



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

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Monday, February 8, 2021
6:00 pm to 8:30 pm**

Teleconference

This meeting was held by teleconference in accordance with the Brown Act as currently in effect under the State Emergency Services Act, the Governor's Emergency Declaration related to COVID-19, and the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, which allow local board and committee members and the public to participate and conduct meetings by teleconference, videoconference, or both. [View full executive order.](#)

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
Kathleen Bortolussi, District 2
Peter Scott, District 3
Sally Arnold, District 3 (Alt.)
Anna Kammer, District 4
Rick Hyman, District 5
Theresia Rogerson, District 5 (Alt.)
Matt Farrell, City of Santa Cruz
Richard Masoner, City of Scotts Valley
Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville
Leo Jed, CTSC

Staff:

Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner
Amy Naranjo, Transportation Planner
Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner
Shannon Munz, Communications Specialist
Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner
Luis Mendez, Deputy Director

Guests:

Jackson Ho, Caltrans
Gina Gallino Cole, Bike Santa Cruz County
John Hunt, pending committee nominee
Elizabeth Hernandez, pending committee nominee
Paula Bradley, pending committee nominee
Debbie Bulger, member of the public
Mike Eaton, member of the public

Unexcused Absences:

Excused Absences:

Janneke Strause, District 1 (Alt.)
Michael Moore, City of Capitola
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 2 – Alternate
District 4 – Alternate
City of Capitola – Alternate
City of Scotts Valley – Alternate

3. Announcements – Staff announced that the alternate seat representing the city of Santa Cruz on the Committee will be vacant as Bruce Sawhill is not seeking renomination, and that renominations for the terms expiring in March will be on the next RTC meeting consent agenda.
4. Oral communications – Murray Fontes announced that the California Transportation Commission staff is recommending grant funding for the Harkins Slough Road active transportation bridge project. Richard Masoner announced that the Scotts Valley Active Transportation Plan was recently presented to City Council, which had some concerns about project costs, and will be up at a later date for approval.
5. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas – none

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion (Fontes/Farrell) was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with members Conlen, Voss, Bortolussi, Scott, Kammer, Hyman, Farrell, Masoner, Fontes, and Jed voting in favor.

6. Approved draft minutes of the December 14, 2020 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
7. Accepted summary of hazard reports – Members requested follow-up from Santa Cruz staff regarding the curb cut widths along the Coastal Rail Trail Segment 7 Phase 1.
8. Accepted correspondence between Committee and Caltrans District 5 regarding Highway 1 capital maintenance and complete streets
9. Approved recommendation to the RTC of nomination of new Committee member – John Hunt, Elizabeth Hernandez, and Paula Bradley introduced themselves.
10. Accepted announcement of Draft UCSC Long Range Development Plan and Draft EIR

REGULAR AGENDA

11. Highway 1/Mission Street Capital Maintenance Project review and provide input – Jackson Ho, the project manager of the project, introduced the project as having the primary purpose of extending the life of the pavement as well as rebuilding the pedestrian curb ramps to meet Caltrans' latest accessibility standards and to upgrade sign panels. The project is currently in its scoping phase, which Caltrans calls Project Initiation, and is seeking public and local jurisdiction input. While the included fact sheet describes the construction start in 2024, it is now expected to be in 2025, except for replacement of crosswalk beacons which is being expedited. Members of the Committee requested predictable design for pedestrian ramps to allow safe use by visually impaired people, the reduction of excessively wide curb radii to reduce vehicle speeds and improve safety, the addition of sharrows and "bicycles may use full lane" signs to Mission Street, the study of the possibility of a 4-to-3 road diet, possibly on a portion of Mission Street, to encourage bicycle use, the addition of bike lanes in the western portion of the project area where there is already sufficient ROW or where moderate narrowing of vehicle lanes would provide curb-to-curb space for

bike lanes, the consideration of replacing loop detectors with video detection which may be better for bikes, the consideration of bike boxes and bike priority signal timing on Mission and intersecting streets, the reduction of the 45-MPH speed limit in the western project area, the right of bicyclists to use Highway 1 between Highway 9 and Mission, and the consideration of paving over the gutter pans. Concerns about the need for a local plan to include Highway 1 in Santa Cruz as well as for Caltrans to consider Mission Street as a "main street" and a bicycle route were also made, and members discussed submitting comments from the meeting in the form of a letter to Caltrans. Debbie Bulger commented on pedestrian safety improvements.

12. 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Draft Constrained Project List and Financial Element review and provide input – Amy Naranjo, lead planner for the RTP update, presented the preliminary Draft Constrained Project List with financial estimates, for inclusion in the long-range RTP and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Monterey Bay area, and sought additional input from the Committee. The List should consist of all the priority transportation projects planned countywide through 2045 and having foreseeable funds available. The RTP's Policy Element, including goals, policies, and performance targets for the county, was reviewed by the Committee and approved by the RTC in 2020. While the estimated cost of all planned projects is about \$9 billion, only about \$5 billion of local, state, and federal funding will be available in the plan period, hence the need to prioritize projects. Constrained Projects should follow the approved Policy Element and prioritize maintenance, reduce vehicle miles traveled, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote active transportation. The RTC is expected to approve the final Constrained Project List in March 2021. Members of the Committee expressed the need to prioritize equity for disadvantaged communities, as stated in the Policy Element; specifically, there is greater need for bicycle safety improvements, including reducing turning conflicts and adding marked crosswalks along high-speed arterials, in South County. Sharrow education is also a needed project.
13. North Coast Rail Trail Directional/Orientation Signage Site Plan review and provide input – Shannon Munz reviewed the North Coast Rail Trail project, including description of the two phases, timelines, and partnering public agencies. The project will include about sixteen directional and four "orientation" signs as well as seven rest areas, including interpretive panels, along the trail or along Highway 1, and the team is seeking input from the Committee before finalizing the signage plan in April 2021. Construction of the first phase could start as early as 2022. The interpretive signs will be developed by a team of subject matter experts from multiple government and local organizations. Grace Blakeslee presented each proposed location and each sign content. Committee members asked clarifying questions about signage at pedestrian crossings of the rail trail and about state park beach signs, about the positioning of the rail trail signs, and about potential conflicts with future excursion train platforms. They also asked to update the county map and include etiquette rules on the orientation signs, to consider adding "Santa Cruz" as a destination, and to consider composting toilets and mileage to bathrooms. Several members of the Committee expressed support for including destinations and mileage in several of the directional signs. John Hunt commented about the need for restrooms along the trail. Mike Eaton commented the trail should include signs saying motorized vehicles are not allowed due to problems with motorcycles illegally driving in nearby public areas.

14. Updates – Tommy Travers updated the Committee regarding the release on February 8 of the Caltrans District 5 Draft Active Transportation Plan, which is accepting comments until March 9.

A motion (Hyman/Farrell) was made to form an ad-hoc subcommittee consisting of Peter Scott, Anna Kammer, Rick Hyman, and Amelia Conlen to review the Draft Plan and to submit a comment letter to Caltrans if a request to extend the comment period beyond April 12 is not honored.

Theresia Rogerson, Rick Hyman, and Richard Masoner discussed meeting with County staff regarding the new buffered bike lane on Mt. Hermon Road. Leo Jed requested the chair write a letter to Caltrans requesting the formation of a Caltrans District 5 Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee.

15. Adjourn – 8:30 pm

NEXT MEETING: The next Bicycle Committee meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2021 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. The meeting will be held **via teleconference.**

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