



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

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING

MINUTES

**Monday, November 13, 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 Anna Kammer called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
2. Introductions

Members Present, in Person:

Scott Roseman, District 1
Sally Arnold, District 3
Anna Kammer, District 4 (Chair)
Matt Farrell, City of Santa Cruz
Grace Voss, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)
Richard Masoner, City of Scotts Valley
Matt Miller, Ecology Action
Kelly Curlett, CTSC (Alt.)
Paula Bradley, City of Capitola
Gina Cole, City of Watsonville (Vice Chair)
Theresia Rogerson, Dist. 5 (Alt.)

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

None

Staff:

Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner
Stephanie Britt, Transportation Planning
Technician
Amy Naranjo, Transportation Planner
Sarah Christensen, Sr. Transportation Engineer
Rachel Moriconi, Sr. Transportation Planner

Members Remote, Not Voting:

John Hunt, District 2 (Alt.)
Peter Scott, District 3 (Alt.)
Rick Hyman, Dist. 5

Unexcused Absences:

Brad Kava, District 2

Excused Absences:

Corrina McFarlane, District 1 (Alt.)
Liz Hernandez, District 4 (Alt.)
Leo Jed, CTSC
Jennifer Villegas Moreno, Ecology Action

Vacancies:

City Capitola – Alternate
City of Scotts Valley – Alternate

Guests:

Regina Valentine, Senior Planner, AMBAG
Claire Gallogly, City of Santa Cruz
Steve Jesberg, City of Scotts Valley
John Urgo, METRO
Ben Vernazza, Member of the public
Nadine Thorne, Member of the public

3. Considered any AB 2449 requests by voting members to participate remotely. - None
4. Staff announcements –

RTC Staff announced that the Seg 10-11 DEIR is available for public comment and comments may be received by Dec 15th. There will be a public meeting this Thursday at 5pm at the Board of Supervisors chambers. Staff also shared that Hwy 1 Freedom to State Park will do outreach regarding the aesthetic features of this project. The Community Open House will be on Dec 5th at the Rio Sands Hotel.

5. Oral communications –

Grace Voss briefed the Committee on Rotary Club's successful fundraising initiative that raised \$175,000 for the Boys and Girls Club through a sponsored bike ride. Additionally, the Rotary Club plans to contribute \$25,000 to Mountains to the Sea, an organization teaching kids bike technology skills. The Committee received infrastructure updates on the Capitola project along Capitola Rd from 30th to 41st avenues including restriped bike lanes, repavement, and updated striping.

Peter Scott raised concerns about the lack of clear instructions for westbound cyclists on East Cliff Drive, potentially causing issues with cars. He also praised the beauty of the photographs on METRO's buses.

Claire Gallogly briefed the Committee on the status of the City of Santa Cruz's Bay Street and protected bike lanes project, which underwent adjustments due to unexpectedly high bids. The project will now be combined with a Complete Streets initiative and reopened for new bids.

Paula Bradley briefed the Committee on the City of Capitola project on Capitola Rd and 41st Ave bike and pedestrian infrastructure and new paving from 30th Ave to the east side of 41st.

John Urgo clarified a detail on the Rapid Corridors Project, clarifying that it is not proposed for there to be a shared space for both bus stops and a bike lane, providing clarity on this aspect of the ongoing transportation developments.

6. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas –

Item 14 was added on an emergency basis.

CONSENT AGENDA

7. Approved draft minutes of the October 2, 2023, Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting.
8. Received Summary of Hazard Reports
9. Accepted Committee Meeting Schedule for 2024 – Committee requested that staff schedule one or two meetings in south county, one in Aptos and one in Watsonville, or rotate locations across the county.
10. Received Committee Roster

A motion (Arnold/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, Kelly Curlett, Paula Bradley, Gina Cole, and Theresia Rogerson voting in favor.

REGULAR AGENDA

11. AMBAG Complete Streets Policies – review and provide input – Regina Valentine, AMBAG

The Committee received an update and provided input on the upcoming development of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments Complete Streets Policies. With the passing of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (IIJA/BIL) of 2021, the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Monterey Bay region, is required to set aside a portion of the agency's Federal Highway Administration Metropolitan Planning Funds allocation to conduct Complete Streets planning.

AMBAG will begin developing Complete Streets Policies in coordination with its member agencies, including the Regional Transportation Commission. Although this is a new federal requirement, Complete Streets planning has been a priority historically for the jurisdictions in the Monterey Bay region. As an example, AMBAG prepared a Monterey Bay Area Complete Streets Guidebook in August 2013. For this reason, these Complete Streets Policies will serve more to memorialize the transportation planning work already being conducted in the region.

12. Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) – review and provide input – Amy Naranjo, Transportation Planner, Rachel Moriconi, Sr. Transportation Planner

This summer the RTC issued a consolidated call for projects for the region's anticipated shares of funds including \$26.6 million in discretionary funds and \$34.7 million in one-time funds for transit projects.

Applications for the general discretionary funds were evaluated based on how well they advance the measures, goals or targets identified in the Regional Transportation Plan and other plans. These include metrics related to safety, infrastructure condition, system performance and reliability, sustainability, access for all, and/or health and equity. All the projects proposed for funding address at least one of the evaluation criteria and are not required to address all of them.

Staff will consider input from the committees when developing final staff recommendations. The RTC board is scheduled to consider final staff recommendations, Committee recommendations, and public input at its December 7, 2023, meeting.

The Committee expressed that they would have liked to see more funding dedicated to bike/ped projects and more safety measures such as separated bike lanes. They also commented that there appears to be a lot of funding towards road work, rather than trying to move away from car-based transportation to supporting transit which serves all people and is also closely connected to bicycling. Members requested the Chair draft a letter to the Commission summarizing the key concerns shared by all members.

The Committee expressed disappointment that most of the County's projects are not Complete Streets projects. The county does have a Complete Streets policy and they have elected to propose pavement rehab projects rather than Complete Streets improvements.

The Committee discussed their concern that 47% of funding going into pavement preservation feels like a missed opportunity to address safety concerns and transit, and that the county needs a true paradigm shift towards more and safer bicycling. Committee members also recommended more money to the SLV Complete Streets project. The criteria should be changed in the future to make Complete Streets a requirement for all projects.

A motion was made (Farrell/Arnold) to take the consolidated grant projects funds (\$26.6 million) and award half of the money towards transit projects and the other half to projects that prioritize Complete Streets. The motion failed with Sally Arnold, Matt Farrell, and Gina Cole voting in favor and Scott Roseman, Anna Kammer, Theresa Rogerson, Paula Bradley, Richard Masoner, Matt Miller, and Kelly Curlett voting against.

A motion was made (Miller/Roseman) proposing that staff examine the list of recommended projects for funding and, when feasible, collaborate with project sponsors to incorporate Complete Streets enhancements. Additionally, the Commission should consider a condition where projects may not receive funding unless they include Complete Streets elements. The motion passed with Scott Roseman, Anna Kammer, Theresa Rogerson, Paula Bradley, Richard Masoner, Matt Miller, and Kelly Curlett voting in favor and Sally Arnold, Matt Farrell, and Gina Cole voting against.

13. Construction safety for roadwork and encroachments affecting bikeways – follow up (oral update) – Committee members.

Scott Roseman sought to gauge interest in the ad-hoc subcommittee, which has made limited progress. The purpose of the subcommittee is to look at the safety of cycling through construction zones and the way contractors and local jurisdictions could improve conditions. The MUTCD guidelines are seen as inadequate, as are possibly the inspections by public works departments. It's important to revive this subcommittee and bring in a safety element to protect cyclists. The subcommittee was re-established to include Scott Roseman, Gina Cole, and Paula Bradley. They will continue to work on the issue.

14. Consider changes to remote participation in Committee meetings (oral update) – Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner

The Committee was notified by staff of a growing concern regarding disruptions caused by Zoom bombings that led to instances of hate speech during Committee meetings. In response to this issue, staff are considering a policy update that would only allow public comments to be submitted via email during the meeting and be read out loud by staff. This potential shift aims to deter incidents of hate speech and maintain the integrity of Committee proceedings. The Committee generally agreed to follow whatever policy the Commission decides to implement for its own Commission meetings.

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

16. Adjourn at 8:40pm

NEXT MEETING: The next Bicycle Committee meeting is scheduled for Dec 11, 2023, from 6:00pm to 8:30pm in hybrid format.

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