



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

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**MEETING
MINUTES**

**Monday, August 8, 2022
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:

Scott Roseman, District 1
Kathleen Bortolussi, District 2
John Hunt, District 2 (Alt.)
Sally Arnold, District 3
Peter Scott, 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
Grace Voss, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)
Richard Masoner, City of Scotts Valley
Gina Cole, City of Watsonville
Drew Rodger, City of Watsonville (Alt.)
Amelia Conlen, Bike-to-Work, Chair
Arnold Shir, CTSC (Alt.)

Staff:

Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner
Sarah Christensen, Sr. Transportation Engineer

Guests:

Kira Ticus, Ecology Action
Will Menchine, Former Member
Walter Allen, Resident
Ricardo Valdes, City of Santa Cruz Senior Civil Engineer
Alissa Guthier, Transportation Agency for Monterey County
Shane Mckeithen, Analyst for Supervisor Koenig

Unexcused Absences:

Leo Jed, CTSC

Excused Absences:

Corrina McFarlane, District 1 (Alt.)
Liz Hernandez, District 4 (Alt.)
Mike Moore, City of Capitola (Alt.)
Matt Miller, Bike-to-Work (Alt.)

Vacancies:

City of Scotts Valley – Alternate

3. Staff announcements – Staff announced that Caltrans has released their complete streets action plan, a follow up to their complete streets policy from Fall 2021; Segment 7 phase 2 of the coastal rail trail will start construction soon; the Holohan Road/Highway 152 intersection project construction will be advertised this fall; and bid opening for the Highway 1 41st to Soquel project (with Chanticleer bicycle/pedestrian overcrossing) construction will be on August 10, 2022.
4. Oral communications – Grace Voss announced Santa Cruz County Cycling Club had their 23rd annual Santa Cruz Mountains Challenge on July 23, 2022. Peter Scott discussed issues regarding pedestrians using the bus to access Dominican Hospital and Sutter Health. Amelia Conlen announced that Bike Santa Cruz County will put on Open Streets on West Cliff Dr. October 16, 2022. Marty Demare and several Committee members discussed issues for bicyclists with the Highway 1 construction work north of Santa Cruz; staff recommended submitting an RTC Hazard Report and Caltrans maintenance request, and that it will contact Caltrans staff.
5. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas – None

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion (Roseman/Farrell) was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with members Roseman, Bortolussi, Arnold, Kammer, Hyman, Bradley, Farrell, Masoner, Cole, Conlen and Shir voting in favor.

6. Approved draft minutes of the April 11, 2022 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
7. Accepted summary of hazard reports
8. Approved recommendation to the RTC to approve the City of Santa Cruz's Transportation Development Act (TDA) allocation request for \$9,000 for Bikeway Maintenance
9. Accepted 2021 Progress Reports for the CTSC and the Ride N Stride program

REGULAR AGENDA

10. RTC Request for Proposals (RFP) for preliminary engineering and environmental documentation for an Electric Rail Transit & MBSST Coastal Rail Trail project – Oral update – Sarah Christensen, Sr. Transportation Engineer announced that staff prepared an RFP for conceptual engineering for the remaining coastal rail trail segments (Segment 11 phase 2 which is the Capitola Trestle and the gap between the Cliff Dr. parking lot and the intersection of Monterey and Capitola Ave.) Segment 18 is being discussed with the City of Watsonville. Segment 19 is along Walker St and Segment 20 goes over Pajaro River and connects to the Pajaro Station. The Segments 8/9, 10/11, and 12 projects are continuing as planned. RTC board approved releasing the RFP at its August 4 meeting. RTC plans to award the contract at its November 1, 2022 RTC meeting. The schedule is not available at

this time. In response to questions, Ms. Christensen stated that significant outreach is planned, that it will be more efficient to keep the trail and rail projects as one project, and that the fact that full project funding is not yet available should not result in a lack of interested bidders.

11. Youth Safe Routes to School program – review and provide input – Kira Ticus, Ecology Action, presented a project with the goal of getting more kids to bike, walk, skate or scoot to school by providing universal bike/ped education. Ms. Ticus described the Walk Smart two-part program: part 1 will include presenting to classrooms and part 2 will include field trips where students can practice safety. Bike Smart is another two-part program: part 1 will include a 1-hour interactive classroom/assembly session focusing on bicycle safety and part 2 will include a 2-hour bike rodeo where kids will be able to practice bicycle safety. Ms. Ticus mentioned that the program is inclusive to make it available to all students. Interactive online programs are also available. Ecology Action (EA) partners with many jurisdictions to expand the service and reach students all over the county. A Committee member asked if the program can measure the number of accidents each year to indicate how the program progresses. Ms. Ticus answered that the county does track these statistics and the trend does seem to indicate that the program is working. A Committee member commented in support of the program’s impact.
12. Southern Graham Hill Road bicycle and pedestrian needs – discuss – William Menchine, former Committee member presented a project to survey existing roadway conditions and improve safety and accessibility for bicyclists and pedestrians on Graham Hill Road. The idea focuses on the area between Ocean St. Ext. and Michael Ln. He provided his recommendations on widening the roadway for a continuous uphill shoulder (minimum of 3 feet), improving edge conditions, adding advisory signage, and improving drainage and guardrail sections, with the eventual goal of an uphill buffered bike lane. He requested support from the Committee to move the idea into a project. Several members of the Committee expressed general support, and a Member referred to the importance of the new County Active Transportation Plan. Nick Danty expressed concern over the inclusion of sharrows on a high-speed road. John Hawklyn commented that Santa Cruz County Public Works should be contacted with issues of the area, that the CHP should be able to provide more information, and that he is concerned that improvements would cause more bicyclists to ride in this area and in turn cause collisions to rise.

The Committee Chair formed an ad-hoc subcommittee consisting of Members Gina Cole, Scott Roseman, Kathleen Bortolussi, and Theresia Rogerson to continue discussion including raising the issue with their elected officials.

13. Bike Boulevards & Low-stress route proposal – discuss – Walter Allen, resident, and Scott Roseman, Committee member, proposed an idea of Low Stress Bike Boulevards, for example, a route from downtown Santa Cruz to Dominican Hospital. Committee members discussed Brookwood Drive and that the City of Santa Cruz applied for funding to update its active transportation plan which would provide an opportunity to get public input on designating one or more “bike boulevards,” which is a concept that was briefly included in the current active transportation plan. Nick Danty commented on the importance of making improvements to the streets along the route to make sure bicycles are the priority.

14. Follow-up to Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8-12 Schematic Plans review – discuss – Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner, presented the idea of forming an ad-hoc subcommittee to review the schematic plans from April 2022 and provide additional comments, specifically major details with environmental and cost impacts. Segment 10/11 should be able to incorporate comments more easily due to the project schedule. For Segment 8/9 and 12, an ad-hoc subcommittee should provide any additional comments immediately. There is an attachment to the staff report which includes discussion topics for the subcommittees from Member Rick Hyman.

The Committee Chair formed ad-hoc subcommittees to meet and provide additional comments on the schematic plans:

- Segments 8/9: Matt Farrell, Grace Voss, and Rick Hyman
 - Segments 10/11: Kathleen Bortolussi and Paula Bradley
 - Segment 12: Kathleen Bortolussi and Gina Cole
15. Updates related to Committee functions – Committee members (oral updates) - Arnold Shir announced that the August 2022 CTSC meeting was cancelled, other work includes Vision Zero, and an extra staff member was brought on for the Ride n Stride program. Anna Kammer announced that there are new protected bike lanes on Walker St. and Harkins Slough Rd. in Watsonville, and there will be protected bike lanes on Pennsylvania Ave soon. Gina Cole announced that the City of Watsonville put a half-cent tax increase on the ballot for parks and roads improvements that include bicycle improvements.
 16. Adjourn - 8:35pm

NEXT MEETING: The next Bicycle Committee meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2022 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm via teleconference.

Minutes respectfully prepared and submitted by:
Jason Thompson, Transportation Planning Technician