

**REPORT TO LAW & LEGISLATION
COMMITTEE
City of Sacramento**

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2671



STAFF REPORT
September 15, 2009

**Honorable Members of the
Law and Legislation Committee**

Title: Ordinance Amendment: Allow Bicycles on the K Street Pedestrian Mall

Location/Council District: K Street Pedestrian Mall/District 1

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Committee approve and forward to the City Council the attached ordinance amendments to Title 12, section 44 of the City Code.

Contact: Chris Dougherty, Associate Planner, 808-5680

Presenters: Chris Dougherty

Department: Transportation

Division: Office of the Director

Organization No: 15001041

Description/Analysis:

Issue: The current City Code section 12.44.070 prohibits bicycle riding on pedestrian malls. This proposed ordinance amendment will remove the restrictions for bicycle riding on the K Street Pedestrian Mall. This proposed amendment will provide better cycling connection from the Downtown area to Old Sacramento and the K Street Mall.

Policy Considerations: The proposed City Code amendment is consistent with the City of Sacramento Strategic Plan's three year goals of improving and expanding public safety and achieving sustainability and livability.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): This activity is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it does not constitute a "project" as defined in section 15378 of the CEQA Guidelines.

Committee/Commission Action: This proposed City Code changes were presented to the Disability Advisory Commission on August 20th.

Rationale for Recommendation: The proposed City Code amendments are necessary to allow bicyclists to ride on the K Street Pedestrian Mall, opening additional routes for bicyclists in the downtown area and Old Sacramento.

Financial Considerations: There are no financial considerations associated with this action. Subsequent to the adoption of this ordinance, the Department of Transportation will initiate a construction project that will modify the existing signage, add new signage and traffic controls and other related improvements. Design and construction of this project will be funded from the Downtown Transportation System Management Program Capital Improvement Program (PN: T15100700) (Fund 2012).

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): There are no ESBD considerations as there are no goods or services being purchased.

Respectfully Submitted by: Francesca LeHalbakken
Francesca Halbakken
Operations Manager

Approved by: Jerry Way
Jerry Way
Director of Transportation

Recommendation Approved:

for Peter Richard
Ray Kerridge
City Manager

Table of Contents:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|------|
| | Report | Pg 1 |
| Attachments | | |
| 1 | Background | Pg 3 |
| 2 | Ordinance, Repeals/Amendments to Sections, Marked-up Copy | Pg 5 |
| 3 | Ordinance, Repeals/Amendments to Sections, Clean Copy | Pg 7 |

Attachment 1**Background:**

The existing city ordinance that prohibits bicycling on the K Street Mall was enacted because the mall was designated primarily for use by pedestrians. The proposed City Code amendment will allow bicycles onto the K Street Pedestrian Mall in the sections of K Street from 13th Street to 7th Street and 4th Street to 2nd Street. This will allow bicycle traffic throughout the K Street Mall, with the exception of Westfield Downtown Plaza. This will increase the bicycle connectivity through the Central Business District and to Old Sacramento. Additionally, allowing bicycles on K Street will provide a safer environment for slower, more casual riders than the faster moving environment on J and L Streets.

A stakeholder group was assembled and discussed at length the safety concerns associated with this project. The stakeholder group consisted of representatives from Regional Transit, the Police Department, the Disability Advisory Commission, Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates and Economic Development.

With safety as the primary concern with the reintroduction of bicycles on K Street, the stakeholder group identified several safety concerns when mixing light rail, bicycle and pedestrian traffic. They are the following:

- The light rail tracks are a potential fall hazard for cyclists.
- Potential pedestrian/bicycle conflicts.
- Lack of signalized intersections for bicycle crossings.

The proposed ordinance amendment will only allow bicycle traffic in the travel lanes in the areas between the yellow detectable warning strips. Bicycles would not be allowed on the sidewalk areas of K Street. This is consistent with the exclusion of bicycles from sidewalks in the remainder of the City (with the exception of residential areas). Additionally, the bicycles would be limited to a 10 mile per hour speed limit.

Staff's recommendations to address these concerns are primarily through additional signage throughout the mall. The signage would address the following:

- The dangers of bicycle tires getting stuck in the tracks, causing a fall
- A 10 mph speed limit for bicycle traffic
- To yield to both pedestrians and light rail at all times
- To use the pedestrian crossing signals to cross the intersections.

With the increased signage and the level of enforcement on the K Street Pedestrian Mall, staff believes that the potential safety concern can be mitigated sufficiently.

During the "Fix I-5" Project, the Department of Transportation temporarily opened up the K Street mall to bicycle traffic to provide additional bicycle commute opportunities. There were no incidents or conflicts with light rail or pedestrians reported.

Attachment 2

ORDINANCE NO. 2009-

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

Date Adopted 00/00/0000

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 12.44.070 AND 12.44.090 OF CHAPTER 12 OF THE SACRAMENTO CITY CODE, RELATING TO BICYCLE RIDING ON PEDESTRIAN MALLS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:

SECTION 1

Section 12.44.070 of the Sacramento City Code is amended to read as follows:

12.44.070 Bicycle riding and parking.

A. Except as authorized under subsection B of this section, or Chapter 5.94 of this code regarding the regulation of pedicabs, no person shall ride a bicycle upon that portion of K Street Mall between 7th Street and 4th Street.

B. The provisions of subsection A of this section shall not apply to the following persons:

1. Peace officers, as defined in Penal Code Section 830, who are on scheduled duty and who are acting within the course and scope of their employment.

2. Employees of the Sacramento downtown district (hereafter "district") who meet all of the following standards: (i) perform guide or related services as employees of the district; (ii) are on scheduled duty and are acting within the course and scope of their employment with the district; (iii) have been designated in writing by the district as required to ride a bicycle; and (iv) have received a permit from the city manager after making written application therefore.

3. On-duty emergency medical personnel as designated by the fire chief of the city.

C. The city manager shall, prior to issuance of any permit pursuant to subsection (B)(2) of this section, develop and implement an appropriate application form, criteria to implement the standards set forth in subsection (B)(2) of this section,

and a form of permit. No permit shall be issued without a written request from the district, which designates individual employees as being required to ride bicycles in the course and scope of their duties as employees of the district. The city manager may limit the number of permits issued pursuant to this section.

SECTION 2

Section 12.44.090 of the Sacramento City Code is amended to read as follows:

12.44.090 Speed.

No person shall operate any vehicle on any mall at a speed of more than five miles per hour; provided, however, that this speed limit shall not apply to the light rail transit vehicles and shuttle buses (thirty (30) passengers or less) operated by the Sacramento regional transit district. It is understood that light rail transit vehicles are governed by and shall operate in compliance with the regulations of the California Public Utilities Commission relating to the speed of light rail vehicles on pedestrian malls such as the K Street mall. Shuttle buses and bicycles shall not be operated on any mall at a speed faster than is reasonable under the circumstances but in no event more than ten (10) miles per hour.

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A. Except as authorized under subsection B of this section, or Chapter 5.94 of this code regarding the regulation of pedicabs, no person shall ride a bicycle upon ~~that portion of K Street Mall between 7th Street and 4th Street any mall, except that portion of 13th Street between the north right-of-way line of K Street and the south right-of-way line of K Street. Nothing in this section shall be construed so as to prohibit the walking or pushing of a bicycle upon a mall. The parking of bicycles upon a mall is prohibited except at designated bicycle parking racks provided by the city.~~

B. The provisions of subsection A of this section shall not apply to the following persons:

1. Peace officers, as defined in Penal Code Section 830, who are **actually** on scheduled duty and who are acting within the course and scope of their employment.

2. Employees of the Sacramento downtown district (hereafter "district") who meet all of the following standards: (i) perform guide or related services as employees of the district; (ii) are **actually** on scheduled duty and are acting within the course and scope of their employment with the district; (iii) have been designated in writing by the district as required to ride a bicycle; and (iv) have received a permit from the city manager after making written application therefor.

3. On-duty emergency medical personnel as designated by the fire chief of the city.

C. The city manager shall, prior to issuance of any permit pursuant to

subsection (B)(2) of this section, develop and implement an appropriate application form, criteria to implement the standards set forth in subsection (B)(2) of this section, and a form of permit. No permit shall be issued without a written request from the district, which designates individual employees as being required to ride bicycles in the course and scope of their duties as employees of the district. The city manager may limit the number of permits issued pursuant to this section.

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