



Commissioner Report

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: June 28, 2022

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Jake Torrens

SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Bicycle Routes and Cycling

SUBMITTED DATE: June 24, 2022

LAST SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: February 16, 2022 (*Meeting Notes attached*)

NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: October 20th at 3:00 pm (City Hall)

Subcommittee Goal:

Long term planning, prioritizing and implementation planning.

Summary:

On May 19, 2022 our sub-committee met at City

Attendees:

Alex Ansley
Brett Klein
Jake Torrens, Sustainability Commission
Jim Flanagan
Jim Rothblatt
John Siegel
Robin Abrahams (via Zoom)
Vic Yepello
Flinn Fagg, Deputy City Manager (via Zoom)
Tracy Sheldon, Interim Director of Sustainability
Jacqueline Fernandez, Office of Sustainability

Below is a summary of our meeting.

1) Remarks from Flinn Fagg

- Deputy City Manager Fagg welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an overview of the City Council's Strategic Plan and its inclusion of Environmental Stewardship. As part of the City Council's vision, Environmental Stewardship accounts for 25%.
- Deputy City Manager Fagg also stated the City's CIP is updated annually. Additionally, the City Council will be adopting a Safe Routes to School Plan.

2) Discuss the future of cycling safety in Palm Springs and a connected network of bike lanes providing safe destinations.

Vic Yepello's shared his thoughts of "big items" on where we are going to be in five years, and would like it to include:

- Reducing vehicle trips
- Increase cycling

- S. Palm Canyon road diet
- Re-painting of bicycle lanes
- Transform shifting modes from cars (Murray Canyon, Laverne, Belardo, Smoke Tree)
- Taking south end streets like Laverne or Murray Canyon and creating bike lanes as demonstration to show people how they would work
- Addressing traffic lights that don't know cyclers are there

The group also discussed expanding the dialogue beyond bicycles and shifting modes away from vehicles.

- Brett Klein discussed safety education programs and stated they were developed in 2017 by the Sustainability Commission and were never deployed to the public due to the absence of a sustainability manager at the time.
- Commissioner Torrens suggested the City join the Vision Zero Commitment.

3) Design a new vision for Downtown and Uptown that will provide safer access for cars and pedestrians.

Jim Flanagan suggested;

- Wider streets
- Functional areas so people would not have to get into a car (Comparable to golf cart scenario done by Laverne road)
- Expanding dialogue beyond bikes with images such as golf carts, etc.

4) Prioritize reducing car trips to meet greenhouse emissions goals. Are we truly a sustainable city?

- The group discussed the need for a road diet on S. Palm Canyon.
- The group discussed the need for bike counters in an effort to collect data for metrics.
- The group discussed having a "presentation" for the Sustainability Commission meeting on June 20, 2022.

5) Convert a number of current class 2 bike lanes to protected bike lanes. Start with a few demonstration projects where lanes exist and convert as appropriate.

- Jim Flanagan suggested a two way cycle track on S. Palm Canyon and to remove one of the southbound lanes.
- Deputy City Manager Fagg stated the addition of parklets on Palm Canyon did not have the negative effects which caused initial concern.
- Robin Abrahams suggested redirecting pedestrians and cyclists into Downtown instead of around Downtown. Also, sharrows put pedestrians and cyclists in the road and creates a safety concern. Robin suggests redirecting pedestrians and cyclists and create a new culture for Downtown.
- The group discussed parking and inquired if there was a parking lot/space inventory.

6) Stop thinking that sharrows are a safe thing. Sharrows and paint are not as safe as we imagine.

- The group discussed bike lanes and that repainting is needed in several areas. It was suggested that the bike lanes on Belardo and Tachevah be re-painted.

7) Priorities:

Deputy City Manager Fagg asked the group to define their priorities. The following were identified as the top priorities:

1. Create Class 1 buffered bike lanes on S. Palm Canyon Road through a road diet for safety
2. Education Program for safety
3. Climate Action Plan and how we connect it together
4. Bike survey

8) Future meeting date:

- The group discussed wanting to present their ideas to the Sustainability Commission at the June 20, 2022 meeting.
- The group would also like to meet again in October 2022; either on October 6th or October 20th at 3:00 pm at City Hall.

Recommendation/Request

ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO COMMISSION	Review and approve the Draft Bike Survey, Dated June 4, 2022 (attached)
ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY	Support our sub- committee with the following priorities: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Create Class 1 buffered bike lanes on S. Palm Canyon Road through a road diet for safety2. Education Program for safety3. Climate Action Plan and how we connect it together4. Execute a Bike survey
POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:	TBD

Palm Springs Bicycle Group Meeting with Mayor Middleton February 16, 2022

Attendees:

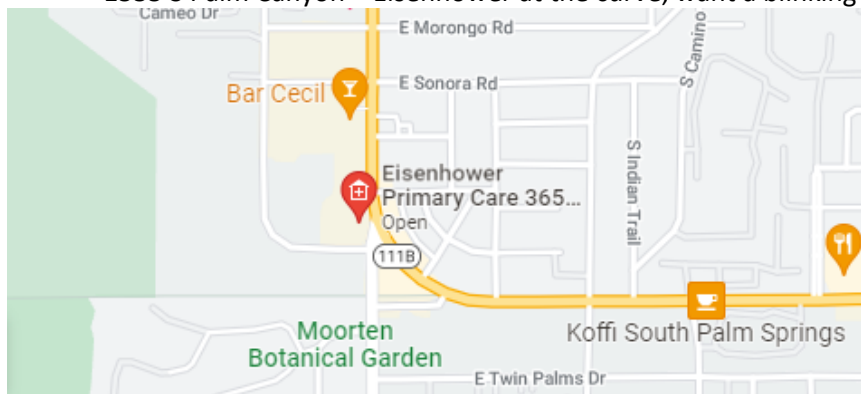
Mayor Middleton
Jim Flanagan, former Sustainability Commissioner
Brett Klein, former Sustainability Commissioner
Vic Yepello, former Sustainability Commissioner
Robin Abrahams, community member
Tracy Sheldon, City staff

Agenda:

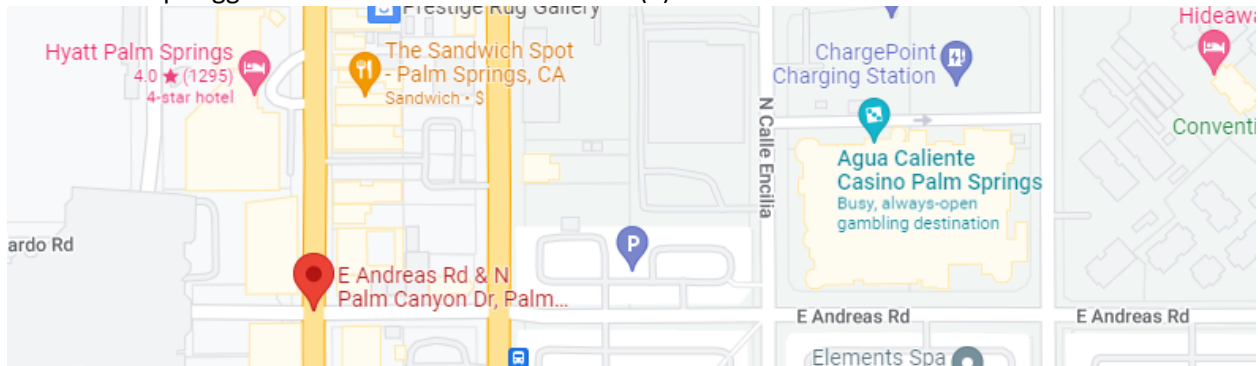
1. **Achievements:** Thank you for funding bike racks and signage in this year's budget and for adding stop signs to S Palm canyon at the two bicycle intersections, it is now safer
2. **Goals:** Greenhouse gas reduction goals for city and reducing vehicle trips
3. **Vision:** A new downtown: two way bike path on Palm Canyon
4. **Bike Paths:** Safer lanes, maintenance/repair. S Palm from Belardo to Bogart - well used but scary street for bikes- "road diet ready",
5. **Safety:** The curve at Palm Canyon - change this to a blinking red for right turn?
6. **Existing Resources:** Bicycle survey from Sust Commission. And CVAG Active Transportation Plan integrating bicycles into valley wide plans - goals, guidelines and block by block prioritization of bicycle routes
7. **Funding:** New federal and state opportunities exclusively carved out for capital projects that improve non-motorized transportation

Notes:

- The group discussed the need for GHG reductions in Palm Springs and ways that increasing bicycle routes could have a positive effect.
- It was suggested to install bike counters on various bike routes for data, including Belardo Trail and near Ace Hotel on Palm Canyon.
- There will be a groundbreaking for the CV Link in March. What is needed to connect to CV Link?
- Curve at Palm Canyon, where Eisenhower is located.
- 1555 S Palm Canyon – Eisenhower at the curve, want a blinking red light.



- Requested bike counter at Palm Canyon and Andreas
- Group suggested a road diet to connect four (4) routes.



Brett Klein stated:

- Full bicycle safety campaign is needed for hotels and tourists. (Action: City staff to research bicycle safety campaigns.)
- Smaller parklets in San Diego are not assigned to specific businesses and allows for more community gatherings.
- City needs an Urban Planning Architect for visioning.

Robin Abrahams stated:

- Class 1 routes listed on the bike map do not exist. (Action: City staff to identify exactly which routes are listed that are not there.)
- Safety needs to be built into bike routes.

Jim Flanagan stated:

- Signage is needed at Sunrise and 111. (Action: City staff to confirm and order signage.)
- Would like to see a two way cycle track on Indian Canyon.

Vic Yepello stated:

- Collectors need to be up to standard.
- Excessive speeds on Ramon and Sunrise to 111 needs to be addressed and reduced.

Mayor's feedback:

- Encouraged the group to obtain community feedback on what are the top 3-4 routes that need to be Class1. Meet with Downtown Maintreet group, Chamber of Commerce and Jeffrey Bernstein.
- Encouraged group to have conversations with downtown business merchants. Try to move them from "neutral" to "support" for bike routes.
- What examples can you show the downtown merchants? Increased foot traffic leads to more shopping.
- COVID parklets – What should the future of Palm Canyon look like? What is the long term plan?
- Can we increase the sidewalk width?
- Identify streets and neighborhoods that have safety issues.
- If the goal is for more Class 1 bike routes, the passage of AB 43 can support is with lower speed limits,

- Contact neighborhoods who have concerns with speed limits and reducing them:
 - Ramon N. to Alejo on Farrell. (neighborhood support. Mayor request for Joel to review)
 - LaVerne to Belardo
 - Farrell (Sunmoore and Sunrise Park neighborhoods)
 - All of Toledo
- Federal funding is available for bike routes.
- CVAG is a great partner in promoting biking.
- What do we need to do to be a recognized bicycle community and how do we achieve the highest rating (City staff to research.)

Palm Springs Bike Survey 2022

The City Palm Springs is updating our Bike Plan and we need your input! Even if you never or rarely ride a bicycle, your input will still be beneficial. Your responses will help us make Palm Springs safer and healthier by improving bicycling conditions across the city. On behalf of the Sustainability Commission, we thank you in advance for your time.

How do you get around?

1. First, please indicate how frequently you use the following modes of travel around Palm Springs.

	Daily	A few times a week	A few times a month	Once a month	Less than once a month	Never
Car						
Motorcycle or moped						
Bike						
Walk						
E bike						
Carpool						
Public Transit						
Carshare						
Other						

2.

2.

2. Which of the following do you NOT have access to?

- a. My own bicycle
- b. Bicycle from rental or bikeshare company
- c. Electric bicycle
- d. Car
- e. Motorcycle/Moped
- f. Walking ability

3. What is the distance of your most frequent or typical cycling trip?

- a. Less than 2 miles
- b. 3-5 miles
- c. 6-15 miles

- d. 16+ miles

Bicycle Infrastructure (bike lanes, bike parking, bike paths etc)

4. How satisfied are you with bicycle infrastructure in Palm Springs? This includes bike lanes, bike paths, and bike parking options.
 - a. Very satisfied
 - b. Somewhat satisfied
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Somewhat unsatisfied
 - e. Very unsatisfied

5. Where do you usually ride your bike in Palm Springs? (select up to 3 most used)
 - a. Neighborhood streets
 - b. Major streets with bike lanes
 - c. Major streets with protected bike lanes (bike lanes that are physically separated from traffic)
 - d. Multi-use paths
 - e. Major streets sharing a lane with cars
 - f. Parks
 - g. On sidewalks
 - h. Other__

6. How comfortable would you be biking in the following situations?

	Very Comfortable	Somewhat comfortable	Somewhat Uncomfortable	Very Uncomfortable	Would NOT ride
Biking in automobile lane					
In bike lane exposed to traffic					
In bike lane physically separated from traffic (with posts, curb, etc.)					
In a separate multi-use pathway (shared with pedestrians)					

7. Palm Springs is considering improving bike paths at numerous locations, as described in the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) Active Transportation Plan. Which of the bike path improvements are of greatest interest to you?

- a. Installing a protected two way painted bike lane on Palm Canyon between Alejo and Ramon (PS180)
- b. Implementing a road diet (one lane in each direction with a protected turn lane in the center), with painted bike lanes on either side of South Palm Canyon between E. Palm Canyon and Murray Canyon (PS201)
- c. Installing painted buffered bike lanes on Belardo between Amado-Ramon (PS98 and PS95)
- d. Other streets or areas in general, please describe:

Why not ride more often?

8. What prevents you from riding more often (if you wanted to)? (Choose your top 5)

- a. I do not own or have access to a bike
- b. Safety concern (risk of being injured or killed)
- c. Conflicts with pedestrians
- d. Inclement weather (excessive heat, rain, wind, etc.)
- e. Sweating
- f. My social circle (family, friends) do not bicycle
- g. Risk of getting ticketed by police
- h. Risk of bicycle getting stolen or damaged
- i. Too much stuff to carry/too heavy
- j. Need to transport other people/children (in car or bus)
- k. Distance to destination too far
- l. Don't know how to ride a bicycle
- m. Other reason: __

9. The best way for Palm Springs to make biking more comfortable would be to... (select up to 5)

- a. Offer a bicycle safety class for residents, groups, Businesses, and hotels
- b. Increase enforcement of rules and safety violations for both auto drivers
- c. Improve signage and infrastructure to steer more bikes onto bike paths
- d. Create more bike pathways and lanes that are separate from other traffic (pedestrian and automobile traffic)
- e. Improve infrastructure to slow down automobile traffic (i.e. speed bumps, lighting, extend curb, etc.)
- f. Create more direct bike routes that connect me to my destinations (including public transit stations)
- g. Install more secure bike parking locations
- h. Improve lighting on multi-use pathways
- i. Provide more shower and changing facilities
- j. Other (please write): _____

Tell us about yourself

10. Home ZIP code:
11. Are you a;
 - a. seasonal resident or
 - b. year-round resident
12. Birth Year:
13. What is your gender?
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
 - c. Non-Binary self-identify as: _____
 - d. Prefer not to say
14. What is your race/ethnicity?
 - a. American Indian/Native American
 - b. Asian
 - c. Black/African-American
 - d. Hispanic/Latino
 - e. Pacific Islander
 - f. White (non-Hispanic)
 - g. Two or more ethnicities
 - h. Other
 - i. Prefer not to say