

November 4, 2019

City of South Pasadena
1414 Mission St.
South Pasadena, CA 91030

RE: Agenda Item #17 | Citywide Bike Parking at Various Locations

Dear Mayor and Council,

As local residents and stakeholders committed to improving healthy, sustainable, zero-emission forms of mobility in the City of South Pasadena, we urge the City to install cycle parking in areas where there is documented public demand and interest for secure cycle parking by undertaking the following steps:

- 1. Update the list of proposed locations for cycle parking to reflect local business and resident requests for parking, where possible (see attached list of locations requested between 2017-2019).**
- 2. Pilot a “Cycle Corral” on Mission Street near the Gold Line.**
- 3. Include Lockers near the Gold Line Station in the project plan, as included in the original grant proposal.**
- 4. Make inverted “U” racks the standard rack type for the project.**
- 5. Provide the public a final opportunity or feedback before authorizing installation of new cycle parking.**

Business-Friendly Cycle Parking

Secure, well-placed, high-quality cycle parking is a public amenity that supports a healthier and more sustainable community. Unfortunately the City’s current plans would locate the majority of new cycle parking in areas where there is neither public demand nor interest, predominantly in local parks or along the City’s new multi-use trail rather than adjacent to local businesses.

Per the staff report, the contractor has been requested to install cycle parking at the six park spaces, several of which already have lightly used cycle parking, and only one of which is near business destinations. For example, Garfield Park currently has good quality cycle parking at two locations, 8 “hitch” racks in total with capacity to park 16 bicycles and other wheeled devices. Staff is also recommending two expensive “shelters” and additional cycle parking for the Arroyo Seco Trail, which presently has 5 “hitch” racks near the Clubhouse facility on Lohman Lane. Bike parking demand at the latter location has been limited at best, as the new trail is a facility people use to physically ride their bikes, not a destination to stop and lock up. Unless a sudden increase in the number of residents biking to the driving range or golf course is anticipated, the installation of 2 Bike Shelters and 8 additional hitch racks at this location appears gratuitous.

Staff Report, Exhibit A, Scope of Services (Page 17-11)

- *Furnish and Install Two (2) Bike Shelters and Eight (8) Bike Hitches on the **Arroyo Seco Trail***
- *Furnish and Install Four (4) Bike Hitches near **Arroyo Park Playground***
- *Furnish and Install Four (4) Bike Hitches in **Arroyo Park Field 3***
- *Furnish and Install Three (3) Bike Hitches in **Arroyo Park Nelson Field 7***
- *Furnish and Install Two (2) Bike Shelters and Eleven (11) Bike Hitches in **Heritage Plaza***
- *Furnish and Install Ten (10) Bike Hitches in **Library Park***
- *Furnish and Install Four (4) Bike Hitches in **Garfield Park***
- *Furnish and Install Bike Hitches at Various Locations*



5 of 8 existing bicycle "hitch" racks at Garfield Park

Between Fall 2017 and Summer 2019, local non-profit ActiveSGV solicited requests for cycle parking from local residents as part of the City's participation in the Metro Bicycle Friendly Business District program, as well as 626 Golden Streets ciclovias. Suggestions were submitted in person at community events, via online form, and by email to program coordinators. Local "Bike Friendly Businesses" were also able to formally "request a rack" as part of their participation in the program. The summary of these requests -- attached to this letter -- underlines strong resident and business interest in additional parking in the City's main business districts along Mission Street, Fair Oaks Avenue, El Centro Avenue, and Huntington Drive. Indeed, the vast majority of requests for cycle parking focused on local businesses. This information was shared with City staff via email on July 11, 2019.

At present cycle parking in the City's business districts is piecemeal, resulting in bicycles parked to railings, trees, and other street furniture where they are more likely to impede ADA access. The occurrence of such impromptu parking is an indicator that there is insufficient cycle parking in these areas to accommodate present demand. It is also consistent with public requests for additional parking near local businesses.



Bicycle parked on light post near Mission Street Yoga

Secure Cycle Parking at Transit Stations

Secure lockers at the City's Gold line station were part of the original grant application and approved funding award. Cycle lockers at transit stations and hubs are industry best practices and provide the long term parking security necessary for commuters to feel comfortable to park their bicycles and other wheeled devices for multimodal trips.

Due to the long period of time bicycles and other rolling devices are generally left at transit stations by users, standard cycle parking at transit stops is not adequate to protect from theft. Lockers provide more security, and remain very popular with transit users. Per Metro's Bicycle Locker webpage -- accessible online [here](#) -- 65 persons are currently on the waitlist for one of sixteen lockers at the Metro Highland Park station, and 11 hopeful individuals are on the waitlist for a locker at the South Pasadena station.

HIGHLAND PARK			
Locker Count: 16	Available: 0	Waitlisted: 65	Wait List
SOUTH PASADENA			
Locker Count: 0	Available: 0	Waitlisted: 11	Wait List
FILLMORE			
Locker Count: 0	Available: 0	Waitlisted: 6	Wait List
DEL MAR			
Locker Count: 0	Available: 0	Waitlisted: 21	Wait List
MEMORIAL PARK			
Locker Count: 16	Available: 0	Waitlisted: 50	Wait List

Screenshot of waiting list for Metro Bike Lockers at Gold Line Stations - 11/3/2019

In 2018-2019 Metro's Parking Management program conducted a survey on the status and future of the Metro Bicycle Locker program. Per Shannon Hamelin, Senior Director of Parking Management for Metro Los Angeles, 800 users of the program participated in the survey. Respondents were overwhelmingly in support for continuing the program, citing the additional level of protection a locker (versus an exposed rack) provides when parking their bikes at stations, as well as the ability to park other devices in lockers which cannot be easily locked to a rack, such as electric scooters. Due to these findings Metro will not be phasing out its locker program, but expanding it alongside other types of more secure parking, including key-access storage rooms, on-demand lockers, and [Bikekeep Racks](#).

Over the past decade, UCLA, BART, and the [San Diego Association of Governments](#) have widely employed "smart", on-demand, electronic bike lockers at stations to provide secure parking manufactured and operated by [Bike Link](#). UCLA has 36 Bike Link lockers. Per UCLA Transportation staff, purchasing 8 lockers cost approximately \$25,000, not including an annual operations fee that includes software licensing. Bike Link lockers can be purchased or leased, with maintenance covered by Bike Link. More info at [bikelink.org](#).

Within the San Gabriel Valley, the City of Covina operates a Bicycle Locker program outside of the Metro system. Each locker comes with a City-owned combo lock. Users have to request a locker and are given a code for the lock. Per Rafael Guillen of the City of Covina, this protocol has addressed issues with lockers being used for storage.

Per Metro staff, lockers and other bike parking facilities owned and operated by Metro must be located on Metro property, which appears limited to the station platform at South Pasadena station. Therefore the City of South Pasadena must take the lead in purchasing and installing lockers at or near the station, as outlined in the original grant.

Cycle Corrals

Corrals are a low-cost approach to increase parking within business districts where sidewalk space is limited. These facilities can be installed by converting a single parking space or red curb area into a cycle parking zone, often done near intersections to improve sightlines and safety for people on foot. Benefits include promoting sustainability, enhancing neighborhood identity, increasing foot/bike traffic, and improving the visibility of storefronts from the street (NACTO: *Bike Corrals: Local Business Impacts, Benefits, and Attitudes*. [Link](#)). Corrals can be piloted at locations where sidewalk space is limited, and easily relocated or removed if needed. Corrals can also be artistically designed with a street mural (see image below). In Los Angeles County, the Cities of Los Angeles, Santa Monica, and Long Beach have utilized corrals. In South Pasadena, the owner of Jones Coffee has expressed support for a corral in front of their new location on Mission Street given sidewalk space constraints.



Artistic Bike Corral (Source: SFDOT)

U- Versus “Hitch” Racks

A good rack should accommodate conventional and non-traditional cycle types such as recumbent, adult tricycles, folding bicycles, scooters, and other forms of micro-mobility. Accessible cycle parking should:

- Support the cycle in at least two places, preventing it from falling over;
- Prevent wheels from bending, turning or tipping;
- Allow frame and one or both wheels to be locked with a u-lock;
- Allow front-in and back-in parking;
- Be securely anchored to the ground;
- Provide adequate space on all sides of the rack.

Staff proposes further use of “hitch” style racks for the implementation of this grant. Unfortunately this rack style does not support all cycles in two locations, or allow the frame and wheels to be easily locked in two places. “Hitch” racks are also of more limited utility to disabled users.

We strongly encourage the City to utilize U-style-racks, the simplest and still best design available to accommodate different user groups, increase rates of use, and deter theft. “U” racks are considered to be higher quality and more accessible by users. They are also overwhelmingly preferred by neighboring communities, including the City of Pasadena, which has over 1,500 “U”-style racks spread across the City. If the City of South Pasadena wishes to continue using a unique branded style rack -- such as the “oak” design employed in existing hitch racks -- this can still be done with a U-style rack, as recently illustrated in the City of Glendora’s bike parking program.



Custom “U” Rack - City of Glendora

Implementing secure, convenient, well-placed cycle parking is an important step the City of South Pasadena can take to help meet its climate goals, encourage the use of healthy forms of mobility, and eliminate short automobile trips. Vehicle trips are the number one source of greenhouse gas emissions in the City. The City’s General Plan and Bicycle Master Plan explicitly cite increasing multimodal trips as goals for the City of South Pasadena. However staff’s current plans to implement a 2012 Bicycle Parking grant would not meet the documented needs of local residents and visitors who ride bicycles and other wheeled devices, or adhere to best practices in bicycle and micro-mobility parking.

The undersigned urge the City to ensure over \$200,000 in scarce public funds for cycle parking is utilized in a manner that will meet the needs and requests of residents, shoppers, and businesses.

Andy Au

Resident, City of South Pasadena

Colin Patrick Lynch

Resident, City of South Pasadena

Ryan Jones

Resident, City of South Pasadena

Samuel Zneimer

Resident, City of South Pasadena

Janis Chew

Resident, City of South Pasadena

Katie Clark

Resident, City of South Pasadena

Jerilyn Schmidt

Resident, City of South Pasadena

Gregory Chun

Resident, City of South Pasadena

Beatrice Chun

Resident, City of South Pasadena

Jacob Chun

Resident, City of South Pasadena

Harrison Chun

Resident, City of South Pasadena

Marshall Chun

Resident, City of South Pasadena

David Diaz

Executive Director

Active San Gabriel Valley

Boris Suchkov

Cyclist, City of Pasadena

Robert deFerrante

Cyclist, City of Pasadena

Tony Dang

Cyclist, City of Pasadena

Nancy Nguyen

Cyclist, City of Pasadena

Russell Burt

Cyclist, City of Glendale

Kathy Braidhill

Owner, Pilates Pasadena

Resident and Business Requests for Bicycle Parking

ActiveSGV received the following requests for Bicycle Parking from South Pasadena residents and businesses from 2017-2019. These requests are sorted into three categories, listed in order of frequency of requests. Requests are verbatim, only edited for spelling.

Please note that this list of requests was submitted to South Pasadena Public Works staff on Wednesday, July 17, 2019 (11:06am). Staff responded that this background information was helpful, however it appears that no substantive changes to the planned rack installation have been made based on the map in the staff report.

1. Business Districts

- Sidewalks in front of commercial business along Fair Oaks Avenue, Mission Street, and Huntington Drive.
- In front of Pavilions, Vons, Ralph's, and Trader Joe's
- In front of Trader Joe's (I think there's one already), but place another one. Also fix or replace damaged rack.
- In front of Nicole's Market and Cafe
- In front of Pavilions Market
- In front of Vons Market
- In front of the Rialto Theater
- In front of Bristol Farms Market
- In front of McDonalds
- In front of Canoe House
- In front or back of Bank of America
- In front of Union Bakery
- In front of Heirloom Bakery (I think there's one already), but place another on nearby.
- In front of Radhika and the Radha Room
- In front of the Community Room of the South Pasadena Library
- In front of the South Pasadena Library
- In front of Panda Express
- In front of Oak Tree Inn
- In front of the South Pasadena Fire Department on the side street that runs North/South across the street from Ellen's Screen printing Shop (Mound)
- In front of El Pollo Loco
- In front of Fanta Sea Grill and/or Rite-Aid
- In front of Fair Oaks Pharmacy
- In front of the new Mamma's Pizzeria

- *In front of Ai Japanese Restaurant*
- *In front of Menchie's*
- *In front of Carrows Coffee Shop*
- *Near Senor Fish*
- *Intersection of Fair Oaks Ave and State Street*
- *Meridian museum (for Gold Line station)*
- *Near intersection Fremont/El Centro*
- *Near Trader Joe's*
- *Along El Centro at cross streets of Meridian and Diamond*
- *multiple along Mission between Meridian and Fair Oaks*
- *Hope Street in spots between Meridian and Garfield Park*
- *El Centro between Mound and Fair Oaks*
- *Multiple at the Von's shopping plaza and/or the intersection of Fair Oaks and Oxley*
- *Needed all along Fair Oaks and Mission. Very hard to find a safe place to park a bike when doing local business.*
- *In front of Starbucks Coffee shop on Huntington Drive*
- *In front of Munch Company*
- *In front of Cafe Fiore*
- *In front of Lost Parrot Cafe*
- *Evenly distributed in the shopping areas & secured areas near the gold line for longer term parking*
- *Post office*
- **Business owner requests:**
 - *Jones Coffee, 1006 Mission St.*
 - *Oculus Optometry, 1024 Mission Street Suite B*
 - *Mission Ten Eleven Salon, 1011 Mission Street*
 - *Union Bakery, 1138 Fair Oaks Avenue*
 - *Rosebuds & Rosestuds, 1012 b Mission St.*
 - *TLC Pet Medical Center, 1412 Huntington Dr.*
- **Consolidation of Bike Racks within Bike Corrals:**
 - *At the corner of Mission/Diamond (south side)*
 - *At the corner of Mission/Fairview (south side)*
 - *added benefit of improving sightlines at dangerous intersections, providing better safety for pedestrians*

2. City Parks

- *City Parks - but in center to be more visible and secure*
- *At Garfield Park (2 requests):*
 - *near the playground equipment and the dining/event area.*
 - *near the tennis courts*
- *At Orange Grove Park (2 requests):*
 - *near the tennis courts*
 - *outside the Parks & Recreation Department office*
- *South Pasadena Nature Park entrance*

3. School Sites

- *Outside South Pasadena High School*
- *In front of the South Pasadena High School Administration*
- *In front of the South Pasadena High School Auditorium*

Types of Racks Requested

South Pasadena residents surveyed requested the following types of bicycle racks. There was a clear preference for “U-racks.” Specific responses included:

- *U-Racks and bike corral at busy places like the market for multiple bicycles.*
- *U-racks. Bike corrals and covered parking seem like overkill. I just need something better than a tree. Thin diameter preferred, some bike racks are too thick for my TIGR Mini lock. (Isn't there a risk of impaling somebody or knocking out teeth with the post protruding above the circular ring for the racks shown in the photo [existing city “hoop” rack]? What good is that top post?)*
- *U-racks*
- *Bike corral with U-racks adjacent to Jones Coffee (more secure than exposed U-racks adjacent to Gold Line station)*
- *Something more secure due to thefts in those areas (eg corral?)*
- *U-racks*
- *U-racks*
- *U-racks or the like*

Sources/Contacts

- **Metro Los Angeles - Shannon Hamelin**, Senior Director, Parking Management, Countywide Planning and Development
 - Office: 213.418.3076
 - Email: HamelinS@metro.net
 - Metro staff report on bike parking: <https://boardagendas.metro.net/board-report/2018-0792/>
- **City of Covina - Rafael Guillen**, Transportation Department
 - Email: RGuillen@covinaca.gov
- **UCLA - Jimmy Tran**, Senior Transportation Planner, UCLA Transportation, Mobility Planning & Traffic Systems
 - Office: 310-825-3155 | Mobile: 909-723-4825
 - Email: jtran@ts.ucla.edu

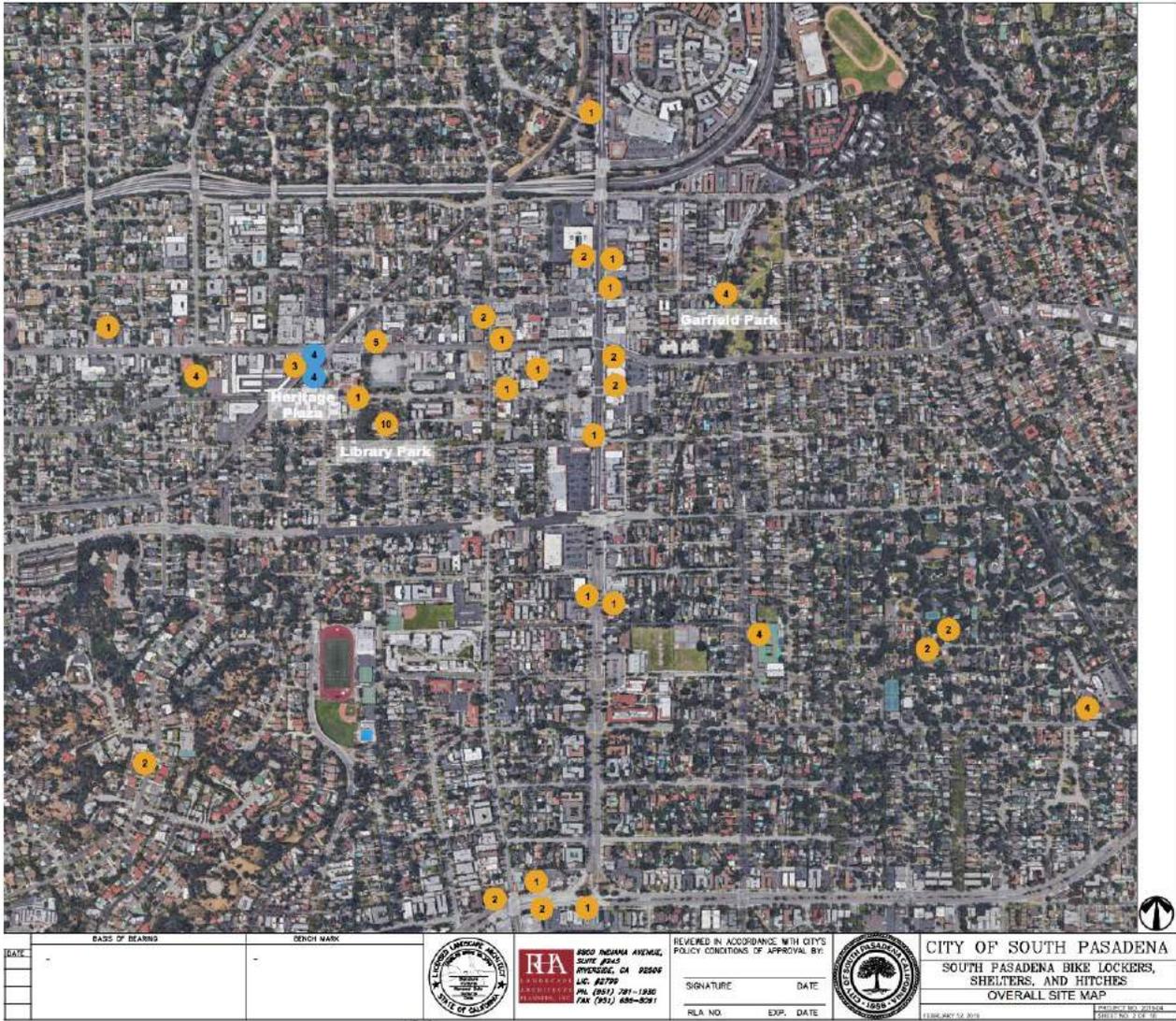
Staff Report Excerpts

Pages 17-11 - 17-13) www.southpasadenaca.gov/home/showdocument?id=18633

**Exhibit A
Scope of Services**

E C Construction Company will furnish all labor, materials, equipment and transportation, and do all the work required to complete the following work in accordance with the project Plans and Specifications:

- Mobilization
- Traffic Control
- Furnish and Install Two (2) Bike Shelters and Eight (8) Bike Hitches on the Arroyo Seco Trail
- Furnish and Install Four (4) Bike Hitches near Arroyo Park Playground
- Furnish and Install Four (4) Bike Hitches in Arroyo Park Field 3
- Furnish and Install Three (3) Bike Hitches in Arroyo Park Nelson Field 7.
- Furnish and Install Two (2) Bike Shelters and Eleven (11) Bike Hitches in Heritage Plaza
- Furnish and Install Ten (10) Bike Hitches in Library Park
- Furnish and Install Four (4) Bike Hitches in Garfield Park
- Furnish and Install all Irrigation Installation, Modification and Relocation Work for the Entire Project
- Furnish and Install Bike Hitches at Various Locations



DATE	BASS OF BEARING	BENCH MARK			REVIEWED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CITY'S POLICY CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL BY:		CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA SOUTH PASADENA BIKE LOCKERS, SHELTERS, AND HITCHES OVERALL SITE MAP
				8800 INDIANA AVENUE, SUITE #200 PASADENA, CA 92366 LIC. #2779 PH. (951) 781-1380 FAX (951) 858-8291	SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____ RLA NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____	FEBRUARY 22, 2018	PROJECT NO. 17-15 DATE: 11/4/2019

Map of Proposed Rack Locations