



**CITY OF NOVATO  
PUBLIC WORKS**

**Complete Streets & Pathways Oversight Committee**

**Minutes**

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
WOMACK CONFERENCE ROOM - 2nd Floor  
922 MACHIN AVENUE  
NOVATO, CA 94945

**Wednesday, January 18, 2023 - 5:30 PM**

**A. WELCOME**

**A.1 Call to Order, and Roll Call**

Meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm.

Committee: Mark Birnbaum, Meherdad Namiranian, Nestor Schnasse, Ed Schulze, Mark Vanderscoff, Casey Ward, Joakim Osthus, Matthew Leonard

Staff: Chris Blunk, Kenny Jeong, Barry Bergman, Julie Eichner

**B. APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA**

Committee Action: Motion by Mark Birnbaum to amend the agenda to move item E4 up so members of the public don't have to wait to hear the item. Seconded by Ed Schulze.

Voted-8-0-0

AYES: Mark Birnbaum, Meherdad Namiranian, Nestor Schnasse, Ed Schulze, Mark Vanderscoff, Casey Ward, Joakim Osthus, Matthew Leonard

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**C. Approve the meeting minutes of November 16, 2022**

Committee Action: Motion by Mark Vanderscoff to approve amended minutes with the addition of a mention that a refuge area may be considered at San Marin Dr and San Mateo Way in the future. Also, a correction was noted on E6 regarding Class II bike lanes on Diablo/Redwood. Seconded by Casey Ward

Voted:8-0-0

AYES: Mark Birnbaum, Meherdad Namiranian, Nestor Schnasse, Ed Schulze, Mark Vanderscoff, Casey Ward, Joakim Osthus, Matthew Leonard

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

## D. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

## E. GENERAL BUSINESS

*These items include significant and administrative actions of special interest and will usually include a presentation and discussion by the Committee. They will be enacted upon by a separate vote.*

### E.1 Confirm Meetings dates for 2023 -Jan 18, March 15, May 17, July 19, Sept. 20, Nov. 15

Action: Motion by Ed to accept meeting dates for 2023 Seconded by Nestor, all in favor.

Voted:8-0-0

AYES: Mark Birnbaum, Meherdad Namiranian, Nestor Schnasse, Ed Schulze, Mark Vanderscoff, Casey Ward, Joakim Osthus, Matthew Leonard

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

### E.2 Review Updated Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan- Consider Recommendation Approval by the City Council (see attachment) (C. Blunk)

After incorporating the comments and feedback from the prior meetings review, Chris went through the most current, edited version with the committee so they would have another, final opportunity, to comment and/or make changes prior to its submittal to City Council for approval.

Some of the highlighted changes include:

Anywhere BPAC committee appeared, was changed to reflect the newly formed CSPOC.

To satisfy the Ed, who does not like the use of the word of mandate in section 4.7.1 as it relates to businesses implementation of shower facilities; the word consider was added to precede mandating.

Joakim stated he would like to see stronger language in the last sentence of 4.7.2. Feels the use of consider is not firm or definitive enough.

Due to some redundancies and the need for more clarification, there were some changes and movement to parts of 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3 and 5.3.4.

Action: Motion by Mark B recommending, that with the changes, committee is ready for the plan to go to Council for approval. Seconded by Nestor.

Voted:8-0-1-0

AYES: Mark Birnbaum, Meherdad Namiranian, Nestor Schnasse, Mark Vanderscoff, Casey Ward, Joakim Osthus, Matthew Leonard

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Ed Schulze

ABSENT: None

### E.3 Update on Capital Improvement Program Projects (C. Blunk)

#### E.3.1 CIP 09-003 Grant Avenue Bridge Funding

Chris was alerted from Caltrans that we are back in the highway bridge funding program we had previously applied for. At one point it was backlogged, and we had applied other grants, but were not successful. We are not certain what year we will be programmed in but hope for 23/24 which will give us enough time to do what needs to be done prior to construction.

Olive Ave-no changes since last update

Novato Blvd Widening- We are going to council to on February 14, for the approval to initiate the right of way acquisition process. There are about 5-6 properties that we will need to acquire a sliver of the frontage as part of this project. This is a major milestone for this project and if approved, offer letters would go out shortly thereafter.

#### **E.4 Discuss the addition of All Way Stop Controls to the Intersections of Oak Grove Dr. and Elmview Way (C. Blunk)**

Chris and Kenny provided a Power Point presentation to the committee, and members of the public in attendance, that included the history as well as an overview that outlined the background and the reason for the consideration for all way stop controls at this location. The data from the temporary closure that was done in 2021 was reviewed, including peak count hours, and did not show any numbers out of the normal range considering volume of cars and speed. There were no documented crashes in 5 years.

This study revealed that this location did not meet an all way stop control warrant, as the criteria was not met per MUTCD.

MUTCD guidance states that stop sign compliance is low when stop signs are installed at locations that do not meet the warrants, which has been supported by independent studies. After careful analysis, and considering other less cost-effective measures, we will recommend to council to put in all way stop controls. It has the potential to benefit the neighborhood, outweighs the alternative of doing nothing, and is relatively easy to implement. We also don't think it will create a lot of offenders due to the low traffic volumes.

Next step would be to take a resolution to the City Council for approval and subsequent implementation.

Mehرداد asked if we are setting a precedent for other neighborhoods if they ask and want the same thing (if not warranted) and if so, how will we address it? Chris said we do take that risk. Every situation is different and would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis before deciding. In this location, a precedent has already been set in the neighborhood. And since one has already been established, and there is support in favor of, from the neighborhood, we don't think it will pose a problem.

#### **Public Comments:**

A longtime resident of the neighborhood said people tend to use Oak Grove as a cut through from Palmer to avoid the on lights Ignacio; they cut through at high speeds making it difficult to back out of driveway, He is in favor of the stops.

Oak Grove resident spoke and said when he was crossing by Elmview and a car came around corner and almost hit his child. He feels the brick in front of a resident creates a blockage of view around the corner. After this incident He did pursue getting signatures from neighbors in support of stop sign which he will provide to Chris,

Another public commented he is relatively new to the neighborhood, but stated he also has a hard time backing out of driveway due to the speeding cars, thinks some of it is a visual site line issue

Action: Motion by Ed that based upon staff's report, and input from the public, the committee recommends an all way stop at that intersection. Seconded by Mehرداد

Voted: 8-0-0

AYES: Mark Birnbaum, Mehرداد Namiranian, Nestor Schnasse, Ed Schulze, Mark Vanderscoff, Casey Ward, Joakim Osthus, Matthew Leonard

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**F. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS**

*This section is used for Commissioners and the Staff Liaison to orally report on topics that can be considered for discussion at a future meeting*

**F.1 Next Meeting Date** (*March 15, 2023*)

**G. ADJOURNMENT (7:00 PM – TIME APPROXIMATE)**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm



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