



DATE: September 24, 2014

AGENDA ITEM # 3

TO: Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Commission
FROM: Cedric Novenario, Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: Downtown Bicycle Parking in the Public Right-of-Way

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Discuss bicycle parking in the public right-of-way as identified in the Downtown Parking Management Plan
- B. Recommend amending the BPAC work plan to include:
 - 1. analysis of the recommendations of bicycle parking in the public right-of-way identified in the Downtown Parking Management Plan
 - 2. develop a public outreach strategy to obtain feedback regarding bicycle parking in the public right-of-way

BACKGROUND

Although new commercial developments proposed for the downtown Los Altos area are reviewed to ensure adequate bicycle parking is included, existing buildings and infrastructure have limited capacity for bicycle parking. Ridership to the downtown area is being encouraged, and therefore additional parking (racks, etc.) may be necessary to handle the increased number of bicycles.

DISCUSSION

Anecdotally, it appears that the number of bicycles riding to and through downtown Los Altos has been steadily increasing over the past year or two. The number and placement of racks in the public right-of-way for bicycle parking is limited and may be inadequate for the number of bicycles observed during peak hours (e.g., mid-day, and on weekends). The Downtown Parking Management Plan identifies locations suggested for placing additional (new) bicycle parking in the public right-of-way. Those locations were identified prior to completion of new commercial developments in the downtown area, and additional buildings that may bring additional ridership to the area are under construction now. Although the new developments do or will have bicycle parking, the existing influx of bicyclists, coupled with the potential increase associated with bicyclists visiting establishments in the new buildings, will continue to place pressure on bicycle parking downtown.

To address the need for additional bicycle parking, the Downtown Parking Management Plan should be reviewed to determine if the identified locations in the public right-of-way still meet the current and projected needs of bicyclists. Analysis should include location, numbers of bicycles handled, and type of parking, is requested from BPAC. Consideration should be given as well to “non-standard” bicycle parking, such as with parklets (either temporary or permanent).

As part of the review and generation of recommendations, it may be useful to seek public input. For example, observations and recommendations from business owners may be helpful. Some businesses are impacted by bicycles being leaned against bushes or walls proximate to their entrances; some businesses have become gathering or rest stops for bicyclists, who then become revenue-generators for the businesses. Each of these types of experiences, and others, could be useful for making informed decisions about bicycle parking.

However, the 2014-15 BPAC work plan does not specifically list an analysis or outreach of bicycle parking identified in the Downtown Parking Management Plan. If it is the desire of the commission, staff recommends amending the 2014-15 work plan to include this work. Amending the work plan will have to be approved by the City Council.

Attachment

Downtown Parking Management Plan-Bicycle Parking Related Sections