



Draft

BICYCLE COMMITTEE MINUTES – December 10, 2007

Members Present:

Daniel Kostelec, City of Capitola, Chair
Leo Moll, District 2
David Casterson, District 2 (Alt.)
William Menchine, District 3 (Alt.)
Jim Langley, CTSC
Rick Hyman, District 5
Kem Akol, District 1
Gary Milburn, City of Scotts Valley
Andy Ward, City of Capitola (Alt)
Theresa Rogerson, CTSC (Alt)
Bill Fieberling, City of Santa Cruz
Elaina Ramer, Bike to Work

Staff:

Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner
Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation
Planner

Excused Absences:

Carlos Garza, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)
Saskia Lucas, Bike To Work (Alt)
Peter Scott, District 3
Michael Lewis, District 1 (Alt.)

Unexcused Absences:

Vacancies:

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

Guests:

Micah Posner, People Power
Cheryl Schmitt, City of Santa Cruz
Mary Lawrence, Community Traffic Safety
Coalition
Leo Jed, Citizen

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Kostelec welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Introductions:** Introductions were made.

3. **Oral Comments/Announcements:**

Micah Posner announced that People Power will be hosting David Gridley of Berkeley Labs Bio-Fuel division as a guest speaker for a “Local Solutions to Global Problems” presentation on January 24, 2008 at the Loudon Nelson Center.

Theresa Rogerson announced that the City of Santa Cruz will be having a ceremony to celebrate the silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community Award it received from the League of American Bicyclists. The ceremony will be held on January 22, 2008, 6:00 pm at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium ABC Room and at 7:20pm before the City Council.

Gary Milburn informed members that the gate at Kennan Street is now operating on an automated timing system allowing access between the San Lorenzo River and Ocean Street from sunrise to sunset each day.

Cory Caletti informed members that Caltrans District 5 has assigned a Bicycle Coordinator to the region and he will attend the January 2008 meeting. Ms. Caletti also asked the Committee for their interest in moving their January 14, 2008 meeting to January 7, 2008 to receive a presentation on Highway 1 HOV Lanes project and the

possibility of a feasibility analysis for a bicycle/pedestrian pathway adjacent to the highway as part of the project. Members agreed to change the meeting date to accommodate the presentation.

4. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Cory Caletti said that Item #9 will be postponed to the January 2008 Bicycle Committee meeting.

5. Approved Consent Agenda (Akol/Fieberling)

5.1 Accepted Highlights of December 6, 2007 RTC Meeting

5.2 Accepted Minutes of the October 15 and November 12, 2007 Bicycle Committee Meetings

5.3 Accept Correspondence Regarding Highway 9 (including Bicycle Hazard Reports and Pedestrian Access Reports) – moved to the regular agenda.

5.4 Accept Santa Cruz Bikes Listserv Communications Regarding Recommendation to Include Pedestrian Issues into the Bicycle Committees Objective and Name – moved to the regular agenda

5.5 Accepted Bicycle Hazard Reports

5.6 Accepted November 2007 Roster

REGULAR AGENDA

5.3 Accept Correspondence Regarding Highway 9 (including Bicycle Hazard Reports and Pedestrian Access Reports)

Rick Hyman urged members to read the item carefully and requested that it be postponed to a future meeting at which time the Committee can receive a presentation on the topic. A motion was made (Hyman/Akol) to continue this item to the January 2008 Bicycle Committee meeting so that members can receive a presentation from Bill LeBon, the author of the correspondence item. The motion passes unanimously.

5.4 Accept Santa Cruz Bikes Listserv Communications Regarding Recommendation to Include Pedestrian Issues into the Bicycle Committee Objectives and Name

Kem Akol asked why there is a restriction on including items posted on the Santa Cruz Bikes email list in the Bicycle Committee packet. Cory Caletti explained that the list has limitations of which she was unaware. Permission to reprint items previously provided to the Committee was not obtained from the authors and one of the authors requested that his emails be withdrawn from the packet. A discussion followed regarding the possibility of Brown Act violations should a number of members participate in discussion topics through the list. A motion was made (Akol/Milburn) to accept this item. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Transportation Development Act (TDA) Allocation Request from the City of Santa Cruz – Presentation from City of Santa Cruz Staff

Cheryl Schmitt presented the City of Santa Cruz TDA request. She stated that some of the bike lane restriping will be done using Measure H funds making more TDA funds available for minor bikeway improvements.

Ms. Schmitt asked for input on locations needing minor improvements. Committee members provided the following recommendations:

- Repair potholes on Laurent Street between King Street and Escalona
- Provide curb cut at the end of the pathway leading to the Branciforte Library, south of Gault Street
- Provide curb cut to the right of Meder Street, off Bay Avenue
- Repair the trestle bridge walkway
- Repair the drainage problem on Beach Street at Leibrant
- Repair road surface (potholes and longitudinal cracks) on King Street

A motion was made (Akol/Fieberling) to approve the City of Santa Cruz TDA claim. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Discuss 2007 Bicycle Observation Survey and 2006 SWITRS Bicycle Collision Data – Presentation from Theresia Rogerson, Community Traffic Safety Coalition

Theresia Rogerson presented the Bicycle Committee with the results of the 2007 Bicycle Observation Survey and the SWITRS data for 2006. In May and June of 2007, 22 staff and volunteers obtain data for the Bicycle Observation Study. Theresia thanked the members of the Bicycle Committee who volunteered their time and discussed specific findings. Based on the survey findings, measures should be implemented to increase helmet use among children and bicyclists in Watsonville, and to ensure that teens obey stop signs and traffic lights.

Ms. Rogerson provided information on projects currently underway including the Bicycle Traffic School recently launched by the Community Traffic Safety Coalition, the Ride'n Stride Program which conducted bicycle safety presentations for approximately 4,000 students throughout the county. Through an Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grant, Ecology Action conducted approximately 100 bicycle safety presentations and HSA staff fit and distributed 1,000 bicycle helmets. A new Office of Traffic Safety grant for FY 2007/08 and 08/09 and a new Safe Routes to School program will help to improve bicycle safety.

Ms. Rogerson said that the SWITRS bicyclist injury/fatality rate is based on incidents per 100,000 population. The figure does not account for the number of bicyclists. Cory Caletti is investigating the possibility of including bicycle ridership counts in the RTC's regular traffic count program.

Members asked about the bicycle traffic school, for more specific data pertaining to commuter versus recreational cyclists over the past four years, broader questions pertaining to the survey and collision data, and for the timing of the next survey.

8. Draft 2008 State and Federal Legislative Agenda, 2007 Update and Overview of the Legislative Process – Presentation from Rachel Moriconi, SCCRTC Senior Transportation Planner

Andy Ward presented the report on behalf of the Legislative Subcommittee. Mr. Ward reviewed bills supported by the Bicycle Committee in 2007. Mr. Ward reviewed the draft 2008 legislative agenda, and communicated that the Legislative Subcommittee recommends that the Bicycle Committee:

- Support new transportation funds for road rehabilitation and maintenance;
- Recommend language urging the Commission to consider the needs of the cycling community in allocating funds;
- Recommend that all locally approved sales taxes qualify as local matching transportation funds;
- Recommend that bicycle commuters also qualify for federal and state commuter tax incentives;
- Support efforts to seek funding for road improvement, education and awareness;
- Support efforts to seek author(s) for state legislation for a California Share the Road license plate with proceeds dedicated to bicycling-related issues and to prohibiting parking in bicycle lanes; and
- Pursue efforts to ensure safe alternatives to the Mission Street corridor for bicycling.

A motion was made (Fieberling/Milburn) to approve the Bicycle Committee legislative sub-committee's recommendations, with the exception of support for the agenda as a whole. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Proposal to the Seniors Commission Regarding Establishing an Ordinance Prohibiting Bicycle Riding on Sidewalks - Postponed to a future meeting.

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

a) City of Santa Cruz Project Tracking: Fieberling

Cheryl Schmitt indicated that the City of Santa Cruz submitted Bicycle Transportation Account applications to Caltrans for 1) a switch-back ramp to connect the San Lorenzo River trestle to the levee path, 2) bike/pedestrian spurs from the levee path to the proposed San Lorenzo River bridge parallel to Highway 1 and 3) on behalf of UCSC, bike lanes on Heller Drive on the UCSC campus. Cheryl also submitted Safe Routes to Schools applications for improvements near Gault and Westlake Elementary Schools. After some discussion about the projects and about the value of bike lanes on Heller Drive, a road with a 10%+ gradient, there was a motion (Fieberling/Milburn) to write a letter of support for the City's application for the switch-back ramp and for the bike/pedestrian spurs project if Caltrans is still accepting letters of support. The motion passed with Rick Hyman abstaining.

Members also discussed the San Lorenzo River Bridge project which is scheduled to go before the City of Santa Cruz Council the following day. The current project design features a pre-fabricated bridge that would allow the project to be built within budget. The original design is now \$2 million over budget. A motion was made (Hyman/Fieberling) to send a letter to the City of Santa Cruz Council urging their support of the new proposal and to ask that the project be built within the allocated budget. The motion passed unanimously.

- b) City of Capitola Project Tracking: Kostelec - Chair Kostelec informed the Bicycle Committee that the City of Capitola re-submitted their BTA grant application for video detection at all signalized intersections.
- c) City of Scotts Valley Project Tracking: Milburn - Nothing to report at this time
- d) City of Watsonville Project Tracking - No report at this time. Cory Caletti stated that a new member, Rebecca Fotu, will be appointed by Commissioner Antonio Rivas to represent the City of Watsonville soon.

- e) County of Santa Cruz Project Tracking: Akol
Kem Akol said that 30th Avenue between Portola and Capitola Roads is under construction and has been shut down until spring 2008. On December 13th, the Coastal Commission will consider a proposal from the County Redevelopment Agency regarding improvements to the bike path and sea wall restoration between 37th Street and 41st Avenue. A motion was made (Akol/Moll) to write a letter to the County Redevelopment Agency in support of the proposal. The motion passed with Rick Hyman abstaining.
- f) Bike to Work Update: Ramer - Nothing to report at this time.
- g) CTSC Update: Discussed earlier.
- h) UCSC: Will Menchine circulated a report by Peter Scott regarding a lack of safe bicycle parking facilities on campus. Mr. Scott is working with the Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) staff and would like to propose a policy to Chancellor Blumenthal to allow bicycles inside buildings or to provide lockers outside. Mr. Scott is researching bicycle theft data to justify his proposal. A motion was made (Menchine/Langley) to support Peter Scott's proposal and to encourage the UCSC officials to hire or designate a campus bicycle coordinator. The motion passed unanimously.
- i) Rail Acquisition: Moll – Leo Moll reported that the acquisition efforts were still underway but did not have additional information. Cory Caletti will arrange for a presentation from Luis Mendez, Deputy Director and Rail Acquisition Project Manager.
- j) Legislative Tracking: Kostelec – Discussed earlier in the meeting.
- k) Sanctuary Scenic Trail: Vernazza – Nothing to report at this time.
- l) Transportation Funding Task Force: Casterson
David Casterson asked for clarification regarding the sales tax measure figures currently being deliberated by the Commission. Cory Caletti supplied the Bicycle Committee with the breakdown of the proposed figures.
- m) Committee Effectiveness: Casterson – Members discussed the benefits of the Open House held by the RTC. A motion was made (Hyman/Fieberling) to write a letter of thanks to the Commission.
- n) Technical Subcommittee: Menchine – Nothing to report at this time.
- o) Media Monitor: Akol – Nothing to report at this time.

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Minutes respectfully prepared and submitted by:

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

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