

SVBC Board meeting July 17, 2008
2nd fl Conference Room, Bldg 170, Stanford University

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:33 P.M.

Present: Mark Eliot, Greg McPheeters, Sue Young, Gary Brustin, Jack Miller, Celia Chung, Paul Goldstein, Jerri-Ann Meyer (via phone)
Missing: David Hoag

2. There was no public comment. Jack mentioned he had emailed some notes to the Board list on his recent visit to Portland.

3.1 Jack moved approval of the June 19, 2008 Board Meeting minutes. Paul seconded. All Board members present approved the minutes (including Jerri-Ann via phone)

6:38 PM – Art Okada, SVBC member, arrived.

6:39 PM – Mary Ann Levenson, Board member, arrived.

4.1 Caltrain has changed the name of the bike plan to ‘Bike Access and Parking Plan.’ Paul reported that there had been a lot of chatter on the bikeslist on the Caltrain bike plan, and that he had attended one the of public meetings on the plan. Many people were upset that it didn’t address bikes-on-board issues. Paul posted a draft policy position paper on the SVBC website. There were many negative comments regarding the SVBC Board being ‘wimpy’. The July 10 SVBC meeting for members to discuss this issue was attended by Steve Vanderlip, Pat Giorni and two SVBC members. The basic message from attendees at the meeting was that ‘we want to strengthen bikes-on-board’ and that people want to see stronger language in our policy/comments on the plan. We’ve already submitted some comments to Caltrain at the meeting SVBC staff held with Caltrain. The draft plan is to be released August 7. Paul recommended holding off on any other comments until that comment period. Paul has talked to Ken Yeager’s office regarding this issue, but remarked that SVBC needs to be cognizant that Caltrain is maxed out on bikes on-board issue. SVBC should support the Bikes-on-board program, and also support bike parking and access; and wants bikes-on-board to be considered in the new rolling stock.

Mark said we want to at least maintain capacity for bikes on board. Our definition is 5% of fixed seats; Caltrain defines it as 7% of current passengers. He also noted that later comments received on this whole issue have been more civil.

Paul noted that San Francisco Bike Coalition (SFBC) has submitted an excellent comment/policy document on the issue, even though it’s got a slightly different tack.

Greg asked if we were changing our position. Paul replied that he would revise the draft, by integrating later comments, and circulate to Board members via email. He urged that the Board have a policy position approved (even via email) before the next August 21st

Board meeting. It would also include recommendations for creative alternatives, such as a reservation system. Some of chatter suggest that we should not comment on anything except for bikes-on-board, but as a Board, we have to be reasonable. Other people may do OK without bikes-on-board, and be Ok with parking their bikes. Paul remarked that the proposed position/comments are pretty reasonable, but other might think it's too wimpy.

Jerri-Ann mentioned she had done some searching on the web for comparison, and found that Caltrain carries the most bikes, and other systems are looking at Caltrain as a leader. But Caltrain hasn't provided data that says they can't add capacity. She also noted that the 10 day comment period for the August draft release is too short, and that a comment should be sent directly to Caltrain regarding that, and suggest extending it to a 30-day comment period. Celia remarked that Caltrain's proposed schedule was to have Caltrain board action on the plan in September, so that a longer comment period would push Caltrain board action to October.

Paul remarked that he will draft the letter and also ask for a longer comment period.

4.2

Paul reported that enough votes from Board members were received via email to send a letter of support to Joe Simitian for SB 28 to prohibit sending text messages from the cell phones while driving.

Hwy 9: Paul reported that Bob Sutterfield brought up concerns that Caltrans is proposing to put centerline rumble strips on Hwy 9 between Saratoga and Skyline. But some sections of Hwy 9 have no shoulder. Caltrans has no specifications or warrants (standards) on the use of centerline rumble strips. Paul will meet with the Caltrans project manager to get more information on the project. There's a history to Hwy 9; several years ago it was repaved, without shoulders. SVBC worked to the shoulders put back in. Our concern now is for bike safety; Gary suggested couching the issue to Caltrans that this project could be 'creating a dangerous condition' for cyclists.

4.X

San Mateo County – the San Mateo County members have been feeling disconnected from SVBC – Paul suggested we should have a San Mateo report. They have monthly meetings, run by Steve Vanderlip. There's also a lot of content on the old PBPC content that needs to be merged into the SVBC website. Maiki has asked the San Mateo county members for help in the website content integration. Since Didrik Hoag resigned from the Board, the Board discussed the possibility of Steve's interest in coming on as an interim Board member. Mark offered to follow up with Steve.

7:17 PM – Chris Lepe Board Member, arrived.

Chris brought a copy of VTA's draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Alum Rock/Santa Clara Bus Rapid Transit/Light Rail project. There's very little mention of bike access. Comments are due August 21st. Chris and Celia volunteered to look over

and draft a comment letter; Paul will look at it also before sending. It was also suggested that an email blurb be posted to the bikeslist and advocates' list for comments from members.

5. 2008 Appeal Letter

Greg had sent a copy of last years' letter for suggested edits for this year's letter. Jack had circulated a copy of the letter from BTA (Portland). The Board discussed different angles to focus on, including the need to support existing programs and highlighting accomplishments to date. Also we need support for Share the Road and San Mateo county. Greg will update the draft based on the discussion.

6.1 Fundraiser Event on September 20 or 27 (Since then updated to October 8th)

Mary Ann is leading the effort to organize the major donor event. The Board discussed strategies to pull diverse people, the need for a keynote speaker (Christine Thornley, Olympic cyclist, was suggested), inviting Bike shops, racers, RAM women riders, Calfee bamboo bikes, the art bike guys recently featured in the San Jose Mercury News. Potential venues include Adobe Hall in Mountain View. We need to generate a list of invitees (including SVBC life members). Corinne will be the speaker to talk about advocacy

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted.
Celia Chung, Secretary