recommendation from this committee to present this item to the Planning Commission then City Council for approval.

Member Jim Erickson made a motion to approve the vacation of right-of-way at 152 E. 19<sup>th</sup> St. Member Jim Kerins seconded the motion, the motion passed 8-4, Member Flo Martin, Chair Ralph Taboada, Member John C. Merrill, and Member Cindy Brenneman voting no.

d. Upcoming Projects

Raja Sethuraman, Public Services Director, updated the committee on the status of following projects:

- i. Trail Rehabilitation (Merrimac to Golf Course)
- ii. Arlington Bioswale

e. Items for Next Agenda

1. Member Jim Erickson would like to discuss the possibility of bringing the Cyclocross event back. If a race is not possible, maybe skills training can be done.
2. Member Flo Martin mentioned Roy Duval from Orange Coast College would like the Committee to participate in Green Coast Day. Roy would like to install donated bike racks and install them at no cost.
3. List of projects to complete – discussion by Raja Sethuraman
4. Recommendations

**4. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS (out of order)**

1. Member Cindy Brenneman mentioned that she thought it was interesting that E. 19<sup>th</sup> Street project was opposed by so many people at the last City Council meeting, therefore, sent to this committee for review, yet no one showed up here tonight to oppose it, except Geoff West.
2. Member Jim Erickson likes the order of the agenda with committee member comments at the end of the meeting and would like to suggest limiting the time to two minutes.
3. James Kane congratulated Raja Sethuraman for his promotion to Director of Public Services. He also congratulated staff for receiving an APWA Award for Harbor Cornerstone Multipurpose Trail. He likes the new locations of the recently installed bike rack at the Senior Center. He mentioned an upcoming webinar, A Walk to a Walkable Future, via americawalks.org. He asked staff for an update on the Harbor Cornerstone Trail bumps he mentioned at the previous meeting. Regarding Tanager Bike Tail, he asked if there are any other ways to prevent golf carts from entering the trail.
4. Flo Martin also shared concerns with the “ruffles” on the Harbor Cornerstone Trail causing bumps. She also asked if the lights were supposed to be on 24/7. She also asked how much the recently installed bike racks cost the City.
5. Chair Ralph Taboada talked about his recent trip to Fort Collins, Colorado. He was surprised to see so many people riding bikes in 18 degree weather. He will share pictures of all the interesting bike racks he saw there, at a future meeting.

**5. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS (out of order)**

None

**6. STAFF COMMENTS (out of order)**

Raja Sethuraman, Public Services Director, mentioned the City does have \$50,000 budgeted for bike racks this year. He updated the committee on the Placentia Avenue Bike Signal Crossing Project. He shared that the contractor was not responsive, therefore the City is working with the bonding company to get a substitute contractor to do the job. Regarding Harbor Cornerstone Trail, the trail was built to standards and had been reviewed by City Staff. Regarding Tanager Trail, poles are being modified to make the entrance 7' wide, not wide enough for cars to enter the trail. He mentioned the OC Marathon Street Closures will be discussed at the next City Council meeting.

Staff will modify the agenda to revise the order of public comments and committee member comments. He briefly spoke about the cooperative agreement between the City and OCTA for the transit project that will be going to City Council for approval.

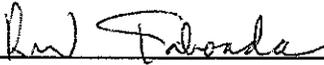
**10. NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

Next regular meeting March 1, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Costa Mesa Senior Center, 695 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Costa Mesa, California.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Submitted by:

  
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Ralph Taboada, Chair