

2nd Metro Bicycle Roundtable Notes

Wednesday, May 12, 2010, 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Metro Presentations:

Doug Failing, Executive Director of Metro's Highway Program and Interim Chief Planning Officer, welcomed participants and provided a recap of the 1st Metro Bicycle Roundtable that took place on February 19, 2010. Metro staff consolidated the 100+ comments received at the 1st Roundtable into three broad themes:

- Policy and Planning
- Implementation
- Operations

The consolidated comments were sent to Bicycle Roundtable stakeholders, and stakeholders were asked to identify their top three priorities within each theme. Three Subcommittees will be formed around each of the themes to work further with staff on the issues brought forth. Each Subcommittee will be facilitated by Metro staff and will be charged with providing advice pertaining to Metro's policy.

Mr. Failing reported that Metro has been working on some of the issues raised at the 1st Metro Bicycle Roundtable. For example:

- Metro conducted counts on the Metro Orange Line Bus and Bike Path, and Metro will be conducting counts at 20 rail stations in May 2010.
- Metro is a co-applicant with SCAG for a grant to establish a data clearinghouse.
- Metro is working with other agencies to establish bike sharing.
- Metro is looking at ways to expand bicycle parking at key mobility hubs.
- Metro has supported CALSTART's grant application for the Folding Bike Incentive Program.
- Metro will hold an innovative Bicycle Design Workshop on June 2nd.
- Metro completely updated the Metro Bicycle Map and copies are hot off the press.
- Seats have been removed from the Metro Red and Purple Line trains, and bicycle decals have been put on the doors and inside each train car to indicate where bicycles are to be placed inside the trains.
- Metro's training group will be releasing an RFP for an educator to work with bus operators; this is subject to budget approval.
- A Bicycle Safety Brochure for operators has been finalized and Metro Operations Department is improving its training programs.

Lynne Goldsmith, Bike Planning Manager, and Greg Angelo, Director of Real Property Management and Development, provided a presentation on TODs (Transit Oriented Developments) and led a brainstorming discussion about bicycle parking at the Hollywood/Vine Station. The purpose was to demonstrate how a typical topic or issue could be discussed within the Subcommittees.

Greg suggested topics for consideration at a future Policy and Planning Subcommittee meeting:

- Metro's role in bike parking for transit access, residents, and visitors
- Methodology needed for determining the amount of bike parking
- Guidelines needed for siting bike parking within the development.

An overview of Metro's Joint Development Program

(http://www.metro.net/projects/joint_dev_pgm/) was provided. A discussion took place and comments were recorded on flip charts.

Comment Summary:

Bike Room

Regarding the Hollywood and Vine example, some participants thought the presentation would benefit from more background information including alternatives, site plans and other potential options around the development. The following concerns about the proposed bike room at Hollywood and Vine were expressed:

- 1) The room could be blocked or access prohibited by large numbers of party-goers queuing near the entrance to the room and elevators during club or party events;
- 2) The room is unsafe since it is sealed off with thick, non-transparent walls and has only one entrance;
- 3) Security cameras are not enough to make the room feel safe and are a red flag;
- 4) Bicycles should not be hidden in a separate room where thieves can enter and steal parts;
- 5) There are potential locations on the same city block to consider as they are part of the transit ecosystem;
- 6) Hiding the bikes implies that Metro is not proud of bicycles.

Other comments about the proposed bike room at Hollywood and Vine were as follows:

- 1) Membership access could be by credit card;
- 2) The bike room could be operated as an attended bike station or have a security guard present;
- 3) The bike room could include a design theme to encourage usage;
- 4) The bike room could be used by hotel guests, residents, people who live nearby or people just drop by to eat; the bike room could be used for bike sharing.

Bike Rack Design and Location

Comments referring to the proposed bicycle rack design at Hollywood and Vine were as follows:

- 1) Metro should provide an aesthetically designed bike rack for this iconic station that also allows more capacity.

Comments referring to the proposed location and number of bicycle racks at Hollywood and Vine were:

- 1) Metro should remove the planter on west side of plaza and replace it with a row of bike racks and covered shelter overhead;
- 2) The planter should not be removed as it provides seating, creates a social environment, and removal would be expensive;
- 3) There maybe ADA issues with a certain style of bike rack (four bikes per rack would need to be spaced apart appropriately);
- 4) Bike racks should be farther away from the planter;
- 5) Bike racks should be located near the door of the W Hotel in view of the doorman;
- 6) The proposed four bike racks could be easily filled – the bike racks at the North Hollywood station are an example;
- 7) Metro should emphasize available free bike-parking;
- 8) Metro should consider all users when choosing a location.

Bike Parking

Comments for the planning of bicycle parking were as follows:

- 1) Bicycle parking needs to be considered early and not after the fact;
- 2) Surveys should determine the need for bicycle parking;
- 3) City-issued CUPs (conditional use permits) should require adequate bicycle parking;
- 4) Bike parking policies should allow room for expansion.

An LACBC Board member distributed a Metro Campaign Platform that discussed numerous policy considerations.

Other comments made include:

- 1) Metro should work bikes into Measure R projects, including Construction Authority projects;
- 2) Metro should review and recommend design standards;
- 3) Metro should address why bus operators are liable if they allow bikes inside the buses;
- 4) TAP card gates need to allow bikes better access;
- 5) The jurisdictional authority of Metro, Caltrans and the cities over bicycle projects needs to be clarified;
- 6) The above five comments should be considered in the Subcommittees.

Summary Closing:

Bronwen Trice, Sr. Community Relations Officer, explained the purpose and charge of the Subcommittees, distributed the Guiding Principles, and introduced the Facilitators:

- Policy and Planning:
 - Cory Zelmer, Transportation Planning Manager, South Bay Area Team
- Implementation:
 - Aspet Davidian, Director of Project Engineering Facilities and
 - Dave Sotero, Sr. Public Communications Officer

- Operations:
 - Bruce Shelburne, Director of Rail Operations, Service Planning, and Project Development and
 - Brandon Farley, Transportation Planning Manager, Rail Operations, Service Planning, and Project Development

Mr. Failing answered questions and stated that stakeholder comments would be considered in Metro's policies and Bicycle Strategic Plan. He reiterated that the development standards going forward would incorporate bicycle parking standards. In a confined space every inch is valuable. Regarding parking on the mezzanine, there are underground safety issues and Metro operational needs are different. Caltrans has developed bicycle facility design guidelines (CA MUTCD and Highway Design Manual, Chapter 1000). Cities determine the land use policies. Transportation funds are programmed by Metro through the Call for Projects and Transportation Enhancement and CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) funds are distributed by Caltrans. Metro can influence behavior but cannot make local decisions. Regarding Metrolink, each city makes its own guidelines for TODs or rail stations.

Metro has produced a new bike map. The Metro website will also have a format for feedback and a pdf of the map will be up on the website soon.

The 3rd Metro Bicycle Roundtable is scheduled for Wednesday, August 11, 2010. On June 2nd Metro is sponsoring a day-long Bicycle Design Workshop.

Attachments:

- Agenda
- List of Attendees