

DRAFT

BICYCLE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES –

December 11, 2006

Members Present:

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

Staff:

Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner
Kim Shultz, Senior Transportation Planner
George Dondero, Executive Director

Excused Absences:

Carlos Garza, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)
Theresa Rogerson, CTSC (Alt.)
Mike Dalbey, City of Watsonville (Alt.)
Gina Tufo (District 4 Alt.)
Ted Benhari, District 3 (Alt.)
Piet Canin, Bike To Work

Unexcused Absences:

None

Vacancies:

District 5 – Alternate
City of Scotts Valley – Alternate

Guests:

Cheryl Schmitt, City of Santa Cruz
Jack Sohriakoff, County of Santa Cruz

1. **Introductions** were made. Chair Kostelec welcomed everyone.
2. **Oral Comments/Announcement:** Cory Caletti announced that an update of the Santa Cruz County Bikeways Map is in progress and that a final draft would be available soon for those interested in reviewing it before reprinting.

George Dondero, SCCRTC Executive Director, mentioned that staff has received complaints from partnering agencies' staff members regarding the treatment they received from Bicycle Committee members. George Dondero asked that members make their comments respectfully to promote effective partnerships with the Commission's colleagues.

3. **Changes to the Agenda:** Item #4 was distributed. Rick Hyman asked to pull item #6 (the announcement regarding Safe Routes to School applications being accepted) and asked for changes to the minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA (Fieberling/Akol)

4. **Accepted Highlights of the December 7, 2006 RTC Meetings**
5. **Accepted Minutes of the November 13, 2006 Bicycle Committee Meeting with changes to item #10.** Rick Hyman asked that the minutes be amended to add the following details regarding Cheryl Schmitt's TDA presentation: 1) include her remark regarding wishing for a small pot of funds that

could be set aside for minor improvements; 2) the Committee’s concerns regarding the trestle bridge connection as described in the staff report; and 3) that the motion was to continue the item to a future month as appropriate, not “next” month. Cheryl Schmitt also clarified that she said the width of the uphill bike lane on High Street was 6 feet “in some sections”. Staff agreed to make the requested changes.

- 6. **Pulled - Accept Miscellaneous Correspondence and Information Items**
- 7. **Accepted Bicycle Hazard Reports**
- 8. **Accepted Handouts from Previous Meeting**
- 9. **Accepted Bicycle Committee Roster**

REGULAR AGENDA

6 **Miscellaneous Information – Pulled Item**

Rick Hyman indicated the Committee members make note of announcements regarding funding sources and deadlines and be proactive about suggesting projects worthy of consideration to respective jurisdictions’ staff. He mentioned the bike/pedestrian path to the new high school in the City of Watsonville that the Bicycle Committee has been interested in as an example. Members asked that staff make arrangements for the City of Watsonville to address progress on this issue at their next presentation. Jack Sohriakoff mentioned that the County Public Works Department is submitting Safe Routes to School applications for bike lanes and sidewalk improvements in Boulder Creek and for Calabazas School Road. Daniel Kostelec reported that the City of Capitola is not submitting an application. Cheryl Schmitt indicated that the City of Santa Cruz is applying for West Lake elementary school sidewalk improvement project. George Dondero suggested that the Committee consider projects and submit ideas for the following year’s grant cycle. Jack Sohriakoff summarized the grants sources available for bicycle facility projects: the Bicycle Transportation Account, Safe Routes to School, and Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District’s AB2766 program. A motion was made (Vernazza, Moll) to accept the Miscellaneous Information Item. The motion passed unanimously.

10. **Transportation Development Act Claim from the City of Santa Cruz – Presentation from Cheryl Schmitt, City of Santa Cruz Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator (continued from previous meeting)**

Cory Caletti summarized the Bicycle Committee’s primary concerns from the last meeting regarding the City of Santa Cruz’s request for a Transportation Development Act (TDA) allocation totaling \$126,000 for 1) bikeway striping and minor improvements, 2) bicycle parking program, 3) San Lorenzo River trestle bridge connection, and 4) West Cliff Drive path repaving. The Committee requested that the following issues be brought back: designs for the San Lorenzo river trestle connection and the history of the Committee’s request for a centerline stripe on West Cliff Drive path.

Regarding the San Lorenzo river trestle connection, Cheryl Schmitt brought the Bicycle Transportation Account application showing design plans for the project. She gave an overview of the project plans and showed that the City of Santa Cruz Bike/Pedestrian Subcommittee discussed the project despite the Bike Committee’s assertion that it had not. She clarified that the purpose of the project is to create an exit and an entrance to the bridge so that bikes and pedestrians do not have to cross live railroad tracks. The proposal includes a switchback ramp so users don’t need to negotiate the tracks. The City is pursuing the project because of a serious injury accident involving a bicyclist on the trestle bridge. As background, Cheryl Schmitt explained that Union Pacific considered closing the trestle bridge but the City agreed to take over liability of the bridge and maintenance responsibility of the wooden walkway. This new responsibility increased the City’s interest in providing a facility that separates users from the live track.

Regarding the West Cliff Drive path markings and signage, this discussion was reported to have a long history. In 2002, City staff conducted a test/survey on the pathway to explore users' sentiments regarding markings with no conclusive results. Members of the Bicycle Committee recalled that the Committee placed a condition on the original Transportation Development Act allocation to include a centerline stripe. Staff provided background materials showing that the Committee requested this condition be placed on the original allocation of funds but that the RTC approved the project without the condition. The Bicycle Committee then wrote a letter to the City requesting that they reconsider a centerline stripe anyway as is suggested by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (ASSHTO) and Caltrans' highway manual. The City declined to fulfill the request.

Cheryl Schmitt added information about the scheduled repaving plans which will provide an overlay to the entire path with reconstruction in areas where it's needed and a slurry seal elsewhere. She added that West Cliff Drive is scheduled for an overlay in 2 years. A motion was made (Akol/Fieberling) to approve the TDA claim as requested by the City. After some discussion, members voted to approve the motion with Leo Moll voting against.

Another motion was made (Akol/Vernazza) to send a letter requesting that the City reconsider striping a center line and consider submitting a supplemental TDA allocation request for minor projects. The motion passed with Gary Milburn voting against.

11. Transportation Development Act Claim from the County of Santa Cruz – Presentation from Jack Sohriakoff, County of Santa Cruz Public Works

The committee received a presentation from Jack Sohriakoff regarding their TDA allocation request for \$100,000 for Calabasas Road. He reported that the design and easement work is complete. He noted that because construction costs are continually rising, the County is seeking Bicycle Transportation Account and Safe Routes to School funds for this project. This project has been planned for many years. The other project for which the County is seeking TDA funds is State Park Drive bike/pedestrian improvements. The County is asking for a total of \$87,382 to widen State Park Drive and include bike lanes throughout, bus pullouts and formalize parking. The project total will be close to \$2 million. A motion was made to recommend approval of the County's TDA allocation (Hyman/Fieberling). The motion passed unanimously. Members commended County staff for their work and for notification of upcoming projects.

12. Draft 2007 Legislative Agenda – Presentation from Kim Schultz, SCCRTC Transportation Planner

RTC Senior Planner Kim Shultz summarized the staff report. He reported that a new legislative session is beginning at both the state and federal levels. The Commission continued to engage a federal legislative assistant and also hired a state legislative assistant this year. The state legislative assistant advised staff to begin developing its legislative agenda earlier in the year. He highlighted amendments to the 2006 agenda in his oral report and summarized planned projects to be submitted for Corridor Mobility Improvement Program funding. Discussion followed about protection of Proposition 116 funding for the rail acquisition project. Staff clarified that the funds run out in 2010 and that the funds have to be obligated by then. If needed, legislative action might be considered to protect those funds for a longer duration.

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

- a. **City of Santa Cruz Project Tracking:** Fieberling/Garza – Cheryl Schmitt of the City of Santa Cruz accepted comments and answered miscellaneous Committee members’ questions. Rick Hyman reported that the City’s Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee meeting will be held on Wed December 13th.
- b. **City of Capitola Project Tracking:** Kostelec/Ward – The City of Capitola recently installed plastic stanchions by the Rispin Mansion. Daniel Kostelec received feedback to improve the stanchions.
- c. **City of Scotts Valley Project Tracking:** Anderson/Milburn – Gary Milburn reported that the City of Scotts Valley will put Hacienda Ave out to bid but that work won’t begin until the weather improves.
- d. **City of Watsonville Project Tracking:** Sawhill/Dalbey – Bruce Sawhill reported that the City of Watsonville is co-sponsoring the Rail Symposium to be held at Jade Street Park on December 13, 2006.
- e. **County of Santa Cruz Project Tracking:** Akol – David Casterson asked for an update on redevelopment efforts of Aptos Village. Jack Sohriakoff indicated that Steve Guiney of the County is in charge of the project and should be contacted for a status update. The Aptos Village Plan has not been approved by the Board of Supervisors yet but work will proceed quickly after their approval. Members asked staff to bring an update back to the Committee. Kem Akol asked for a status of the Wilder Path Phase II project and Jack Sohriakoff indicated that project was currently on hold due to staffing shortages.
- f. **Bike to Work Update:** Canin/Lucas – No update was provided.
- g. **Community Traffic Safety Coalition Update:** Langley/Rogerson – Jim Langley reported recent bike safety presentation numbers. The CTSC wrote a letter of support for the Commission’s rail acquisition project and produced an Annual Report that Jim distributed.
- h. **UCSC:** Dalbey/Benhari – Kem Akol announced that UCSC Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) held a public meeting to accept comments on the Draft Bicycle Plan on November 17th, 2006. Kem Akol summarized some highlights including his observation that TAPS did not like his idea of providing paths with gentler slopes, that they talked about multiple access points to the University and that bike paths not adjacent to road ways were considered for further exploration. Kem noted that the meeting was not well advertised and few people attended.
- i. **Rail Acquisition:** Dalbey/Moll – George Dondero reported that there is no late breaking news and mentioned that while Union Pacific is talking to RTC staff, he is not at liberty to disclose any information regarding the negotiation process.
- j. **Wilder Ranch Path:** Canin/Akol/Garza/Menchine – no update was provided.
- k. **Sanctuary Scenic Trail:** Canin/Vernazza – no recent meeting was held.
- l. **Transportation Funding Task Force:** Casterson – David Casterson pointed members to the RTC Meeting Highlights for recent discussions regarding the Transportation Funding Task Force.
- m. **San Lorenzo Valley Trail Committee:** Akol/Canin – no update was provided.

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Minutes respectfully prepared and submitted by:



Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner/Bicycle Coordinator