

BPAC 2026 Proposed Study Issues*

No.	Submitted Date	Study Issue Working Title	Summary of Scope	Staff Comments
1	1/10/2025	Evaluate adoption of Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's Bicycle Technical Guidelines as City of Sunnyvale Design Standard for Bicycle Facilities	<p>The Study will include a review of state and federal requirements in terms of which design guidelines and standards the City of Sunnyvale is required to follow. In addition, the Study will include a review of various guidelines and manuals and compare the design requirements and recommendations for bicycle facilities. The Study will also review the best practices from other neighboring jurisdictions.</p> <p>If the Study supports changing the City's design requirement to follow the VTA Bicycle Technical Guideline (BTG), this will necessitate modifications to the Sunnyvale Municipal Code and would require a Council adopted resolution to specify the BTG will be used as the City's standard instead of the State and Federal standards, which requires City Council approval.</p> <p>The Study will also determine a process to inform the City Council and/or BPAC when the proposed bicycle improvements would differ from the City's design guidelines due to existing roadway constraints.</p>	<p>The VTA BTG is a guide for local agencies in Santa Clara County for planning, design and maintenance of bicycle facilities. The BTG are intended to supplement and augment the standards and guidelines as defined in the Caltrans Highway Design Manual (HDM) as well as the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD). The HDM and CA MUTCD are minimum requirements, and the VTA BTG presents best practice options where possible. The City currently follows the standards per the HDM and the CA MUTCD; where feasible, the City also considers the recommendations as defined in the VTA BTG. The current process allows for flexibility when designing bicycle facilities. In some cases, the minimum requirements allow for implementation of bicycle facilities where the VTA BTG would not for reasons such as right-of-way constraints or conflicting uses of the right-of-way. Therefore, City of Sunnyvale is required to use design guidelines developed by Caltrans, including the HDM, CA MUTCD, and the Caltrans Standard Specifications. If the City of Sunnyvale wishes to use other standards, we would need to comply with all three conditions under California Streets and Highways Code Section 891 (b).</p>

*The study issues have been proposed for future sponsorship

Toward the end of the calendar year, no later than October, Boards and Commissions will review the list of proposed study issues and officially vote on sponsorship for each individually listed study issue. Official sponsorship means that the study issue is approved for ranking with a majority vote of the Board or Commission. Staff will then prepare the sponsored study issue papers, including fiscal impact but not the staff recommendation.

The Study Issue Sponsorship Process can be found on the City website at www.sunnyvale.ca.gov by searching "Study Issues and Budget Proposals".

Submit Study Issue Form by 8/12/2025 for sponsorship to take place in September 2025 (Scenario 1)

Submit Study Issue Form by 9/9/2025 for sponsorship to take place in October 2025 (Scenario 2)