



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

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Monday, June 8, 2020
6:00 pm to 8:30 pm**

Teleconference

1. Call to Order: Chair, Amelia Conlen called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.
2. Introductions

Members Present:

Amelia Conlen, Bike-to-Work, Chair
Shea Johnson, District 2
Peter Scott, District 3 (*late*)
Sally Arnold, District 3 (Alt.)
Anna Kammer, District 4
Rick Hyman, District 5
Theresia Rogerson, District 5 (Alt.)
Michael Moore, City of Capitola
Matt Farrell, City of Santa Cruz
Richard Masoner, City of Scotts Valley
Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville
Leo Jed, CTSC

Unexcused Absences:

Grace Voss, District 1

Excused Absences:

Janneke Strause, District 1 (Alt.)
Casey Beyer, District 2 (Alt.)
Bruce Sawhill, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)
Drew Rogers, City of Watsonville (Alt.)
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
Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner
Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner

Guests:

Greg Martin, County of Santa Cruz
Gina Cole, Bike Santa Cruz County
Chris Alonso, Bike Santa Cruz County
Marty Demare, member of public

3. Announcements – Staff announced that staff will return to the Committee for further input on the Project List for the Regional Transportation Plan 2045 and that the RTC approved narrowing the list of transit alternatives for the Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis to the four modes as were previously presented to the Committee.

4. Oral communications – Amelia Conlen announced that Ecology Action will hold Bike Month in July, including an online interactive bike “challenge” for the public to track their bicycle riding and win prizes (lovetoride.net/santacruz). Gina Cole announced a fundraiser for social justice and Bike Santa Cruz County.
5. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas – Items 8 & 10 moved to the Regular Agenda

CONSENT AGENDA

Members discussed item 7: the hazard report regarding the signal detector at Dominican Hospital and requested staff follow-up. Staff answered member questions regarding item 8: it is expected that adding the Mar Vista Drive bridge to the Highway 1 project will save around \$1 million in environmental and preliminary engineering costs, and allow for delivery around 1 year sooner; it will not be impossible to separate the bridge from the Highway 1 project in the future if needed. A motion (Hyman/Jed) was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with members Conlen, Johnson, Arnold, Kammer, Hyman, Moore, Farrell, Masoner, Fontes, and Jed voting in favor.

6. Approved draft minutes of the April 13, 2020 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
7. Accepted summary of hazard reports
8. Accepted informational item: Mar Vista Drive bike & pedestrian bridge planning and funding – (All recommended actions from Staff Report were taken by RTC.)

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Holohan Rd & Highway 152 intersection modifications review and provide input – Greg Martin, County of Santa Cruz staff, described the project as having originated in the 1990s and primarily widening Holohan Road at the intersection. Also included are bike lanes on two legs of the intersection and pedestrian improvements. He also described adjacent Caltrans projects to add pedestrian facilities on both sides of Highway 152 adjacent to the south of the intersection. The project needs additional funds, for which the County is applying for a California Transportation Commission Local Partnership Program (LPP) grant. Members reiterated the need for the proposed bike lane and right turn pocket on Holohan Road. Members noted needed additional space for pedestrians and bicycles on northbound Highway 152 north to and through the Lakeview Middle School entrance, and requested the project include the recommendations in the Safe Routes to Schools Plan for Watsonville. Members discussed a desire for the project to include complete bicycle markings, including bike lanes, bike boxes, and dashed green treatments across intersections, and for the signal to detect bicycles.

A motion (Kammer/Farrell) was made for an ad-hoc subcommittee consisting of Anna Kammer and Amelia Conlen to communicate further bicycle pavement marking improvements with County staff and subsequently, contingent on the response from County staff, write a letter of support for the LPP grant application. The vote passed with members Conlen, Johnson, Arnold, Kammer, Hyman, Moore, Farrell, Masoner, and Jed voting in favor and Fontes voting against.

10. Bike Santa Cruz County (BSCC) programs update & proposals review and provide input – Chris Alonso, BSCC staff, presented information about youth programs including Earn-A-Bike, which includes learning and activities about bicycles and receiving a free bike, middle school Bike Clubs, which includes bicycle riding activities, and Project Bike Tech, in which high school students mentor middle school students and provide education including bicycling and health. He also described holding virtual classes for Earn-A-Bike and Project Bike Tech, and continuing to provide bicycles and equipment and have non-group fun bicycling activities during the COVID-19 shelter-in-place. RTC staff provided information about RTC funding for BSCC programs collectively called Project PASEO: Earn-A-Bike, Open Streets, and pop-up protected bike lanes. Some BSCC programs also receive Measure D funding through the city of Watsonville. Gina Cole, BSCC director, presented a proposal to shift funds from the programs that cannot be held during the shelter-in-place and to Slow Streets projects potentially in Watsonville, Santa Cruz, and the unincorporated County, which will close certain streets to through vehicle traffic to allow for safer walking and bicycling with social distancing.

A motion (Jed/Arnold) was made to approve BSCC's request to use \$29,700 of the funds previously approved for other Project PASEO programs to their proposed Slow Streets project. The motion passed unanimously with members Conlen, Johnson, Arnold, Kammer, Hyman, Moore, Farrell, Masoner, and Fontes voting in favor.

Member Peter Scott joined the meeting.

11. North Coast Rail Trail design review – Grace Blakeslee, RTC Senior Transportation Planner introduced the North Coast Rail Trail project, which entails most of Segment 5 of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network spine along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. The project lead is the Federal Highway Administration's Central Federal Lands division. Grace provided updates on the project, including that the project lead has delayed construction funding for the project but nevertheless plans to finish project design by Spring 2021, that rest areas are proposed along the trail near northern beaches and in Wilder Ranch State Park but not adjacent to farming, and that the trail is planned to be open between 5:00 AM and midnight. Members discussed desires for adequate wayfinding signs, consideration of wide bike trailers in case designers plan obstructions to keep vehicles off the trail, adequate bike parking at trailheads, moderate slopes for the trail and access ramps, courtesy signs for sharing space between bicyclists and pedestrians, composting toilets, and access from Laguna Road to the beach. Members of the public inquired about public access near 5400 Coast Road, restrooms, and property acquisitions.
12. Updates – Richard Masoner announced that the construction of Glenwood Road bike lanes in Scotts Valley has begun.
13. Adjourn – 8:28 pm

NEXT MEETING: The next Bicycle Committee meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2020 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm at **location TBD.**

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