



Santa Cruz County Regional  
Transportation Commission's

**BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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**Minutes - Draft**

**Monday, February 8, 2016  
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 pm**

**RTC Office  
1523 Pacific Ave  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

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

**Members Present:**

Kem Akol, District 1  
David Casterson, District 2, Chair  
Will Menchine, District 3 (Alt.)  
Rick Hyman, District 5  
Melissa Ott, City of Santa Cruz  
Lex Rau, City of Scotts Valley  
Andy Ward, City of Capitola  
Leo Jed, CTSC, Vice-Chair  
Emily Gomez, Ecology Action/Bike to Work

**Staff:**

Cory Caletti, Sr Transportation Planner

**Guests:**

Nathan Nguyen, City of Santa Cruz  
Chris Schneiter, City of Santa Cruz  
Tara Leonard, Health Services Administration  
Theresia Rogerson, HSA  
Steve Piercy, Soquel resident  
Robert Gilbert, UCSC student  
Zhani Cohen, UCSC student  
Richard Angelinan, UCSC student  
Kerry O'Connor, UCSC student  
Veronica Torres, UCSC student

**Unexcused Absences:**

**Excused Absences:**

Holly Tyler, District 1 (Alt.)  
Jim Cook, District 2 (Alt.)  
Peter Scott, District 3  
Amelia Conlen, District 4  
Bill Fieberling, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)  
Daniel Kostelec, City of Capitola (Alt.)  
Gary Milburn, City of Scotts Valley (Alt.)  
Myrna Sherman, City of Watsonville  
Piet Canin, Ecology Action/Bike-to-Work (Alt.)  
Jim Langley, CTSC (Alt.)

**Vacancies:**

District 4 and 5 – Alternates  
City of Watsonville – Alternate

3. Announcements – Cory Caletti announced the following items: 1) In late March, the City of Watsonville will hold an Open House for the 1.2 mile rail trail the City is implementing. The City will also share preliminary designs to the Bicycle Advisory Committee at the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. 2)

The north coast rail trail project will be kicked off in late February when the implementing entity, the Central Federal Lands division of the Federal Highway Administration, will be in Santa Cruz for a workshop and for meetings with critical stakeholders. 3) The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County organized a well attended community presentation entitled "All about the Rail Trail" in December at Hotel Paradox. Presentations were made by the RTC's rail trail program manager, Cory Caletti,; the Land Trust's Deputy Director, Stephen Slade; and Amelia Conlen, Executive Director of Bike Santa Cruz County. Another similar event is scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Severino's in Aptos. 4) A rail transit related event will be held on February 15th from 6:30 to 8pm on "the Benefits and Challenges of Modern Transit on the County's Rail Corridor". The event is hosted by Coastal Rail Santa Cruz. 5) Active Transportation Program call for projects for FY 19/20 and 20/21 dollars is expected to be issued in March with applications due sometime in June. 6) A number of Bicycle Advisory Committee seats will expire at the end of March (specifically District 1, 3 and 5 as well as the City of Watsonville and Bike to Work). RTC staff will be working on soliciting reappointment requests as well as new recruits. 7) The draft calendar contained in the packet for 2016 and tentative agenda items were called out for special attention.

4. Oral communications – None
5. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas – Handouts was provided.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion (Jed/Menchine) to approve the consent agenda passed unanimously with members Akol, Casterson, Menchine, Hyman, Ott, Rau, Ward, Jed and Gomez voting in favor. No votes were cast in opposition.

6. Approved draft minutes of the December 14, 2015 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
7. Accepted summary of Bicycle Hazard reports
8. Accepted letter from Bicycle Advisory Committee to the Regional Transportation Commission and Caltrans regarding the Highway 1 Corridor Tier I and Tier II Environmental Documents
9. Accepted letter from the Bicycle Advisory Committee to Caltrans regarding Highway 1 Rumble Strips
10. Approved City of Santa Cruz Transportation Development Act FY 15/16 Request for \$25,000 for bikeway maintenance and minor improvements
11. Accepted draft 2016 Bicycle Advisory Committee scheduled and tentative agenda items

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

12. City of Santa Cruz Coastal Rail Trail Preliminary Design – A presentation was provided by Nathan Nguyen, City of Santa Cruz's rail trail Project Manager. The Committee was informed about design plans including trail width and planned surface materials, crossing treatments, and design and construction schedule. Chris Schneider, City of Santa Cruz Assistant Public Works Director, also presented an alternative alignment that was introduced following the Open House whereby the trail between Bay/California and Neary Lagoon would be located along La Barraga Park and then dip back into the rail corridor to connect to the Wharf. Committee members welcomed the idea, and also urged the City to design the trail to the fullest extent possible, to

work creatively with New Leaf to keep the trail on the coastal side between Swift and Almar, and suggested refinements for crossings including minimizing bulbouts. Recommendations were also made to keep crossing treatments consistent from one intersection and another and to consider having bicyclists and pedestrians have right of way priority at crossings.

13. Community Traffic Safety Coalition's Bicyclist Injuries and Fatalities for Santa Cruz County Report and Bicycle Safety Observation Study – A presentation was provided by Tara Leonard, Health Services Agency/Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC), on bicycle injury and fatality data as compiled from the Statewide Integrated Traffic Records (SWITRS) for 2013, the latest year available. There were 198 bicycle related collisions and 3 fatalities in 2013, bringing the injury/fatality rate per 100,000 to 80 in the state (figures are based on total, not bicycle riding population). The rate is the highest in the last ten years and more than doubles the state rate of 37. Following the presentation from HSA, community member Steve Piercy presented a database he compiled of geocoded injuries and fatalities for the number of years that the data has been available. He welcomes the use of the data by local jurisdictions for identification of hot spots and safety improvement projects. Highlights from the observation study includes: 2,548 bicyclists were surveyed of which 62% stopped at signs and stop lights, only 25% were female, and 58% wore helmets. A motion was made (Jed/Ward) to write letters of appreciation to HSA staff and Steve Piercy for their work in identifying injuries and collisions and making the data available for the improvement of bicycle facilities and traveling public behavior.
14. Updates related to Committee functions – Cory Caletti indicated that South County representation has always been subpar and that she welcomes members' ideas on recruitment ideas. Members brainstormed possible community members to reach out to and volunteered for various follow-up actions. Chris Schneiter indicated that Murray Street Bridge is likely 1 to 1.5 years away from being ready to go out for construction bids. Theresia Rogerson updated members on the Community Traffic Safety Coalition's draft work plan for FY 16/17 and 17/18. The CTSC is considering focusing on implementing a Vision Zero policy and action plan centered on the notion that the only number of acceptable traffic related injuries and fatalities is zero. The goal is to shift the national and local mindset from what has become an accepted aspect of the consequences of travel to understanding that injuries and fatalities are preventable. She directed interested members to visit [visionzeronetwork.org](http://visionzeronetwork.org) for more information and also indicated that she'd present the work plan in more detail at a future Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting.
15. Adjourned – 8:25 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Bicycle Committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, April 11, 2016**, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the RTC office, 1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA.

Minutes respectfully prepared and submitted by:

Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner