



DOWNTOWN PARKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 14, 2015
David Gebhard Public Meeting Room
630 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

1) **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:30 a.m.

2) **ROLL CALL**

DPC MEMBERS

Matt LaBrie (Chair)

Trey Pinner (Vice-Chair)

Gene McKnight

Kate Schwab

Sean Pratt

Tom Williams

Vacant

Attendance

Present

Present

Present

Present

Absent

Present

CITY STAFF PRESENT :

Browning Allen, Transportation, Streets and Parking
Manager

Victor Garza, Parking /TMP Superintendent

Rebecca Jimenez, Parking Supervisor

Dion Tait, Parking Supervisor

Sarah Clark, Parking Resource Specialist

Teri Green, Associate Transportation Planner

Justin Berman, Parking Coordinator

Malcolm Hamilton, Administrative Assistant

LIAISONS PRESENT:

Randy Rowse, City Council

John Campanella, Planning Commission

OTHERS PRESENT:

3) **CHANGES TO AGENDA**

None.

4) **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ethan Shenkman said he applied, for the third time, to become a member of this advisory committee. He said panelists have to rely on the expertise of staff to navigate against the agenda. He said there are collections against handicap parkers which may not be permissible under California State Law.

5) **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2015**

Motion: To approve the minutes for the meeting of Thursday, April 9, 2015

Made By: Gene McKnight **Second:** Kate Schwab

Yeas: 4 Nays: 0 Abstain: 1 (Williams) Absent: 1 (Pratt)

6) **BIKESTATION ANNUAL REPORT**

Todd Boulanger, Vice President of Operations for Bikestation, presented the annual report for the commuter bicycle facility in the Granada Garage and the module in City Lot 3. The City of Santa Barbara contracts with Bikestation for membership and facility management services for secured bicycle commuter facilities.

Mr. Boulanger said a past survey conducted by Bikestation indicated that the majority of people had a bike stolen or knew a family member that had their bike stolen, supporting the need for secure bicycle facilities. Chair LaBrie asked how the survey was administered. Mr. Boulanger said current and past members were

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contacted, the survey was posted online, and it was sent to the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition for further dissemination.

Chair LaBrie asked if it is correct to assume that most of the survey participants were connected to downtown Santa Barbara. Mr. Boulanger confirmed, stating that all participants worked, lived, or had business downtown.

Chair LaBrie asked if the shower facility is often used. Mr. Boulanger said only annual members are allowed to use the shower and restroom. Victor Garza, Parking Superintendent, said staff is not seeing abnormally high water use at this time. Mr. LaBrie asked if staff would recommend a shower facility in future locations. Mr. Garza said staff would not recommend installing shower facilities in future locations.

Todd Boulanger, Vice President of Operations for Bikestation, said the Bikestation module will soon open in City Lot 3. The Bikestation module is in a prime location due to its proximity to the Metropolitan Transit District (MTD) bus depot. It expands the available bike parking in the area and allows bus transit users, such as UCSB students and downtown employees, to store their bikes while they travel to and from their desired destinations.

Committee Member Williams said there were 36 annual members in 2014 and 37 in 2015. Mr. Williams said the addition of one new member is concerning when compared to the resources expended from the Downtown Parking Program. Mr. Boulanger said there was a substantial amount of turnover in the members that is not reflected in the membership totals. Mr. Boulanger said 31 new members joined from 2014 to 2015 which points to continued interest in the service.

Committee Member Williams asked who handles the administration of a new member. Mr. Boulanger said Bikestation staff pre-screen members to check if they are locally based and intend to use the facilities in an acceptable manner. After the pre-screening, the person is issued a key fob, which is remotely activated, to access the building and use the facilities.

Committee Member Williams asked if there are daily or periodic membership options. Mr. Boulanger said short-term memberships were discontinued and those members were encouraged to choose a monthly or annual membership option.

Chair LaBrie asked if a date has been selected for the ribbon cutting on the new Bikestation module. Mr. Boulanger said no date has been selected, but it should take place sometime in June.

Mr. Boulanger commented that he had been approached by private businesses about the possibility of a Bikestation facility in the Cota Commuter Lot. Browning Allen, Transportation Manager, said the city has not been formally approached by the business community nor is staff researching the possibility at this time.

During the tour of City Lot 3, Committee Member McKnight said there were bikes locked to many different posts and gates which made the area cluttered and unsightly. He asked if staff plans to offer exterior bike racks after the installation of the module. Mr. Boulanger said the MTD will continue to offer hitching posts for public use. The Bikestation module will be for members only. Mr. Allen said staff is going to monitor the area and work closely with MTD to address bike issues.

Committee Member Williams said the Cota Commuter Lot should not be considered an option for a new secure bike facility, however, the Carrillo Commuter Lot is much more suitable.

Committee Member Williams said there should be adequate exterior signage on the module in City Lot 3 to help people understand the operation of the facility and how to apply for membership. Mr. Williams said he is concerned that the casual user does not have a simple way to participate in the use of the new facility.

Chair LaBrie asked Mr. Boulanger to follow up with the Downtown Organization for further discussion about cycling in the downtown area. Mr. Boulanger said he is working with Kent Epperson from Traffic Solutions and he will also follow up with the Downtown Organization.

Vice-Chair Pinner asked if Bikestation would be more amendable to daily users if the showers and restrooms were no longer available. Mr. Boulanger said the restroom and shower facilities are not the main

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concern when it comes to considering daily users. Annual members tend to behave in a trustful way such as not locking bikes or leaving personal items in saddle bags. Without pre-screening new members, a person may not use the facility as it was intended, and it would be difficult to hold a person accountable for inappropriate behavior.

Browning Allen, Transportation Manager, said the idea of a daily pass is still being discussed. Staff is concerned about undesirable users that may not necessarily have a bicycle, but would use the bicycle station for other purposes. To clarify a previous comment, Mr. Allen said Sonos has not formally approached the City about using a commuter parking lot for the use of a secure bike parking facility. Staff is not analyzing that possibility as this time.

Committee Member Williams said a prohibiting factor to cycling is not having secure bicycle parking. The new Bikestation module is one of the best places to put secure bicycle parking. Mr. Williams said it should not be difficult to reach full membership in the module.

Motion: To accept the Bikestation annual report.

Made By: Trey Pinner **Second:** Gene McKnight

Discussion: Mr. Pinner asked staff if the committee needs to include any other language in the recommendation.

Mr. Allen said the contract is set and will be automatically renewed per the terms of the contract. The contract requires an annual report to be brought before the Downtown Parking Committee. City Council will also receive a copy of the annual report.

Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1 (Pratt)

7) OPERATIONS UPDATE

Real-Time Parking Webpage

Justin Berman, Parking Coordinator, briefly introduced the real-time parking availability web application. Vice-Chair Pinner suggested the map icons show the lot number instead of a "P". Chair LaBrie recommended adding map markers for the Bikestation facilities. Committee Member McKnight said adding the hours that the phone is manned would be helpful for customers. Committee Member Williams said he is concerned that international users may find it difficult to read and understand.

PBIA Council Dates

Browning Allen, Transportation Manager, informed the committee that City Council approved the Intent To Levy on May 12, 2015 and set the Public Hearing for June 9, 2015.

Cota Lot Access Control Project

Victor Garza, Parking Superintendent, said staff is finalizing the scope of work for this project and preparing to move into the construction phase.

Lot 5 New Kiosk and Exit Lane Project

Mr. Garza said this project will add bike parking, improve landscaping, expand outdoor dining areas, install new LED lighting and replace the temporary exit kiosk.

Slurry Seal

Mr. Garza said this project will include hourly lots 8 and 12 as well as the Helena Lot and Fish Enterprise Lot.

Ortega Garage (Lot 10) Interior Painting Schedule

Mr. Garza said this project is underway and on schedule. The contractors will be working as quickly as possible to minimize impacts to nearby businesses.

8) BICYCLE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

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Rob Dayton, Principal Transportation Planner, presented an update on the Bicycle Master Plan community outreach process.

Chair LaBrie asked if staff will follow up with the Downtown Parking Committee after the outreach phase of the project has been completed. Mr. Dayton said the committee members are invited to attend future meetings with the Transportation and Circulation Committee, Planning Commission, and City Council, where recommendations will be brought forward for discussion. If the committee would like, staff can circle back to provide updates on the process and developments.

Referencing the silver designation from the League of American Cyclists, Committee Member McKnight asked if staff has a goal in mind like the Platinum certification. Mr. Dayton said it will depend on what the community would like to do and how far the community would like to take this master plan.

Chair LaBrie asked that this item be brought before the subcommittees for a more thorough discussion. Browning Allen, Transportation Manager, said there is a joint meeting between the Planning Commission and Transportation and Circulation Committee on July 9, 2015.

Vice-Chair Pinner asked if he can submit an email as a Downtown Parking Committee (DPC) member and later take the survey as a member of the public. Mr. Dayton said they should feel free to email him their comments as a DPC representative. Mr. Dayton said the public survey is taken from the perspective of a resident. Mr. Pinner asked if the outreach summits will be recorded for later viewing. Mr. Dayton said he is not sure if they will be recorded, but he will check. Chair LaBrie asked if there will be agenda packets available from the summits. Mr. Dayton said there will be a presentation which he can email at a later date.

Committee Member Williams said the City of Davis is often mentioned as a leader in bicycle infrastructure and policy, but he does not believe it is very comparable to Santa Barbara. Mr. Williams does not want to set unrealistic goals for our community. Mr. Dayton clarified that he did not intend to say that Santa Barbara should be identical to the City of Davis. He clarified that only Santa Barbara residents are being asked about cycling in Santa Barbara.

9) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.