

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE**

March 6, 2024

These meeting minutes represent an “action minute” format. The Active Transportation Committee met in a Special Meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 in the Adams Room at the Donald Dungan Library, 1855 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Taboada called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present: Chair Ralph Taboada
 Member Andrew Barnes
 Member Jose Gomez
 Member Flo Martin
 Member Michaela Teissere
 Member Trace Yulie

Committee Members Not Present: Vice Chair Bridget Gleason
 Member Jennifer Vavra
 Member Jimmy Vivar

City Council Liaison: Council Member Arlis Reynolds

Newport-Mesa Unified School
District Liaison/Representative: Shelley Humphrey

Staff Present: Raja Sethuraman, Public Works Director
 Jennifer Rosales, Transportation Services Manager
 Brett Atencio Thomas, Active Transportation Coordinator
 Police Captain Bryan Wadkins
 Police Lieutenant Stephanie Selinske
 Police Sergeant Jared Barnes

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

a. None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. February 7, 2024

1. Member Martin moved to approve the February 7 minutes. Motion seconded by Member Barnes.
2. Motion passed unanimously.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Municipal Code Updates

1. Active Transportation Coordinator Brett Atencio Thomas provided background information on proposed Costa Mesa Municipal Code changes related to recent state legislative action.
 - Proposed Costa Mesa Municipal Code 4-26(f) prohibiting the operation of electric bicycles on sidewalks:
 - i. Council Member Reynolds inquired if 4-26(f) regarding e-bikes on sidewalks was a state law.
 - ii. Costa Mesa Police Captain Bryan Wadkins noted that Costa Mesa municipal code changes would be specific to Costa Mesa.
 - iii. Member Martin inquired how 4-26 (f) will be enforced and spoke about seeing cars running red lights at traffic signals.
 - iv. Captain Wadkins noted that the police department will be able to enforce the California Vehicle Code for bikes when they are not on the sidewalk.
 - v. Member Barnes inquired about bicycle lane definitions and spoke favorably of adding bike lane definitions to include Class. Mr. Barnes spoke in favor of no restrictions for e-bikes on sidewalks at major intersections. Mr. Barnes inquired about the need for additional regulations for e-bikes on sidewalks and noted that reckless and unsafe riding of bicycles on sidewalks is covered under 4-26(g) and that in his opinion, no other provisions for e-bikes are necessary.
 - vi. Member Yulie inquired if 4-26(f) would allow for riding e-bikes on the sidewalk if it is not practical for the bicycle rider to be on the street.
 - vii. Member Barnes inquired if e-bikes would be permitted on sidewalk on major streets such as East 17th Street.
 - viii. Member Martin inquired if e-bikes would be permitted on the sidewalk at Placentia Avenue and Victoria Street intersection and noted in her opinion that it is impractical for an e-bike on the street at this location.
 - ix. Chair Taboada inquired if 4-26(f) would be enforced for children, and expressed an opinion that no e-bikes on sidewalks are impractical for children. Mr. Taboada

indicated that he is generally opposed to the prohibition of e-bikes on sidewalks.

- x. Costa Mesa Police Lieutenant Stephanie Selinske noted a goal of 4-26(f) is to keep bicycle riders safe. Lieutenant Selinske indicated a need for Municipal Code consistency regarding e-bikes with adjacent cities of Huntington Beach and Newport Beach. Lieutenant Selinske spoke in favor of the term "practical" within the code.
- xi. Costa Mesa Police Sergeant Jared Barnes provided a summary of bicycle collisions throughout the City from February 1, 2022 through February 1, 2024:
 - 170 collisions occurred involving a bicyclist.
 - 163 collisions involving a bicyclist resulted in injury.
 - 35 collisions involving a bicyclist occurred on the sidewalk.
 - The bicyclist was at fault in 47% of collisions.
 - The Costa Mesa Police Department began tracking e-bike collisions in January 2023.
 - Sergeant Barnes noted that in his anecdotal view, e-bike crashes are more severe due to higher speeds.
- xii. Public Works Director Raja Sethuraman indicated the need for driver education to complement any proposed e-bike regulations.
- xiii. Member Teissere expressed an opinion that any issues with e-bikes on sidewalks could be resolved with more robust on-street bicycle facilities.
- xiv. Chair Taboada expressed an opinion that every bike lane in the city should have a minimum of green paint before any e-bike regulations on sidewalks are implemented.
- xv. Member Martin expressed an opinion that shared lane markings are not adequate bicycle facilities.
- xvi. Chair Taboada and Member Barnes inquired if the City had considered general bicycle speed limits on sidewalks in lieu of any regulation specific to e-bikes.
 - Lieutenant Selinske noted that it is difficult for the police department to enforce the speeds of bicycles.
- xvii. Member Barnes inquired if 4-26(f) would have any circumstantial exceptions.
 - Captain Wadkins noted that the statute would make it easier to determine whether an action constitutes a violation or not. Captain Wadkins indicated that a primary concern of the police department is e-bikes traveling at a high rate of

speed when re-entering the street from the sidewalk at intersections.

- Mr. Sethuraman noted concerns regarding the use of higher speed e-bikes on sidewalks with changing grades at driveways and uneven pavement.
- Member Barnes expressed an opinion that the pavement conditions in many on-street locations are uneven.

- Member Barnes spoke in favor of removing the term "exceptional hazard" from statute 10-18.
 - Member Barnes spoke in favor of standardizing the use of either "operating", "driving", or "riding" a bicycle for all mentions of bicycle use in Title 10 and Title 4.
 -
 - The Proposed Municipal Code Revisions item will be continued for further discussion at a future special meeting, the date of which will be announced later.
 - Council Member Reynolds suggested that any proposed revisions to the municipal code that mirror the California Vehicle Code are colored differently than those specific to the City of Costa Mesa when the item returns to the Active Transportation Committee.
- a. Committee Presentation to City Council on April 2, 2024
1. Chair Taboada reviewed the process and history of the annual Committee presentation to City Council.
 - Mr. Taboada indicated that he and Vice Chair Gleason will develop the City Council presentation and provide a summary to the Committee.
 2. Council Member Renolds indicated that she will provide the new guidelines regarding the length of committee presentations.
 3. Mr. Taboada indicated that he and Ms. Gleason will coordinate with staff for photos and other needs for the presentation.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Committee Recommendations for FY 24-25 Active Transportation Projects
1. Chair Taboada reviewed a previously discussed proposed Committee letter to Council outlining Committee project recommendations for FY 24-25.
 - Public Works Director Sethuraman provided clarification of the difference between the Adams Avenue Street Rehabilitation and Multipurpose Trails projects.
 - Transportation Services Manager Rosales reviewed the City's proposed FY 24-25 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) list.
 - Chair Taboada noted the Committee's favorability for a bus shelter expansion.
 - Mr. Sethuraman indicated that the bus shelter expansion is an existing CIP.

- i. Member Gomez noted media distribution opportunities at Estancia High School and ideas for the distribution of safety materials.
2. Member Martin made a motion to recommend a Walk and Bike Audit Tool Ad Hoc Committee and a Municipal Code Revision Information Community Distribution Ad Hoc Committee. The motion was seconded by Member Teissere.
 - The Motion passed unanimously.
 - The recommended Ad Hoc Committees will return to the committee for a vote pending the City Attorney's direction.
3. Member Barnes spoke in favor of future consideration of an Ad Hoc Committee focused on quality control of the implementation of the Active Transportation Plan and Pedestrian Master Plan.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER AND LIAISON COMMENTS

- a. Council Member Reynolds thanked staff for recent explanation videos and commented on the value of the videos to members of the public. Ms. Reynolds complimented the West 19th Street and Wallace Avenue intersection improvements. Ms. Reynolds inquired about street lighting at Pomona Avenue and West 19th.
- b. Member Gomez announced his role on the Student Board for Newport Mesa Unified School District and commented on the potential to leverage that role to distribute information.
- c. Member Barnes thanked staff for the Lions Park HAWK Signal video. Mr. Barnes spoke in favor of bottle dots along Placentia Avenue Class II buffered bike lane.
- d. Member Martin commented on a recent experience at the Wilson Avenue and Fordham Drive HAWK signal and requested additional notification such as "WAIT HERE" pavement markings.
- e. Chair Taboada announced the March 8 deadline to apply for Committee appointments. Mr. Taboada noted the California Bicycle Summit scheduled in San Diego on April 18 and 19, and provided an update regarding the Taylor Elizabeth Clifford Memorial Grand Prix bicycle race held in Costa Mesa on March 3. Mr. Taboada commented on the signal timing at the intersections of Northbound Pomona Avenue and Wilson Street and Paularino Avenue and Fairview Road.

8. STAFF COMMENTS

- a. Transportation Services Manager Jennifer Rosales commented that the Pedestrian Master Plan and associated General Plan Amendment is scheduled for the March 11 Planning Commission Meeting.
- b. Public Works Director Raja Sethuraman commented on the development of future safety videos. Mr. Sethuraman announced the Earth Day Celebration is planned at Costa Mesa City Hall on April 20.

- c. Active Transportation Coordinator Brett Atencio Thomas noted the implementation of a new bike rack adjacent to the Adams Room at Donald Dungan Library. Mr. Thomas provided updates on the Monrovia Avenue Class III Bike Route request, and Fairview Road and Adams Avenue yield signage requests. Mr. Thomas asked for volunteers for a Bicycle Safety Education Task Force as part of the development of the Bicycle Safety Education Program at 20 Schools CIP project.

9. NEXT MEETING – April 3, 2024

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by:


RALPH TABOADA, CHAIR
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE