



Draft

BICYCLE COMMITTEE MINUTES – August 13, 2007

Members Present:

Kem Akol, District 1
Michael Lewis, District 1 (Alt.)
Leo Moll, District 2
David Casterson, District 2 (Alt.)
Peter Scott, District 3
Rick Hyman, District 5
Andy Ward, City of Capitola (Alt.)
Gary Milburn, City of Scotts Valley, Vice-Chair
Bill Fieberling, City of Santa Cruz
Elaina Ramer, Bike To Work
Ben Vernazza, District 4
Theresia Rogerson, CTSC (Alt.)
Jim Langley, CTSC

Staff:

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director
Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner

Excused Absences:

Carlos Garza, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)
Saskia Lucas, Bike To Work (Alt)
Will Menchine, District 3 (Alt.)
Daniel Kostelec, City of Capitola, Chair
Lex Rau, City of Scotts Valley (alt)

Unexcused Absences:

None

Vacancies:

District 4 and 5 – Alternates
City of Watsonville – Member & Alternate

Guests:

Siobhan Saunders, Resident
Cheryl Schmitt, City of Santa Cruz
Jim Wasserman, Scotts Valley Resident
Leo Jed, Santa Cruz Resident
Christina Manriquez, CHP Captain

1. **Call to Order:** Vice-Chair Milburn welcomed everyone in the Chairs absence.
2. **Introductions:** Introductions were made.
3. **Oral Comments/Announcements:**
Cheryl Schmitt informed the Bicycle Committee that the City of Santa Cruz is applying for a Bicycle Friendly Community Award from the League of American Bicyclists. She is accepting emails from members with suggestions regarding areas to highlight and mentioned that Rick Hyman was taking the lead on the application.

Cory Caletti informed the Bicycle Committee that she is working with local jurisdictions to collect updated bikeway mileage for Santa Cruz County. The information is updated every year and used for the Traffic Monitoring Report, the Regional Transportation Plan, and by the Community Assessment Project as a quality of life indicator.

Cory Caletti went on to thank Bicycle Committee members for attending the social gathering. She informed members that she had posted all the bike facilities resources given to the Bicycle Committee by John Ciccarelli and that they can be found on the RTC's website. Finally, Cory informed members that the Safe Routes to School grant

application is coming up again and that Caltrans will release a call for projects at the end of August with applications due 12 weeks after that. Cheryl Schmitt mentioned that the City of Santa Cruz would be working with Gault Elementary School for a Safe Route to School program.

4. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Cory Caletti distributed an add-on page for Item 7 with additional historical information regarding the Mission Street Widening Project as provided to her by Rick Hyman.

5. Approved Consent Agenda (Milburn/Scott)

- 5.1 Accepted Highlights of June 7, 2007 and August 2, 2007 RTC Meetings
- 5.2 Approved Draft Minutes of the May 14, 2007 Meeting
- 5.3 Accepted Letter to Assembly Member Soto Regarding Support for AB 57
- 5.4 Accepted Bike Smart! Annual Report
- 5.5 Accepted Letter from Caltrans Regarding Bicycle Improvement to Highway 152
- 5.6 Accepted Correspondence Regarding Bicycle Improvements to Highway 9 in Felton
- 5.7 Accepted Bicycle Hazard Reports
- 5.8 Accepted August 2007 Roster
- 5.9 Approved Bikes Secure Applications Santa Cruz Bicycles, the City of Capitola and the Santa Cruz Women's Health Center
- 5.10 Accepted SCCRTC Rules and Regulations: Bicycle Committee Description

6. Featured Jurisdiction - CHP Presentation from Captain Christina Manriquez

Vice Chair Milburn welcomed Captain Christina Manriquez who spoke to Bicycle Committee members about CHP concerns regarding the safety of the cycling community and of motorists. In light of the recent fatality on Mission Street, several members voiced their concerns regarding safety issues, motorists and cyclists in right turning situations, infrastructural improvements, enforcement and interpretation of laws, citations for infractions, reports taken by the CHP when there are collisions, the interaction of the CHP and Caltrans with regard to road conditions, hazards for cyclists, areas of Santa Cruz where potential hazards exist, and equipment improvements on trucks. An example of the latter would be cameras installed on trucks that could give drivers a view beyond what they could see with their mirrors. Captain Manriquez' response to this last concern was that this was more a matter for the American Trucking Association and implementation might be costly.

Education for motorists and cyclists was discussed as a key component to resolving many of the existing problems faced on the road. Members asked Captain Manriquez about programs to educate officers about safe cycling practices and the roll of cyclists, motorists and enforcement personnel.

Members spoke about their perception that officers may not fully understand the vehicle code as it relates to bicycle travel. They asked if it was possible to have the League of American Bicyclists and the California Bicycle Coalition provide trainings for officers to which Captain Manriquez stated that some time during a training day with officers could be set aside for this purpose.

Captain Manriquez informed the Bicycle Committee about the status of a database the CHP was developing to track bicycling complaints which had been discussed at a

previous Bicycle Committee meeting. She indicated the database is now active but that there are some discrepancies and inaccuracies in number reporting and that she is working to have the as the program upgraded.

Captain Manriquez also told the members that information on all reported accidents is available through the CHP but that not all incidents turn into a report taken by the CHP.

7. Mission Street Bicycle Safety Improvements – Discussion

In light of the recent fatality of a bicyclist as a result of a collision with a truck on Mission Street, members discussed possible bicycle safety improvements to Mission Street and adjacent corridors. Members discussed increased bicycle traffic to UCSC and the need for UCSC to provide more access points to the campus, a recent proposal to turn King Street into a bicycle boulevard and other safety improvement possibilities such as reducing the speed limit on Mission Street, increased education efforts of both truck drivers and bicyclists, the installation of Shared Lane Pavement Markings on Mission Street,

Members agreed that while Mission Street was not a favorable route for bicyclists, it is still unavoidable at times due to the high number of commercial establishments located along the corridor.

Members asked Cheryl Schmitt about possible improvement which the City of Santa Cruz may be considering to the Mission Street corridor. Cheryl Schmitt indicated that since the City of Santa Cruz is currently rewriting their Bicycle Plan now is a good time to consider diverting bicyclists on to King Street, discouraging use of Mission Street, Shared Lane Pavement Markings, and other signage possibilities.

Theresa Rogerson said that the Community Traffic Safety Coalition recently met and that ideas were discussed about solutions to this issue. She said that Corine Hyland who staffs the Coalition is creating a short term and long term action plan and suggested that Cory Caletti, who also serves on the Coalition, forward that action plan to the Bicycle Committee when it's available. .

A motion was made (Ward/Fieberling) to petition the City of Santa Cruz, in light of the recent bicycle fatality, to investigate all alternatives to bicycle travel on Mission Street including options for safer travel on King Street. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Subcommittee Structure (cont from previous month) – Discuss Revising Appointment to Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Committee

Cory Caletti informed the Bicycle Committee that former member Bike to Work representative Piet Canin served on the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) Committee with Ben Vernazza as his alternate. Since Mr. Canin appointed Elaina Ramer to serve as the Bike to Work representative in his stead, a new appointment needs to be made to the MBSST Committee. Ben Vernazza expressed interest in serving as the primary representative to the Committee, and Bill Fieberling indicated interest in serving as his alternate. Cory Caletti indicated that formal action was required to forward the appointments to the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, the agency convening the Trail Committee. A motion to appoint Ben Vernazza as the representative

and Bill Fieberling as the alternate to the MBSST Committee was made (Akol/Moll) and passed unanimously.

9. **Legislative Subcommittee Report Discussion**

Cory Caletti began discussion on this item by stating that it was brought to her attention that the Bicycle Committee, as an advisory body to the Commission, shouldn't be writing direct letters in support of legislative bills but should instead be recommending action to the RTC. She referenced the Bicycle Committee description portion of the Rules and Regulations that she included in the Consent Agenda for this meeting and pointed out the Bicycle Committee's duties. She said that Andy Ward had written the legislative update under the same assumption which is to direct action from the committee rather than to make recommendations to the RTC.

Andy Ward informed the Bicycle Committee that he and Daniel Kostelec are members of the Legislative Sub-Committee created at the last Bicycle Committee meeting. He told members he and Daniel spent time perusing the various online resources for state legislation that directly impact cycling and are consistent with the Bicycle Committee's objectives. He said that they identified 4 bills which merit support: AB1358, the Complete Street Act of 2007, although recently amended, focuses attention to routine accommodation of bicyclists and pedestrians, and they urge the RTC to take action in support of the bill. Two other bills of interest to the committee are AB57, the Safe Routes to School bill, and AB4078, the Night Illumination bill. This last bill would expand the requirement for lamps and reflectors for shared use pathways and would give cyclists the option of having reflectors built into their shoes. This bill has already passed the Senate and Assembly and is currently before the governor. He recommends that the Bicycle Committee urge the RTC to send a letter of support to Governor Schwarzenegger. AB60 which the Bicycle Committee has already taken action on has been withdrawn for this legislative year by the author because of the significant opposition by the CHP and the divided opinion of the cycling community. AB1581 authored by Assemblymember Fuller mandates that all future traffic signals accommodate motor cycles and bicyclists to be able to detect the presence of motorcycles and bicycles. This bill has passed the Assembly and is on the Senate consent calendar. Andy said that he and Daniel recommend adoption of their report. A motion was made (Ward/Fieberling) to recommend to the RTC to send letters of support in favor of the legislative bills discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

To clarify the issue of letter writing Luis Mendez told the Bicycle Committee that in making recommendations to the RTC, if the RTC then agrees with those recommendations and supports the bills in question, at that point the Bicycle Committee can write letters in support or opposition of bills before the legislature.

An additional motion was made (Ward/Moll) to agendize a discussion regarding the roles and limitations of the Bicycle Committee and how those roles compare to other committees that have been formed by the RTC and to existing by-laws of other sister agencies.

Rich Hyman voiced concern over the way that the RTC's legislative program works. He said that based on history, the RTC formulates broad policy regarding legislation in January and then over the course of the year actual bills are presented. Rick then said

that he had emailed bicycle advocacy organizations to find out what the Bicycle Committee should support and was told by both organizations that they were not ready to ask for support at that early date and would not be ready until March or April. He also said that he knows bills change. He requested that the RTC's legislative program manager, Rachel Moriconi, attend a future meeting to discuss how the Bicycle Committee can better interact with the RTC regarding legislative recommendation and coordinate timing.

Cory Caletti said that she's asked Andy Ward, who's worked in the legislature, to give the Bicycle Committee a synopsis on how the process works, what the different steps are and what the general timing of the committees are. She suggested combining this presentation with a presentation from Rachel Moriconi regarding the RTC's legislative process.

A member asked if the letter writing guidelines pertain to local jurisdictions as well as state jurisdictions. Luis Mendez responded to the question citing item 5 of the Bicycle Committee objectives supplied in the current agenda packet and gave some examples based on history.

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

- 10.a City of Santa Cruz Project Tracking: Fieberling/Garza
Cheryl Schmitt reported that the City of Santa Cruz is in the process of converting 136 downtown bicycle lockers into smart card lockers.
- 10.b City of Capitola Project Tracking: Kostelec/Ward
Andy Ward said that the repaving and striping of Park Avenue has been completed.
- 10.c City of Scotts Valley Project Tracking: Milburn
Gary Milburn told members that the City of Scotts Valley is trying to gain right-of-way from Caltrans on Green Hills Road in order to install bicycle lanes but environmental issues regarding sensitive habitat is impacting progress. Majid Yamin, of the City of Scotts Valley, may ask the Bicycle Committee for support.
- 10.d City of Watsonville Project Tracking:
Rick Hyman suggested that the Bicycle Committee make Watsonville aware of the Safe Routes to School funding. Cory Caletti also reported that she is working on finding a Bicycle Committee member to represent the City of Watsonville.
- 10.e County of Santa Cruz Project Tracking: Akol
Kem Akol said that the County of Santa Cruz will be re-striping Portola Road but that he doesn't know the timing of that project.
- 10.f Bike To Work Update: Ramer
Elaina Ramer said that the next Bike to Work event will be held on October 4, 2007. She said that Bike to Work and the Santa Cruz Transportation Management Association (TMA) are interested in the community's recommendations for short and long term solutions for the problem of the Mission Street corridor. She indicated that the Bike to Work Director requested that letters be written to the Sentinel and City of Santa Cruz to implement bicycle safety solutions and encourage users of Mission Street to be safe and pay attention while traveling through the corridor. Cory Caletti updated members on the transition of the TMA organization into Ecology Action's Transportation Division and alerted them to the

- agency name change.
- 10.g CTSC Update: Langley
Jim Langley said that the bike traffic school will be up and running in the fall. Ideas for venues where classes will be held are the DMV, the downtown library and Loudon Nelson Community Center. He also said that Theresia Rogerson has been distributing and fitting bike helmets at Landmark Elementary School in conjunction with the rodeos that Bike Smart! conducts. Helmets were also distributed at a bicycle rodeo in Watsonville that was coordinated by the Watsonville police department. Theresia Rogerson also mentioned that the data from the bicycle survey has been entered into a database. She said that once all the information has been compiled she would bring a report to the Bicycle Committee.
- 10.h UCSC: Scott
Peter Scott said that he had met with Larry Pageler and Cathy Crowe from UCSC two months ago and that UCSC is still working on producing a Bicycle Plan for the campus that will come to the Bicycle Committee within the next few months. Cory Caletti said that the UCSC Bike Plan for UCSC is under the same time-line pressure as the City of Santa Cruz because the UCSC Bike Plan has to either be incorporated within the City of Santa Cruz Plan or attached as a supplementary document to the City's Plan. The Bicycle Committee recommended agendizing the UCSC Bike Plan when it becomes available.
- 10.i Rail Acquisition: Moll
Leo Moll deferred to Luis Mendez, RTC Staff, who indicated that there was nothing to report regarding the rail acquisition.
- 10.j Legislative Tracking: Ward/Kostelec
This item was discussed previously under item 9.
- 10.k Sanctuary Scenic Trail: Vernazza (Fieberling interested)
There is nothing to report at this time.
- 10.l Transportation Funding Task Force: Casterson
David Casterson said that the Transportation Funding Task Force is taking a break during the summer months and that a poll will be conducted soon to assess potential voters' interest in a variety of transportation projects and taxation mechanisms.
- 10.m Committee Effectiveness: Milburn/Kostelec/Casterson/Menchine/Akol
There is nothing to report at this time.
- 10.n Technical Subcommittee: Menchine/Ramer?
There is nothing to report at this time.
- 10.o Media Monitor: Akol
There is nothing to report at this time.

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Minutes respectfully prepared and submitted by:

Cathy Judd, Administrative Assistant & Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner

\\Rtcserv1\shared\Bike\Committee\BC2007\BCSept07\BCMinutesAug07.doc