

Council:

Subject: combining the Transportation and BPAC

I'm a current member of Atherton's Bicycle and Pedestrian committee (BPAC). I've read the proposal to merge the BPAC and the Transportation committees. Overall, I don't have any major concerns with the notion of merging the two committees as they often examine the same issues. For instance both committees are currently reviewing the issue of traffic management.

My concern however, will be the make-up of the combined committee. The draft proposal states:

*The Transportation, & Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committee makes recommendations to the City Council on issues related to transportation, traffic, and roadway, pedestrian and bicycle safety. This Committee shall satisfy the requirements of the Metropolitan Transportation Committee as the Town's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Membership should be composed of both bicyclists and pedestrians*

The wording also needs to cover motorists, too. In addition, I recommend that there be some specification about the make-up of the committee as to number of "active transportation" users, motorist only, etc. (Arguably, most folks who use active transportation are motorists, too). With respect to bicyclists that could be on the new committee, there are various experiences and abilities of bicyclists; some only confine their riding to separated bike paths while, at the other extreme, are reasonably comfortable sharing the road with motorists, consequently the bicycling "community" can have divergent views and priorities.

For the current BPAC, there is an item that requests that one member of the BPAC be a member of a bike or pedestrian advocacy group and/or have knowledge of County-wide, active transportation issues. I noticed that that item was struck from the draft proposal. I believe that it is important to keep the item with respect to knowing about bike/ped issues in the County (or nearby cities) be kept. It is important that there should be some regularity of bicycling facilities in this part of the Peninsula. (as a footnote, my "entry" to the BPAC is that I'm an active member of a bike advocacy group)

In addition, for some issues, the new committee might not come to a consensus; will be some mechanism for the committee to provide a range of recommendations to the Council, even if those recommendations are inconsistent with each other?

John Langbein