

Notes from Sept. 8, 2008 Richmond Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Agenda:

Welcome & Intro (Chair, A. Harris)
Agenda review
Website discussion
--Current status
--Next steps
Final Goal & Mission Discussion (Nancy Baer)
Leadership Discussion (Adrienne Harris)
Updates and announcements (Group)
--23rd St.
--Richmond Transit Village
Future Agenda Items
--Invite City Engineer Rich Davidson (Oct. 6) for funding discussion
--Further input on Circulation Element

Attendance: Adrienne H., Chair; Nancy B., County Health Dep't.; Joe L., Richmond Planning Dep't; Mike W., Richmond Planning Dep't, Debbi R., Pt. Richmond; Tess C., North & East Neighborhood Council; Pam M., Pt. Pinole Park (County resident); Marilyn Langlois, Richmond Mayor's Office (for opening comments); Whitney D., Parchester Village, East Bay Regional Parks Region 1 Candidate; Tony S., Richmond Greens & Richmond Progressive Alliance

Final Goal and Mission Discussion

Nancy: on RBPAC Vision, Mission and Goals Statement (draft & suggestions)

Vision

The RBPAC envisions a Richmond where residents and visitors can walk and bicycle safely to work, to school, on daily errands and to take advantage of Richmond's rich array of historical, artistic, and recreational opportunities. This is an important part of creating a healthy, livable, and just community—where people of all income levels and backgrounds have equitable access to community resources. We also believe that creating a pedestrian and bicycle-friendly community is part of our responsibility as citizens of the world to reduce our dependence on automobiles and reduce green houses gasses.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to work with the City to establish an interconnected network of bicycle lanes and paths throughout the City and create streets and sidewalks that are safe and appealing for walking. (*suggestion from group—language expressing access for everyone, irregardless of disability or age etc.*)

Goals

1. Foster Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning In The City of Richmond
 - a. Encourage, support, and provide input on the development of a Pedestrian Plan and Bicycle Plan for the City.

- b. Provide ongoing technical and best practices input to City Planning, Engineering and Parks Depts., and the Richmond Community Redevelop Agency on bicycle and pedestrian improvements.
 - c. Help insure that pedestrian and bicycle planning includes all affected and interested residents.
2. Advocate for “Complete Streets” that accommodate all users; including current best practices for pedestrians, bicyclists, and people with disabilities. (County Plan calls for “Routine Accommodation”). For bicyclists, facilities such as secure bicycle parking should be considered in all development projects and constructed where appropriate.
 3. Identify Funding Sources to support pedestrian and bicycle improvements, encourage and support funding applications.
 4. Foster Public Awareness of bicycling and walking facilities and encourage walking and bicycling.
 5. *add language—promote health*
 6. *add language—Review plans for pedestrians (change of language of item 1 of this list*

RBPAC website discussion:

Adrienne provided a screen shot of the website for discussion.

--A. Immediate question about the “Yes On T” graphic in the middle of the web page.

1. The “Yes On T” graphic gives the impression that the RBPAC participants had already endorsed Measure T: A Fair Share For Richmond.

a. After much discussion and debate, group accented to endorsing Measure T, since it was consistent with our goals as it would supply an additional source of revenue to the City, some of portion of which is likely to be used for bike and pedestrian purposes.

---Whitney pointed out, in the larger discussion of endorsements, that TRAC (Trails for Richmond Action Committee) doesn’t endorse anything not directly related to TRAC’s mission.

b. The endorsement is conditional upon seeking feedback from City legal staff that our endorsement of Measure T as the RBPAC and its prominent placement on the website would constitute a conflict of interest, because the RBPAC is using City resources to meet and to plan. If legal staff feels this causes a conflict, and is not recommended, Adrienne will remove the “Yes On T” banner and replace it with neutral text describing “T’s” purpose (*suggestion: and a link to the City’s website on with info on “T” and to “T’s” website?*)

B. Website has links to send emails to Richmond’s leaders (City Council, etc.)

C. Action Alert Section: Discussion about vision, purpose and content of this section.

Current content is links to City Leaders and Dept’s

--TRAC’s Action Alert webpage was cited as a example to be explored by the group.

Adrienne, I need your input on fleshing this part out.

D. Adrienne asks for Content: Photographs, text, relevant links and other info\

E. Nancy: Has Power Point presentation which will provide pedestrian content

Guest Whitney Dotson:

1. a. Whitney addressed his candidacy for Ward 1 of the East Bay Regional Parks Department.

b. with input from Joe Light of the planning department, he also discussed the progress of and the next dates of import of the Richmond General Plan rewrite. Whitney is a member of the General Plan Advisory Committee.

--Whitney: EBRP currently does not have a coherent policy with regard to bicycle use in the parks or on getting get to the parks by bike. Whitney noted there is a major internal discussion going on in the EBRPD about the role of bikes & where bikes should be allowed in the parks.

--Adrienne observed it would be great to get someone on the park board of directors who actually uses the West County parks.

--Whitney addressed some issues around TRAC and how TRAC is a model of a form of advocacy

2. Whitney, who is on the General Plan Advisory Committee, addressed some issues as to the progress of the general plan process from his point of view.

----Joe Light filled in some details.

--Whitney: Circulation element released last week (first week of Sept.) & is being vetted now. GPAC supposed to get comments in December.

----Joe: City's website not up to date.

Joe Lights comments on General Plan:

--1. Circulation plan goes back to MIG (Gen Plan rewrite contractor) with Planning Dep't comments. Joe noted that the content appeared reasonable, though very generic, not containing any specifics, such as bike racks.

--2. Bike master plan will follow and be folded in

--3. When? "Soon" as City Council expects to vote on the whole thing in the Spring of '09.

General comments:

Discussion ensued about getting grant money from TAD /County to hire consultant to develop a plan, which must include a large number of technical elements, such as traffic intensities at different times, street widths and directions etc.

Question arose about County Wide planning for peds and bikes:

1. Nancy indicated that the County just takes what the Citys' provide

2. Nancy will find out who in the City government is "talking" to whom about bike/ped issues and who is "talking" City to County

3. Mike mentioned a change in status of the EBBC to TAC, as EBBC has having technical experience in visioning bikes as serious transportation.

To do's:

1. ---Nancy, group?

Under Final Goals and Mission Discussion: Items 5 and 6 need fleshing out.

2. Nancy...a. Find out who the City is talking to and who in the City and County are the "talkers".

b. Provide Power Point Presentation on Pedestrians to Adrienne for incorporation on website

3. Contact Berkeley Friendly Bicycle Coalition re implementation of "Bicycle Boulevards" Tony?

4. Joe and Mike: Update, if any, on Circulation Plan, General Plan status and any specifics.

...Joe: Info about TDA Grant process should be available in October

Note there will be meetings of the San Pablo Ave. and 23rd St. planning advisory groups in later Sept. and early Oct.

...Mike: Maybe update on 23rd St. process

...23rd St. Redevelopment: Next meeting Thursday, October 9

5. Marilyn: Cycles of Change idea. In this context was mentioned that Officer Sandoval, Richmond P. A. L. used to teach bike maintenance, but program is not active now.

6. Adrienne: Add staff reports as a permanent part of the agenda

7. Mike: To provide a blown up version of the Police Central District Map

8. Marilyn, Mike, Joe: Feed back from the City legal staff on the issue of whether and RBPAC endorsement of Measure T constitutes a conflict of interest.