MINUTES BICYCLE USERS SUBCOMMITTEE

City Hall - Council Conference Room Wednesday, October 16, 2013 - 5:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gene Hiegel, Chair Beth Trimble, Vice Chair Matt Leslie Karla Reinhardt John Carroll

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Vince Buck Jane Rands

STAFF PRESENT:

Jay Eastman, Senior Planner Dan Guerra, Clerical Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hiegel at 5:05 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no members of the public present.

MINUTES

MOTION made by Member Carroll SECONDED by Member Reinhardt to approve the minutes of September 18, 2013 with the following grammar corrections: "gave" instead of "give" on page 1, last paragraph; change "discusses" to "discussed" on page 2, last paragraph; and change "asks" to "asked", and "campaigned" to "campaign" on page 3, sixth paragraph. APPROVED 4-0; Member Carroll abstained because he did not attend the September meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. OCTA BikeLink Pilot Project

Senior Planner Eastman discussed an e-mail Member Buck distributed regarding a Bike Nation commentary on the LA Street Blog. Eastman stated that Bike Nation is the vendor for OCTA's BikeLink pilot project; he clarified the situations Bike Nation has had in other jurisdictions and provided a status report of Bike Nation's efforts in Fullerton. Eastman

stated two stations have been installed at City Hall and at the SOCO parking garage, and that a station at the FTC would be installed soon. Eastman handed out pictures of the City Hall and SOCO garage sites. BETA testing will be done when the equipment is operational. Eastman stated that BETA testers are needed to ride the bikes, and BUSC members will be asked to test. Seven other sites are scheduled to be installed shortly after the first three. Eastman clarified that half of the first ten stations will be in downtown; the other half will be around CSUF. A ribbon cutting is anticipated in mid-November after the ten sites are installed and BETA testing complete.

Member Trimble asked about the Walgreens site and stated that it is a good mid-point. Eastman said Walgreens has not yet given approval; so Walgreens will not be in the first ten locations.

Eastman stated that an e-mail will be sent out soon requesting volunteers for beta testing. Volunteer would be asked to ride the bikes for free for about 2 or 3 weeks. There will be glitches, problems and comments; beta testers must be prepared to send in commentary to Bike Nation.

Chair Hiegel asked if there will be signs at the train station indicating where the BikeLink stations are located. Eastman stated yes; and clarified that stations will be in downtown. He said, as an example, if a bike is picked up at City Hall, the rider can go downtown for lunch, and check the bike in at a station there.

Member Leslie asked if at the train station there will be signs indicating where the BikeLink stations are located. Eastman said not yet; but signs are likely in the future if the locations are used and aren't relocated. Member Leslie asked who will install them; Eastman stated it would likely be OCTA. Eastman said the City is focusing on the connectivity between stations at this time, and there is some question as to where the BikeLink stations will ultimately be located (or relocated), depending on usage.

Chair Hiegel asked if there will be maps showing where the stations are located. Eastman said yes; a map is required in the City/OCTA MOU. Maps may be digital. Eastman handed out the map showing the City's connectivity plan between stations, and discussed the intended improvements as shown in the draft connectivity plan.

Member Reinhardt asked about having Amerige identified as an alternate bike route for when Wilshire is closed for an event. Eastman suggested signage during events to direct riders around the closure. He indicated an option to route bicyclists through the alley east of Harbor, along Amerige and up to Wilshire. Member Reinhardt discussed that on Amerige there is no light button for a bike to cross Harbor. Member Carroll stated that a bike detector on Amerige is something to think about, especially after BikeLink stations are installed in Downtown. Chair Hiegel said it is something to think about in the long run; and more light signals need to be bike friendly. Eastman clarified that the grants the City will be pursuing must rely on the City's Bicycle Master Plan, which identifies Wilshire as a bike route, not Amerige.

Eastman discussed the approach at funding grants, and using the BikeLink program as a nexus for funding; he discussed the future possibility of connectivity improvements and expanding the bike share program.

Member Leslie asked if the BikeLink program will expand to St. Jude. Eastman stated it was initially considered since it is an employment center, regional destination and relates to a

healthy lifestyle; but St. Jude requires some significant uphill riding, which has potential problems with "balancing" bike usage (i.e., people only biking down the hill).

3. Sharrows Markings (heard out of order)

Eastman provided a brief overview of last months sharrow discussion. He said his time has been limited and he hasn't developed a policy in more depth than what was previously discussed. A formal policy will need to be developed with Mark Miller. Eastman said he has developed a list of streets that were identified by the BUSC, which are reflected in the connectivity map handed out during the last item discussed. Eastman stated he added sharrows on Nutwood Ave. west of State College, and Wilshire Avenue east of Acacia.

Member Carroll stated that he was at LA City College over the weekend and they have sharrows all around the campus. He discussed how the sharrows were very visible and drew attention to bicycling. He said the locations of the sharrows were near the center of the traffic lanes; he indicated there were parked cars along the street; and stated the sharrows were mid-block.

Member Leslie stated he was in Downtown Los Angeles over the weekend, around City Hall, and there were unique bicycle markings in the street. He stated that it seems different cities paint sharrows and bike lanes different colors, and asked what color Fullerton expected to paint its sharrows. Eastman will need to consult with Mark Miller regarding a standard sharrow color. He thought white is typical for sharrows; said green has been used by Caltrans for green lanes; and has seen red bike lanes in San Luis Obispo County. Member Leslie suggested a color like light orange, or yellow-green, as an option.

Member Leslie asked if we are discussing this to establish where the sharrows will go, or are we waiting on funding. Eastman discussed that the objective is to identify the locations, develop a policy; have staff take the policy to the BUSC for comment, then T&CC, then Council for approval. He stated that he cannot pursue grant funding if Council hasn't blessed the use of sharrows.

4. East Wilshire Avenue Bicycle Boulevard (heard out of order)

Eastman discussed a letter he received from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) congratulating the City on being awarded grant funds to design a Bike Boulevard on East Wilshire Avenue. Eastman stated SCAG will contact the City in the near future to discuss the process for moving forward. Funds will be received in early 2014 or sooner.

Eastman stated that some BUSC members asked to do quick fixes to East Wilshire until which time we receive funding. He said we can't just install diverters in the streets, because that requires a traffic analysis. Sharrows and signage are the best "quick" updates.

Vice Chair Trimble agreed with the sharrows and signage and suggested having maps that can be placed at the library, bike shops or online on the city web site.

Chair Hiegel asked if Eastman had talked to the Chamber of Commerce regarding their city map, which has incorrect bike routes. Eastman said he reviewed the Chamber's map and verified that it is inaccurate, and had e-mailed the City's Economic Development Manager and copied the Chamber, stating that the map is not accurate. Eastman does not know where they obtained their information.

Eastman had to leave the meeting due to a schedule conflict.

2. BIKE FULLERTON Public Outreach Program

Chair Hiegel stated that he had reviewed the information Vice Chair Trimble had e-mailed regarding a public outreach program, and felt it was very complicated, and did not think the BUSC was prepared to do a program of that extent. He thinks another group would need to be brought in to implement that program.

Vice Chair Trimble thought the largest problem is a lack of funding, and thinks the City needs to find funding before anything is put together. Member Carroll identified that funding requires that a plan be in place, and the BUSC now has material to develop a plan.

Member Reinhardt and Vice Chair Trimble discussed how the City of Irvine has a program where people that receive a traffic ticket can attend bicycle safety class to waive their fines. Member Carroll stated that CSUF currently does this for people who get a ticket on campus.

Chair Hiegel suggested that Senior Planner Eastman talk to the Police Department, and have them talk to Irvine about their program. Member Carroll was curious to know how Irvine's program is paid for.

Chair Hiegel identified that other program opportunities are available, such as giving out safety material at schools. Vice Chair Trimble said that prior conversations have discussed school outreach on a pilot project basis, and hoping that reaching out to the kids would connect to the adults and prevent traffic accidents.

Member Carroll suggested that the Committee review the materials and determine what items are reasonable, and discuss with staff on what needs to be done to write a grant proposal and receive funding.

The BUSC concurred that going to the schools is a great way to connect with drivers. The Committee agreed to review the material Vice Chair Trimble had previously circulated, and pick three or four things to be discussed in the next meeting that would be suitable as bike safety hand outs at schools, in order to begin the process of developing a plan.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Chair Hiegel asked to place the following items on the November 20, 2013 agenda: Update on the OCTA BikeLink Pilot Project; BIKE FULLERTON Public Outreach Program; and Sharrows Markings.

Member Leslie indicated that he thinks he has a scheduling conflict for the November meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.	
	Jay Eastman, Senior Planner