

DRAFT
Bicycle Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 8, 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
Bruce Sawhill, City of Watsonville
Bill Fieberling, City of Santa Cruz
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.)
Ray Kaupp, District 5 (Alt.)
Ben Vernazza, District 4
Rick Hyman, District 5

Guests:

None

Excused Absences:

Saskia Lucas, Bike To Work (Alt)
Corinne Hyland, CTSC (Alt.)
Alex Anderson, City of Scotts Valley (Alt.)
Carlos Garza, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)
David Casterson, District 2 (Alt.)
Ted Benhari, District 3 (Alt.)
Gary Milburn, City of Scotts Valley
Michael Lewis, District 1 (Alt.)

Unexcused Absences:

Vacancies:

District 4 – Alternate

Staff:

Cory Caletti
Kim Shultz
Nathan Luedtke

1. **Introductions** were made. Chair Kostelec welcomed everyone.
2. **Oral Comments/Announcements:** none
3. **Changes to the Agenda:** Add-on pages were distributed by staff.

CONSENT AGENDA: (Fieberling/Canin)

4. **Accept Summary of the August 4th, 2005 RTC Meeting:** Accepted
5. **Accept Schedule of Future Bicycle Committee Meetings:** Accepted
6. **Accept Bicycle Hazard Reports for June and July 2005:** Accepted
7. **Accept Handouts from Previous Committee Meeting:** Accepted
8. **Accept Miscellaneous Information** (News articles, Events, etc.): Accepted with Add-On pages.
9. **Public Comments Regarding Legal Bike Riding** (from June Bike Committee meeting): Accepted

REGULAR AGENDA:

10. **Review and Discuss Proposed Highway 1 Pedestrian/Bike Crossings:** Kim Shultz, RTC staff, presented information regarding work performed to determine appropriate locations, design and get environmental clearance for 3 pedestrian/bicycle crossings of Highway 1 between Morrissey and Larkin Valley. Local agencies, user groups, and stakeholders met to identify 3 locations that made most sense for bike/ped crossings. Mr.

Shultz summarized the recommendations based on the feedback received concluding that crossings at Mar Vista Drive, Chanticleer Avenue, and Trevethan Avenue be further development as part of the Highway 1/HOV Lane Widening Project.

Mr. Shultz indicated staff's intent to bring recommendations to the Transportation Policy Workshop. They have already been heard by the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&DTAC). As part of their motion to approve the plan, the E&D TAC also recommended that improvements leading up to the crossings be included in the development and design work. The Inter-Agency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) voiced similar concerns especially in light of constrained revenues in relation to the current priority level of these crossings.

Bicycle Committee members discussed the timing of the crossing implementation and whether the crossings will only be built in conjunction with highway expansion. Mr. Shultz reported that no funds currently exist for the Highway 1 project and that the Commission is examining broader funding issues which could result in bike/ped crossings being built in advance of Highway 1 widening. Of course, design features would include enough span to accommodate widening when funding becomes available.

Bicycle Committee members deliberated the merits of the 3 proposed crossings in relation to Highway 1 widening efforts and as independent projects. Members expressed the desire to reconsider crossing locations if a Highway 1 project is not pursued. At that point, the overarching concern regarding what's needed should be evaluated without the Highway 1 widening context. The Committee (Fieberling/Akol) accepted the staff recommendation to proceed with preliminary design and environmental clearance of the bike/ped crossings within the Highway 1 project as independent utility project. The motion passed with Rick Hyman abstaining.

11. **City of Capitola Bicycle Plan:** Daniel Kostelec of the City of Capitola presented information regarding the city's draft Bicycle Plan. Mr. Kostelec indicated that some editorial corrections are needed but that he was hoping to get preliminary input on possible projects. He also noted that the content is similar to other local plans and is written to meet state requirements for Bicycle Transportation Account funding. Rick Hyman suggested that bike detection projects included in the Project List include markings and possible bike pockets in turn lanes, as well as general statements regarding making intersections friendlier to bikes. Daniel Kostelec indicated his interest in using Shared Lane Pavement Markings (Sharrows) to fill in the gaps where enough width does not exist for bike lanes. Mr. Kostelec discussed using Sharrows to tie existing bike lanes together. General discussion followed about the use of Sharrows versus pursuing bike lanes. Areas where improvements are warranted to facilitate bicycle travel were suggested. Some suggestions include Monterey Avenue improvements; Park Avenue surface rehabilitation; 40th Avenue barricade removal (or a portion thereof) to allow bike access; better signage for the bridge from Wharf Road to the Nob Hill parking lot; using bike directional aides (suggesting how one might get through the City on bike) posted in public places. Daniel Kostelec will bring the Bicycle Plan back to the Committee for final review and hopes to take it to the City of Capitola City Council by December.

12. Project Tracking/Subcommittee Tasks: Oral Reports (actions may be taken at the meeting)

a. City of Santa Cruz Project Tracking: Bill Fieberling updated Committee members regarding City of Santa Cruz projects. He said that Beach Street should be starting in the Fall. A motion was made (Akol/Canin) to write Caltrans a thank you letter for improved signage on Highway 1 directing cyclists onto the Class I path adjacent to the highway. Cory Caletti updated members regarding requested improvement to the Shaffer road bike path and the City's work on that. Piet Canin indicated that he applied to Caltrans to adopt the Wilder Bike Path and initiate a regular sweeping effort. He asked the local equestrian group to co-adopt the path and alternate maintenance. A motion was also made (Akol/Fieberling) to write a letter supporting the Arana Gulch Master Plan. A friendly amendment (Moll/Vernazza) was made to concentrate comments on requesting an analysis of the positive impacts of greater bicycle traffic. The motion was passed unanimously (with Rick Hyman absent for the discussion and vote).

Cory Caletti informed the Committee of a meeting she had with Tom Sharp of the City of Santa Cruz regarding improvements to the Shaffer Road bike lane. He agreed to have the City hand sweep the sand in the drainage area and make arrangements for this to be done regularly; remove the top k-rail at Mission & Shaffer; install "bike lane" signage at each end of the k-rail segment of the path; cut back overgrown vegetation infringing on the bike lane; and finally, patch the rough pavement section. Members reported that they were pleased to see some of these improvements have already occurred. Kem Akol noted, however, that the lighting is still not on. Cory Caletti reported that the City continues to work with PG&E to get that working.

b. City of Capitola Project Tracking: Kostelec/Ward: covered as part of earlier item.

c. City of Scotts Valley Project Tracking: Cory Caletti reported that she met with City of Scotts Valley Public Works regarding the Committee's concerns regarding a sign on Glenwood Drive and the need for a left turn pocket on Scotts Valley Drive toward Glenwood. She reported on the City's willingness to accommodate the Committee requests. Ray Kaupp requested that Caltrans be reminded of their mandate to facilitate bike passage during construction. Cory Caletti will email Public Works a copy of the Community Traffic Safety Coalition's construction guidelines.

Kem Akol requested a presentation on the City of Scotts Valley's Town Center Plan. Cory Caletti will forward the request to the City of Scotts Valley.

d. City of Watsonville: The City's portion of the Harkins Slough project is almost complete. Committee members noted that there are nice bike facilities being constructed as part of new developments but older neighborhoods are being neglected. Modifying old infrastructure will have to be addressed. Kem Akol noted that the New Millenium High School will be opening and is anticipating transportation access issues. He noted that the City has not responded to building a secondary bike access to the school. Committee members discussed forming a subcommittee to address better bike/pedestrian access to the school. A motion was made (Langley/Akol) to write a

letter to the Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board asking that the issue be addressed. The motion passed unanimously.

Members noted that the long awaited bridge across Harkins Slough is beautiful.

e. County of Santa Cruz: Akol: 7th Avenue is complete.

f. Bike To Work: Canin: no update

g. CTSC: Jim Langley reported that the CTSC wrote a letter in support of Safe Routes to School grants; worked on helping senior citizens with driving safety; and wrote a letter in support of rail acquisition. The CTSC also received a \$200,000 grant over the next 2 years to increase bike safety outreach targeted towards older teenagers and adults. Bike to Work and the Santa Cruz TMA will be doing some of the work.

h. UCSC: Mike Dalbey reported that a new intern will take over the work on UCSC's Bike Plan.

i. Rail Acquisition: Dalbey/Moll : Leo Moll reported on the status of rail acquisition and the structural assessment effort. He requested an updated timeline be provided to the Committee as soon as one is available.

j. Wilder Ranch Path: Canin/Akol/Garza/Menchine: update provided earlier

k. Sanctuary Scenic Trail: Canin/Vernazza: nothing new

l. Highway 1 Bike/Pedestrian Crossings: covered as part of earlier item.

m. Motorist Created Hazards: postponed to next time

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

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

\\Rtcserv1\Shared\Bike\Committee\BC2005\BCAug05\minutes805.doc