



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

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**MEETING
MINUTES**

**Monday, August 9, 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: Vice Chair Murray Fontes called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Introductions

Members Present:

Scott Roseman, District 1
Kathleen Bortolussi, District 2
John Hunt, District 2 (Alt.)
Peter Scott, District 3
Sally Arnold, District 3 (Alt.)
Anna Kammer, District 4
Liz Hernandez, District 4 (Alt.)
Rick Hyman, District 5
Theresia Rogerson, District 5 (Alt.)
Paula Bradley, City of Capitola
Matt Farrell, City of Santa Cruz (late)
Grace Voss, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)
Richard Masoner, City of Scotts Valley
Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville
Drew Rogers, City of Watsonville (Alt.)
Leo Jed, CTSC
Arnold Shir, CTSC (Alt.)

Staff:

Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner
Guy Preston, Executive Director
Sarah Christensen, Sr. Transportation Engineer
Rachel Moriconi, Sr. Transportation Planner

Unexcused Absences:

Excused Absences:

Amelia Conlen, Bike-to-Work, Chair
Corrina McFarlane, District 1 (Alt.)
Michael Moore, City of Capitola (Alt.)
Matt Miller, Bike-to-Work (Alt.)

Vacancies:

City of Scotts Valley – Alternate

Guests:

Zach Siviglia, project consultant
David McCormic, City of Santa Cruz
Russell Chen, County of Santa Cruz
Shawn O'Keefe, project consultant
Piet Canin, Bike-to-Work/Ecology Action
Craig Calfee, member of the public

3. Staff announcements – digital handouts pertaining to the meeting are posted on the BAC webpage
4. Oral communications – Scott Roseman encouraged members of the committee to express publicly their support for the County Department of Public Works's recent removal of the curb parking spaces on the 4900 block of Soquel Drive that were blocking the bike lane and creating a safety problem. Theresia Rogerson announced that Arnold Shir is the new Health Educator for the County Health Services Agency and Public Health who will be staffing the Community Traffic Safety Coalition and will be the CTSC's alternate on the Committee. Craig Calfee announced that an informal bicycle industry group met recently with RTC Executive Director Guy Preston and encouraged the Committee to unite on the issue of the rail trail.
5. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas – none

CONSENT AGENDA

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

6. Approved draft minutes of the June 14, 2021 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
7. Accepted summary of hazard reports. Members of the Committee requested directing a report intended for UCSC to that entity, that County staff provide more helpful information for reports of lack of adequate infrastructure, and that reporting hazards directly to the County may get more helpful responses.
8. Accepted letter from Committee to Caltrans District 5 and RTC regarding Highway 9 north of Graham Hill Road in Felton
9. Accepted response letter and revised project fact sheet from Caltrans District 5 to Committee regarding Highway 1/Mission Street maintenance project in Santa Cruz
10. Accepted RTC call for projects for transportation grant funding

REGULAR AGENDA

11. Mar Vista Drive bike/ped overcrossing update – Sarah Christensen, RTC Sr. Transportation Engineer, provided an overview of the Highway 1 project to build auxiliary lanes and bus-on-shoulder operations between the Bay Avenue and the State Park Drive interchanges, including a bike/ped overcrossing at Mar Vista Drive and a new Capitola Avenue bridge with standard sidewalks and bike lanes. Zach Siviglia, the project manager with consultant Mark Thomas and Company, presented details of the Mar Vista overcrossing, including the exact placement, retaining walls,

aesthetics, entry points with directional information, and travel movements at the intersection of Mar Vista Drive and McGregor Drive. He explained that the reason why a proposal for the bridge to continue over McGregor was rejected was because of property and visual impacts. An idea to add a staircase to shorten the pedestrian travel time was rejected because of the desire to also add signals for the necessary new mid-block crossing to serve the stairs. In response to input from sources including the Committee, the project will now align with a primary marked crosswalk continuing from the east side of Mar Vista, and additional warning lighting and streetlighting will be added for the 4-way stop. There will be a level connection for bicyclists to continue from the bridge to westbound McGregor Drive without a sharp turn. Committee members requested consideration of further aesthetic improvements to the railing along the ramps, brought attention to needed bicycle safety improvements at the State Park Drive interchange even after construction of the new overcrossing nearby, and repeated a request to consider a minimum standard of 5-foot-wide bike lanes on McGregor. A request from several members was made either to add additional new marked crosswalks across all three legs of the Mar Vista/McGregor intersection, or add enhanced pavement treatment to treat the entire intersection as a "scramble" crossing for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Matt Farrell joined the meeting

12. Santa Cruz METRO Center/Pacific Station redevelopment – David McCormic, City of Santa Cruz staff, gave a detailed presentation of the planned project to improve the METRO transit center, build affordable housing, and improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity. He showed several concepts to visualize the project, reviewed pedestrian and bicycle circulation maps, and described the planned indoor bicycle parking station (or bike hub) for 53 bikes, which is intended to be staffed and include bike repair services. The housing will include its own indoor bike parking, provide free bus passes, include no parking, and will use sustainable construction materials. The Maple Alley paseo will emphasize that bicycle riding is allowed, but will encourage slow speeds due to proximity of pedestrians. Committee members requested consideration of Bike Link to operate the bike hub, space for bike trailers in the bike hub, allowance to ride a bicycle all the way to the bike hub, allowance to ride a bicycle on the ramps to the Riverwalk, allowance to walk your bike inside the bus ticket office and up to an outdoor window selling coffee and food for commuters and visitors, more width for bicycles on Maple paseo, enhanced bike lanes on Front Street due to bus turning movements, and consideration of subsidization of bicycle ownership for the affordable housing residents. Piet Canin commented that connections to the Riverwalk need improvement and that shared bikes and other shared micro-mobility should be incorporated into the bike hub.
13. Soquel Drive bicycle improvement project – Sarah Christensen, Sr. Transportation Engineer, introduced the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor Program, which originates from the RTC's Unified Corridor Investment Study and includes multimodal improvements to Soquel Drive. Russell Chen, County of Santa Cruz staff, and Shawn O'Keefe, staff with consultant Mark Thomas and Company, presented the project seeking to improve congestion, improve bus travel times, and promote bicycling and walking, along a 5.5-mile length of Soquel Avenue/Drive between La Fonda Avenue and State Park Drive. They presented the project goals, schedule, and budget constraints, and provided concepts showing expected improvement locations as well as typical treatments for accommodating buffered or separated bike lanes. They described proposed bike boxes including two-stage bike boxes to assist less-

experienced bicyclists in making left turns across the arterial. Committee members requested a future update from staff on plans for bicycle improvements for Soquel Avenue west of this project. Members requested of the presenters attention specific to the striping at the Soquel/Highway 1 interchange and the need for bicycle-friendly design at the upcoming rebuild of the Soquel/41st Avenue intersection, wider bike lanes where adjacent to on-street parking in Soquel Village so that bicycles are not at risk of collisions with car doors, consideration of bike detection in two-stage bike boxes, that gutters can be hazardous and therefore should not be described as part of the width of the bike lane, and that parking-protected bike lanes should be considered. Piet Canin commented that the proposed project to implement 3.2 one-way miles of separated bike lanes over a total of 11 miles will not significantly encourage bicycle ridership, requested that fixed infrastructure be used rather than plastic delineators, and stated that the public input process of the Unified Corridor Investment Study led participants to believe that a greater portion of Soquel Drive would have separated bike lanes. The Committee Chair appointed an ad-hoc subcommittee of Kathleen Bortolussi, John Hunt, and Scott Roseman to meet with the design team during the design process of this project, and requested the team return to the Committee.

14. Measure D 5-Year Programs of Projects for Regional Projects – Rachel Moriconi, Sr. Transportation Planner, provided a brief overview of the Measure D countywide half-cent sales tax and its funding categories. Every year, the RTC must hold a public hearing and approve detailed funding plans for each category under its jurisdiction, showing how it will spend the sales tax revenue, and staff seeks input from the Committee on the plan.
15. Updates related to Committee functions – none
16. Adjourn – 8:35 pm

NEXT MEETING: The next Bicycle Committee meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2021 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. The meeting will be held **via format TBD** based on state guidance.

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