

Bicycle and Active Transportation Committee (BATAC)

Minutes June 9, 2025

Members Present: John Bolka, Jim Gardner, Lourdes Gomez, Jacob Henke, Nicole Rodia, Michael Chin (Vice Chair), Cliff Bargar (Chair)

Members Absent: Christine Luong

Staff Present: J. Brook, A. Gross (Transit Police Bureau), B. Hand (Transit Police Bureau), S. Kirkpatrick, B. Lopez, J. Navarrete, D. Provence, M. Schroeder (City of Cupertino), M. Zelkha (Manzanita Works)

1. Call to Order

Chair Bargar called the meeting to order at 5:46 pm.

2. Roll Call

BATAC Secretary Jean Brook called the roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

3. Pledge of Allegiance / Safety Briefing

Chair Cliff Bargar led the Pledge of Allegiance and delivered the Safety Briefing.

4. Consideration of Requests, if any, of Directors to participate remotely due to Emergency Circumstances – There were none.

5. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda – There were none.

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 20, 2025

Motion/Second: Bargar/Bolka

Ayes: Bolka, Gardner, Gomez, Henke, Rodia, Chin, Bargar

Noes: None

Absent: Luong

7. E-Bike Program by Manzanita Works

Mila Zelkha, CEO, Manzanita Works, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- Improve transportation, working and living conditions for essential workers in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties based on public/private partnerships
- Essential Express shuttle, Essential Wheels e-bikes and pedal bikes, Go Pass
 - Essential Express shuttle – transit for essential workers, co-sponsored by City of Redwood City
 - Try e-bike for free for up to one year for Redwood City residents or workers
- Funding from San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SMCTA) grant, City of Redwood City, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Greystar, Sand Hill Property Company, and Grace Lutheran Church in Palo Alto.

The Committee had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Committee comments and questions, which included the following:

- Publicizing e-bike rentals – labor associations and unions, subscribe to, door-to-door outreach.
- Offer locks for security
- Number of e-bikes distributed – four people now in the program; collaborating with Caltrain to get bikes on trains, outreach, incentives, and marketing
- Outreach targeting people who need the service

8. Silicon Valley (SV) Hopper

Matt Schroeder, Senior Transportation Planner, City of Cupertino, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- Multi-jurisdictional partnership with Santa Clara County
- All-electric microtransit fleet
- Caltrain/GTFS (General Transit Feed Specification) allows riders to see train schedule in SV Hopper app
- Commuter service; runs six days a week
- App works similar to Uber/Lyft; shows rideshare component; pick-up/drop-off is street corner nearest to destination
- One in four trips originates at Caltrain station; trips to/from Caltrain free on Saturdays

The Committee had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Committee comments and questions, which included the following:

- Demographics – primarily high school and college students after school hours
- Trips average 1.5 passengers per vehicle
- Typical wait time 15-25 minutes; farebox recovery covers small portion of program cost
- Percentage of rides including a bicycle – rare
- Lawrence station excluded – to be included in Phase 2 in summer 2026.
- Instructions how to load bikes on vehicle bike racks – not on website since drivers must load bikes per contract
- Healthcare clinic rides marketed to senior centers

9. Report of the Chair – There was none.

10. Staff Report

Baltazar Lopez, Government Affairs Officer, stated that BATAC is now providing quarterly reports to the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board.

10.a. Bike to Wherever Days Report Out

Mr. Lopez reported on the following:

- Two-day event; 400 people interacted with Caltrain stations, including 4th and King , Mountain View, San Mateo, and Millbrae.
- 4th and King station had approximately 150 people

10.b. Customer Satisfaction Survey between May 6th and June 1st

Mr. Lopez stated that the survey was the first one to be conducted regarding electrified service.

10.c. Bait Bike Program

Mr. Lopez reported on the following and was joined by Scott Kirkpatrick, Deputy Director, Safety and Security, and Lieutenant Ben Hand and Sergeant Alex Gross, Transit Police Bureau, San Mateo County Sheriff's Department:

- Program being tested by Sheriff's Department – secured a bike over the \$950 minimum that would be classified as a felony if stolen; to be placed on trains to monitor thefts
- Rollout planned for summer 2025; requesting feedback from Committee on how to market program

The Committee had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Committee comments and questions, which included the following:

- Publicizing bike brand
- Bait bikes to be located multiple places on train
- Applying bait bike stickers to riders' bikes
- Caltrain advertising that the agency has bait bikes
- Keep program vague to avoid promoting theft of lower-value bikes
- Deterrents to theft – education component showing felony thefts lead to jail time; maintain photos and serial numbers; lock rim to frame; video of suspects;
- Patterns of thefts yet to be determined; likely crime of opportunity; no bike theft rings identified
- Provide resources for obtaining a free bike, access to safe commuting
- Bike registry – Caltrain does not currently partner with any registries; 100 bikes are left behind per month.
- Add bike safety page to Sheriff's Office website
- Successful program – police make several arrests, determine if planned or crime of opportunity

Public Comment

Adrian Brandt commented that cameras in bike cars fail to deter thefts and spoke in support of the program.

Mr. Lopez requested the Sheriff's Department provide the timing of when they would be ready to go public with the program, and said he would like to present the final recommendation to the Committee at their meeting in July.

10.d. Bike Board First Stencils

Mr. Lopez stated that the timing of bike board first stencil placement has changed. He stated some of the stencils at a number of stations need to be moved or adjusted if they cover other warning signs.

- **10.e. ELockers**

Dan Provence, Principal Planner, reported on the following:

- More eLockers (can accommodate 154 more bikes) installed since March – in Palo Alto, California Avenue, San Antonio, Tamien, Redwood City (second bank of lockers), Diridon, Hillsdale, San Mateo
- All installations have at least four large lockers.

Public Comment

Adrian Brandt suggested improving instruction signage on eLockers.

Mr. Provence responded that more information is posted on the new eLockers.

11. Written Correspondence

Mr. Lopez stated the correspondence was posted on the website.

12. Committee Member Comments

Member Rodia requested staff prepare an update on the bike information on the Caltrain website for discussion at the next meeting.

13. Date / Time / Location of Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, July 17th, 2025 at 5:45 pm

June 17, 2025, at 5:45 pm, via Zoom teleconference or at the Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA.

14. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.