



**Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission's**

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Monday, December 9, 2019
6:00 pm to 8:30 pm**

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

1. Call to Order: Chair, Amelia Conlen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Introductions

Members Present:

Amelia Conlen, Bike-to-Work, Chair
Grace Voss, District 1
Peter Scott, District 3
Sally Arnold, District 3 (Alt.)
Anna Kammer, District 4
Rick Hyman, District 5
Michael Moore, City of Capitola
Matt Farrell, City of Santa Cruz
Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville
Drew Rogers, City of Watsonville (Alt.)
Leo Jed, CTSC

Unexcused Absences:

Excused Absences:

Janneke Strause, District 1 (Alt.)
Shea Johnson, District 2
Casey Beyer, District 2 (Alt.)
Theresia Rogerson, District 5 (Alt.)
Bruce Sawhill, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)
Richard Masoner, City of Scotts Valley
Jim Langley, CTSC (Alt.)
Matt Miller, Bike-to-Work (Alt.)

Vacancies:

District 4 – Alternate
City of Capitola – Alternate
City of Scotts Valley – Alternate

Staff:

Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner
Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner
Ginger Dykaar, Senior Transportation Planner
Luis Mendez, Deputy Director
Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner

Guests:

Russell Chen, County of Santa Cruz
Tim Nguyen, County of Santa Cruz
Piet Canin, Bike-to-Work/Ecology Action
Gina Cole, Bike Santa Cruz County

3. Announcements – Staff announcements
4. Oral communications – Sally Arnold announced that the Friends of the Rail & Trail will hold an event January 25 at 1pm at Santa Cruz Mountain Brewery to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Rail Trail Segment 7.
5. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas – None

CONSENT AGENDA

Members requested, in light of recent hazard reports regarding construction zones, that staff remind other jurisdictions of state requirements for bicycle detour signage. A motion (Hyman/Jed) was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with members Conlen, Voss, Scott, Kammer, Hyman, Moore, Farrell, Fontes, and Jed voting in favor.

6. Approved draft minutes of the November 4, 2019 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
7. Accepted summary of hazard reports
8. Accept informational item: Bicycle Advisory Committee Roster including Matt Miller as new Alternate for Bike to Work seat

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Aptos Village Project Phase 2B roadway improvements update and review – Tim Nguyen & Russell Chen, County of Santa Cruz staff, described the project which will include a new traffic signal at Soquel Dr and Aptos Creek Rd, a new railroad crossing signal at Aptos Creek Rd, curb, gutter, and sidewalks in portions, storm drain system, overlay and striping, new video detection at Spreckels Dr, and traffic signal synchronization capability between State Park Drive and Trout Gulch Rd. They discussed new bike lanes in the area of the Aptos Creek Rd intersection and the railroad crossing, green pavement treatments, and the need to remove parking close to the intersection and the railroad crossing. Committee members raised concerns about the removal of the existing bike lane on the north side of Soquel Dr between Aptos Creek Rd and Aptos Creek. Discussion touched upon loss of several parking spaces on Soquel Dr and in the 8017 Soquel Dr parking lot, pedestrians' ability to utilize said parking lot for travel, bicyclists' ability to use the proposed sidewalk, future need to widen the Soquel Dr bridge over Aptos Creek in order to allow for continuous bike lanes, and the improved safety of the railroad crossing.

A motion (Hyman/Voss) was made to request that the County use the existing County right-of-way to construct the proposed new sidewalk, rather than removing the existing bike lane. A friendly amendment (Fontes) was offered and accepted stating that if it is too costly or time-constrained to more fully address the private parking lot at 8017 Soquel Dr, which appears to encroach into the roadway right-of-way according to the County's engineering plans, the preference should be to defer construction of the sidewalk until that can be addressed. Further, if the County is

able to address the parking lot encroachment in time for planned construction in spring 2020, the Committee requests new plans be brought to the Committee. The amended motion passed with members Conlen, Voss, Scott, Kammer, Hyman, Moore, Fontes, and Jed voting in favor and Farrell voting against.

10. Rail Trail North Coast project update and review – Grace Blakeslee, RTC Sr. Transportation Planner, provided a general overview of the project and an update to the Committee on the timeline for the project, particularly progress since the certification of the EIR in early 2019. The next engineering plans will be the 75% plans expected in spring 2020. One of the changes to the plans is for the trail to be 12 feet paved with two 2-foot unpaved shoulders rather than 16 feet paved with one 4-foot unpaved shoulder. The RTC is pursuing grant funding for the second (northern) phase of the project. A public meeting is planned for the spring, particularly to update the public on a proposed pedestrian crossing of Highway 1 in Davenport. Staff clarified that there is planned to be a nighttime closure of the trail, specifics yet to be determined, and that there will be no lighting in the project. Committee members asked that project signage be consistent with MBSST signage policies, and requested that staff return to the Committee for design review in February 2020.
11. Competitive Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (RSTPX) funds review and recommend – Rachel Moriconi, RTC Sr. Transportation Planner, presented the staff recommendation for the competitive portion of RSTPX funds, and described details of the four applications that were received. In response to committee member questions, Gina Cole, Bike Santa Cruz County noted that the two proposed temporary separated bike lane projects are expected to be located on 17th Ave in Live Oak and Pennsylvania Dr in Watsonville. Piet Canin reported that Ecology Action will undertake outreach in Spanish for the Bike Challenge.

A motion (Kammer/Voss) was made to recommend that the RTC approve the project funding for Bike Santa Cruz County and Ecology Action projects as recommended in the staff report. The motion passed unanimously with members Conlen, Voss, Scott, Kammer, Hyman, Moore, Farrell, Fontes, and Jed voting in favor.

12. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2045 Goals, Policies, and Targets input and discussion – Ginger Dykaar, RTC Sr. Transportation Planner, introduced the RTP process and presented the draft goals, policies, and targets for the Committee to discuss and provide their input. The RTP is required for certain funding sources and will be incorporated into the Monterey Bay region's Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. The RTP will identify transportation needs for the next 20-plus years for the county, and the next version will be finalized in 2022. This version of the RTP will be similar in design to the previous RTP 2040, continuing a focus on measuring targets rather than forecasting to the future, and it will incorporate some new requirements including policies on climate resilience, goods movement, dedicated transit facilities, and transit-oriented development. The Policies Element guides further development of the plan over the next few years. Committee members sought clarification on bikeway miles currently in the county, which are 27 miles of bike paths and 198 miles of each direction of bike lanes, while the amount of buffered or separated bike lanes is not currently tallied but uncommon. Members requested revision of Target 1Ai and Target 2A and revision or footnoting of Target 1Dii for clarity. Committee members requested aggressive targets for the year 2045 as follows:

- 85% or 100% of arterials and collectors should have bike facilities to Highway Design Manual minimum standard
- Finish the planned rail trail
- Increase the total length of bikeway miles by 36% by 2030 and 50% by 2045
- Reduce serious traffic injuries, in addition to traffic deaths, to zero by 2050

Members requested that staff communicate with an ad-hoc committee of Rick Hyman and Grace Voss on revisions to the goals, policies, and targets.

13. Regional Transportation Commission 2020 State and Federal Legislative Programs review and provide input - Rachel Moriconi, RTC Sr. Transportation Planner, introduced the preliminary draft of the RTC's legislative platform. She briefly discussed a few of the positions including increased funding overall, safety policies, local control, and transit funding. She requested that Committee members send her their input individually by January 6, 2020. Committee members requested she return in 2020 to provide a general overview of funding sources for transportation.
14. Rail Trail Segment 18 update – Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville staff, presented the first phase of the Segment 18 project. Committee members asked about the fence between the trail and the tracks, which will be 42 inches high, and requested space at the ground for animals to pass. He clarified that there will be no lighting and that the trail will be closed after dusk. The second phase of the project, completing the trail between Walker Street and Lee Road, will come two years after the first phase.

A motion (Hyman, Farrell) was made to approve the designs for phase 1 of the Segment 18 trail. The motion passed unanimously with members Conlen, Voss, Scott, Kammer, Hyman, Moore, Farrell, Fontes, and Jed voting in favor.

15. Watsonville Downtown Complete Streets Plan update – Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville staff, provided an update on the Downtown Complete Streets Plan, which includes Main Street (SR 152), Union Street, Brennan Street, and Rodriguez Street. As the scope of the project did not allow for right-of-way acquisition, alternatives to improve active transportation required trade-offs such as removing a travel lane or on-street parking. After extensive public input, recommendations include, among other improvements, a loss of travel lanes on Main Street, before the construction of which the city council has requested a study of the impact. Initial project short-term priorities include improved marked crosswalks. Committee members expressed appreciation for the work of the project team to achieve city council acceptance of complete streets improvements on Main Street. They also discussed the pros and cons of the city considering parking-buffered bike lanes, which may protect bicyclists from drivers coming from behind, but may introduce more conflict at driveways and intersections. Relatedly, members expressed an impression that a paint-buffered bike lane may have little use on Main Street, but a grade-separated cycle track adjacent to the sidewalk could attract more users.
16. Bike lane demarcation adjacent to parking in City of Santa Cruz – Rick Hyman, Committee member, discussed that he was under the impression that the City of Santa Cruz has expressed that they will mark the outside edge of all bike lanes when adjacent to parking so that parking is more likely not to encroach into bike lanes.

A motion (Fontes, Farrell) was made for a member of the Committee to present the matter to the RTC's Interagency Technical Advisory Committee for their consideration.

17. Update on Chanticleer Ave bike/ped crossing design review – Amelia Conlen, Committee chair, updated the Committee on the ad-hoc committee's meeting with RTC, design firm, and County staff for detailed discussion as a follow-up to the November Committee agenda item on the topic. She reported that the design firm and County staff appeared open to a marked "crossbike" as well as a possible two-way cycle track as discussed at the November meeting, if there is existing right-of-way to accommodate it.
18. Updates related to Committee functions – Amelia Conlen stated that an ad-hoc committee will meet with Capitola staff on December 18 to follow up on design input provided at the April Committee meeting.
19. Adjourn – 8:25 pm

NEXT MEETING: The next Bicycle Committee meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2020 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm at the RTC Office, 1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, Calif.

Minutes respectfully prepared and submitted by:
Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner