



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

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**MEETING
MINUTES**

**Monday, November 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, the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, and AB361, which allow local board and committee members and the public to participate and conduct meetings by teleconference, videoconference, or both. [View full executive order.](#) [View AB 361.](#)

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

Members Present:

Corrina McFarlane, District 1 (Alt.)
Kathleen Bortolussi, District 2
John Hunt, District 2 (Alt.)
Peter Scott, District 3
Sally Arnold, District 3 (Alt.)
Anna Kammer, District 4
Rick Hyman, District 5
Theresia Rogerson, District 5 (Alt.)
Paula Bradley, City of Capitola
Matt Farrell, City of Santa Cruz (late)
Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville
Amelia Conlen, Bike-to-Work, Chair
Leo Jed, CTSC
Arnold Shir, CTSC (Alt.)

Staff:

Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner
Rachel Moriconi, Sr. Transportation Planner
Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner
Sarah Christensen, Sr. Transportation Engineer

Guests:

Nathan Nguyen, City of Santa Cruz
Matt Machado, County of Santa Cruz
Steve Wiesner, County of Santa Cruz
Piet Canin, Bike-to-Work/Ecology Action
Bivett Brackett, Lime
Robert Johnson, member of the public

Unexcused Absences:

Excused Absences:

Scott Roseman, District 1
Liz Hernandez, District 4 (Alt.)
Michael Moore, City of Capitola (Alt.)
Grace Voss, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)
Richard Masoner, City of Scotts Valley
Drew Rogers, City of Watsonville (Alt.)
Matt Miller, Bike-to-Work (Alt.)

Vacancies:

City of Scotts Valley – Alternate

3. Staff announcements – Staff stated that the RTC took no action on the item at the November 4 meeting pertaining to the proposal for rail service
4. Oral communications – Peter Scott announced that he participated in the recent demonstration streetcar event and took a video of the corridor between Cliff Drive in Capitola and Beach Street in Santa Cruz
5. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas – digital handouts pertaining to the meeting are posted on the Committee webpage

CONSENT AGENDA

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

6. Approved draft minutes of the August 9, 2021 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
7. Accepted summary of hazard reports. Members of the Committee commented that repaving projects should always go to the very edge so that shoulders or parking areas where bicyclists often travel will not be uneven and possibly hazardous, and that the shoulder pavement at 49 Buena Vista Drive should be extended so as not to end abruptly.
8. Accepted Committee roster November 2021
9. Approved 2022 Committee calendar of meetings
10. Recommended approval of the Draft 2021 Title VI Civil Rights Program and Language Assistance Plan. Members of the Committee requested that the RTC better publicize Committee meetings and also the outcome of meetings such as an annual report.
11. Accepted letter from Committee to Santa Cruz in support of grant application for Active Transportation Plan. Members of the Committee expressed a desire that the city of Santa Cruz pursue a Vision Zero Action Plan separate from the Active Transportation Plan and the Local Roadway Safety Plan.
12. Accepted response letters from RTC and Caltrans District 5 to Committee regarding Highway 9/Graham Hill Rd intersection

Member Peter Scott left the meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA

13. Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (RTIP) – Rachel Moriconi, Sr. Transportation Planner, presented preliminary staff recommendations and sought Committee recommendations on projects to receive regional shares of funds expected from several state and federal transportation funding sources. The RTC received 19 applications from local project sponsors. RTC staff evaluated the applications based on the goals and targets of the RTC's long-range Regional Transportation Plan for the county and based on state and federal program

requirements. If additional funds are available from the new federal infrastructure bill, they may be programmed in a separate process in 2022.

Committee members expressed support for Watsonville's "Complete Streets Downtown" project, the Holohan Road resurfacing with green paint, and METRO, Lift Line and Highway 1 projects that serve Watsonville residents. Members noted that the Soquel Drive separated and buffered bike lanes are a high priority, requested that repaving of Porter Street/Soquel-San Jose Road cover the entire width of current pavement, requested to add new bike lanes on Porter St where missing between Soquel Drive and Paper Mill Road, suggested buffered bicycle lanes be added to the 41st Ave resurfacing project, and expressed concerns about deferred maintenance on county roads.

Matt Machado commented that the RTC staff recommendations are insufficient for the County to complete its proposed projects. He stated that unincorporated County roads are in poorer condition than other roads, make up a much larger portion of the number of road miles countywide, and half of the countywide population lives in unincorporated areas. He suggested that \$0 be programmed to public transit and the Highway 1 project, that funds for planning, programming, and monitoring (PPM) be reduced to \$145,000, and that an additional \$2.5 million be programmed to County pavement projects, since there are other sources of money for transit and Highway 1. Steve Wiesner stated that green treatments may be possible to add to some sections of County resurfacing projects. Piet Canin commented that the "Santa Cruz County Bike Challenge" program actually serves 2,000 users and requested funding as he believes it contributes to multiple goals of the RTP and grant sources.

A motion was made (Hyman/Bortolussi) to support the staff recommendations as described in the agenda packet, with changes to add \$156,000 for the Bicycle Challenge, make funding for 41st Ave contingent on making intersections more bicycle friendly, and increase funds to San Andreas Road and Soquel-San Jose resurfacing projects.

A substitute motion very similar to Rick Hyman's was made (Farrell/Bortolussi) to recommend to the RTC the staff recommendations as described in the agenda packet, with the following changes:

- Condition the recommendation for "41st Ave Intersection and Roadway Rehabilitation Project" upon making the 41st/Capitola Rd and the 41st/Clares St intersections much more bike-friendly; and
- Increase funding for "Santa Cruz County Bike Challenge," "San Andreas Road Resurfacing Project," and "Soquel San Jose Rd/Porter St – Road Resurfacing & Multimodal Improvements" up to a total not to exceed the difference between the approximately \$11.3 million in funds available and the \$10.7 million in the staff recommendations.

The motion passed (7-3) with members Arnold, Kammer, Hyman, Bradley, Farrell, Conlen, and Jed voting in favor and McFarlane, Bortolussi, and Fontes voting against.

14. Draft Santa Cruz County Active Transportation Plan – Amelia Conlen, Ecology Action staff, presented an introduction to the process for updating the Active Transportation Plan for the unincorporated County, including a summary of public outreach performed. The project team devoted extra resources to residents of rural areas rather than the urbanized residents. She presented the draft infrastructure recommendations, based on objective scoring criteria and public comments. The draft

plan will include the recommendations from the recent San Lorenzo Valley Complete Streets Corridor Plan and the Complete Streets to Schools Plan. She reviewed the various types of improvements proposed for numerous roads depending on traffic volumes and speeds and constraints. Members of the Committee commented that maintenance of the full width of pavement of rural roads is important, that traffic calming to slow motor vehicles is important, that the County should use existing law to lower speed limits (AB 43), that bike lanes are needed soon on Porter Street north of Soquel Drive, that sharrows need to be accompanied by education and by very clear signage so that motor vehicle drivers know that bicyclists have the right to travel in the lane, that all one-way traffic diverters/chokers include signage that bikes are exempt, and that the Green Valley Road multiuse path is a priority for the community.

15. Watsonville code change regarding bicycling on sidewalks – Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville staff, presented the proposal by the Watsonville Vision Zero Task Force to revise the municipal code to no longer ban bicycle riding on sidewalks but include certain restrictions including allowing the city to post signage banning bicycles and other devices in certain locations such as downtown. Members of the Committee commented that such a code change can be important to address discriminatory policing and to allow refuge where bicyclists have no safe option to ride on the street, and that prohibitions with clear signage may be appropriate in places such as downtown.
16. Soquel Drive bicycle improvement project – Ad-hoc subcommittee members provided an oral update about a bike ride taken by two members of the subcommittee with County staff on Soquel Drive and about the meeting held between the subcommittee and County engineers and project design consultants. Subcommittee members noted that the project currently intends to implement separated bike lanes on about 30% of the project area between La Fonda Drive and State Park Drive, and that one location where additional separated bike lanes can be added inexpensively is adjacent to Cabrillo College. Most of the proposals by the subcommittee to implement more separated bike lanes by reducing motor vehicle lane widths were rejected by County engineers. The amount of the total Soquel Drive project cost being spent for bicyclists is extremely minor. Members of the Committee requested that the subcommittee consider having another meeting with the County or send a written letter reiterating a need for increasing the amount of separated bike lanes.

A motion (Farrell/Arnold) was made to write a letter to the County reiterating the subcommittee's recommendations to maximize bike facilities on Soquel Drive. The motion passed unanimously with McFarlane, Bortolussi, Arnold, Kammer, Hyman, Farrell, Fontes, Conlen, and Jed voting in favor.

17. Updates related to Committee functions – Rick Hyman requested that the Committee get an opportunity to provide early design input on Segment 8 of the Coastal Rail Trail along Beach Street. Arnold Shir announced that the Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC) is updating its Vision Zero Work Plan, including a different approach using a "safe systems" policy, is applying for Bike-Friendly and Walkable Community applications for Watsonville, is planning a World Day of Remembrance event commemorating victims of crashes involving cars, will meet with a Scotts Valley neighborhood group regarding Vision Zero, plans to meet with the new Santa Cruz city manager, and has met with County Department of Public Works and the Board of Supervisors.

18. Adjourn – 8:35 pm

NEXT MEETING: The next Bicycle Committee meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2021 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. The meeting will be held **via teleconference**.

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