



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: March 6, 2012

To: Honorable Mayor & City Council

From: Aaron Kunz, Deputy Director of Transportation *AK*
Martha Eros, Transportation Planner

Subject: BICYCLE PLANNING UPDATE

Attachments: 1. Pilot Bicycle Routes Map

INTRODUCTION

This report provides an update on the current Bicycle Planning efforts and a proposed community outreach program for a Pilot Bicycle Route project along three corridors in the City.

DISCUSSION

In August 2010, the Traffic & Parking Commission (TPC) formed a bicycle ad hoc committee (Committee) to address bicycle needs in the community. Commissioners Ira Friedman, Alan Grushcow and Jeff Levine were appointed to the Committee and have hosted seven meetings to date.

The Committee began preliminary discussions regarding updating the 1977 Bicycle Master Plan included in the 2010 General Plan. Public Works & Transportation staff and the Committee worked on defining a vision and developing goals for an updated Bicycle Master Plan. The Committee identified short and long-term work items, including developing projects to introduce bicycle facilities to the City.

The Committee held three planning meetings between November 2010 and February 2011 with Transportation Planning staff and City management to define the goals and scope for a bicycle program for the City. Following interest from bicycle advocates, the public was invited to participate in roundtable discussions to provide insights on the cycling needs in the community. The Committee and the public agreed to meet regularly on alternate months for a six month period, and have met three times (June 8, 2011, November 16, 2011, January 18, 2012).

Short term goals included designing a decal to help the public identify the existing bike racks in the business triangle installed as part of the Urban Design project, developing a user-friendly

city web page, mapping and posting existing bicycle rack amenities online for easy community access, and reviewing the planning process undertaken by adjacent jurisdictions to apply to the City's bicycle planning efforts. Long-term goals include updating the Bicycle Master Plan, developing advanced online GIS features to map citywide bicycle facilities, implementing test bicycle route(s) and offering a bicycle Rack-On-Request program to the business community.

Pilot Bicycle Routes

There are currently no bicycle systems (i.e., routes or shared travel lanes) in the City of Beverly Hills. The Committee and staff propose a 6-12 month Pilot Bicycle Route project to introduce and test bike facilities in the City. Three corridors are identified and include a north-south route between Sunset Boulevard and Olympic Boulevard, and two east-west routes between the east and west city limits. Fehr & Peers Transportation Consultants conducted a study to evaluate the feasibility of implementing bicycle routes on four streets within the corridors (Attachment 1).

The proposed routes were derived from a roundtable discussion between the bicycle community the Committee and staff at the June 8, 2011 ad hoc meeting. The group identified streets that connect or lead to destinations, including merchants on Crescent Drive; the commercial centers of South Beverly Drive and the business triangle; access to schools and parks; and regional connectivity to bike routes from West Hollywood and Los Angeles areas.

North-South:

1. Beverly Drive between Sunset Boulevard and Olympic Boulevard.
 - Access to business, retail and restaurants on South Beverly Drive and the triangle; Will Rogers Park at the north terminus; wide road and connects to Santa Monica and Sunset boulevards.
2. Crescent Drive/Charleville Boulevard/Reeves Drive between Sunset and Olympic boulevards.
 - Access to Crescent Drive merchants north of Wilshire Boulevard, City Hall, Library and future Annenberg Cultural Center; adjacent access to Beverly Vista Elementary School and synagogue/church; alternative access to South Beverly Drive business corridor.

East-West:

1. South corridor on Charleville Boulevard between the east city limit at La Cienega Boulevard and west city limit at Moreno Boulevard.
 - Access or adjacent to elementary schools (Horace Mann, Beverly Vista, Good Sheppard), synagogue and parks; parallel to the east Wilshire Boulevard business corridor; currently a self-selected route by cyclists.
2. North corridor on Carmelita Avenue between the east city limit at Doheny Drive and west city limit at Whittier Drive.
 - Adjacent access to proposed North Santa Monica Boulevard corridor; Carmelita Avenue is a wide street with single-family homes and 21 all-way stop intersections.

In addition to the four streets identified above, staff proposes evaluating Burton Way between the east city limit (at Robertson Boulevard) and South Santa Monica Boulevard. Proposed bicycle plans for Los Angeles will include a bicycle system on San Vicente Boulevard that may eventually connect to Burton Way within the Los Angeles jurisdiction, thus connecting the City of Beverly Hills to a regional bicycle network. The Burton Way bicycle system would connect to

South Santa Monica Boulevard on the west and would provide access to merchants on North Crescent Drive and the business triangle. .

Staff has developed a community outreach program that includes two evening meetings and one regular TPC meeting. Information will be provided to the public regarding the proposed pilot routes and the Traffic & Parking Commission will review and provide a recommendation to the City Council following receipt of public comment. Staff recommends retaining Fehr & Peers Transportation Consultants to facilitate two evening meetings in March 2012, and one day meeting at the April 2012 TPC commission meeting. Following the public process, the TPC will provide a recommendation to the City Council for implementation of all or several of the proposed routes at a future City Council meeting.

Staff anticipates the design specifications and environmental review process to take approximately four months following City Council direction, and implementation of the pilot bike routes by the end of the calendar year.

Bicycle Racks

Along with recommendations for the pilot bicycle route project, staff will provide recommendations for a bicycle rack program, including a proposed budget.

Bicycle racks provide amenities to secure bicycles and potentially draw cyclists to destinations, including the commercial areas of Crescent and Beverly drives, and parks such as the Beverly Canon Gardens Park. Staff proposes introducing a bicycle Rack-On-Request program, which will provide businesses a process for requesting bicycle racks at private business locations. Additionally, staff identified additional park and civic locations that will benefit from having bicycle racks at the sites.

North Santa Monica Boulevard Improvement Project

North Santa Monica Boulevard (SMB) is scheduled as a major capital improvement project scheduled for a complete rehabilitation. A topography study has been completed, and the Request for Proposal for the design phase is scheduled for release in spring 2012. A bicycle route on SMB may be considered in Summer/Fall 2012 as part of the conceptual design/public outreach phase of the SMB reconstruction project

At the Ad-Hoc meetings, several participants proposed east and west directional lanes on SMB, but depending on the type of bicycle facility proposed, SMB would most likely require an extension beyond the existing curb faces on the north side of the street to accommodate bicycle lanes in each direction.

FISCAL IMPACT

Proposition A Local Return grant funds have been identified for bicycle planning and program implementation, including installation of routes and racks. The City has an agreement with Fehr & Peers for a not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000 to conduct a feasibility study for the four proposed bicycle routes and facilitate the public process to guide selection of the pilot project. The initial feasibility study cost was \$7,400. The estimated cost for the community outreach process by Fehr & Peers is approximately \$3,900, which includes graphics, facilitating two public meetings, and an executive summary report.

RECOMMENDATION

Meeting Date: March 6, 2012

This is an informational item for the planned community outreach to receive public comment regarding bicycle facilities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'DG' in a stylized, cursive font.

David Gustavson

Approved By

Attachment 1

PROPOSED PILOT BICYCLE ROUTES

