

## **BPAC Date of Meeting January 25th**

Call to Order at: The meeting was called to order by **Chairperson Phil Arballo** at 5:38 PM

**A moment of silence was held in honor of Melanie Ruvalcaba, current Vice-Chair**

**Roll Call: Gabriel Lozano**

**District 1 Sean Zweifler**

**District 2 Matthew Woodard**

**District 3 Vacant**

**District 4 Laura Gromis**

**District 5 Gabriel Lozano**

**District 6 Steven Bradley (Video)**

**District 7 Vacant**

**Mayoral Phil Arballo**

**Mayoral Vacant**

Quorum Met

STAFF

**Jill Gormley, Scott Sehm, Andrew Benelli**

**On motion to approve the agenda as is by: Sean Zweifler  
and second the agenda by: Gabriel Lozano  
January's agenda was approved, passed unanimously.**

**On motion approve the minutes by Steven Bradley, seconded by Sean Zweifler  
and minutes were approved as is.**

**Unscheduled communication:** "Members of the public have 3 minutes each to speak on what they want to comment on that is not on the agenda.

**There were no requests to speak in person or online.**

**Presentations:**

ID 23-172 Blackstone/McKinley Grade Separation Update - A. Gonzalez "The actual design is where we are separating the cycle track from the sidewalk. It is a 4-inch curb

along the sidewalk with a cycle track on the bottom and a 6-inch curb to the pavement. This will be along both sides of Blackstone that are north and south of McKinley that transitions into a tree shape.

**Sean Zweifler**, "Asked for clarification through a question, clarification was provided by **A. Gonzalez**"

**Laura Gromis**, "Asked if there were images of the grade separation. **A. Gonzalez**, "Images were provided at the previous presentation, and could also be forwarded via email. **Andrew Benelli**, "There was a lot of internal discussion and research was done on what was done in other cities while also looking at what some of the problems have been. That approach led to the design that is being presented today. There was discussion of other designs being used in other cities, but safety was a concern in those designs being used in an underpass. The main objective was to keep the vehicles off of the bike lane while providing bicycles access to the bicycle's lanes. The bicycle lane is elevated 6 inches which is the standard curb height. There will be two travel lanes and a turning lane underneath the underpass. The turn lanes start at the start of the columns of the under path. There will be on both sides elevated bicycle lanes that are separated from the sidewalk by a ridge. This was included to provide a visually impaired person a landmark that reflects they are leaving the area that was provided for their safety to access their destination. **Mr. Gonzalez** provided the information to show the limits that are provided on the City of Fresno's Website and how to access that information. **Laura Gromis**, "Are there physical barriers separating the Cycle Track and the sidewalk, **Mr. Benelli and Mr. Gonzalez**, detailed in their explanations that space is limited in this part of the corridor, but every attempt will be made to provide a physical barrier throughout the project when possible (Benches, decorative lighting or plants) that will influence pedestrians to use the outer part of the sidewalk. Most of the project will be mostly under the underpass. **R. Benelli** two of the biggest issues were ADA compliance, specifically a visually impaired person walking in front of a bicyclist and a vehicle driving into the bike lane either on accident or on purpose. That is why for the project a curb is between the vehicles and the bicycle lane. On this part of the corridor, it was decided a curb was put instead of a wedge curb



since the project is under an underpass and going back and forth was secondary to safety. This project is about McKinley and Blackstone being reconfigured to what you see in the picture above. **A. Gonzalez**, Smart Mobility is to build two lanes to the conditions. **Andrew Benelli**, "We have more projects that do more of this but these are the limits of this project for the rest of the corridor because of the funding. The plan is to get most of Blackstone done so that these go all the way to Dakota. They will all include Class IV bicycle lanes. This project covers a block from the intersection of Blackstone and McKinley. These types of changes take into consideration Bus Rapid Transportation, the college, and those types of changes will be considered but because of safety for the volume of pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles those changes would be hard to implement. **Jill Gormley**, "Grants are being applied for and there is funding to design 30 percent of the Smart Mobility theme south of this because it's all concepts. We are working on getting it done so we can apply for funding. **PUBLIC - Beliz**, "We need more changes in crosswalks to make it safer for pedestrians.", **Tony Molina**, Fresno County Bicycle Coalition, "What is the width of the cycle track? **A. Benelli**, "Seven feet.",

**A Benelli**, "The City of Fresno is acquiring land (right away) to improve pedestrian safety for this project." **A. Gonzalez** "This project provides grade separation and not to provide access to a business, but we are working with the consultant to design a wall that will provide access to the businesses for this project. The volume is there of pedestrians that these changes are being included in. **A. Benelli**, "It is hard to plan what is coming but we are working with other organizations to prepare for optimal planning. One example of that is the affordable housing unit that was developed by the Fresno Housing Authority on Blackstone South of McKinley. The width of the sidewalk is 11 feet and the buffer 4 feet. **Gabriel Lozano**, "Would like to see future projects start at the sidewalks, include a workforce component and they include infrastructure (sidewalks, access, lighting to the corridor when possible). **A. Gonzalez**, "The project schedule has construction going from 2025 to 2028. Working with partners (PGE, ATT and others)

on utilities relocation in their temporary and permanent placement and those specifics takes time. You can say the same for the permanent and temporary roads. By next month the project should be at 30 percent of design with more detail and the actual profile.

**Public - Tony Molina**, "At the intersection is the curb raised, so that you are protected?"  
**A. Gonzalez**, "Both the pedestrian and bicycle lanes will be protected because they will be on top of the curb. The theme will be for all four of the corners."

## **TASK FORCE REPORTS**

**Event Planning Task Force - Matthew Woodward**, "We had one meeting since November and we reviewed our approach and came to the conclusion that the events would be categorized such as, tier one which will be highlighted in red representing higher priority and tier 2 would be highlighted in green which represents lower priority."

**Carla and Matthew**, will work on the final draft format (Calendar, PDF) and how it will be distributed. **Phil Arballo**, "The Semi-Annual Report was sent to council in December, and it was pulled from the agenda. The next one will reflect from October to April and be presented to Council in June. To meet that deadline, we will have to put together the next task force at our next meeting. The next one, May is bike month, and we would like to give out the Nick Paladino Bike Safety Award (NPBSA). That starts in March with creating a NPBSA task force who will distribute nomination forms that will be distributed to different organizations who have until March 31st to return them. The NPBSA will receive and format the data from the returned forms and bring the results to the BPAC meeting in April for vote and the award will be presented in May. The nomination forms are ready so the aforementioned timeline can begin. There was a question of beginning a committee for Bike Month, but discussion will happen at next month's meeting to decide if we created a committee for NPBSA and Bike month or that one committee would handle both."

**Disability Advisory Committee (DAC), Matthew Woodard**, "The DAC requested we present a summary of BPAC Mission Statement and how it is accomplished. The Objective of this partnership is to improve advocacy to improve the respective committees scores that have shown in other locations to improve funding opportunities. **Phil Arballo**, "One way of accomplishing this is for openings for each committee to be filled by opposite committee members. One plus is that city wide representation would make it easier to appoint since that covers the whole city. Another way is to invite them, but we could also let each other know about openings. We could make a presentation so that they have a better understanding of what BPAC is and their objective is and how they go about doing. A formal presentation would accomplish this and would be detailed that could include some PSA'S. In speaking with Carla, the bare minimum should be that both committees interact more."



**Propose a resolution Sean Zweifler**, (Some reports have stated Trucks and SUVs are more likely to be involved in striking pedestrians and bicyclists because of their size. I want to propose a resolution that vehicles purchased by the city have a policy that would promote consideration of improving pedestrian and bicyclist safety as part of the policy. Lighting could also be improved, and areas of need could be highlighted that have lots of traffic. **Andrew Benelli** There has been discussion in the purchase of electric cars but not sure if a discussion has been had on the size of the vehicle. Another thing is all new vehicles have a pedestrian safety rating not sure what goes into that determination. An option would be to use those safety ratings in purchase of their vehicles. There is a review process but not sure what that includes. Phil Arballo, "You could write a letter, have us sign it and deliver it to each council member and mayor. That is probably the way to go. A resolution would have to be done at the city council level because we are just an advisory committee. **Tony Molina**, "I would promote a policy of purchasing cars with certain features, such as emergency braking, cameras and this approach would align with Vision Zero - safe roads, safe vehicles, and safe drivers. Putting this in the action plan would be good for improving incidents.

#### **MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS.**

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**District 1 Sean Zweifler** - See propose a resolution

**District 2 Matthew Woodward** - See Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)

**District 3 Vacant**

**District 4 Laura Gromis** "Working on bike summit with the City of Munster. Fresno State Transportation Institute is taking the lead on this project and has three students on the project. They are working on the content and the schedule for the summit. We have weekly meetings to schedule the program. The mayor, council members and public works are involved. Experts from Munster will be coming to help in making the event a successful one. This falls under urban diplomacy cities learning from each other. The date is October 13th and even though there is time to work out the details that will make this a big and successful event.

**District 5 Gabriel Lozano** ``Trying to find what happened with the person that was run over on 6th street. Trying to use data from Cal-Enviro, US Census that is displayed by Census tract and convert it for District Five which would make the area more competitive for grants. Always trying to improve the existing conditions and education

of proper use of roads, signage, and infrastructure. Doing a survey in Calwa and I hope to include some BPAC themed questions there.

**District 6 Steven Bradley** "Was approved for another term.

**District 7 Vacant**

**Mayor**

**Phil Arballo** ``Results from the Southwest demonstration which was about the neighborhood and was attended by around 80 residents. They felt much safer with protected bicycle lanes, felt safer walking in areas with introduced crosswalks at high access points. The data is available upon request. The event was impactful, it gave the residents a voice and data from the community was collected. The completed portions of Midtown Trail are in works to be named after Melanie Ruvalcaba. Her dedication, efforts and her belief in the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee makes her an appropriate choice for that to be named after. The family reached out to me and the family if a bike or trail could be named after her. I reached out to the mayor, and he was in agreement; so, I don't know how it would happen, but they are working on it.

## **STAFF REPORTS.**

**BPAC Chairman, Vice Chair, and Secretary Election** - As of this moment these individuals have been nominated for - **Philip Arballo** for **Board Chair**, **Sean Zweifler** for **Vice-Chair** and **Gabriel Lozano** for **Secretary**. Would anybody else like to nominate anyone else for the positions of Chairman, Vice-Chair and Secretary? **Steven Bradley** has been nominated for **Vice Chair**; **Laura Gromis** has been nominated for **Chair**.

## **ELECTIONS**

### **SECRETARY**

Gabriel Lozano has been voted Secretary for 2023 - 6-0, Districts 3 and 7 are vacant as is one mayoral seat -

### **VICE-CHAIR**

Steven Bradley Received 2 votes

Sean Zweifler Received 4 votes

Sean Zweifler has been voted Vice Chair for 2023 - 4 to 2, Districts 3 and 7 are vacant as is one mayoral seat

### **Board Chair**

Laura Gromis received 3 votes

Phil Arballo received 3 votes

The vote ended in a tie 3 to 3, Districts 3 and 7 are vacant as is one mayoral seat.

There was a motion made to delay the process and decision for Board Chair until the city attorney comes back with a recommendation in February.

**Gabriel Lozano** motioned to continue the vote until February 2nd **Matthew Woodard**, *unanimous vote*. **Phil Arballo** will continue as **Board Chair**.

**Grants Update. Gormley** "ATP has been scored but the results are not out yet. They should be out soon and could be part of their packet at their February meeting. There are no results for the Safe Streets and Roads for all yet for Vision Zero. We are working on a lot of grants, and one is the CTOD, the AHC, the affordable housing sustainable grant among other grants. Andrew Benelli, we have a new grant writer who started at the end of December and will bring her to the next meeting. We are applying for Measure C TOD. The funds can go to a developer, but the project does have to be on a bus line. The improvements do not have to be bike or pedestrian necessarily though that is what has been the focus in past grants. We also helped developers with costs like bringing power to affordable housing, trail features, and sidewalks. Tony Molina, "Grants are due at the end of February, but the city is not applying for them. For the next round does the Blackstone Smart Eligibility (BSM) fit the requirements for applying? **Jill Gormley**, "That is a complex project and is ever evolving as is the funding for it. **Andrew Benelli**, "The problem with the grant is that it requires land and environmental work, and we need it to be shelf ready so that the timeline checkpoints are kept. We also have a planning grant which is the BSM. The next step is the 30 percent design which is funded by a grant to be in the mix. Those could be included in the affordable housing grants that are coming up.

#### **Bicycle and Advisory Committee (BPAC)**

BPAC Charter **Jill Gormley**, "It is in the attorney's office for review. Carla Gonzalez will follow up with the attorneys and address any questions they have. Laura Gromis, "Susan Smith has done research on how minutes are done in other committees, and it is the staff liaison that does them.

**Enforcement & Collision Report - Jill Gormley** (The police department has committed to attending meetings two per year. Those April and October and will monitor to promote their attendance. **Andrew Benelli** (They did get a grant to do some Bicycle and pedestrian safety, but it rained. They were still able to get out and monitor bicycle safety by issuing some citations. The report is a running total influenced by where they are in the legal process of each incident. Steven Bradley "Those numbers are also influenced by location and some of the ones in the news are in the county. That means they will not be counted in this report because this is only for locations in the City of Fresno. **Matthew Woodard**, "This does not reflect annual statistics and would like to see a running total display of those as well as monthly".

## **Pedestrian Safety Discussion**

**BPAC Work Plan Jill Gormley** Does anyone have the schedule of the work plan?

**Sean Zweifler** (Are we still on schedule for the Palm, Belmont, Wishon protected bike lanes project. **Jill Gormley** (I believe they are on schedule.) **Andrew Benelli**

Construction of the Midtown Trail is about to begin, the frontage from Blackstone to the 41. Project ideas could be introduced to us so that they could be scheduled for the following year. **Phil Arballo** (We have a list of recommended projects from BPAC (Workplan).) **Andrew Benelli** (We tend to put in grants that we feel have a decent chance at.) **Jill Gormley** (Carla could maintain that and you could submit your recommended projects.) The Fancher Creek project is online, and you go and take and complete the survey. **Andrew Benelli**, (A lot of work went into this project and it was set up as an example for future grants that would optimize chances of getting a grant; one could call it a template approach.) **Jill Gormley** (There was a meeting that was attended by the mayor, with at least two board members from Sanger, Clovis, Fresno and Central School Districts. **Andrew Benelli**, (These were the four in attendance but there are smaller ones that were not in attendance one is Washington Union School District. **Jill Gormley** (There was a lot of discussion on pedestrian safety in the city of Fresno and the rise of fatalities. The discussion was about how to reduce those numbers and some of the ideas in doing that. The Mayor and City Manager suggest that they ask the BPAC for some suggestions. The focus is on schools with improving a safe route to the schools for the parents and students. 1. More speed bumps 2. Red and speed light cameras 3. Improve the conditions of the roads. 4. Stop jaywalking 5. Put in sidewalks 6. Part-time one-way roads 7. Sign showing how much fines cost, no cell phone. 8. 6 designates places to stop and a person letting the next vehicle to drop off at one of those spots. With the road being one way. 9. Staff with designated vests so that the public can identify them. 10. Outreach to orient parents, students and staff of changes and expectations 11. Improve funding on Measure C to improve safe routes to school 13. Improve funding and infrastructure 14. Switch the color from green to white 15. Educational materials and distribution. I have some information on having our meetings in person. AB2449 which governs meetings that are subject to the Brown Act was going into effect 1.1.23 through December 2025. This meant moving away from the online remote meeting to in person meetings. Per the City of Fresno Attorneys suggestion but today after a discussion that was different from the attorneys the council decided to extend the emergency orders because the State has extended those orders until the end of February. What it meant was we could use that which was used before 1.1.23. The council orders expire on 2.19.23 and we do not know what will happen because the state will have emergency orders so there will be no emergency to use. So, the rules that would be used would be AB2449 which



means we have to meet in person but there are options to attend online but must have a defined just cause and a just cause can only be used twice a year. The emergency cause family or personal medical emergency can be used. Examples are: Contagious, BPAC Travel, Caregiver and a physical or mental disability. The expectation is that we are in person because the belief is the city's emergency order will not be extended past 2.19.23. Also, the quorum is defined as having to be in person. There are rules to a person attending and those rules will be distributed soon. A few of the rules are audio and visual participation, disclosure if someone is in the room and they are over 18 and the nature of the relationship. There will be a review of the Brown Act in February's meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn the meeting Sean Zweifler, 2nd Matthew Woodard**