



# City of Sunnyvale

## Excerpt Meeting Minutes - Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

---

Thursday, September 16, 2021

6:30 PM

Telepresence Meeting: City Web Stream

---

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020) and Section 42 of Executive Order N-08-21 (June 11, 2021) issued by Governor Newsom, the meeting was conducted telephonically.

Chair Mehlinger called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. via teleconference.

### **ROLL CALL**

**Present 7 -** Chair Richard Mehlinger  
Vice Chair Leia Mehlman  
Commissioner Alex Bonne  
Commissioner Arwen Davé  
Commissioner Dan Hafeman  
Commissioner Timothy Oey  
Commissioner Mihir Paradkar

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS**

- 2**      [21-0765](#)      Recommend to City Council the Removal of On-Street Parking on the East Side of Sunnyvale Avenue Between Maude Avenue and Arques Avenue and Both Sides of Sunnyvale Avenue Between Arques Avenue and Hendy Avenue to Install Buffered Bicycle Lanes on Both Sides of Sunnyvale Avenue Per the Active Transportation Plan

Alternative 1: Recommend to City Council the Removal of On-Street Parking on the East Side of Sunnyvale Avenue Between Maude Avenue and Arques Avenue and on Both Sides of Sunnyvale Avenue Between Arques Avenue and Hendy Avenue, and to Install Buffered Bicycle Lanes on Both Sides of Sunnyvale Avenue Per the Active Transportation Plan

Lillian Tsang, Principal Transportation Planner gave a presentation on Sunnyvale Safe Routes to School Improvements on Sunnyvale Avenue. Highlighting the

following:

- Project Overview and Needs
- Project Limits - Sunnyvale Avenue between Maude and Hendy Avenues
- Existing Bicycle Network
- Bicycle Activity on Sunnyvale Avenue
- Sunnyvale Active Transportation Plan (ATP)
- On-Street Parking Study
- Sunnyvale Avenue On-Street Parking Study Area
- Sunnyvale Avenue On-Street Parking Study Summary
- Proposed Bicycle Improvements
- Public Outreach
- Public Outreach Meeting Notification Area
- Virtual Public Outreach Meeting
- Online Survey
- Staff Interpretation of Data, Outreach and Policy
- Benefits and Concerns
- Recommendation to City Council
- Next Steps

Commissioner Oey asked about the following:

- Why isn't the lane on Sunnyvale Avenue 10 1/2 feet wide the whole way? Ms. Tsang stated there is a VTA bus which travels along this corridor, and the travel lane needs to have a minimum of 11 feet to accommodate a bus.

Commissioner Bonne asked about the following:

- Was the count on bicyclists total during the day or was the count per hour? Ms. Tsang stated the count was done during peak hour. Was there data counted for total riders during the course of one day? Ms. Tsang stated data was not collected.

Commissioner Hafeman asked about the following:

- Were the parking studies done on a weekend day? Ms. Tsang stated there were not studies done on a weekend day.

Chair Mehlinger asked about the following:

- Were Class IV protected bike lanes considered for part or all this stretch? Ms. Tsang stated this corridor has frequent driveways so it would not be ideal for a Class IV facility.
- Is there anyway to maintain street parking on this stretch of street while also

adding all ages and abilities bicycle facilities? Ms. Tsang stated because of the width of the roadway it is quite limited. Limitation is the curb to curb space.

- Was there someone on the street counting cyclists? Mr. Dankberg, Kimley Horn consultant stated they performed traffic counts and bicycle counts at those intersections in 2019.

- Is there any data on violent crime in this neighborhood or surrounding areas? Ms. Tsang stated on the Sunnyvale website there is a neighborhood crime map where residents can view specific areas of the City.

Vice Chair Mehlman asked about the following:

- How will residents be able to put out their trash containers without obstructing the bike lane? Ms. Tsang stated that on trash day residents have been advised to place their bins as close to the curb as possible and bicyclists will have to be careful of those bins.

Commissioner Hafeman asked about the following:

- Is it true that if there is no parking in front of your house, an Uber/Lyft or paratransit cannot pick up a passenger? Ms. Tsang stated that if there is a "No Parking" sign they could still pick up or drop off.

Chair Mehlinger opened for Public Comment

Lauren Ledbetter, member of the public, commented on the following:

- Good project
- Most important N-S bicycle corridor in Sunnyvale
- Over 200 bike trips on this section of Sunnyvale Avenue each weekday
- Families ride it on weekends
- Best option for Lowlanders and SNAIL neighborhoods to cross Central Expressway and Caltrain tracks
- Vital connection to retail, restaurants, farmers market, transit in downtown Sunnyvale
- Only gap in the Sunnyvale Avenue/Borregas Avenue Corridor
- Need to improve safety
- Bike lanes can reduce crashes by 35%

Ralph Durham, member of the public, commented on the following:

- Recommends the project
- There needs to be space for people to get to and from where they are going in a safe and convenient manner

Margaret Henson, member of the public, commented on the following:

- Should use bikeways that are already in existence including Bayview which borders Bishop School and Morse Avenue which borders Columbia Middle School rather than disrupting entire neighborhoods when there are safer alternatives that are in existence

Isabell Shockley, member of the public, commented on the following:

- Would like City staff to re-think the project
- Feels family will be at risk if removal of street parking were to happen

Jeffrey Henson, member of the public, commented on the following:

- Does not approve of adding a new bike lane on North Sunnyvale Avenue and eliminating parking
- Project will be bad for senior citizens

Valerie Suares, member of the public, commented on the following:

- Asked staff to reconsider removing parking for the residents on Sunnyvale Avenue
- Very busy and dangerous street
- There are alternative routes for students

Mr. Bernhardt, member of the public, commented on the following:

- In favor of bike lanes
- May improve business from bicyclists along the corridor

Kathleen Martin, member of the public, commented on the following:

- Uber/Lyft or paratransit will not stop in front of her home if there is a bike lane
- Homeowners who live between Arques/Taylor are against the removal of on-street parking but not against the bike lane
- Handicap residents will have major issues if there is removal of on-street parking along the corridor

Daniel Howard, member of the public, commented on the following:

- In favor of removal on on-street parking and adding a bike lane

Cristian Bayer, member of the public, commented on the following:

- Schroeder Avenue parking concerns
- Study to see if the sidewalk could be wider rather than removing on-street parking

Agnes Nika, member of the public, commented on the following:

- Installing a Class III Bike Route along corridor
- Safety concerns of removal of on-street parking

Laurie, member of the public, commented on the following:

- In favor of safe bike lanes along Sunnyvale Avenue

Ari Feinsmith, member of the public, commented on the following:

- In favor of the project to remove on-street parking and add bike lanes to protect cyclists on this very dangerous street

Chair Melinger closed for Public Comment

Chair Mehlinger asked about the following:

- Can the remaining parking spots be marked to prevent double parking? Ms. Tsang stated it is not something City currently implement, and there will be additional maintenance costs associated to it.
- How much advance notice would residents get if the removal of on-street parking were adopted by City Council? Ms. Tsang stated construction will not begin until approximately a year later and notice will be sent out to residents in advance.
- Request to put Ms. Ledbetter's recommendations on the TDA wish list
- Would Class III Bike Route/sharrows constitute all ages and ability bicycle facility given the context of Sunnyvale Avenue? Ms. Tsang stated Class III on Sunnyvale Avenue will not be considered all ages and ability facilities.
- What would it cost to change the width of the sidewalk on Sunnyvale Avenue? Ms. Tsang stated it would be very costly.

Commissioner Bonne asked about the following:

- Does Sunnyvale Avenue have the right amount of street lights? Ms. Tsang stated she will check with the street department to confirm.
- Is there an option for cars to park half on street and half on the sidewalk? Is there enough room to make it a feasible option? Ms. Tsang stated it depends on the type of curb and that it would reduce the sidewalk width for pedestrians.

Chair Mehlinger called for a recess at 7:55 p.m. Chair Mehlinger reconvened the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Commissioner Davé asked if there could be a marking for cars to temporarily pull over to pick up a resident? Ms. Tsang stated there is no signage for that situation.

Commissioner Oey moved and Vice Chair Mehlman seconded Alternative 1: Recommend to City Council the Removal of On-Street Parking on the East Side of Sunnyvale Avenue Between Maude Avenue and Arques Avenue and on Both Sides of Sunnyvale Avenue Between Arques Avenue and Hendy Avenue, and to Install Buffered Bicycle Lanes on Both Sides of Sunnyvale Avenue Per the Active Transportation Plan. Adding that staff to try to accommodate as many pedestrian improvements as they can at California Avenue, the bridge and Hazelton Avenue.

Commissioner Oey commented on the following:

- It is very important to make Sunnyvale Avenue safer for bicyclist
- Having safer streets will motivate more bicyclists
- Plenty of nearby street parking for those displaced from the removal of on-street parking
- North Sunnyvale Avenue is a gap in the network that needs to be closed
- Staff recommendation for Sunnyvale Avenue is fundamentally sound and solidly in line with all Sunnyvale policies and plans
- Applauds staff for their very thorough job of their report

Vice Chair Mehlman commented on the following:

- Thanked staff for a great job
- This route passes one school and adjacent to another which makes it critical for Safe Routes to School network

Commissioner Hafeman commented on the following:

- In favor of motion due to supporting Safe Routes to School
- Good route to work

Commissioner Bonne commented on the following:

- Supports motion due to having more bikes on the streets
- Lower speed limits at same time

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Chair Mehlinger amends the motion to direct staff to examine adding parking space markers (cross-marks) to Sunnyvale Avenue and some distance along surrounding side streets, if feasible. Commissioner Oey and Commissioner Mehlman accept the amendment.

Chair Mehlinger commented on the following:

- Supports the motion because there are many policies within the City that demand

this step

- Only suitable North/South bicycle pedestrian corridor that crosses the tracks for over a mile
- Currently Sunnyvale Avenue is not safe for bicyclists
- Children need safe bicycle facilities
- There is no other way to add an all ages and abilities bicycle facility to Sunnyvale Avenue without removing on-street parking

Commissioner Oey moved and Vice Chair Mehlman seconded Alternative 1 with Modification: Recommend to City Council the Removal of On-Street Parking on the East Side of Sunnyvale Avenue Between Maude Avenue and Arques Avenue and Both Sides of Sunnyvale Avenue Between Arques Avenue and Hendy Avenue and Install Buffered Bicycle Lanes on Both Sides of Sunnyvale Avenue Per the Active Transportation Plan, Incorporate Pedestrian Safety Improvements on Sunnyvale Avenue at California Avenue, on the bridge over Central Expressway, and at Hazelton Avenue, and Examine Adding Parking Space Markings on Sunnyvale Avenue and Some Distance along Nearby Side Streets, if Feasible.

The Amendment carried the following vote:

**Yes 7 -** Chair Mehlinger  
Vice Chair Mehlman  
Commissioner Bonne  
Commissioner Davé  
Commissioner Hafeman  
Commissioner Oey  
Commissioner Paradkar

**No 0**