



Sunnyvale

Study Issue Form

The Study Issues process is designed to assist City Council with setting priorities for the coming calendar year. Board and commission members have two roles in this process:

1. To advise Council regarding the identification of policy issues to study, within their relevant area of authority;
2. To advise Council on those issues Council has decided to study.

The study issues process should focus on considering a new or revised ordinance, new or expanded service delivery program, changes to existing Council Policy, or amendments to the General Plan. The Study Issues Form is designed to focus board and commissioner members' ideas on potential policy study issues, and provide the opportunity for staff feedback and guidance in a transparent process. *Board members or commissioners may only fill out a form for study issue ideas within their purview.*

Date Submitted to Staff 8/15/2019
Liaison:

Board/ Commission: Select One

Workplan Year: Select Year

Submitted by: John Cordes

Study Issue Working Title: Enable safer and faster cycling by keeping trash recepticals out of bike lanes and bike ways

1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated this study?

Study education programs, policy and regulations implemented by other cities to determine steps Sunnyvale should take to reduce or completely eliminate bicycle travel blockage caused by trash collection.

Sunnyvale has numerous policies to encourage the use of bicycling and to make our streets safer for all users. These include our complete streets and Vision Zero policies among others. Currently Bicycle lanes effectively vanish in many places one day per week when trash collection day occurs. The trash receptacles are put in the bicycle path by uninformed residents and trash collectors who do not know it is against the law to block a travel lane. These blockages creates unsafe conditions where bicycles and scooter users have to dart in and out of the bike travel lane because it is blocked.

As one city which implemented a program to reduce these problems is Gilroy. Here is an article
<https://bikesiliconvalley.org/2019/07/do-not-block-the-bike-lane-campaign-success-in-gilroy/>

2. Staff Summary of Scope and/or Comments: [Staff Use Only]

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According to the article referenced in the link, the City of Gilroy's campaign to keep bike lanes clear will focus on two streets: Church Street and Egleberry Street. These streets have parking lanes adjacent to the curb and bike lanes next to the parking lane. The intent of the education campaign is to have residents place the trash bins next to the curb in the parking lane and not in the bike lane. The project for the City of Sunnyvale would focus on similar types of streets with on-street parking and bike lanes.

The scope of work will include the following elements:

1. An evaluation of current programs, policies and regulations of the City's garbage and recycling program in regards to placement of trash bins.
2. A review and evaluation of the current practice of trash bin placement by residents adjacent to on-street bicycle facilities. Also, the analysis will include trash bin placement after collection services have occurred.
3. Recommendations for any policy or program modifications to keep bicycle lanes clear.
4. If necessary, recommendations and development of an educational campaign to keep bicycle lanes clear and suggestions for distribution through various media outlets.

It should be noted that the California Vehicle Code (CVC) 21211 contains policies that prohibit the blockage of bikeways and the Sunnyvale Municipal Code (SMC) 8.16.110 contains provisions that the solid waste and recycling containers be placed at the street curb line.

- CVC 21211 (a) No person may place or park any bicycle, vehicle, or any other object upon any bikeway or bicycle path or trail...which impedes or blocks the normal and reasonable movement of any bicyclist unless the placement or parking is necessary for safe operation or is otherwise in compliance with the law.
- SMC 8.16.110 The collection station for single-family, two-family, and three-family residential uses shall be the street curb line adjacent to such premises and solid waste and recycling containers shall be placed in that location by the occupant of the premises for collection by the city licensed disposal service operator(s).

It is doubtful that any additional regulations will be necessary as part of the study issue. To clarify, the project will not include recommendations to place trash bins anywhere except at the curb line. Therefore, the result of the study issue may be a recommendation for an educational campaign. Alternatively, another option would be to include an educational notice in the next BPAC utility bill flyer and/or City website.