



City of Oakland, Bicyclist & Pedestrian Advisory Commission
Minutes from the October 19th, 2023 Meeting
City Hall, 2nd Floor, Sergeant Daniel Sakai Hearing Room (A.K.A. Hearing Room 4)

Meeting agenda at <https://www.oaklandca.gov/meeting/october-2023-bicyclist-pedestrian-advisory-commission-bpac-meeting>.

Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM by BPAC Chair Dianne Yee.

Item 1. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum/Introductions

At roll call, quorum was established with 7 Commissioners present (X). One Commissioner was excused.

Commissioners	Present
Andrew Campbell	X
Alex Frank	X
Grey Gardner (Vice Chair)	(excused)
Mike Lok	X
Phoenix Mangrum	X
David Ralston	X
Patricia Schader	
Nick Whipps	X
Dianne Yee (Chair)	X

Introductions were made.

- Staff: Pierre Gerard, Jason Patton, Craig Raphael.
- Other attendees: Priyanka Altman, Kevin Dalley, Becky Frank, Hydeh Ghaffari, Cynthia Herrera, Jimmy Jessup, Miss Margaret, Sheila McCracken, Hunter Oatman-Stanford, Rachel Osajima, George Spies, Midori Tabata.

Item 2. Open Forum / Public Comment

- Rachel Osajima lived near the Bruns Court Overcrossing as a child and used it hundreds of times. She claims that there are issues with the related Caltrans Project study, and she requests additional solutions to keep an overcrossing at the Bruns Court location. She requests that the topic be added to an upcoming BPAC agenda. She is also concerned about the loss of motor vehicle parking in the area for ADA access.
- Kevin Dalley stated that the 2016-2018 study by the City of Oakland on Park Boulevard suggests that the roadway should not be reduced to one motor vehicle lane in each direction. There is new information to suggest that the roadway can indeed be reduced to one lane in each direction.

Item 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- A motion **to adopt the Bicyclist & Pedestrian Advisory Commission meeting minutes from September 21st, 2023** was made (Yee), seconded (Campbell), and approved by roll call vote. Commissioners Ralston and Whipps abstained from the vote.

Adopted minutes online at www.oaklandbikes.info/BPAC.

Item 4. Recent Bicyclist and Pedestrian Fatal Traffic Crashes

Chair Yee (ye.e.bpac@gmail.com) led the commission in a discussion of recent fatal and other high-profile traffic crashes in Oakland involving bicyclists and pedestrians.

The list of recent crashes was included in the meeting's agenda packet.

Summary of Discussion:

- George Spies shared on behalf of Traffic Violence Rapid Response (TVRR) that there were at least five traffic fatalities in Oakland the week of September 26th. He and Bryan Culbertson visited 3 of the locations, including the site of the pedestrian death on Seminary Avenue, and met the family of the victim while they were setting up a roadside memorial for the victim. TVRR may announce a vigil event for the victim.
- Quick-builds should be considered at sites like the one on Seminary Avenue. There have been at least two fatal collisions near this location in the past year.
- Commissioner Mangrum rides a bicycle on International Blvd all the time, and has experienced a number of near-misses with drivers.
- International Boulevard appears dangerous for the most vulnerable pedestrians (i.e., children and seniors), according to collision data.

Speakers other than Commissioners: George Spies.

Item 5. BPAC Commissioner Recommendations

The Recruitment Committee reported back with recommendations from its review of applications of people seeking to be appointed to the BPAC for three-year terms beginning January 2024. The Committee recommended Enjoleah Daye, Cynthia Citlalli Herrera, and David Ralston (reappointment). Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council.

- A motion **to accept the Recruitment Committee's recommendations to appoint as Commissioners Enjoleah Daye, Cynthia Citlalli Herrera, and David Ralston (reappointment)** was made (Yee), seconded (Whipps), and unanimously approved by roll call vote. Commissioner Ralston abstained.

- Staff will forward the recommendations to the Mayor's Office.

Speakers other than Commissioners: Cynthia Citlalli Herrera.

Item 6. Vision 980 Study

Becky Frank and Hunter Oatman-Stanford, transportation planners from the Office of Regional and Community Planning at Caltrans District 4, introduced Caltrans' Vision 980 Study. Email Caltrans staff about the project at vision980@dot.ca.gov.

Summary of Discussion:

- Phase 1 of the study is planned to begin in 2024, and to conclude in Summer 2025.
- Phase 2 to conclude by Summer 2027. City of Oakland was a co-applicant for Phase 2 and will share that Phase with Caltrans.
- Other City of Oakland studies, plans, and projects have included comments on Highway 980, so the Vision 980 study should reference those comments.
- Elaine Brown's 1992 memoir, *A Taste of Power*, includes context on the Black Panthers' lobbying in the 1970s to finish construction of Highway 980 to increase vehicular access to jobs in Oakland's City center.
- An [Interstate 580 Transit and Multimodal Strategy study](#) by the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) will examine the extent to which freight trucks need to use I-580, and a Request for Proposals is about to be released for that study (and will be conducted on a shorter timeline than the Vision 980 Study).
- There may be some misinformation in local and/or mass media about what this study is.
- Interstate 980 should be compared to Interstate 880 in terms of racial disparities.
- Caltrans has proposed a number of community meetings and will include community-based organizations in its outreach efforts.
- Is social media a valid source of public comment on this project? Consider Nextdoor, Facebook, Instagram as tools of an engagement model that may benefit harder-to-reach communities.
- While a limited number of conceptual visualizations will be created for this study, there is no limit to the number of options for the future of Highway 980. The hope is that the local community will coalesce around one vision for the Highway.
- Repaving work on Oakland's streets should not be affected by the study.
- How will the decision-making process look like at the end of the public input process? In the case that it is recommended that the Interstate highway be removed, State legislative action and collaboration between Caltrans and the City of Oakland would be required.
- To better reflect the variety of lived experiences around I-980, Caltrans needs to hear from all communities impacted by this study. Sign up here to provide feedback and learn more about study activities: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/SStgb55/vision980>

Speakers other than Commissioners: Jason Patton, George Spies.

Item 7. Safe Routes to BART Application for Lakeside Drive Cycle Track Project

Craig Raphael, Senior Transportation Planner with OakDOT's Capital Finance team (CRaphael@oaklandca.gov), provided an overview of and requested a BPAC letter of support for an upcoming application to the Safe Routes to BART construction grant program for a cycle track at Lakeside Drive and Lake Merritt Boulevard between International Boulevard and 19th Street. Craig answered questions about the City of Oakland's involvement in the Safe Routes to BART program to date.

Summary of Discussion:

- The name of the grant application and project is the Lake Merritt Bikeway.
- This funding round is the third, after two unsuccessful applications by the City of Oakland to receive funding for this project via the Safe Routes to BART grant program.
- This \$10 million project, at 100% design, would create a separated bike lane around the southern part of Lake Merritt.
- This separated bike lane would enhance connections between up to three BART Stations: 19th Street, 12th Street, and Lake Merritt Stations.
- The Franklin Street separated bike lane project may be more expensive, closer to the order of 20 million to 30 million dollars.
- Lakeshore Avenue between El Embarcadero and E 18th Street has been discussed, but OakDOT does not have any details yet to share about plans for that roadway. Another project would need to be proposed for this extent.
- Socioeconomic and high-injury location data should be highlighted in the grant application.
- If the grant application is successful, construction is anticipated to begin in Winter 2024/25, spanning one to two years.
- Connecting Eastlake with Downtown Oakland via this separated bike lane is important.

→ A motion **to submit a letter of support for the Safe Routes to BART Lake Merritt Bikeway project grant application** was made (Ralston), seconded (Frank), and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Speakers other than Commissioners: George Spies, Rachel Osajima.

Item 8. Fire Code Amendments – Status

The Ad Hoc Committee on Fire Code Amendments continues to seek information from the Oakland Fire Department on proposed amendments to the Oakland Fire Code. The Committee is monitoring the agendas of the City Council's Public Safety Committee where the item is anticipated to be heard.

Item 9. Committee report-backs

Committees of the BPAC provided brief updates to the Commission. A list of active committees are included in the agenda packet and at <https://www.oaklandca.gov/resources/bicyclist-and-pedestrian-advisory-commission-bpac-committees-and-liaisons>.

Summary of Discussion:

- **Policy and Legislative Committee:** the next meeting is on the second Monday of November in Hearing Room 2.
- **Infrastructure Committee:** the meeting notes were published online, and feel free to submit comments on the plans presented at that meeting to either Robert (robert@bikeeastbay.org) or Chair Yee (yee.bpac@gmail.com). The next meeting will be held on the first Thursday of November, on November 2nd in the Broadway Conference Room.
- **2023 Recruitment Committee:** this ad-hoc committee should be disbanded.

→ A motion **to disband the 2023 Recruitment Committee** was made (Campbell), seconded (Whipps), and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Item 10. Three-month agenda look-ahead, suggestions for meeting topics, announcements

The three-month look-ahead and announcements was included in the meeting's agenda packet.

Announcement:

- The BPAC may organize a group ride, with details to be determined and announced later.
- The BPAC may hold a Special Meeting at another location in Oakland at some point in the future, though it will take some advance planning.
- The regular BPAC meeting on December 21st will be canceled and a Special Meeting of the BPAC will be announced for Thursday, December 14th, 6-8pm at City Hall, Hearing Room 4.
- OakDOT held a [Community Streetscape Projects open house event](#) in West Oakland on October 12th to discuss transportation improvements to: Broadway from 2nd St. to 11th St., and 20th St. to Grand Ave., Martin Luther King Jr. Way from 2nd St. to 14th St., and 7th Street from Mandela Parkway to Martin Luther King Jr. Way.
- TVRR is having a general meeting soon, and members of the public may get in touch with George Spies to receive information about it.
- An OPD "Truck or Treat" outreach event will be held on Tuesday, 10/31/23, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at Verdese Carter Park; candy and toys will be available for free.

Suggestions for Meeting Topics

- N/A

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Minutes recorded by Pierre Gerard, Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Transportation Planner II, emailed to meeting attendees for review on 10/26/23 with comments requested by 11/7/23 to PGerard@oaklandca.gov. Revised minutes were attached to the November 2023 meeting agenda and adopted at that meeting.