



**Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission**

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, May 8, 2023

6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

This meeting was held in person at the RTC Offices, 1101 Pacific Ave, Suite 250, Santa Cruz.
Remote participation was via Zoom and followed AB 2449 requirements.

1. Call to Order: Chair Amelia Conlen called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. Introductions

Members Present, in Person:

Scott Roseman, District 1
John Hunt, District 2
Sally Arnold, District 3
Anna Kammer, District 4
Theresia Rogerson, District 5 (Alt.)
Matt Farrell, City of Santa Cruz
Richard Masoner, City of Scotts Valley
Gina Cole, City of Watsonville
Amelia Conlen, Ecology Action, Chair
Matt Miller, Ecology Action (Alt.)

Staff:

Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner
Stephanie Britt, Transportation Planning
Technician
Amy Naranjo, Transportation Planner
Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner

Guests:

Patrice Theriot, City of Watsonville
Madilyn Jacobsen, Caltrans District 5
Michael Pisano – E&D TAC member

**Members Remote Voting under Just
Cause or Emergency:**

Arnold Shir, CTSC (Alt.) (Just cause)

Members Remote, Not Voting:

Brad Kava, District 2
Peter Scott, District 3 (Alt.)
Rick Hyman, District 5
Paula Bradley, City of Capitola

Unexcused Absences:

Excused Absences:

Corrina McFarlane, District 1 (Alt.)
Liz Hernandez, District 4 (Alt.)
Grace Voss, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)
Drew Rodgers, City of Watsonville (Alt.)

Vacancies:

City of Capitola - Alternate
City of Scotts Valley - Alternate

3. Consider any AB 2449 requests by voting members to participate remotely.

4. Staff announcements –

- Staff announced that, as presented at the May RTC meeting, the North Coast Rail Trail is now fully funded. Construction could begin next year.
- Partial funding for the environmental work for the rail and trail project to construct the remaining segments of the Coastal Rail Trail was awarded by the state.
- May is bike month and there are a variety of activities planned.

5. Oral communications –
 - Richard Masoner will likely resign from the committee later this year, leaving no representative for Scotts Valley.
 - Matt Miller announced that bike month is off to a rainy start. There is a bike challenge available and there will be various activities. The website is www.letsmodo.org/bike-month
6. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas – None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

7. Approved draft minutes of the April 10, 2023, Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting
8. Received summary of hazard reports

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Received the Pajaro Valley High School Access Project – presented by Patrice Theriot, City of Watsonville and Madilyn Jacobsen, Caltrans District 5.
 - Patrice Theriot presented the Harkins Slough Rd proposal to widen the sidewalk and a separated bidirectional bike lane, or cycle track. This included the intersection of Green Valley Rd and Harkins Slough Rd. Protected intersection improvements will have partial bulb outs; however, portions will be limited to street grade roughened texture due to the need to address the turning radius for trucks. The driveway road into Pajaro Valley High School will receive speed bumps. The project will also include upgrades to crosswalks adjacent to the neighboring middle and elementary schools for ADA accessibility and improvements to ramps with bulb outs to shorten crosswalks.
 - Committee members asked whether the intersection of Green Valley Rd and Harkins Slough Rd will direct cyclists turning left. Ms. Theriot explained that cyclists will need to ride along the perimeter of the intersection along the “crossbikes.” Committee members expressed concern about the segment of the intersection that is within Caltrans right-of-way that will not be addressed with any improvements considering the level of traffic on that portion of the intersection, commented that this could be a potential roundabout opportunity, confirmed that there will be street sweeping on the cycle track, and asked that the cycle track and the future Lee Road trail connect to each other and into the high school.
10. Provided input for SCCRTC e-bike and bikeshare incentives – presented by – Amanda Marino and Amy Naranjo, Transportation Planners
 - Amy Naranjo presented a draft proposal for an SCCRTC E-bike incentive program which could: encourage bicycling, increase access to electric bikes, and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Current bike rebate programs available are through Go Santa Cruz Downtown and to City of Santa Cruz

employees. The RTC is currently working on possibly expanding the program county-wide. Additionally, there are other upcoming E-bike incentive programs managed by the California Air Resources Board and the Monterey Bay Air Resources District, and a proposed federal E-Bike Act of 2023.

- The proposal in its current form could fund an estimated 300-320 point of sale vouchers: \$200 vouchers for regular bikes, \$800 for electric bikes, and up to \$1,200 for an electric cargo or adaptive bike. The vouchers are proposed to exclude Class 3 e-bicycles due to the high speeds they can reach and safety concerns. The program would complement the regional bike share program and provide bikeshare incentives such as discount codes once the bike share program launches. Eligibility requirements include being at least age 18, income level, and a required safety course. Eligible retailers are limited to local brick and mortar shops. So far there are 9 retailers involved. This program will help address that 30% of people in the county don't own cars. Financing makes this much more attainable, and zero- or low-interest loans for the remaining purchase price may be available. The program will reach out to Spanish-speaking communities.

Several members of the committee expressed general support for the program. Members provided many questions and comments including the following:

- Not to limit the voucher to only one per household.
- A Class 3 exclusion may not work for south county residents that may need to travel farther to reach jobs.
- A Class 3 exclusion may help to improve safety especially for pedestrians on shared use paths.
- Consider an income tiered program, and/or increase the maximum income limit, to reach more people who are rent-burdened but may not earn less than the maximum.
- Consider more focus on regular bikes.
- Consider not including regular bikes in the program.
- Travel to UCSC is especially improved by access to ebikes.
- Concern that people living in apartments or other low-income neighborhoods may find secure storage of ebikes to be a problem. Consider a program to purchase ebikes with safe storage collectively shared by a group of residents.
- More places of employment and other locations need to be incentivized to allow secure indoor bike parking.
- Reach out to more people in south county to increase participation.

11. Received the construction safety for roadwork and encroachments affecting bikeways presented by – Committee members.

- Staff introduced the item and stated that an agenda item was created based on recent bike committee meeting comments. The staff report is based on the comments and considerations of the committee members and staff and may move forward with a subcommittee to create a shorter document with specific recommendations.

Committee members discussed and commented that:

- A key issue is that signage that blocks the bike lane and unnecessarily warns about construction for a significant distance away from the construction zone.
- The committee should develop a template of regulations for appropriate signage and guidelines that must be followed to protect cyclists around construction zones.
- We approach an unprecedented period of construction in the county and improvements are needed.
- The committee should meet with public works departments to see if current and proposed rules make sense and to talk about the construction companies that are hired to do the work. Frame the issue as “complete streets” where bicyclists and pedestrians are treated equal to drivers, connect with construction workers, and use the CTSC document as a good source to determine what is logical/safe.
- A subcommittee would be good for a research project to determine existing regulations and recommend improvements. Need to connect with ITAC and E&D TAC
- The Chair established an ad-hoc subcommittee to continue the topic: Roseman, Cole, Farrell, Masoner, Shir or maybe Jed.

12. Committee members provided updates related to Committee Functions

- Theresia Rogerson reminded the Committee that the Complete Streets comments for Caltrans DIB-94 are due May 10th, and she inquired when the subcommittee on the SLV schools circulation project will meet again.

13. Adjourn – 8:33pm

NEXT MEETING: The next Bicycle Committee meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2023, from 6:00pm to 8:30pm in hybrid format.

Minutes respectfully prepared and submitted by:
Stephanie Britt, Transportation Planning Technician