

DRAFT
Bicycle Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 13, 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
Kem Akol, District 1, Chair
Rick Hyman, District 5
William Menchine, District 3
Tony Grant, CTSC
Carlos Garza, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)
Gary Milburn, At-large
Piet Canin, Bike To Work
Ted Benhari, District 3 (Alt.)
Manuel Rodriguez, City of Watsonville

Excused Absences:

Jim Langley, CTSC (Alt.)
Bill Fieberling, City of Santa Cruz

Unexcused Absences:

Michael Colombani, City of Scotts Valley
Michael Andalora, City of Capitola (Alt)
Vince Waskell, City of Scotts Valley (Alt)

Staff:

Cory Caletti

Guests:

Saskia Lucas, Better World Bicycle Safety/Bike to Work
Cheryl Schmitt, City of Santa Cruz Staff
Jack Sohriakoff, County of Santa Cruz Staff
Mike Dalbey, Self/Friends of the Rail Trail
Teresa Lopez, Self

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.
2. **Oral Comments:** none
3. **Changes to the Agenda:** Ted Benhari requested an item regarding UCSC's plan to move its corporate yard to a location up Empire Grade. The item was added as #16-L.

CONSENT AGENDA: (Milburn/Grant)

4. **Minutes of the August, October and November Meetings:** Approved. Committee members asked that staff bring the "notice of cancellation due to lack of quorum" notice of the September meeting to the January Bike Committee meeting for approval.
5. **Summary of December 2, 2004 SCCRTC Meeting.** Accepted.
6. **Schedule of Committee Meetings:** Accepted with two changes. Move the February meeting to Tuesday, February 15th due to February 14th being Valentine's Day. Move the October 10th, 2005 meeting to October 17th, 2005 with meeting location to remain in Capitola, as currently scheduled. CHP will be the featured jurisdiction in February and

Bike Committee members will be able to provide ideas for discussion topics at the next meeting.

7. **Committee Action Tracking Table:** Accepted.
8. **November Bicycle Hazard Reports:** Accepted.
9. **Miscellaneous Information:** Accepted.
10. **Bike Secure Application for the 418 Project:** Accepted.
11. **Bike Secure Application for New Leaf Community Market:** Accepted.
12. **Appointment of Saskia Lucas as Bike to Work Alternate:** Accepted.

REGULAR AGENDA:

13. **City of Santa Cruz San Lorenzo River Trestle Bridge:** Cheryl Schmitt, City of Santa Cruz Staff, requested the Bicycle Committee approve revising the SCCRTC Bike Map and identifying the San Lorenzo River trestle as an Alternate Route. Because of threats from Union Pacific to close access to the trestle bridge, the City of Santa Cruz, in collaboration with the Seaside Company, took over liability of the segment in order to keep it open to the public. Because of a recent severe inquiry and associated litigation, the City was advised by its Risk Manager to change designation of the path to a “walkway” and instruct cyclists to walk their bikes. Because the RTC has a plentiful supply of maps, another printing is not expected for another year or two. Current maps may be modified if City of Santa Cruz staff provides stickers and the labor power to affix stickers to all the maps. Because of the threat of complete closure, a motion was made to approve the City’s request (Garza, Milburn). Committee Members approved the request by a 7-1 vote.
14. **County of Santa Cruz Draft Bike Plan:** Jack Sohriakoff of the County of Santa Cruz Public Works Department presented the Draft Santa Cruz County Bike Plan and requested that Bike Committee members provide comments and feedback. A Bike Plan is required by Caltrans for a local jurisdiction to apply for Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) funding. The Plan includes 13 high priority projects, 9 medium and 7 low priority bike projects. Members identified and suggested adding specific projects in the Bike Plan that are listed in the Commission’s RTP, as well as adding language that would address future projects ready for construction being automatically considered for bike lane enhancements. Members also discussed the future rail line that the RTC is planning to purchase and long term plans for a bike/ped path along-side the rail line. Commission staff also wishes to have the County Bike Plan address coordinating with efforts to establish a trail adjacent to the Santa Cruz Branch rail line and to establish a Monterey Bay Scenic Sanctuary Trail. A narrative section may be included addressing current planning/feasibility studies such as the ones mentioned, as well as the San Lorenzo Valley Trails.

Jack Sohriakoff will bring the final Bike Plan back in January, 2005 for Committee approval. RTC staff will review the final Bike Plan and submit a letter, per Caltrans' requirements, indicating to what degree it is consistent with the RTP.

15. SCCRTC Rules and Regulation Changes: Approved. Members should note that a number of positions expire in March, 2005 and reappointments will take place at that time. Also, RTC staff has initiated an aggressive recruitment effort to fill vacant seats.

16. Project Tracking/Subcommittee Tasks

a. City of Santa Cruz: Cheryl Schmitt updated Bike Committee members on the K-Rails on Mission Street Extension that members have expressed concern about previously. Cheryl Schmitt recommended that Tom Sharp of the City of Santa Cruz be invited to attend if members require historical details of the adjacent housing development and the resulting K-Rails. City staff plans to use miscellaneous funds, if they remain available, to complete the raised bike/ped path and remove the K-Rails. Beach Street will be discussed at the next Bike Committee meeting when Cheryl Schmitt will bring plans for the project that is scheduled for a summer construction date. After Beach Street is completed, Soquel will be constructed.

b. City of Capitola: City of Capitola is developing a Bike Plan (with assistance from County of Santa Cruz PW) and will bring it to the Bike Committee when a draft is available.

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

d. City of Watsonville: Manuel Rodriguez needs to be reappointed.

e. County Project Tracking: Kem Akol reported that the "non-access" strip previously mentioned as the prohibiting factor to a secondary entry into Watsonville High School is actually for utilities only and exempts recreational use. However, Kem Akol reported that Keith Boyles of the City of Watsonville informed him that the City is not interested in pursuing secondary access. Bike Committee members suggested lobbying the new Watsonville appointee to the RTC.

f. Bike to Work Update: Saskia Lucas gave a brief report on Bike to Work's fall numbers. Due to school closures, participation numbers went down slightly from the previous fall event.

g. CTSC Update: Tony Grant gave a brief update on the number of safety trainings conducted by the Community Traffic Safety Coalition.

h. Improving School Bicycle Access: No representative.

i. Vision: On hold for now.

j. San Lorenzo Valley Trails: Kem Akol asked Jack Sohriakoff to notify Committee members regarding the date and location of the next planning meeting.

k. Wilder Ranch Path: No update.

I. UCSC: Ted Benhari requested that the Bike Committee address UCSC's plan to move its corporate yard to a location higher up Empire Grade, at the top of Cave Gulch (close to Waldorf School). The concern is that an increased number of cars and large trucks going up and down Empire Grade would impact and endanger cyclists. Motion was made (Menchine/Garza) to write a letter to UCSC opposing the location of the new yard, or at least strongly encouraging bike lanes be constructed as a mitigation to the increased traffic. Motion passed unanimously. Ted Benhari will notify RTC staff of the parties to be cc'd on the letter.

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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

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