



**Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission**

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

**Special Meeting
Monday, November 13, 2017
6:00 pm to 8:30 pm**

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

1. Call to Order: Chair Conlen called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.
2. Introductions

Members Present:

Grace Voss, District 1
Janneke Strause, District 1 (Alt)
David Casterson, District 2, Vice-Chair
Will Menchine, District 3 (Alt.)
Kem Akol, District 4
Rick Hyman, District 5
Amelia Conlen, City of Santa Cruz, Chair
Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville
Leo Jed, CTSC
Kira Ticus, Ecology Action/Bike-to-Work

Staff:

George Dondero, Executive Director
Cory Caletti, Sr Transportation Planner
Grace Blakeslee, Sr Transportation Planner
Rachel Moriconi, Sr. Transportation Planner

Guests:

Scott Hamby, City of Scotts Valley
Marilyn Garrett, Member of the public
Tom Hiltner, Santa Cruz METRO
Kate Dovale, Member of the public
Lyndel Fusella, Member of the public
Stanley Sokolow, Member of the public
Becky Steinbruner, Member of the public

Unexcused Absences:

Excused Absences:

Jim Cook, District 2 (Alt.)
Peter Scott, District 3
Jim Langley, CTSC (Alt.)
Piet Canin, Ecology Action/Bike to Work (Alt)

Vacancies:

District 4 – Alternate
District 5 – Alternate
City of Santa Cruz – Alternate
City of Scotts Valley – Voting and Alternate
City of Capitola – Voting and Alternate
City of Watsonville – Alternate

3. Announcements – Cory Caletti, staff to the Bicycle Advisory Committee, indicated that a number of RTC staff members have or are retiring and that new staff members are coming onboard. She also indicated that a December Bicycle Advisory Committee will be needed which will put the schedule back on track. Cory Caletti also announced that Phase 1 of the City of Santa Cruz rail trail (from Natural Bridges to Bay/California) is anticipated to break ground next Spring, with Phase 2 (from Bay/California to the Santa Cruz Wharf) to follow shortly thereafter. Finally, a few vacancies exist on the committee and a recruitment will be announced in the spring along with the regularly scheduled reappointments.
4. Oral communications – Rick Hyman reported that he submitted a bike hazard, that the issue was promptly dealt with and that he appreciated the speedy response and program effectiveness.
5. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas – None

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion (Fontes/Ticus) was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with members Voss, Casterson, Menchine, Akol, Hyman, Conlen, Fontes, Jed and Ticus voting in favor.

6. Approved draft minutes of the September 18, 2017 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
7. Accepted Bicycle Advisory Committee roster
8. Accepted summary of Hazard Reports
9. Accepted letter from the Bicycle Advisory Committee in support of the "Santa Cruz County Complete Streets to School Planning Grant"
10. Accepted letter from the Bicycle Advisory Committee in support of the "Watsonville Complete Streets to School Planning Grant"
11. Accepted comment from a member of the public regarding Glen Canyon as a bicycle route
12. Accepted comment submitted to the Regional Transportation Commission regarding the Unified Corridor Study by Committee member Rick Hyman
13. Accepted the 2017 Bicycle Friendly State ranking by the League of American Bicyclists
14. Accepted announcement from the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency regarding award of a California Office of Traffic Safety to implement community education programs with the goal of improving safety on area roads

REGULAR AGENDA

15. 2018 State Rail Plan - George Dondero, RTC Executive Director, provided an overview of the Draft California State Rail Plan. He discussed the key components of the plan and the cooperation of State and private partners in its development. Committee members discussed the need to ensure coordination between different transit systems so transfers are seamless. Comments also included the need for bike share services, bike parking and other bike amenities to facilitate first and last

mile trips. The link to a free webinar on the plan to be hosted by Caltrans mid-December will be sent to committee members.

16. Cruz511 In Your Neighborhood Program – Grace Blakeslee, RTC Senior Transportation Planner, presented results of the Cruz511 in Your Neighborhood pilot program which focused on reducing the number of drive alone trips and increasing the number of trips made by bus, biking, walking, and carpooling. She shared information about program participation, effective outreach and overall program results. Members commented on the usefulness and attractiveness of materials and the neighborhood specific outreach.

Leo Jed left the meeting.

Member of the public Marilyn Garrett expressed concern about the effects of cell towers and cell phone use on bus riders and drivers. Member of the public Stanley Sokolow commented on cost effectiveness of spending relative to program impact.

17. *2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program* – Rachel Moriconi, RTC Senior Transportation Planner, presented preliminary staff recommendations on the *Regional Transportation Improvement Program*. Ms. Moriconi provided an overview of the funding sources and total funding available during this programming cycle, the project evaluation criteria, other available funding sources, and the thirty-six project applications received.

Committee members discussed proposed projects and funding recommendations, project evaluation and effectiveness, funding for bicycle projects, and specific design elements. Project sponsors from Bike Santa Cruz County, Cities of Watsonville and Scotts Valley, and Ecology Action addressed projects for which funding was requested. Member of the public Becky Steinbruner commented on project #25 (Aptos Creek Road Traffic Signal, Soquel Dr. Sidewalks and Bike Lanes) and asked that the committee recommend that no funding be allocated to the project. Additionally, she provided staff with a petition signed by members of the community, opposing funding for the traffic signal in Aptos Village. A motion was made (Murray/Casterson) to recommend to the RTC that additional funding, up to the full amount requested, be provided for projects #1 (Open Streets Events to be implemented by Bike Santa Cruz County), #2 (Every Day is Bike to Work Day to be implemented by Ecology Action), #12 (Pacific Avenue Sidewalk in the City of Santa Cruz), #18 (Glenwood Drive Rehabilitation in the City of Scotts Valley) and #22 (Bicycle Safety Improvements in the City of Watsonville). The motion included the request that staff seek clarification about bike elements included in project #25 in Aptos Village, specifically bike lane design and striping plans, and that staff inquire if the County of Public Works is able to present information about the project at the December Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Voss, Casterson, Menchine, Akol, Hyman, Conlen, Fontes and Ticus voting in favor. No votes were cast in opposition.

18. Updates related to Committee functions – A Pajaro River levee improvement project is planned which does not incorporate bike access or any bike improvements. Members agreed that at the very least, existing bike access should be maintained but indicated preference for design and construction of a path that will facilitate expanded use. A motion was made (Casterson/Ticus) to write a letter to the US Army Corps of Engineers requesting bike access expansion. The motion passed with Voss, Casterson, Menchine, Akol, Hyman, Conlen, Fontes and Ticus voting in favor. No votes were cast in opposition.

Another item discussed was the City of Santa Cruz's plan to close the Branciforte Creek path due to neighbor safety concerns arising out of the presence of transients and drug use. A motion was made (Hyman/Akol) to write a letter to City of Santa Cruz opposing the closure and recommending a multi-faceted planning approach to address neighbor concerns. The motion passed with Voss, Casterson, Menchine, Akol, Hyman, Conlen, Fontes and Ticus voting in favor. No votes were cast in opposition.

19. Adjourned - 8:30 PM

NEXT MEETING: The next Bicycle Committee meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2017. The meeting will be held 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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