



## BICYCLE COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 13, 2006 - 7 p.m.

### Members Present:

Daniel Kostelec, City of Capitola, Chair  
Kem Akol, District 1, Vice-Chair  
Jim Langley, CTSC  
Mike Dalbey, City of Watsonville (Alt.)  
Rick Hyman, District 5  
Gary Milburn, City of Scotts Valley  
Michael Lewis, District 1 (Alt.)  
Gina Tufo (District 4 Alt.)  
David Casterson, District 2 (Alt.)  
Piet Canin, Bike To Work  
Ben Vernazza, District 4  
Bruce Sawhill, City of Watsonville  
Ted Benhari, District 3 (Alt.)  
Bill Fieberling, City of Santa Cruz

### Staff:

Cory Caletti  
Luis Mendez

### Excused Absences:

Carlos Garza, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)  
Saskia Lucas, Bike To Work (Alt)  
Alex Anderson, City of Scotts Valley (Alt.)  
Andy Ward, City of Capitola (Alt.)  
Leo Moll, District 2  
Will Menchine, District 3

### Unexcused Absences:

### Vacancies:

District 5 – Alternate

### Guests:

Corinne Hyland, CTSC Alt. & Staff  
Dena Loijos, CTSC Staff  
Theresia Rogerson, CTSC Staff  
Maria Rodriguez, City of Watsonville  
Chris Schneiter, City of Santa Cruz

1. **Introductions**
2. **Oral Comments/Announcement** - Members of the public may address the Committee regarding issues not on the regular agenda.
3. **Changes to the Agenda** – Item #16m was added to discuss the San Lorenzo Valley Feasibility Trail Study. Also, as part of Agenda #16a Chris Schneiter will present information regarding Soquel and Capitola Road intersection improvement.

### CONSENT AGENDA (Akol/Fieberling)

4. **Accepted Minutes of the January 9, 2006 Bicycle Committee Meetings**
5. **Accepted Summary of the February 2, 2006 RTC Meeting**
6. **Accepted Committee Roster**
7. **Accepted Schedule of Future Bicycle Committee Meetings**
8. **Accepted Bicycle Hazard Reports for January, 2006**
9. **Accepted Handouts from Previous Committee Meeting**
10. **Accepted Correspondence**
11. **Accepted Miscellaneous Information** (Announcements, News articles, Events, etc.)

## REGULAR AGENDA

12. **City of Watsonville – Presentation from Maria Rodriguez, City of Watsonville Staff, regarding deadlines for receiving comments on the Draft General Plan and updating and certifying a Bicycle Plan**

Maria Rodriguez presented a memo regarding the Watsonville General Plan update. The memo was presented to the City Council and contained information about the 6 upcoming public hearings scheduled for the City Council to receive comments on the update. Upcoming meetings are set for March 14<sup>th</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>. Adoption of the Plan is scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup>. City staff and consultants are working on responses to comments and will have those documented in the completed Environmental Impact Report. Bicycle Committee members were surprised to learn that the City of Watsonville did not submit their Bicycle Plan to Caltrans and therefore no certified Bike Plan exists for the City with the State. Ms. Rodriguez indicated that City staff intends to update the Bike Plan with information about new developments and will make sure everything to date is included. Staff intends to do this in the next few months. Upon completion of the draft, the Bike Committee will have the opportunity to review and provide feedback. It's anticipated this will occur by summer.

Kem Akol updated Committee members on a meeting that took place to discuss a bike/ped path to the new high school via Airport Boulevard. This meeting was organized by RTC staff member Cory Caletti as a response to the Committee's direction to investigate such a path. Cory indicated that the Pajaro Valley Unified School District staff, who were also in attendance at the meeting along with staffs from the City of Watsonville and the County of Santa Cruz, are willing to identify if such a project can be justified by mapping current students residences and feeder school students' residences. County of Santa Cruz staff indicated that they would not be the project sponsor, leaving the City of Watsonville as the only possible project sponsor. Cory will have an update at a future meeting.

13. **East Cliff Esplanade – Presentation from Piet Canin, Bicycle Committee Member, regarding Bill Simpkins' proposal for an East Cliff Esplanade and the community meeting that took place to receive public feedback**

Piet Canin was delayed in arriving, so Kem Akol gave the summary of the meeting. He indicated that the community meeting was very well attended with the majority in favor of supporting some kind of improvements to East Cliff Drive. A small but vocal number of people (8-10) were opposed to doing anything. Some had concerns with one-way traffic but wanted to see circulation encouraged. Commissioner Beautz, who was facilitating the meeting, recommended conducting further studies as part of the County's Redevelopment Agency efforts in the area. She also recommended holding additional neighborhood open forums to discuss ideas. Bicycle Committee member Gary Milburn said he assumed that there was already a design but that no design has been developed and this idea is in the very initial stages.

14. **Accept Community Traffic Safety Coalition FY 06-07 Budget and Work Plan and Recommend Approval of Funding Request to RTC – Presentation from Corinne Hyland, CTSC**

Corinne Hyland presented information regarding the Community Traffic Safety Coalition's (CTSC) work plan and budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Some specific objectives include distributing and encouraging use of the construction safety guidelines already developed; traffic calming tests in specific areas of Santa Cruz; implementing a walk to school program; bike traffic

school; quarterly media messages to parents regarding passing cyclists safely. A motion was made (Milburn/Vernazza) to approve recommending to the RTC approval of the CTSC's funding request. Rick Hyman commented that he'd like to see the CTSC pursue better dissemination of construction guidelines (encourage inclusion of the guidelines in construction contracts, ordinances, power point presentations to local jurisdictions on the do's and don't). The motion passed unanimously.

**15. Accept Bike to Work FY06-07 Budget and Work Plan and Recommend Approval of Funding Request to RTC – Presentation from Piet Canin, Bike to Work**

Piet Canin presented information regarding Bike to Work's work program and budget for the upcoming fiscal year. He gave a summary of past events with statistics on participation at the various events held as part of Bike Week. Piet also reported that Bike to Work is beginning to track mileage numbers in an effort to report emissions reduced. He indicated that 30,000 pounds of emissions were reduced during 2 days of Bike Week activities. Piet also spoke about expanding Bike to School activities through an Air District grant to increase bicycle commuting to school. Corinne mentioned that a subcommittee of the Watsonville Bike/Pedestrian Task Force conducted a Walkability and Cycling survey. Cory Caletti will get a copy of that for members. A motion was made (Akol/Casterson) to approve recommending to the RTC approval of Bike to Work's funding request. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**a. City of Santa Cruz Project Tracking: Fieberling/Garza**

Chris Schneider, City of Santa Cruz Assistant Director of Public Works, presented 2 design options for the Soquel Ave/Capitola Road intersection. He reported that City staff is currently designing Soquel Avenue bike lanes and improvements for the Soquel Ave/Capitola Road intersection. This will be discussed at the March 8<sup>th</sup> City Transportation Commission. City staff is planning to present a proposal to the City Council on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The goal in the redesign is to eliminate the free right turn from Soquel to Capitola to automobile traffic but not bikes. A reduction in the number of trees is the differentiating element between the two designs with the financial cost being about the same. The City received Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) and Hazard Elimination grants for improvement to this area. Members reviewed the design elements concluding that Alternate B is preferred. Chris mentioned that the City's bike/pedestrian committee likes both alternatives.

Chris gave updates on other City of Santa Cruz projects:

- Beach St Bikeway: The rubber medians are being installed and there's been enforcement of the loading zone limitations through citations and by working with area business owners.
- Soquel Ave Bike Lanes are being designed. Both Soquel Ave bike lanes and the Soquel/Capitola intersection improvement contracts are expected to be awarded in the summer with construction to occur in the fall. Chris will bring Soquel Avenue bike lane designs to the Committee for review.
- The bike/pedestrian underpass of the Highway 1/9 interchange was discussed. Kem urged members to advocate for this project and appeal to the City Redevelopment Agency. The City will need to ask for federal funds for this project.
- San Lorenzo bike/pedestrian bridge is one of the City's high priority projects. City staff has completed environmental work and is now working on the design. The City is hoping to construct the project next year. They are short on money but have sought a river trail grant.

They are also asking the RTC to re-allocated funds previously dedicated to West Cliff to be allocated to this project and to Soquel Ave repaving.

- Paving of East Cliff and Murray is scheduled in the fall of this year and at the same time the crossing at East Cliff and Hiawatha will be installed. Daniel mentioned that both sides of Murray by the Harbor bridge need sweeping and patching.

**b. City of Capitola Project Tracking: Kostelec/Ward**

Daniel Kostelec reported that Capitola restriping of bike lanes has not yet occurred and that he is working with RTC staff to get the Capitola Bike Plan completed and submitted to Caltrans. He asked for members' comments on roadway issues. Piet Canin mentioned that the bike lane striping on Cliff Drive coming out of Capitola Village forces cyclist out into the traffic zone. Bill Fieberling mentioned that when he gets to 41<sup>st</sup> Ave from Clares Street, there' no place for bicycles. An auto right turn lane exists but cyclists have no designated footprint. Daniel reported that he had requested restriping at that intersection for a stacking lane but was informed that such an improvement will be included as part of a Clares St. project.

**c. City of Scotts Valley Project Tracking: Anderson/Milburn - No update was provided.**

**d. City of Watsonville Project Tracking: Sawhill/Dalbey - Covered as part of the earlier item.**

**e. County of Santa Cruz Project Tracking: Akol**

**f. Bike To Work Update: Canin – Covered as part of an earlier item.**

**g. CTSC: Update: Langley - Corinne Hyland provided the CTSC update. She indicated that the Coalition put together a media plan synching messages with seasonal relevance such as using a bike light at night when the time changes. She also mentioned that as a result of a recent death on Highway 1, Corinne and Piet Canin are writing to Caltrans asking for signs warning motorist on Highway 1 to be attentive to bicyclists crossing the road. They asked members for suggestions for sign placement locations. Rick Hyman asked about law enforcement grants and how they might develop a program that's fair to cyclists indicating that there are more equitable and educational ways to enforce and educate bicycling traffic. He asked that traffic enforcement detail and sting procedures be addressed at a future meeting.**

**h. UCSC: Dalbey/Benhari**

Mike Dalbey attended a transportation meeting that was scheduled with the UCSC Chancellor who ended up not being present. The Chancellor's representative did not read any of the materials submitted prior to the meeting. Wes Scott and Larry Pageler, UCSC Transportation and Parking Services Director and Senior Planner, respectively, summarized their transportation program. They also promised to submit a draft of their Bike Plan which is still in progress. Ted Benhari asked for clarification regarding a letter sent by the Committee regarding the UCSC Long Range Development Plan.

**i. Rail Acquisition: Dalbey/Moll – Luis Mendez, RTC Deputy Director, gave the Rail Acquisition update. He addressed the delay to the acquisition caused by the additional structural analysis needed. Escrow is expected to close in October of this year. Commission will contract with a short line operator for service and maintenance of rail line will be covered by revenue coming in from that freight service. Piet urged members to call John Laird's office and encourage movement on**

building the Coastal Rail Trail and advocated for project funding for this in the new state transportation bond measure.

**j. Wilder Ranch Path:** Canin/Akol/Garza/Menchine – Piet Caning announced that the Bike Industry Coalition officially adopted the Wilder Phase I Path. He is scheduling a work day to trim shrubs and clean off horse manure.

**k. Sanctuary Scenic Trail:** Canin/Vernazza

**l. Transportation Funding Task Force:** Casterson

**m. Re-Establishment of the San Lorenzo Valley Trail Committee:** Cory Caletti indicated that some upcoming public meetings have been scheduled to discuss a second working paper examining the feasibility of a connection between San Lorenzo Valley and Santa Cruz. She indicated that the subcommittee needs to be re-established and asked for a volunteer. Kem Akol volunteered to attend the upcoming meeting and report back to the Committee.

**Adjournment:** meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

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