



MEMORANDUM

TOWN OF LOS GATOS

To: Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

From: Bob Kass, Special Project Manager

Subject: Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update

Date: July 28, 2016

July 7 Community Meeting

On Thursday, July 7, 2016, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission hosted a Community Meeting on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP). Approximately 30 people were in attendance, including Vice Mayor Marico Sayoc and Town Manager Laurel Prevetti. Michael Nilsson, the lead consultant from PlaceWorks, presented preliminary findings on the assessment of existing conditions for the BPMP, which includes a series of maps and exhibits that will be posted shortly on the Town's website. The consultant's presentation was followed by a community input session facilitated by Parks and Public Works Department project manager Bob Kass. Following the community input portion of the meeting, Commissioners provided input to staff on the BPMP.

A wide range of comments were provided by attendees at the Community Meeting. Comments were recorded by Placeworks. Commissioners also provided a wide range of comments to staff and the consultants. A summary of Community and Commission comments is attached for reference and review.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts

As has been previously discussed with the BPAC, an important component of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan is the collection of bicycle and pedestrian counts in a range of locations throughout the Town. These counts will establish baseline data for bicycle and pedestrian activity in Los Gatos, as well as provide observations on the behavior of bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists that may help in prioritizing program and project recommendations. The scope of work for the BPMP includes counts at up to ten locations.

The most accepted approach for collecting manually-generated bicycle and pedestrian count data (as opposed to machine or automated counts), is the methodology developed by the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project (NBPD). The NBPD is a nationwide effort that aims to provide consistency in pedestrian and bicycle data collection and use by planners, governmental agencies and bicycle and pedestrian professionals. Development of the NBPD methodology was informed by a variety of transportation professionals, including those representing the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). The NBPD methodology includes:

- Consistent count days and times, with a preference of counts to occur in the middle of the week (Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday) to represent a baseline weekday count.
- Specific times during the year to capture counts. NBPD prefers counts to occur in September, as schools are in session and summer vacations are complete.
- The use of a consistent count methodology and collection materials.

The NBPD recommends selecting count locations using the following criteria:

- Pedestrian and bicycle activity areas or corridors
- Representative locations in urban, suburban, and rural locations, geographically dispersed throughout the community
- Key corridors that can be used to gauge the impacts of future improvements
- Gaps and pinch points for bicyclists/pedestrians (potential improvement areas)
- Locations where bicycle and pedestrian volumes are high
- Locations where bicycle and pedestrian collisions are high

Based on the criteria above, along with the Existing Conditions Analysis and comments received from the Existing Conditions Survey, staff and Placeworks have identified the following potential candidates for count locations:

- Santa Cruz Avenue and Main Street – Center of Downtown Los Gatos, with high pedestrian and bicycle volumes, directly adjacent to Town Plaza.
- Los Gatos-Saratoga Road (Highway 9) at Massol/Montgomery – Contains some of the highest bicycle crash rates in Los Gatos and Monte Sereno, key regional bikeway, pinch point for bicyclists and vehicles, off-center intersection.
- Daves Avenue at Poppy Lane – Adjacent to Daves Avenue Elementary School, contains existing gaps in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.
- Shannon Road and Los Gatos Boulevard – Significant school traffic from Van Meter Elementary and Fisher Middle School, site of recent green bike lane improvements, off-center intersection that has been recently improved.
- Directly along Los Gatos Creek Trail at the Blossom Hill Road trailhead – Location is within Vasona County Park, key regional bikeway route with high volumes of both bicyclists and pedestrians, some issues encountered at trailhead entrance (lack of visibility, narrow roadway).
- Short Road and Shannon Road – Gateway to foothills and key route to mountain biking trails, also key route to flatland neighborhoods, roadway contains existing gaps in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

- Lark Avenue and Highway 17 Signal (just west of Highway 17) – Site of some of the most serious accidents in the Town, noticeable gap in bicycle infrastructure.
- Knowles Avenue and Winchester Boulevard – Adjacent to Netflix, existing gaps in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, potential for future transportation improvements (per VTA Vasona Junction Station).
- Union Avenue at Los Gatos Almaden Road – Existing east-west bike route on east side of town, several bike/ped accidents have occurred at this intersection.
- Kennedy Road at Kennedy Trailhead – Entry into Sierra Azul Open Space Reserve, site of recent bicycle accidents

NBPD has officially recommended the week of September 13-18, 2016 to conduct counts. In order to proceed with conducting counts during this time period, the following tasks and timeline are suggested:

- Finalize count locations, dates and trainings – Early August, shortly after comments are received by the BPAC.
- Volunteer recruiting – Have an online sign-up sheet generated around Mid-August, to coincide with the release of the map-based online survey on network recommendations. Notification may occur through NextDoor, Facebook, the Town’s webpage and other relevant social media outlets to the online Volunteer sign up page. Also outreach to local schools and service organizations to recruit volunteers.
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Training – Two 45-minute training sessions for count volunteers are proposed: Wednesday, September 7, at 6 p.m. and Thursday, September 8, at 3 or 4 p.m. (after school has recessed).
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts are conducted – One weekday count (Tuesday, September 13th, Wednesday, September 14th or Thursday, September 15th) and one weekend count Saturday, September 17th. The weekday counts would be both a.m. and p.m. counts, while the weekend count would be a single 2-hour late morning count.

Next Steps

A second BPAC-hosted Community Meeting will be held on September 8, 2016 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. At this meeting the consultants and staff will be presenting preliminary network recommendations (projects) and preliminary policy recommendations, as well as initial results of responses of a second online survey focused on network (project) and policy recommendations.

Attachment: July 7, 2016, Community Meeting Comments