

DRAFT
Bicycle Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 13, 2005

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, Chair
Kem Akol, District 1, Vice-Chair
Alex Anderson, City of Scotts Valley (Alt.)
Carlos Garza, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)
Leo Moll, District 2
Will Menchine, District 3
Piet Canin, Bike To Work
Jim Langley, CTSC
Andy Ward, City of Capitola (Alt.)
Mike Dalbey, City of Watsonville (Alt.)
David Casterson, District 2 (Alt.)
Ray Kaupp, District 5 (Alt.)
Ted Benhari, District 3 (Alt.)
Gary Milburn, City of Scotts Valley
Michael Lewis, District 1 (Alt.)
Ben Vernazza, District 4
Rick Hyman, District 5

Excused Absences:

Saskia Lucas, Bike To Work (Alt)
Corinne Hyland, CTSC (Alt.)
Bruce Sawhill, City of Watsonville
Bill Fieberling, City of Santa Cruz

Unexcused Absences:

Vacancies:

District 4 – Alternate

Staff:

Cory Caletti
Luis Mendez

Guests:

David Wright, Friends of the Rail Trail
Micah Posner, People Power
Steve Weisner, County of Santa Cruz
Paul Rodrigues, Santa Cruz Co RDA
Jack Sohriakoff, County of Santa Cruz PW

1. **Introductions** were made. Chair Kostelec welcomed guests.
2. **Oral Comments/Announcements:** Michael Lewis submitted public comments he received via the Live Oak Neighbors listserv regarding legal bike riding. Staff will include emails in the next Bicycle Committee packet for members' perusal.

Piet Canin announced that Fort Hunter Liggett is no longer allowing bicycle access due to a cyclist sustaining a serious injury on the property. The Transportation Agency for Monterey County is checking into this matter and Mr. Canin will provide an update at the following meeting.

Micah Posner, Director of People Power!, indicated that he supports the Committee's work and is available to discuss grassroots bicycle activism.

Cory Caletti announced that UCSC bicycle safety DVDs are available for free for safety education purposes. There are three videos geared towards different age groups in English and Spanish.

3. **Changes to the Agenda:** Piet Canin asked that item #20 be added to discuss sending a letter regarding the Fort Hunter Liggett closure to bicyclists issue. Kem Akol added the legal bike riding issue as item #21. Piet Canin asked to move item #15 from the consent agenda to the regular agenda. Chair Kostelec added it to the regular agenda as item #22.

CONSENT AGENDA: (Akol/Milburn)

4. **Minutes of the May 9, 2005 Meeting:** Approved with clarification by Piet Canin that comments attributed to him under Oral Comments (pg 4-1) should read “there was general discussion of dividing up single track usage by cyclists and hikers” at the Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz meeting he reported on.
5. **2005 Bicycle Committee Roster:** Accepted.
6. **Committee Action Tracking Table:** Accepted.
7. **Summary of June 2, 2005 SCCRTC Meeting:** Accepted.
8. **Schedule of Future Bicycle Committee Meetings:** Accepted.
9. **Accept Bicycle Hazard Reports:** Accepted.
10. **Accept Handouts from Previous Committee Meeting:** Accepted.
11. **Accept Correspondence:** Accepted with add-on page 11-3.
12. **Accept Miscellaneous Information:** Accepted.
13. **Approve Bike Secure Application for 24 Hour Fitness on Soquel Ave:** Approved.
14. **Approve Bike Secure Application for Central Coast Alliance for Health:** Approved with add-on page 14-6.
15. **Accept Hazard Reporting Contacts:** Removed and agendized as item #22.

REGULAR AGENDA:

16. **Featured Jurisdiction: County Redevelopment Agency (RDA) and County of Santa Cruz Public Works.** Paul Rodrigues, County Redevelopment staff, presented information regarding recent road improvement projects in Live Oak.

The majority of the projects are pedestrian improvement projects (new and infill), with bike lanes being unaffected. A major project nearing completion is 7th Avenue. Smaller projects coming up are adding sidewalks on Portola, adding pedestrian access in Soquel Village and possibly 26th Avenue sidewalks farther out.

Another major project on the horizon is Capitola Avenue in the Live Oak/Soquel area (north of the freeway to Soquel Drive). There will be a community design process for the addition of sidewalks and bike lanes, with construction to begin next fiscal year.

Kem Akol asked about the possibility of contra-flow bike lanes along Lake Ave to accommodate cyclists going in both directions. Jack Sohriakoff provided historical background on the original designs considered and the directive by the Board of Supervisors to go with the current layout. A motion (Canin/Akol) was made to draft a letter to encourage development of such lanes, but it failed.

The RDA is in the planning stages of developing a pedestrian connection between 9th and 12th Avenues on East Cliff. Members asked if there are any plans for sidewalks

between 17th and 30th on East Cliff and were informed that there we no plans in the works. The difficulty of managing many users on a narrow roadway was also discussed.

A motion was made (Hyman/Canin) to support of bike lanes on Capitola Ave and have staff come back with a design when further along. The motion carried unanimously.

17. **Wilder Ranch Bike Path Phase II – Presentation from Santa Cruz County Public Works.** Steve Weisner, Civil Engineer, presented information regarding potential alignments for a Transportation Enhancement Funding (TEA) project extending the existing Wilder Ranch Bike Path north. Mr. Weisner presented 3 potential alignments for the Wilder Ranch Phase II project. The three options under consideration are the existing 9 ½ mile unpaved coastal bluff, the Caltrans Highway 1 right-of-way (similar to the Phase I path), and the rail line right-of-way (ROW). A field review was recently conducted with the conclusion that the best end point would be Scaroni Road. Steve Weisner reported on the constraints and benefits of each alignment along with his analysis that the rail alignment (Rail Trail) would be the best of the alternatives considered.

The committee discussed the concerns of farmers along any proposed bike path, including the importance of Santa Cruz “prime agricultural land,” and potential conflicts with farming operations, including pesticide spraying. Committee members expressed the need to ensure that there were appropriate lease provisions of the ROW and adjacent agricultural land, so that the rail trail could co-exist with agricultural operations. Some members noted that the path will have to be found consistent with County zoning, which is Agricultural, in order to be permitted; and recognized that there may be environmental constraints that would have to be overcome (similarly to the previous section of pathway to Wilder). The Committee also discussed the benefits and drawbacks of locating the path above the railroad cut (better views; requires a climb) or in the railroad cut, and which side of the track (inland or ocean was preferable). If there would be crossings of the track, some members suggested sharing with existing crossings, and the need to determine the legality of the crossings. Discussion also included finding connections between the rail trail and the existing ocean bluff path and ensuring that the segment under consideration connected to the existing Class I trail along Highway 1. Committee members also wanted to ensure that the path be maintained and it be clear who would be responsible, where the maintenance funds would come from, and what the maintenance schedule would be. Committee members also favored night time use. There was some discussion regarding appropriate material, and Mr. Weisner replied that the assumption was for pavement as the proposal was for a Class I facility.

Committee members were concerned about how much this segment would cost, where the funds would come from, and the timing of moving ahead with this segment, vis-à-vis the overall rail trail and Sanctuary Scenic Trail planning that will occur once the rail line purchase is complete. Mr. Wiesner indicated that the County would move ahead with environmental review using the currently allocated funds and that future construction of this segment would be coordinated with the overall planning effort planned. Committee members indicated that this could serve as a pilot project for the larger envisioned countywide project.

There was a motion (Garza/Canin) for the Bike Committee to write a letter to County Public Works supporting the adoption of the Class 1 Bike path following rail ROW alternative through Wilder Ranch. The motion was seconded, and after some discussion, carried unanimously. Discussion ascertained that this motion was not intended to preclude continued bike use of the shoreline path; just that it would be the railway ROW that would be developed to Class I standards, not the shoreline path. Mr. Weisner clarified that at this time, the motion would be interpreted to mean that the rail ROW would be the preferred alternative to be evaluated pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

18. **Project Tracking/Subcommittee Tasks**

- a. City of Santa Cruz:* East Cliff/Hiawatha/Buena Vista high volume bike/ped crossing is going out to bid. The Beach Street contra flow bike lane is going out to bid soon and construction will start soon after the summer season. City acquired right of way at Frederick Street to move forward with bike lanes on Soquel but the project is still a year off.
- b. City of Capitola:* Draft Bike Plan should be coming to the Committee's August meeting for review.
- c. City of Scotts Valley:* No update was provided.
- d. City of Watsonville:* No bike injury accidents reported in Watsonville in past month. Bruce Sawhill met with Maria Rodriguez City Public Works to discuss Ohlone Parkway.
- e. County:* Discussed as part of earlier item.
- f. Bike to Work Update:* Piet Canin briefed members on all Spring Bike Week activities including Bike to School events, Commuter Race, and the Detour Train event.
- g. CTSC Update:* Jim Langley provided an update on school education and bike/ped safety trainings. The CTSC is writing letters in support of Safe Routes to School applications. Cory Caletti reported that the CTSC has been working with SCCRTC to develop a pedestrian hazard reporting program.
- h. UCSC:* The Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) process was briefly discussed. UCSC is interested in having bicycles licensed. The merits of this were discussed. Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz are talking with UCSC about the possibility of legalizing some of the off road trails. Jim Langley asked about whether it's within the committee's purview to address off road riding.
- i. Rail Acquisition:* The committee received a presentation from Luis Mendez, RTC Deputy Director, describing the financial issues of the rail acquisition, including assessment and operation of the facilities.
- j. Wilder Ranch Path:* Discussed as part of earlier item.
- k. Sanctuary Scenic Trail:* Discussed as part of earlier item.
- l. Highway 1 Bike/Ped Overcrossing:* No report this meeting.

- 19. **Potluck Gathering:** Plans were made for a Bicycle Committee potluck gathering at Daniel Kostelec's Seabright area home on July 21st at 5:30pm.
- 20. **Fort Hunter Liggett :** To be addressed next meeting.
- 21. **Bike Safety/Scoflaw :** To be addressed next meeting

22. **Road Hazard Contact Numbers:** Piet Canin suggested the formation of a subcommittee to develop a program for reporting of road hazards. Canin and Kem Akol volunteered to represent this subcommittee.

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

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

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