

Oakland BPAC May 27, 2004 Minutes

MacArthur Commuter Bikeway

City has received \$200K BTA grant to complete the gap from Park to Lincoln. Some errors in implementing the latest section to Park from Lakeshore, but Sarah says these will have been identified and will be rectified.

Safe Route to Schools

Jim Dexter attended the meeting to discuss his concerns about pedestrian safety at Montclair schools. It was recognized that this was a problem at all Oakland schools, but Jim said that while his local schools were working on the problem there was very little assistance from the City. Sarah said that the City was applying for Safe Routes to schools funding. Jim was very concerned with the dangers of vehicular drop off and was interested in "park and walk" solutions. Generally, the group, while sympathetic, saw this too vehicle oriented. Sarah suggested he looked to Marin where they'd achieved a mode change through low-cost educational and encouragement campaigns. Jason said the City had a pedestrian toolkit for schools.

12 St. Dam

This project is not part of Measure DD, but is an interim project for bike safety on the "12th Street Dam". The project will remove a lane on the Dam to provide a bike path as well as providing bike lanes on lower Lakeshore. While there was some concern as to how bicyclists would access this isolated facility, it was generally felt to be a worthwhile effort by the City. Sarah promised to follow up on concerns and it was mentioned that DD would bring further bike facilities.

City Racks

A list of requests for bike racks was presented to the group. The City is applying for TFCA grant and will match with \$20K with city funds used for maintenance. Robert requested some thought on more strategic bike facilities. In Downtown, he considered that parking in Parking Garages was not the way forward. And he suggested using the "unutilized" space near pedestrian crosswalks in local neighborhoods.

Chinatown

Jason gave the group an update on this project. He said that there were plans for 4 more pedestrian scrambles, with other street works to slow traffic. In regard to Downtown's one way traffic system (introduced in 1951) he said that it was now felt more appropriate to look at Downtown as a whole. He raised the point that conversion to two-way might result in 4 lane 2-way streets. He suggested that bicyclist might prefer 3 wide one-way lanes. The idea of back in diagonal parking as more bike friendly was raised, but not agreed upon.

Bike to Work Day

It was estimated that numbers had been similar to last year. However, Robert said that MTC funding for next year was unlikely. Mike said that he saw this as an opportunity and that "stakeholders" needed to be identified to produce a bike to work day that was more than just handing out bags of "stuff". Others felt that Bike to Work Day was important in many ways, including keeping bicyclists' profile with the council and generally encouraging bicycling.

Wholefoods

Unfortunately, this item was postponed until the next meeting.

Minutes prepared by: Mike Jones; Attendance: Robert Raburn, Jim Dexter, Sarah Syed, Ron Bishop, Carol Levine, James Evans, Jennifer Stanley, Jason Patton, Lina Foltz, Marcelina Sanchez, Mike Jones