

**DRAFT**  
**Bicycle Committee Meeting Minutes**

Monday, November 14, 2005

7:00 PM

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

**Members Present:**

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

**Excused Absences:**

Corinne Hyland, CTSC (Alt.)  
Carlos Garza, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)  
Bruce Sawhill, City of Watsonville  
Saskia Lucas, Bike To Work (Alt.)  
Gary Milburn, City of Scotts Valley  
Gina Tufo (District 4 Alt.)  
Ted Benhari, District 3 (Alt.)

**Unexcused Absences:**

**Vacancies:**

District 5 – Alternate

**Staff:**

Cory Caletti  
Rachel Moriconi

**Guests:**

Cheryl Schmitt, City of Santa Cruz  
Maria Rodriguez, City of Watsonville  
Melissa Mewborn, self

1. **Introductions** were made. Chair Kostelec welcomed everyone.
2. **Oral Comments/Announcements:** Jim Langley announced that Clay Mankin, owner of the City Cycle bike shop in San Francisco, died on Sunday, November 13 while riding his bike in San Mateo County. He was 49 and apparently died of a heart attack. He was a long time bike activist and shop owner.
3. **Changes to the Agenda:** Added Item #11a: Bike Secure Application for M Commercial, Inc and added page 12-2 as an attachment to Item #12.

**CONSENT AGENDA: (Moll/Langley)**

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4. **Accepted Minutes of the October 17, 2005 Bicycle Committee Meeting**
5. **Accepted Summary of the November 3, 2005 RTC Meeting**
6. **Accepted Schedule of Future Bicycle Committee Meetings**
7. **Accepted Bicycle Hazard Reports for October and November, 2005**
8. **Accepted Handouts from Previous Committee Meeting**
9. **Accepted Correspondence**
10. **Accepted Miscellaneous Information** (Announcements, News articles, Events, etc.)
11. **Approved Bike Secure Application for Felton Bible Church**
- 11a. **Added Item: Approved Bike Secure Application for M Commercial, Inc.**
12. **Approved Staff Recommendation to Write a Letter of Support on Behalf of the Bicycle Committee for the RTC's Coastal Conservancy Reimbursable Grant for**

**Acquisition of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (with add-on page #12-2 showing a sample support letter for members wishing to write personal letters)**

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

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13. **City of Santa Cruz** - Presentation from Cheryl Schmitt, City of Santa Cruz, Regarding Updates to Shared Lane Pavement Markings (Sharrow) Use in California and Presentation to the RTC's Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Cheryl Schmitt discussed state-wide approval of new Shared Lane Pavement Markings with an unfortunate and unwelcome restriction to use the markings only where on-street parking exists. This restriction limits the use of the marking and is being challenged by a number of jurisdictions. The California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC) will review the issue again and it is hoped that the outpour of letters objecting to this restriction will overturn the limitation.

Rick Hyman, who was not in attendance when the initial presentation was made on the marking, asked for clarification on its usage. RTC staff will provide him with all the background information. Bill Fieberling asked for clarification about whether the intention of using Sharrows is to replace bike paths. Cheryl clarified that it is not the City's intention to do so.

Cheryl clarified that the value of the Sharrow is its clear delineation of the footprint and proper travel path as an educational tool for motorists and cyclists alike. David Casterson asked if the City of Santa Cruz has identified locations and prioritized them. Cheryl indicated that the City had and referred David to the source of that information. Some of the locations include East Cliff coming down the hill from Hiawatha and on High St by Storey. Will Menchine suggested that King Street would be a good location for installation of Sharrows.

**14. Featured Jurisdictions – City of Santa Cruz**

Presentation from Cheryl Schmitt, Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator, Regarding City of Santa Cruz Bicycle Projects

Cheryl Schmitt updated members regarding active City of Santa Cruz projects. She announced that the Beach Street ribbon cutting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at Ideal Bar and Grill. She expects that construction will be done by then. Granite construction is the contractor. Members asked for an email or press release to distribute to cyclists and the general public regarding the heaviest construction times and when the area should be avoided, as is done with other construction projects.

The City had applied unsuccessfully for a Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) grant for a bike/ ped bridge over the San Lorenzo River. The City is reapplying for the current round of BTA funds which has a December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. The Environmental work is being wrapped up at the current time so City staff thinks it's a good time to reapply. Rick Hyman asked for more information to be brought back on the environmental work conducted. A question was also raised about progress on the underpass project and Cheryl clarified that that project is an orphan project currently in the hands of the Redevelopment Agency

Cheryl reported that the bike lanes project for Soquel Avenue is proceeding well. There is a possibility of widening Soquel at Frederick St to alleviate the congestion pinch point. Piet Canin expressed frustration and indicated the delay is making the city look bad. Cheryl explained that the City is short staffed and that after Beach Street completion, this project is next in line.

Kem Akol asked about the status of West Cliff. Cheryl said the City of SC is having a hard time getting support from the Coastal Commission and as a result is not actively pursuing the project any longer. Members asked RTC staff to bring back information regarding funding that has been allocated to West Cliff Drive and when/if it will be lost if not spent.

Kem Akol inquired again about the Mission St Extension lights which still don't work. Cheryl Schmitt will have Tom Sharpe provide an update but generally indicated that PG&E looked at the problem and passed it back to the adjacent development's contractor.

Broadway/Brommer is moving along with the plan for Arana Gulch. Subdivision plans have been removed off the books and the City can now proceed with looking at what uses will be approved for the Gulch through the Master Planning Process which should be completed in 2006.

Rick Hyman asked about the design of the bridge over the San Lorenzo River. Cheryl reported that the design is being started by the contractor as the environmental work is wrapping up.

**15. Approve City of Santa Cruz Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 8 Allocation for FY 05/06 for \$48,000 – Presentation from Cheryl Schmitt, City of SC**

Cory Caletti explained the TDA allocation process for newer members and gave the staff report explaining the City's allocation request for bikeway maintenance and the installation of Sharrows. Cheryl Schmitt indicated that the City wants to establish a bike presence, particularly on arterials, by stenciling several hundred markings until funding comes through to install bike lanes. Cheryl asked if the City can still use TDA funds for Sharrows even for locations for which they are not officially approved. RTC staff will research this. A motion was made (Fieberling/Canin) to approve the TDA allocation request.

Discussion followed about the appropriate timing for installation of Sharrows and whether it's better to install a few and test them out or whether a mass scale installation would be a better way to promote comfort with its usage and legitimacy of the marking. Mike Dalbey indicated that he thinks the surest way to make it not work is to put it in a few places so that people don't get used to it. The general sentiment was that the Sharrow is a beneficial new tool and would improve current dangerous situations where the footprint for cyclists is ambiguous. Questions followed about standards for its usage and Cheryl referred members to that information on the packet.

Rick Hyman added an amendment which the makers of the motion accepted to approve the motion with final approval pending resolution by RTC staff of two issues. 1) TDA rules indicate that the project being funded has to be maintained for 20 years. Some of the Sharrows installed may be replaced by bike lanes before 20 years are up. Staff will clarify

that the upgrading of bike facilities with bike lanes will not conflict with TDA rules. 2) Sharrows are not currently approved for use where on-street parking does not exist and RTC staff will clarify whether TDA rules stipulate that TDA funds expended need to be in accordance with state regulations or if exceptions are allowed. The motion passed with Rick Hyman abstaining.

**16. Presentation from the City of Watsonville Regarding Draft General Plan Update and City of Watsonville Projects** – Presentation from Maria Rodriguez, City of Watsonville

Maria Rodriguez presented information regarding issues the Bicycle Committee had identified earlier regarding the City's Draft General Plan. She then responded to additional issues. All of the issues addressed are identified below:

Members had questions regarding a number of conflicting or unclear indications in the Draft General Plan. Some of the comments include:

- classifications on the bike facilities map will be updated according to bike plan
- Ohlone Parkway between Harkins Slough and Stone Creek apartments was built with a 10 foot shared pathway. Maria asked whether it should be listed as Class I or Class II and members agreed that it fits Class I requirements.
- Harkins Slough Road will be a Class II facility. Members wanted to know what bicyclists should do to travel in the direction opposing traffic since the roadway is one way. Maria said cyclists will have to get on the 8 foot sidewalk to travel in the opposing direction.
- Members indicated that the Union Pacific RR right of way needs to be included in the City's maps. Maria indicated that she will make sure it gets included. Members also asked that maps, figures and projects between the City's Bike Plan, the Draft General Plan and the RTP be consistent.
- The river levee bike path is shown as being a continuous Class I bikeway but that is not the case in reality and the map should be corrected to reflect that.
- Members asked that bike lanes to the new high school be included in the Draft General plan. The different jurisdictions involved were identified, including the City of Watsonville, the County, the School District, the Coastal Zone, etc. It is the Bike Committee's recommendation that since the City is undergoing its General Plan process, consideration be given to adding this project in the plan that is updated every 10 years. Maria noted that the comment period for the EIR ended but that she would take this back to Keith Boyle. Kem noted that he was told by Keith that the City will not spend any staff time on this project. Rick Hyman reiterated that this is a political issue and sees this as a project staff does not support. The Bike Committee needs to approach the City Council for that kind of support.

Maria proceeded to update members on recently completed bike/ped projects, slough trails and other improvements in the City of Watsonville, as shown in the power point presentation included in the packet.

**17. Review and Recommend Draft Proposals for Programming Projected New Funds in the 2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)** - Presentation from Rachel Moriconi, SCCRTC Staff

Rachel Moriconi presented the staff report regarding the programming of \$20 million in funding through the *Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)*. The RTC set a goal of programming 80% of the funding to regionally significant projects and the remaining 20% to local jurisdictions' priority projects (amounts to be based on population size). She asked for recommendations from the Bicycle Committee regarding prioritizing the 80% of the funding. Of the projects listed, the last 3 are RTC operating projects. None of the projects are listed in priority order. Rachel also mentioned that the draft version of the RTIP will be presented to the Commission in December with a public hearing and final decision expected in January.

Mike Dalbey asked about how this interacts with the Transportation Funding Task Force. Rachel explained that recommendations can be amended in the future but something needs to be submitted as a placeholder.

Members also expressed displeasure with the Coastal Connector Trail name. Comments reflected members desire to separate out the projects in 2 separate items (the Coastal Rail Trail and the Sanctuary Scenic Trail). Greater clarity in project naming is desired.

Members noted that current funding recommendations are heavily biased towards highway projects as opposed to alternative transportation projects such as bike projects on Soquel Avenue. By consensus, members made a general recommendation to program more funding towards alternative transportation modes rather than highway projects and to table further discussion until the next meeting.

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

**a. City of Santa Cruz Project Tracking:** Discussed as part of earlier item.

**b. City of Capitola Project Tracking:** Daniel intends to take the Bike Plan to the City Council for adoption in December. There was a question on whether bike lanes on Capitola Ave are scheduled for re-stripping. Daniel reported that they are.

**c. City of Scotts Valley Project Tracking:** No update was provided.

**d. City of Watsonville:** Discussed as part of earlier item.

**e. County of Santa Cruz:** No update was provided.

**f. Bike To Work:** The 2006 Bike Week events are scheduled for May 14-20 with Bike to Work/School Day being on May 18<sup>th</sup>. This will be the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Bike to Work event. Bike to Work is accepting high quality art resumes to use for the tri-county area and will pay at least \$1000. He also briefly updated members about an expanded Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) bike safety education project and expanded bike to school program.

**g. CTSC:** Jim Langley provided updated numbers on pedestrian and bicycle safety presentation. 2090 children received safety presentations. The Coalition hired a new bike coordinator for the OTS grant. She will hopefully attend the December Committee meeting.

**h. UCSC:** A draft Bike Plan should come to the Bicycle Committee for review in January.

**i. Rail Acquisition:** Leo Moll reported that RTC staff is working on additional structures assessment, revised right of entry agreements, and a Coastal Conservancy reimbursable grant to make the purchase feasible. An updated timeline is not yet available but one will be forwarded to the Bicycle Committee upon availability.

**j. Wilder Ranch Path:** Cory Caletti reported that there was no progress on removal of the East Gate.

**k. Sanctuary Scenic Trail:** Piet reported that a field trip was held at the southern end of the trail. He found the meeting to be constructive and promising. Another field trip is being planned.

**l. Motorist Created Hazards:** Postponed to next time.

**Adjournment:** meeting adjourned at 9:20

Minutes prepared and submitted by \_\_\_\_\_  
Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner

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