



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

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, October 2, 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: Vice Chair Anna Kammer called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

2. Introductions

Members Present, in Person:

Scott Roseman, District 1
Sally Arnold, District 3
Anna Kammer, District 4 (Vice Chair)
Matt Farrell, City of Santa Cruz
Richard Masoner, City of Scotts Valley
Matt Miller, Ecology Action
Kelly Curlett, CTSC (Alt.)

Members Remote, Voting under Just Cause or Emergency:

Theresia Rogerson, Dist. 5 (Alt.)
Gina Cole, City of Watsonville
Leo Jed, CTSC

Staff:

Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner
Stephanie Britt, Transportation Planning Technician
Brianna Goodman, RTC Staff
Rachel Moriconi, RTC Staff

Guests:

John Urgo, Santa Cruz Metro
Kathy Jaggi, Member of the public
Johanna Lighthill, Member of the public

Members Remote, Not Voting:

Rick Hyman, Dist. 5
Grace Voss, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)

Unexcused Absences:

Excused Absences:

Corrina McFarlane, District 1 (Alt.)
Brad Kava, District 2
John Hunt, District 2 (Alt.)
Peter Scott, District 3 (Alt.)
Liz Hernandez, District 4 (Alt.)
Paula Bradley, City of Capitola

Vacancies:

City Capitola – Alternate
City of Scotts Valley – Alternate
Ecology Action – Alternate

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

4. Staff announcements –

- No staff announcements.

5. Oral communications –

- Matt Miller announced that Biketober is live now! Join the 31-day mission to bike more and drive less. The challenge and events are available at letsmodo.org/bike-challenges/
 - Gina Cole is working with a group called Gardenia y Amor Bien Estar that will be doing its first outing with a group called Girls Rock the weekend of October 15th. They will teach 15 women how to ride bikes and they will go out on the trails for the first time. This program is in conjunction with Community Bike Collective and Growing Greatness.
 - Theresia Rogerson announced that the Community Traffic Safety Coalition Meeting tomorrow 10/3 at 2:30-4:00pm will be available in person and virtually.
 - Grace Voss announced that the Santa Cruz Sun Rise Rotary Club completed a 200-mile bike ride from Hillsborough to Santa Cruz and raised \$75,000 for the Boys and Girls Club; there were 82 riders.
6. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas –
- Staff announced that slides for item #13 were posted online, and any additional slides received will be posted online

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion (Roseman/Rogerson) was made to accept the consent agenda. The motion was passed unanimously with members Scott Roseman, Sally Arnold, Anna Kammer, Matt Farrell, Richard Masoner, Matt Miller, Gina Cole, Leo Jed, and alternates Kelly Curlett, CTSC (Alt.), Theresia Rogerson, Dist. 5 (Alt.) voting "aye".

7. Approved draft minutes of the May 8, 2023, Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting.
8. Received Summary of Hazard Reports
9. Approved MBSST Seg 10-11 Formal Crossing Letter of Support
10. Approved City of Santa Cruz Active Transportation Plan Letter of Support

REGULAR AGENDA

11. Chair Elections
 - The Committee acknowledged the previous Chair, Amelia Conlen, for her excellent service for several years.
 - Masoner/Arnold nominated Anna Kammer to serve as Chair. The committee voted unanimously to elect Anna Kammer as Chair with members Scott Roseman, Sally Arnold, Anna Kammer, Matt Farrell, Richard Masoner, Matt Miller, Gina Cole, Leo Jed, and alternates Kelly Curlett, CTSC (Alt.), Theresia Rogerson, Dist. 5 (Alt.) voting "aye".
 - Rogerson/Masoner nominated Gina Cole for Vice Chair. The Committee voted unanimously to elect Gina Cole as Vice Chair with members Scott Roseman, Sally Arnold, Anna Kammer, Matt Farrell, Richard Masoner, Matt Miller, Gina

Cole, Leo Jed, and alternates Kelly Curlett, CTSC (Alt.), Theresia Rogerson, Dist. 5 (Alt.) voting "aye".

12. METRO Line 71/Rapid Corridors Project – review and provide input - John Urgo, Santa Cruz METRO

- The Line 71/ Rapid Corridors Project is underway and will reach its public outreach phase soon. The project will evaluate traffic and travel conditions along the corridor and identify existing needs. The goal will be to improve travel time and reliability along the corridor.
- In April METRO won a TIRCP grant which will help implement some of the recommendations of this study. They will close and relocate bus stops. At every location they are looking into adding amenities. This will improve efficiency and reduce delays.
- The project currently envisions a red-painted shared bicycle and bus-only lane on Front Street in Santa Cruz. While not ideal, it is the best compromise considering the limited space and will improve bicyclist safety by reducing conflicts with motor vehicles. However, during the construction of the new Pacific Station, buses will be parked all along Front Street in this lane. John Urgo also described proposed designs for more efficient bus boarding areas and how they interact with bicyclists. The study anticipates increased bus frequency from every 30 minutes to every 15 minutes.
- The Committee requested an image that depicts the concept of a bus boarding island with raised bike lane and expressed concerns with the raised platform because of the introduced bicycle-pedestrian conflict that does not exist now. Additionally, since some bicyclists travel at the same speed as buses, some will encounter conflict at multiple stops, as they do now.
- The Committee requested that METRO perform robust public education outreach such as sharing videos in advance of any new designs such as the raised bike lanes or other features.
- There will be a virtual kickoff meeting on 10/12 where members of the public can learn more about the project, and there will be various information events throughout the Watsonville-Santa Cruz corridor where METRO will be available to discuss the project.

13. Climate Adaptation Vulnerability Assessment (CAVA) – review and provide input - Brianna Goodman, Transportation Planner

- The RTC is working with Santa Cruz County's Public Works and Office of Recovery and Resilience
 - Objectives
 - Address extreme weather and wildfires that have impacted the county. The analysis will identify the order in which assets should undergo detailed climate assessments.
 - Outcomes
 - Looking at when and where infrastructure will be vulnerable to climate hazards and how the hazards may impact various aspects of transportation infrastructure. Working closely with equity advocacy groups since the most vulnerable groups to climate impacts tend to be historically disadvantaged communities.
 - The proposed climate hazards for the analysis were presented.

- Assets
 - Focus on county unincorporated roads and Santa Cruz branch rail line.
 - The Committee suggested including culverts, stormwater grates, and their drainage because that is where the bike lanes tend to be, and to include Jose Avenue County Park pedestrian bridge as part of transportation infrastructure
- How to prioritize the output?
 - CAVA will evaluate how to prioritize locations based on timeliness such as when the climate impact occurs, the frequency of past exposure, and the sense of urgency
 - CAVA will consider the likelihood of a climate hazard to determine which locations should be prioritized
 - Finally, CAVA will consider possible consequences after a climate hazard and estimate additional maintenance

14. Measure D 5-Year Plans – review and provide input - Rachel Moriconi, Sr. Transportation Planner

- Rachel Moriconi shared that staff have annual Measure D updates to communicate to the public what money is being spent on. The revenues are typically \$27-30 million per year. For this year, RTC staff will not recommend any new projects.
- Staff will re-spread and add funds based on updated schedules, costs, prior expenditures, and grant opportunities and will continue using Measure D funds to leverage for grants.
- At least every 5 years the RTC must update its Strategic Implementation Plan. There are no substantial changes, and RTC staff will continue to move forward on current projects.
- Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8, 9, 10, and 11 received a lot of funding for their projects. Rail Trail funds are also used for general trail maintenance and rail corridor maintenance like trees and encroachments.
- The Committee asked whether there are any plans for a more contiguous active transportation system from the San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) to Santa Cruz Rachel Moriconi shared that the possibility of a trail from the SLV to Santa Cruz was studied before but the topography makes this kind of project challenging due to the narrow roadways and elevation change. That said, there are currently some complete streets projects underway in Felton that seek to improve bicycle access along that portion of Hwy 9.

15. ThinkBike Conference - receive report – Matt Miller, Ecology Action

- Gazelle bikes approached Ecology Action to host a bike summit
 - Dutch Cycling Embassy is a public-private network for sustainable bicycling that promotes best bicycle infrastructure practices
- Key concepts
 - Protective barrier and mode separation standards
 - Finding balance where to prioritize traffic flow and where to prioritize other activities such as downtown areas with pedestrians
 - Roundabouts are safer than four-way stop intersections due to forced shifts in behavior.
- Considering implementation of these ideas
 - More roundabouts

- Colored asphalt based on mode – red asphalt for car zones and green asphalt for bicycle zones
- For those interested, there will be a ThinkBike workshop in Watsonville soon (date to be determined).

16. Updates related to Committee functions – Committee members (oral updates) – None.

17. Adjourn – time 8:42

NEXT MEETING: The next Bicycle Committee meeting is scheduled for November 13th, 2023, from 6:00pm to 8:30pm in hybrid format.

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