

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PBAC)

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, August 14, 2024



Location: Board Room, Administration Building
Golden Gate Bridge Toll Plaza, San Francisco, CA 94129

Members Present: Parker Day, Candy Doran, James Grady, Sasha Madfes, Charles Metzler, Susan Nawbary, David Pilpel, Ray Scherck, Warren Wells

Members Absent: Dan Federman, Kevin Gammon, Timothy Hunter

District Staff Present: John Gray, Director of Engineering and Maintenance, Ferry Division; Wilson Lau, Directing Civil Engineer, District Engineering; Josh Widmann, Planning Department

Guests Present: Matthew Hartzell, WTB-TAM; Barbara Jean Jones, Prospective Member; Michael Jones, Michael Jones Consulting

1. **Call to Order.** Warren Wells called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. A quorum of members was present.
2. **Roll Call and Introductions.** Committee members, staff, and visitors introduced themselves.
3. **Consent Calendar. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 10, 2024.** A motion to was made to approve the minutes, followed by a second. The April 10, 2024 PBAC meeting minutes were approved with a suggested addition of “2024” to one of the dates listed under Item 6, on page 2. All voted to approve the amended minutes.
4. **Committee Business.**
 - a. **Alexander Avenue Presentation.** Wilson Lau, Directing Civil Engineer for the District, shared a PowerPoint on the status of the Alexander Avenue Improvement Project. He discussed pavement conditions, guard rail conditions, and fencing, along with other aspects of the approximate one-mile stretch of Alexander Avenue that is maintained by the District. An RFQ for improvements will be issued in late 2024 with anticipated completion by fall 2025. The project footprint extends from the City of Sausalito limit on the north end and Caltrans right-of-way on the south end, which is approximately 600 feet south of the Bunker Road intersection. The existing facility width will be maintained, or two 12-foot lanes of traffic and two four-foot lanes for bikes.

A suggestion to paint the bike lanes was made by Charles Metzler. Safely connecting the Alexander Avenue bike lanes to the Sausalito entrance was also discussed. Parker Day requested that bike counts and speed counts be conducted on the facility, by possibly installing a permanent counting device under the pavement. James Grady mentioned the high speeds at which automobiles travel can be a problem for bike safety. Warren Wells stated that 12-foot widths are highway design standards but that this facility could be

reduced to 10.5-foot lane widths. Warren Wells requested the District return and present the project when 10 percent design plans have been completed.

- b. Ferry Bicycle Rack Discussion.** John Gray, Director of Engineering and Maintenance for the Ferry Division presented on potential bike rack styles and configurations of the new build high-speed ferry vessel. The future ferry fleet will be standardized, and bike racks will be the same configuration on each vessel. Two levels of bicycle storage will be utilized on the new build vessels, with ramps going up and down. The committee discussed the issues of effectively and safely loading and unloading bicycles mixed with ferry patrons. As a wide variety of bicycle styles are utilized, rack design specifications will be devised to avoid bikes bumping into one another while in storage. The future popular bike model styles were discussed, as well as how to accommodate them. Warren Wells suggested a survey of bike riders to determine the percentage breakdown of each style of bicycle being used in order to support multiple styles of bike racks.
- c. Recent Bicycle and Pedestrian Issues/Observations.** Candy Doran stated that the Golden Gate Bridge sidewalks have become crowded with bicycles mixed with pedestrians. Many visitors are not aware of their surroundings and accidents can occur, even if bicycles are traveling at slow speeds. Michael Jones suggested picking the top issues related to mixed mode travel on the sidewalks for a future PBAC discussion. Barbara Jones stated there are no mixed mode issues at early hours of the day when less visitors are present.
- d. Outreach for Vacant PBAC Spot.** Barbara Jones became the thirteenth member of the committee after attending two consecutive meetings. The bylaws suggest a membership size of six to 16 individuals. Warren Wells mentioned he could reach out to MCBC.
- 5. Public Comment.** Matthew Hartzell, representing the WTB-TAM group, recommended the Larkspur Ferry Expansion Project look at multi-modal access to Larkspur Ferry. He requested a presentation from the consultants at a future PBAC meeting and was told the project scoping would begin in October 2024. Matthew Hartzell stated that Alexander Avenue does not contain sidewalks and the pedestrian element should be considered. Matthew Hartzell also requested that the FY25 Alexander Avenue project consultant also study some of the bigger Alexander Avenue facility re-working topics to prepare for the future larger budget overhaul project later in the decade.
- 6. Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee will take place on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 5:00 p.m., at the Golden Gate Bridge Board Room, San Francisco, CA.