

City of Oakland Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

BACKGROUND

The foundation of the City of Oakland's Transportation Element Update is the concept of sustainable community development at both the neighborhood and city-wide level. Bicycle and pedestrian travel are tangible symbols of this concept as they enhance local environmental quality through the reduction of traffic congestion, vehicle exhaust emissions, noise and energy consumption. The City of Oakland is committed to promoting widespread use of bicycle and pedestrian travel as viable transportation options. With the update of the General Plan Transportation Element, an unprecedented opportunity exists to incorporate state-of-the-art planning and design principles, and specific goals, objectives, policies and actions related to safe and efficient bicycle/pedestrian travel.

Oakland possesses a comprehensive multi-modal transportation system that includes established and informal bicycle/pedestrian networks. However, to maximize the use of bicycle and pedestrian travel, it is essential that planning for these modes be integrated in all city transportation improvement projects whenever feasible. The numerous transportation improvement projects in Oakland that are either proposed, programmed or under construction represent opportunities for improving or expanding the bicycle/pedestrian systems. To this end, a consistent and systematic review process must be followed to ensure that bicycle/pedestrian issues are addressed and options developed in a timely fashion for network expansion, creation of well-defined system nodes and linkages, improved accessibility to other transit modes, and increased public safety.

It is with this background that an Advisory Committee is established to advise City staff and to participate in bicycle/pedestrian planning, education, design and enforcement efforts. The Advisory Committee's objectives, duties and recommended composition are described below.

OBJECTIVE

The City of Oakland's Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (hereinafter Advisory Committee) shall advise and recommend policies for the planning, development and maintenance of pedestrian and bikeway systems for safe and enjoyable circulation for both commuting and recreation within the City of Oakland. The Advisory Committee's goal will be to ensure sensitivity to bicycle and pedestrian issues in the design and implementation of all public works projects which impact bicycles and pedestrians. All recommendations shall be submitted to department heads. Because of limited City resources, the Committee will need to marshal outside resources and volunteers whenever possible to carry out the broad scope of its duties.

DUTIES

The Advisory Committee's activities shall include, but not be limited, to:

1. REVIEW OF THE TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT OF THE GENERAL PLAN

- a. The Advisory Committee shall participate in the development and review of comprehensive bicycle/pedestrian goals, objectives, and policies (e.g., a bicycle/pedestrian sub-element to the Transportation Element of the General Plan including non-motorized transportation objectives, maps of existing and proposed bike routes -- including supporting facilities such as bicycle parking -- and walkways within the City, as well as those connecting to surrounding jurisdictions).
- b. The Advisory Committee shall also review recommended changes to the bicycle/pedestrian portion of the Transportation Element.
- c. The Advisory committee shall work with the City of Oakland to promote walking and utilitarian and recreational cycling.

2. REVIEW OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

- a. The Advisory Committee shall review and comment on the functional classification and condition of existing bicycle paths, bicycle lanes and bicycle routes (Caltrans Class I, II & III facilities, respectively) within the City of Oakland.
- b. The Advisory Committee shall identify all current road hazards, obstructions, site restrictions and impediments (e.g., to airports, transit stations/stops, across freeways, bridges, etc.) as they affect cyclists and pedestrians.
- c. The Advisory Committee shall inventory bicycle parking facilities within the city and recommend appropriate bicycle parking technology and locations which would increase use of bicycles for commute and other utilitarian trips.

3. REVIEW OF ROAD AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- a. The Advisory Committee shall identify all (including state and county) projects that fall within the city's jurisdiction insofar as they relate to bicycling. Designs of these projects shall be reviewed to determine the feasibility of accommodating bicycle facilities. Resurfacing projects will be examined to assess the feasibility of incorporating improvements for bicycle safety and access. Improvements such as installing gates in fences, repairing pot holes, incorporating bicycle parking, controlling vegetation to increase sight distance, minimizing the use of raised markers, and marking signal loop detectors will be considered.
- b. The Advisory Committee shall evaluate and make recommendations to the Office of Public Works and the City of Oakland Bicycle Coordinator regarding safety design standards for all types of bicycle and pedestrian facilities (e.g., proper signs, street markers, traffic calming and control devices to designate bikeways, regulate traffic, and improve safety and convenience for bicyclists and pedestrians).

4. RECOMMEND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDING

- a. The Advisory Committee shall make recommendations on capital improvements to increase use and safety of bicycle/pedestrian facilities (e.g., bikeways, signage, pedestrian/bicycle bridges, bike parking facilities, intersection and traffic signals, traffic calming and walkways, etc.)

b. The Advisory Committee shall participate in the review, prioritization and recommendations of bicycle/pedestrian projects for funding under either the Capital Improvement Programs, designated Transportation Development Act Article 3 funds or other regional, state or federal bicycle and pedestrian grant programs.

c. The Advisory Committee shall notify the Bicycle Coordinator/Employee Transportation Coordinator/Bicycle Patrol Unit of grant opportunities for bicycle and pedestrian projects, assist City staff in drafting grant proposals, preparing application documents and implementing any funded projects.

5. REVIEW ISSUES RELATED TO ENFORCEMENT

The Advisory Committee may provide input to the Police Department on:

a. Enforcement of provisions of the vehicle code pertaining to the rights and responsibilities of bicyclists and the resulting effect on accidents involving bicyclists.

b. Bicycle theft prevention and parking security.

6. PARTICIPATE IN EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS

a. The Advisory Committee shall participate in the City's efforts to promote operator (children, youth, and adult cyclist as well as motorist) awareness and competence through education programs and buddy systems, coordinating with County programs where available.

b. The Advisory Committee shall participate in the City's efforts to promote bicycling and walking as viable forms of urban transportation and recreation. The Committee will also participate in other local, regional or statewide bicycle promotion activities and take a leadership role in planning and implementing Bike to Work Day/Week.

7. LEGISLATION

The Advisory Committee shall provide an analysis of pending legislation which affects bicycle and pedestrian travel in Oakland.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The Advisory Committee shall consist of 9 (nine) members as follows:

- 1 representative from the East Bay Bicycle Coalition who lives in Oakland
- 1 representative from the Regional Bicycle Advisory Committee who lives in Oakland
- 1 at-large Oakland bicyclist or pedestrian
- 1 representative from the schools (administrator or student) who lives in Oakland
- the Public Works Traffic Engineering Bicycle Coordinator
- the City of Oakland Employee Transportation Coordinator
- 1 representative from the Office of Planning & Building
- 1 representative from the Police Department Traffic Safety Unit or Traffic Division
- 1 representative from the Office of Parks and Recreation

The at-large representative shall be selected by the eight other members from a pool of nominations received from interested residents.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Meeting space, duplication of meeting packets and mailings for up to six meetings per year will be provided by the Department of Public Works. Public Works will also provide quarterly reports to the City Council on the committee's activities. Committee staffing will be provided by individual committee members and shall include all secretarial and support services.

ORGANIZATION AND TERMS OF OFFICE

At the initial meeting of the Advisory Committee, and yearly thereafter, Advisory Committee members shall select such officers as deemed necessary by the Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee shall establish rules and regulations for its own organization and procedures and shall meet when necessary as determined by the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee shall meet a minimum of four times per year. All meetings shall, except as provided by law, be open to the public.

The term of the non-City staff members of the Advisory Committee shall be three years; provided, however, that the members first appointed, shall by lot, classify their terms so that one serves a one-year term, one serves a two-year term, and the remaining two serve a three-year term.