

DRAFT
Bicycle Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 18, 2004

7:00 PM

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Conference Room
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Members Present:

Daniel Kostelec, City of Capitola, Vice Chair
Bill Fieberling, City of Santa Cruz
Kem Akol, District 1, Chair
Gary Milburn, At-large
Ted Benhari, District 3 (Alt.)
Jim Langley, CTSC (Alt.)
Manuel Rodriguez, City of Watsonville
William Menchine, District 3
Rick Hyman, District 5

Guests:

Jack Sohriakoff, County of Santa Cruz
Charles Sanchez, Caltrans
Nevin Sams, Caltrans
Alice Robins, UCSC Student
Enrique Solorio, UCSC Student
Yair Tygiel, UCSC Student
Areg Sarkissian, UCSC Student
Richard Batchelder, UCSC Student

Excused Absences:

Tony Grant, CTSC
Piet Canin, Bike To Work
Michael Colombani, City of Scotts Valley
Carlos Garza, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)

Unexcused Absences:

Staff:

Sean Co
Cory Caletti

Vacancies:

District 1 - Alternate
District 4 - Voting & Alternate
District 2- Voting & Alternate
City of Watsonville - Alternate
District 5 - Alternate
Bike to Work - Alternate

1. **Introductions** were made. Caltrans was present to discuss Morrissey Boulevard Interchange issues.
2. **Oral Comments:** Members expressed concern over lack of a quorum at the last meeting and the initial observation that a quorum was not to be had for the evening's meeting. Staff should explore the possibility of revising the by-laws to allow a majority of filled positions to constitute a quorum rather than a majority of available positions.

Sean Co noted that he had accepted a position with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and that the evening's bike committee meeting would be his last. Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner, will be his replacement as staff to the Bike Committee.

3. **Changes to the Agenda:** Information item by Caltrans to be inserted as item #12.

CONSENT AGENDA: (Fieberling /Milburn)

4. **Minutes of the September 2004 Meeting:** No minutes were available since the September meeting was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum. September minutes (and August minutes since they weren't approved at the September meeting) will be brought to the November meeting.

5. **Schedule of Committee Meetings:** Accepted
6. **Updated Committee Action Tracking Table:** Accepted.
7. **September Bicycle Hazard Reports:** Accepted.
8. **Miscellaneous Information:** Accepted.
9. **Bike Secure Application for Café Brazil:** Accepted.
10. **Bike Secure Application for Chiropractic and Sports Therapy:** Accepted.

REGULAR AGENDA:

11. **TDA Article 8 Allocation Claim from the County of Santa Cruz:** Jack Sohriakoff, County of Santa Cruz Public Works staff, presented the claim to the committee and explained planned features. Funding is being sought for Sims Road School Pedestrian/Bike Safety Project and State Park Drive Improvements Project, at \$65,094 and \$100,000 respectively. The committee unanimously approved a motion (Fieberling/Kostelec) that recommended to the RTC that they approve the County of Santa Cruz TDA claim for \$165,094.

The Committee members asked Jack Sohriakoff for updates on various projects and needed improvements. Bill Fieberling commended the County for its comprehensive bike lane network.

Committee members discussed the County's policy regarding asymmetrical bike lanes (striping bike lanes in one direction only when enough road width does not exist for bike lanes in both directions). Committee members expressed concern regarding the need for bike lanes in uphill directions (at least) where the speed differential between cars and cyclists is greater than in a downhill directions where cyclists can merge with traffic at high speeds. Jack Sohriakoff noted the County's liability concerns should a collision or injury occur in the lane lacking a bike lane and the County's policy to implement bike lanes in both directions when possible. He also noted that the issue should be evaluated on a case by case basis.

County staff is working on its Bike Plan (a document needed to qualify for Bicycle Transportation Account funding). The bike plan project list needs to be prioritized at the December meeting when County staff can attend. Commission staff should bring the RTP project list that includes bike improvements to the December Bike Committee meeting to rectify any discrepancies.

12. **Caltrans Morrissey Interchange Discussion:** Caltrans staff members, Charles Sanchez and Nevin Sams, attended to update Committee members on their discussions with City of Santa Cruz staff, Assemblyman Laird's office, RTC staff, and DeLaveaga Elementary School officials regarding safe access for non-motorized users of the local streets abutting the Morrissey Boulevard/Highway 1 interchange. Work on a re-design of the intersection is being considered but short term improvements are being prioritized. Kem Akol had

submitted a design to Caltrans that included a left turn pocket with a median as an opening for cyclists. Caltrans is concerned about providing access in an area designated as a freeway off-ramp where motorists do not expect cross traffic. Caltrans will consider pedestrian traffic needs, stop signs and funding. Caltrans will integrate committee concerns in the short term and long term designs both of which will need to conform to traffic standards. Short term solutions include relatively inexpensive improvements such as re-stripping the island and extending the center line out. Medium term strategies include higher level funding projects such as stop signs with a left turn pocket.

Bill Fieberling stated that he did not agree with Kem Akol's design proposal and believes that children can use the pedestrian sidewalk that is 10 feet wide. He would like to see a pedestrian overcrossing as a long term solution and hopes it is part of the Highway 1/17 Merge lanes project. Committee members asked Commission staff to continue monitoring the situation, to update the committee on Caltrans' discussion with the City of Santa Cruz and RTC staff.

As an aside, Kem Akol also asked Caltrans about designation of Highway 9 as a Scenic Highway and asked if it's possible that the County of Santa Cruz take over maintenance responsibilities. Caltrans presented Mr. Akol with an information packet on Scenic Highway designation and Jack Sohriakoff indicated that the County has no interest in taking over Highway 9 maintenance.

13. **San Lorenzo River Trestle Bridge Clarification of Use:** City of Santa Cruz staff is formally requesting that the RTC amend the next printing of the Santa Cruz County Bikeways Map to remove reference to the San Lorenzo River Trestle Bridge as a "bicycle path". Commission staff Sean Co explained that a recent accident of a bicyclist using the tracks over the trestle prompted City staff to submit the request and to initiate efforts to amend its General Plan reflecting this change. Sean Co recommended that the Committee approve changing the designation to the trestle path to an "alternate route" since it does not conform to normal standards. He also suggested that a note be added cautioning cyclists to walk their bicycles. Such a change would not be done until the next printing of the Bikeways Map, which is at least a year away.

A motion was made to amend the map according to the City's request (Milburn/Langely). Bill Fieberling expressed his disagreement with staff. Rick Hyman expressed his disinterest in having the City change its General Plan since it is a long term document indicating the City's vision. Rick Hyman suggested writing a letter to the City recommending that the stretch of bikeway be improved in the long term so that it is part of the coastal trail. Removing the path from the City's General Plan might prevent it from being able to get funding for improving the substandard bike way. Members voted and the motion did not pass. Members are interested in supporting a more substantial bike path.

14. **Features Jurisdiction - City of Capitola:** Each month, the Committee invites a jurisdiction to give project updates on bicycle related projects that are in development or are planning process. Daniel Kostelec represented the City of Capitola since Steve Jesberg was unable to attend. The City of Capitola finished striping projects and put up Share the Road signs. A redevelopment agency funded project is going to bid again. The

project would improve the 41st Ave stretch between Highway 1 and Clares Street to facilitate improved traffic flow. The City of Capitola received permission from Caltrans to stripe bike lanes over the Highway 1 overpass and hopes the County will stripe bike lanes from the overpass to Soquel.

15. Project Tracking/Subcommittee Tasks

a. City of Santa Cruz: Rick Hyman reported that the subcommittee met and looked at the Branciforte Creek trail noting improvements to make it a continuous bike way that is more usable by cyclists. Rick has the list of improvements. Rick also reported that Market street overcrossing might be modified by the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes project and that Commission staff should check with Caltrans and Nolte Associates to ensure that bike lane width is not impacted.

b. City of Capitola: Discussed earlier.

c. City of Scotts Valley: No representative was present.

d. City of Watsonville: Members asked Commission staff to arrange for City of Watsonville staff to attend the next meeting and be available for discussion regarding Watsonville High School construction and bike lane issues. Manuel Rodriguez updated the Committee on bike lanes by the new South County Home Depot.

e. County Project Tracking: The Home Depot/Kmart area at 41st Avenue was discussed. Committee members noted that the County indicated finishing bike lanes in that area was on its priority list. Now that the Kmart/Home Depot/Safeway area is being worked on, members would like the County to continue the City of Capitola's bike lane striping all the way to Soquel Avenue. In addition, bike lane improvements would facilitate mitigation of motorized traffic.

Members also discussed the three overcrossing locations that are being considered as part of the Highway 1 project. Members want to be part of future stakeholder meetings and contribute their location suggestions and asked Commission staff to report appropriate meetings and opportunities for involvement.

f. Bike to Work Update: Piet Canin wasn't able to attend. Sean Co reported that the Fall Bike to Work event was successful. Although no final numbers are available, Sean reported that Bike to Work organizers thought participation rates increased.

g. CTSC Update: Last meeting was cancelled. Jim Langely reported that Corinne Hyland, CTSC staff, was working on ideas for project for next year.

h. Improving School Bicycle Access: No representative.

i. Vision: On hold for now.

j. San Lorenzo Valley Trails: Was discussed earlier.

k. Wilder Ranch Path: Access to Coast Road (off Wilder Path) was discussed. Sean Co reported Piet Canin's hope for access to Coast Road through Wilder Ranch (bypassing historic buildings and the dead-end road). State Park is in agreement with the proposal as long as a gate is provided that will prevent animals from getting through.

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by _____
Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner