

2003 Annual Report

Introduction

During 2003, the Commission's Bicycle Planning Program was assisted by a Bicycle Committee consisting of twelve volunteers from throughout the county. The Bicycle Committee met 10 times to review proposed bike projects, plans, funding applications and legislation, provide input on existing roadway/bikeway conditions affecting cycling, and coordinate with local jurisdictions and bicycle related organizations to promote cycling projects and programs.

Main Accomplishments in 2003

- **Bikes Secure:** this program provided **34** bike racks (a capacity of 64 bikes) to local businesses, nonprofits and public agencies throughout the county. The bike secure program also provided funding for the Soquel/Front Street Garage Bicycle Cage which has a capacity of 100 bicycles.
- **Bicycle Hazard Reporting Program:** Commission staff passed along **46** hazard reports that were sent to staff to the county's local jurisdictions.
- **Bike to Work:** the Commission continued its support of this twice-annual community event, providing \$47,000 in funding to promote bicycle use in Santa Cruz County.
- **Electric Bicycle Subsidy Program:** the SCCRTC funds the Electric Bicycle Subsidy Program, administered locally by Ecology Action and input on the work program from the Bicycle Committee.
- **Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC):** the SCCRTC funds this program administered through the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency which Committee members regularly attend.
- **Bikeways map:** the SCCRTC distributed 6,500 copies of its 2002 Santa Cruz County Bikeways map to local bicycle shops, public agencies, non-profits and individuals. In 2003 the Committee updated the 2002 map and ordered additional copies for distribution.
- **Daniel Kostelec,** the Bicycle Committee's Capitola representative, volunteered many of his weekend mornings in late 2002 to measure and inventory streets deemed suitable for bike lanes. From this Mr. Kostelec developed a bikeway striping plan that will be completed in spring of 2004, funded Transportation Development Act (TDA) claim for funds.

Review of Grants and Contracts

The Committee reviewed and supported the 2003-2004 Transportation Development Act (TDA) claims and work plans of both Bike to Work and the Community Traffic Safety

Coalition (CTSC). Oral reports are given at each meeting from the Bike to Work day and CTSC representative as to the status of their projects and programs.

The Committee also reviewed Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funding requests from public agencies in Santa Cruz County and made funding recommendations to the RTC for bike related projects.

The Bicycle Committee reviewed TDA Article 8 claims from the City of Capitola and the City of Santa Cruz. The City of Capitola's representative and members of the Committee developed a bike lane and repair striping plan for the City of Capitola. The City of Santa Cruz developed a 50-bicycle cage in the Soquel/Front Street Parking Garage. The Bicycle Committee recommended claims for full funding. The Commission subsequently approved the claims.

Coordination

The Bicycle Committee tracks projects by jurisdiction as part of its regular agenda. Members provide project status reports to the Committee on various bicycle related projects they are tracking. In 2003, guests from various jurisdictions attended bicycle meetings to receive input on new or existing bicycle projects.

Plan Review

The Committee reviewed bicycle related plans and projects and recommended project priorities for the draft 2005 Regional Transportation Plan. The Committee also stated its support for federal and state bicycle related legislation. Various bills were presented to the Committee by the Commission's legislative analyst.

New projects and plans for 2004

The Bicycle Committee will continue to work towards improving bicycle conditions as well as projects and plans in 2004. Members will monitor the Committee's high priority projects through monthly reports and serve on advisory committees. Some of its goals include:

- Continue to work on its number one priority of acquiring the Union Pacific branch line for construction of a county-wide bicycle path.
- Participate in the San Lorenzo Trail Feasibility Study Subcommittee. This subcommittee will help to identify a potential corridor for a recreational trail.
- Continue to coordinate with the Community Traffic Safety Coalition on development of Safe Routes to Schools, bicycle safety presentations and development of the new website.
- Provide input in the Draft 2005 Regional Transportation Plan currently under development.
- Fill all vacancies for full Bicycle Committee representation.
- Monitor and provide input to SCCRTC Bike Programs & Projects:

SCCRTC Bike Programs and Projects

- The SCCRTC is a major sponsor of *Bike to Work*, a highly successful twice-annual event that promotes bicycle use in Santa Cruz County. (www.bike2work.com)
- The SCCRTC funds the *Electric Bicycle Subsidy Program*, which offers training on bicycle safety and is administered locally by Ecology Action. For more information, contact Ecology Action toll-free at 866-EZ-PEDAL (866-397-3325) or visit their website at www.ecoact.org.
- Through the Commission's *Bikes Secure* program, businesses, nonprofits and public agencies are offered subsidies for bicycle racks and lockers.
- The SCCRTC operates a *Bicycle Hazard Reporting Program*, to notify local jurisdictions of hazards on local roads. This form can be downloaded at www.sccrtc.org.
- The SCCRTC funds the Community Traffic Safety Coalition which offers bike and pedestrian safety information for area schools and residents.
- The SCCRTC prints and distributes a countywide bikeways map, free of charge, to county residents and visitors.

\\Rtcserv1\Shared\Bike\Committee\2004 Annual Report.doc