



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's BICYCLE COMMITTEE

Minutes – Draft

Monday, March 11, 2013
6:00 pm

RTC Office
1523 Pacific Ave
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

1. Call to Order at 6:05pm
2. Introductions

Members Present:

Kem Akol, District 1
Holly Tyler, District 1 (Alt.)
David Casterson, District 2, Chair
Peter Scott, District 3
Will Menchine, District 3 (Alt.)
Rick Hyman, District 5
Bill Fieberling, City of Santa Cruz
Andy Ward, City of Capitola, Vice-Chair
Daniel Kostelec, City of Capitola (Alt.)
Lex Rau, City of Scotts Valley
Leo Jed, CTSC
Nick Mucha, Bike to Work

Staff:

Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner
Ginger Dykaar, Transportation Planner
Kim Shultz, Senior Transportation Planner
Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner

Unexcused Absences:

Excused Absences:

Eric Horton, District 2 (Alt.)
Carlos Garza, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)
Gary Milburn, City of Scotts Valley (Alt.)
Myrna Sherman, City of Watsonville
Piet Canin, Ecology Action/Bike-to-Work
Jim Langlely, CTSC (Alt.)

Vacancies:

District 4 – Voting and Alternate
District 5 – Alternate
City of Watsonville – Alternate

Guests:

Micah Posner, City of Santa Cruz Council member
Amelia Conlen, People Power
Theresia Rogerson, CTSC
Katie LeBaron, CTSC
Ryan Heywood, former UCSC student
Suzanne Sarro, RTC consultant

3. Announcements – Cory Caletti, RTC staff to the Bicycle Committee, announcement that Bikes May Use Full Land and Shared Lane Pavement Markings (aka Sharrows) have been installed on Old San Jose Road and on Felton Empire Grade. Letters and phone calls of support and opposition to the signs and marking on Old San Jose Road were received by both RTC staff and Commissioner Leopold's office. The signs have been defaced but subsequently cleaned-up.

Ms. Caletti also announced that the Sharrows in City of Capitola and City of Scotts Valley are fading and representatives of those jurisdictions may want to inquire into re-stenciling schedules. Finally, she announced that a number of three-year terms on the Bike Committee will expire at the end March and re-appointments are in progress.

4. Oral Communications – None
5. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas – Councilmember Micah Posner asked the Committee to provide feedback on a grant that the City of Santa Cruz is pursuing. Chair Casterson agendaized the items as #10a to follow the Complete Streets discussion. Will Menchine requested that the Bike Com discuss improvements needed to the East Cliff Drive multi-use path in the westbound direction and to make a recommendation regarding the City of Santa Cruz's Bike and Pedestrian Subcommittee that has been on hiatus for a number of years. Chair Casterson indicated that those items would be taken up as part of the Member Updates Related to Committee Functions agenda item.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion (Jed/Fieberling) to approve the consent agenda as amended passed unanimously.

6. Approved draft minutes of the January 14, 2013 Bicycle Committee meeting
7. Accepted Bicycle Committee roster
8. Accepted summary of Bicycle Hazard Reports
9. Accepted announcement regarding no call for projects for Bicycle Transportation Account funds for the fiscal year 13/14

REGULAR AGENDA

10. Complete Street Analysis and the Sustainable Communities Strategy – Grace Blakeslee, RTC Senior Transportation Planner, summarized the staff report. As part of the Sustainable Communities Strategy, the existing transportation network is being analyzed with the goal of identifying ways to encourage the use of alternative modes, reducing vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions. Ms. Blakeslee asked for Committee input on locations and types of bicycle facilities to be consider as part of the complete streets assessment. She also indicated that a set of guidelines will be developed to implement a local Complete Streets approach. Members provided input into areas proposed for evaluation and assessment elements. She asked that members also email her with additional input. Ms. Blakeslee plans to return to a future Bicycle Committee to report on information gathered and discuss next steps.
- 10a. Community Block Grant proposal – City of Santa Cruz Council Member Micah Posner announced that a staff recommendation will be considered by the City Council to apply for a Caltrans Community Block grant for the San Lorenzo River ramp that will provide access from the Beach St bikeway to the current pedestrian bridge. He asked for feedback on whether this project is a high priority given all the other projects the Committee would like to see developed. The Committee indicated support for the project and for the submission of an application for the grant in question. Council member Posner thanked members for their feedback.

11. 2010 Bicyclist Injuries and Fatalities for Santa Cruz County Report and 2012 Bicycle Safety Observation Study – Theresia Rogerson, Community Traffic Safety Coalition staff, summarized the Bicycle Injuries and Fatalities Report and received input from Committee members regarding ways to improve the report. Namely, Committee members indicated the rating, which is based on number of injuries and fatalities per 100,000 population rather than number of bicycle riders, is misleading and should be de-emphasized and qualified. Ms. Rogerson then went on to present the findings of the multi-year Observation Study, the changes in trends and the volunteer assistance it largely depends on. Feedback was provided and a sign-up sheet for the Spring observation that is coming up was circulated.
12. May 2012 RTC Bicycle Count Project – Ginger Dykaar, RTC Transportation Planner and Ryan Heywood, former UCSC IDEASS Student, presented the findings of the RTC's Bicycle Count Project. Information presented included details and reasoning behind the national data collection method used; how the count was coordinated with the CTSC observation; pedestrian and vehicle counts simultaneously conducted to ascertain mode split; and recommendations for count methodology for any future counts taken within Santa Cruz County. Members asked questions regarding count methodology and other details, and expressed gratitude to Mr. Heywood for assisting staff in getting the count project off the ground.
13. Highway 1 Bike/Pedestrian Overcrossing at Chanticleer Avenue Update – Kim Shultz, RTC Senior Transportation Planner and Suzanne Sarro, RTC Consultant, described the preliminary designs of the planned Highway 1 Bike/Pedestrian Overcrossing project at Chanticleer Avenue. Mr. Shultz and Ms. Sarro reminded members that they attended the committee meeting a year ago, compiled feedback received, and re-worked the overcrossing design in response to comments provided. The current design allows for bicyclists to ride on the overpass and would not require dismounting as was previously the case. Members expressed much appreciation for the re-design but voiced concern about the fact that the south side (or ocean side) approach to the overcrossing would require dismounting to cross intersections. A motion was made (Hyman/Akol) to request that the design be further enhanced to provide access via safe and legal bicycle riding maneuvers. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Shultz and Ms. Sarro indicated that a Draft Environmental Impact Report is planned for release in January, 2014 and that the Committee is encouraged to provide feedback.
14. Member updates related to Committee functions – Will Menchine asked the Bicycle Committee to consider City of Santa Cruz's staff recommendation to not reinstate its Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee. City of Santa Cruz staff holds the view that the RTC Bicycle Committee serves the same function as the City's committee and therefore, the City's committee is not needed. A motion was made (Scott/Jed) to write a letter to the City of Santa Cruz Council urging them to reinstate the bike/ped subcommittee. Considerations presented were that many bike/ped projects to be reviewed that are too detailed for the amount of time the RTC's Bicycle Committee has available and may not hold enough regional significance, and that the RTC's Bicycle Committee reduced meeting schedule barely allows time to adequately review the items it is charged with. The motion passed unanimously.

Will Menchine enumerated the difficulties of bicycle and pedestrian traffic flow on the westbound direction of the East Cliff Driver multi-use path between 32nd and 41st Avenues. Cory Caletti suggested that she ask County Public Works to attend a future meeting to have a well-rounded discussion of possible solutions. It was

recommended that Commissioner Leopold's aide, Dave Reid, be asked to attend that meeting since he has met with constituents on the subject and was also formerly involved with the project when the Redevelopment Agency headed design and construction. An Ad-Hoc Committee, comprised of Will Menchine, Nick Mucha and Kem Akol, was formed to conduct a field trip and brainstorm possible solutions to present to Public Works.

Additional updates provided include:

- The Arana Gulch Broadway/Brommer bicycle and pedestrian path will break ground this upcoming fall.
- Rick Hyman reported that the RTC will be considering the FY 13/14 budget at the next RTC meeting and that this would be an appropriate time to request staffing increases for bicycle planning and committee meetings. A motion was made (Akol/Jed) to have Chair Casterson attend the next RTC meeting and request that a quarter time full time equivalent (FTE) Senior Transportation Planner be funded to offset previous reductions made to Bicycle Committee staffing resources and meeting frequency.
- At the request of member Kem Akol, a motion was made (Akol/Scott) to write a letter to UC Santa Cruz requesting a speed study on Coolidge Drive to ascertain whether driving speeds exceed the speed limit. The motion passed unanimously.
- Peter Scott requested input into whether he should request that UC Santa Cruz's Transportation and Parking Services regarding faculty and employee mode choice to work. Committee members indicated that the information would be valuable.
- Members agreed to meet again at the earlier start time of 6pm. The Monday, April 8th Bicycle Committee will therefore meet again at 6pm.

Adjourned: 9pm

NEXT MEETING: The next Bicycle Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 8, 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm at the RTC office, 1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA.

Minutes respectfully prepared and submitted by:

Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner

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