**BICYCLE ADVISORY TEAM**

**MEETING NOTES**

**May 3, 2017**

**Wednesday, 1:30 p.m., Oak and Park Rooms**

*The Bicycle Advisory Team meeting was called to order at 1:48 p.m. The following were in attendance:*

**City Staff:** *Kathy Lowry, Michael Rieder, Jay Spurgin, Mohammad Fatemi, Jim Mashiko, Mike Tohidian, Jorge Muñoz, Ester Marcelino*

**BAT Members:** *Michael Bass, Mike Cicchi, Linda Coburn, Les Leach,
Lisa Severus, J. C.Simmons, Julie Snow, Wendy Zimmerman, Carl Patterson, Kent Koral*

**Guests:** *Edward Douma and Mirjam Borsboom*

1. Introduction
2. Items to be added to the Agenda

 *None*

1. Presentations

 *A. Presentation by Kathy Lowry*

*Kathy Lowry briefed the representatives from the Dutch Cycling Embassy about what the City has done and still doing, to introduce and improve safe bicycling in Thousand Oaks through the years and the challenges it faced in the process.*

*With the creation of the first Bicycle Master Plan in 2005, residents’ awareness of the benefits of bicycling as an alternative mode of transportation has significantly increased.*

*The following City projects were completed either specifically to provide education, safety and convenience to the biking community and pedestrians, or to improve the flow of traffic for motorists, bicycle riders, pedestrians and in some cases, equestrians:*

* *Green Meadow Bike Path*
* *Conejo Creek South Bike Path*
* *Lynn Road Bike Lanes*
* *Wendy Bridge North Bound Onramp*
* *Erbes Road Sidewalks, Bikelanes & Undergrounding,*

*and Horse Trail with Crossing*

* *Westlake Blvd. Sidewalks & Bike Lanes*
* *Conejo Creek North Park Equestrian and Bike Path Improvements*
* *Avenida de los Arboles Road Diet*
* *Pederson Buffered Bike Lane*
* *Sharrows*

*B. Presentation by Dutch Cycling Embassy*

*Mirjam Borsboom and Edward Douma, representatives from the Dutch Cycling Embassy (Embassy) in the Netherlands did a presentation to promote safe use of bicycles as an alternative mode of transportation both for leisure and as a means of commuting to work, schools, and other common daily destinations.*

*They shared that with the significant increase in car ownership and usage in the Netherlands in the 1960s, people had to struggle with congestion, air pollution, poorer quality of life, and traffic accidents that their government decided to come up with measures to promote cycling, walking, and traffic calming, as follows:*

1. *reducing car access to city centers and create car-free areas;*
2. *making parking in city centers more expensive;*
3. *constructing cycle paths and reducing road space for cars;*
4. *facilitating cycling through cycle network planning, road design, signaling, parking and enforcement;*
5. *reducing maximum speed on the majority of urban roads to 30 km/hour or less;*
6. *promoting cycling to encourage the use of bikes and discourage car use.*

*With these measures, bicycle use increased and brought about the following advantages.*

1. *travel by bicycle is 10% faster than by car;*
2. *the quality of life in cities improved;*
3. *traffic congestion is reduced; and*
4. *local, city economies improved.*

*Netherlands has bicycle-friendly (good, safe, and dedicated) infrastructures that promote a healthier and more active lifestyle.*

*The Netherlands government’s genuine concern and continued innovative support for a safe biking environment and the people’s awareness and acceptance of its benefits and advantages have earned them the reputation as the world’s number one cycling country.*

*The Embassy representatives encouraged the BAT members to reach out to them for any issues about bicycling and assured to share their expertise from a comprehensive network of private companies, traffic and infrastructure consultants and manufacturers, NGOs, universities and research institutions; national and local governments.*

*Lastly, the Embassy representatives invited the attendees to the Velo-City 2017 “The Freedom of Cycling” conference that will be hosted by the Netherlands on June 13-16, 2017, expected to be attended by 1,500 to 2,000 delegates from over 80 countries. Main topics that will be discussed are Governance and Policy Development, Infrastructure, Social and Equity Aspects, Bikenomics, and Urban Development.*

*C. Rancho Road Sidewalk and Bike Lane Project – presented by Mike Tohidian*

*This project aims to make improvements on Rancho Road and provide a better connection between Thousand Oaks Blvd. and Haaland Drive towards the Thousand Oaks Transportation Center. The goal is to address the project area’s merging and weaving issues by making the flow of traffic smooth for motorists and to provide safe and convenient paths for bikers and pedestrians. Mike showed the existing lane configurations and sidewalks on northbound and southbound ramps and presented the proposed changes such as lane
re-configuration, installation of sidewalks and bike lanes, and signaled crosswalks.*

*The BAT members made suggestions and provided valuable inputs which mainly, would provide more protection to bicycle riders and pedestrians from speeding vehicles.*

*Mike reminded the BAT members that this project is on Caltrans’ right of way and the City has to comply with Caltrans’ standards but assured that comments made will be taken into consideration.*

1. Announcements

*Kathy reminded everyone about the following forthcoming events:*

* + Ride of Silence, May 17th, 5:45 p.m. check in, 6:30 p.m. start at The Lakes
	+ Bike N’ Ride, May 15th, 8:15 a.m. check in, 9:00 a.m. start at Giant Bicycles
	+ Public Works Open House – May 23rd and 24th, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., MSC
1. Confirm next BAT Meeting – Suggested Date: Thursday, June 15, 2017, 4:00 p.m.

*The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. to Thursday, June 15, 2017, at 4:00 p.m.*

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