



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

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, December 11, 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:

Corrina McFarlane, District 1 (Alt.)
Sally Arnold, District 3
Anna Kammer, District 4 (Chair)
Grace Voss, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)
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.)
Leo Jed, CTSC

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

Staff:

Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner
Stephanie Britt, Transportation Planning
Technician
Grace Blakeslee, Sr. Transportation Planner

Members Remote, Not Voting:

Rick Hyman, Dist. 5

Unexcused Absences:

Brad Kava, District 2

Excused Absences:

Scott Roseman, District 1
John Hunt, District 2 (Alt.)
Peter Scott, District 3 (Alt.)
Liz Hernandez, District 4 (Alt.)
Matt Farrell, City of Santa Cruz
Jennifer Villegas Moreno, Ecology Action
Richard Masoner, City of Scotts Valley

Vacancies:

City Capitola – Alternate
City of Scotts Valley – Alternate

Guests:

Matt Starkey, City of Santa Cruz
Ben Vernazza, Member of the public
Jae Riddle, Member of the public

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

- Grace Voss participated remotely due to illness.
- Rick Hyman was unable to attend in person and attended remotely but his alternate, Theresia Rogerson, was able to attend in person.

4. Staff announcements –

- As previously announced, the Draft EIR for Segments 10-11 of the Rail Trail was out for public comment until December 15, 2023.

- On December 7th, 2023, the RTC awarded the Consolidated Grants and approved the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). Projects approved as part of the Consolidated Grants program with a bicycle element will be required by the RTC to present their plans to the Bicycle Advisory Committee.
5. Oral communications –
- Matt Starkey shared that Caltrans is working on a project on Mission Street. They are open to comments on the Complete Streets elements. Comments may be received on the Caltrans website.
 - Gina Cole shared that the bike community in Watsonville is organizing community rides and brainstorming potential partners. They are reinstating the mayor’s bike rides wherein community members can join current and former mayors and have an opportunity to have access to elected officials.
 - Kelly Curlett shared that the Community Traffic Safety Coalition will have an e-bike and traffic safety sub-committee meeting.
6. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas –
- There is a handout on the website regarding Item 10.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 7. Approved draft minutes of the November 13, 2023, Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting.
- 8. Received Summary of Hazard Reports
- 9. Received Letter to RTC from Committee Re 2023 RTIP

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda (Leo Jed/Gina Cole).
 Corrina McFarlane, Sally Arnold, Anna Kammer, Theresia Rogerson, Paula Bradley, Grace Voss, Gina Cole, Matt Miller, and Leo Jed voted in favor. The motion was passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 10. TDA Article 8 Claims for Laurel Bikeway and Pedestrian Striping and Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program – review and provide input – Matt Starkey, Transportation Manager, City of Santa Cruz

Matt Starkey presented the City of Santa Cruz’s request for TDA funding for the Laurel Bikeway and Pedestrian Striping and the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program. Mr. Starky provided information on the components of the projects and criteria for selecting eligible streets for the traffic calming program. Mr. Starky also provided information on the City of Santa Cruz request to de-allocate TDA funds from the Bay Drive Protected Bike Lanes and Pedestrian Path project.

Committee comments:

- The RTC's Rules and Regulations require that the advisory committees approve the final designs of an Article 8 bike/ped project, and requested City staff return for approval
- The design approaching minor cross-streets may worsen safety by increasing right-hook crashes
- The City should look at the successes and challenges, such as unintended consequences, of the traffic calming program in Watsonville.

Motion to recommend the TDA Article 8 Claims for the Laurel Bikeway and Pedestrian Striping Project and the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program and de-allocation of funds from the Bay Drive Protected Bike Lanes and Pedestrian Path project. (Matt Miller/Sally Arnold). Leo Jed made a friendly amendment to request that City staff come back a year and a half from now with results and data on the Traffic Calming Program's effectiveness.

Corrina McFarlane, Sally Arnold, Anna Kammer, Theresia Rogerson, Paula Bradley, Grace Voss, Gina Cole, Matt Miller, and Leo Jed voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Regional Transportation Program (RTP) Draft Goals and Policies– review and provide input – Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner, and Grace Blakeslee, Sr. Transportation Planner

Staff presented an overview of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The draft goals and policies have been made simpler and more focused, adding new goals that more or less existed in the previous version of the RTP but were contained within other goals. The updated goals are now: Access, Safety, Cost-effectiveness, Climate resilience, and Equity. The revisions should help to show a clearer connection between goals/policies and project funding choices later in the development of the RTP.

Committee comments:

- Consider rephrasing 'policies' as 'criteria' for clarity; policies should be legally-binding.
- Use more strong or clear language in the policies
- Reduce the number of policies
- Address displacement caused by new transportation projects and prioritize affordable housing
- Include Vision Zero goals
- Emphasize reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT)

Jae Riddle also commented in support of addressing displacement.

12. 2024 State and Federal Legislative Programs – review and provide input – Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner

Staff shared that they are working on the annual update to the legislative program; changes so far are minor. The purpose of the program is to guide staff to monitor state and federal legislative changes and to collaborate with partner agencies.

Committee comments:

- Appreciation for safety-related additions and a desire for more safety measures

- Reform of bicycle considerations in requirements for construction zones
 - Different Committee members expressed support and opposition to allowing remote voting by committees subject to the Brown Act
 - Explore options for implementing practices including citizen photographing license plates of cars parked in bike lanes or similar approaches for increasing compliance with traffic regulations
13. Updates related to Committee functions – Committee members (oral updates)
- Anna Kammer stated that in the next meeting, there will be an item related to changing the meeting time for the Committee.
14. Adjourn at 8:50pm

NEXT MEETING: The next Bicycle Committee meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2023, from 6:00pm to 8:30pm **in person at LOCATION TBD**. Members of the public and non-voting Committee alternates may join remotely.

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