



Draft

BICYCLE COMMITTEE MINUTES – August 11, 2008

Members Present:

Daniel Kostelec, City of Capitola, Chair
Leo Moll, District 2
David Casterson, District 2 (Alt.)
Peter Scott, District 3
Rick Hyman, District 5
Elaina Ramer, Bike To Work, Vice Chair
Jim Langley, CTSC
William Menchine, District 3 (Alt.)
Gary Milburn, City of Scotts Valley
Kem Akol, District 1

Staff:

Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner

Excused Absences:

Carlos Garza, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)
Saskia Lucas, Bike To Work (Alt.)
Ben Vernazza, District 4
Michael Lewis, District 1 (Alt.)
Penni Bengtson, District 5 (Alt.)
Bob Montague, City of Watsonville (Alt.)
Casey O'Brien, City of Watsonville
Andy Ward, City of Capitola (Alt.)
Theresa Rogerson, CTSC (Alt.)

Unexcused Absences:

Bill Fieberling, City of Santa Cruz

Vacancies:

District 4 – Alternate
City of Scotts Valley – Alternate

Guests:

Leo Jed, Citizen & CABO District 5
Micah Posner, People Power
Piet Canin, Ecology Action

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Kostelec welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Introductions:** Introductions were made.
3. **Oral Comments/Announcements**
Jim Langley announced that restriping after a chip seal effort on NB Highway 1 resulted in the shoulder width being reduced and asked that the matter be discussed further under County Project Tracking. Cory Caletti announced that the nominations of Committee applicants Penni Bengtson, Bob Montague and Casey O'Brien were approved by the RTC at the August meeting. She also identified an error on the roster page, announced that the City of Santa Cruz and UCSC draft Bicycle Plans would come before the Committee at the September meeting, reminded members that the October meeting is scheduled for the third Monday of the month in Capitola (due to the Columbus Day Holiday), and that Bicycle Committee minutes would be abbreviated from now on due to staffing shortages.
4. **Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**

Cory Caletti distributed Highlights of the August 7, 2008 RTC meeting and an email she received from Leo Jed regarding legislative news.
5. **Approved Consent Agenda** (Milburn/Langley)

- 5.1 Approved May 12, 2008 Bicycle Committee meeting minutes
- 5.2 Accepted highlights from the June 5, 2008 RTC meeting
- 5.3 Accepted press release regarding acquisition of the Santa Cruz branch rail line from the August 7, 2008 RTC meeting
- 5.4 Accepted highlights from the August 7, 2008 RTC meeting (distributed at the meeting)
- 5.5 Accepted correspondence from the Bicycle Committee to the City of Santa Cruz regarding Mission Street bicycle safety signage
- 5.6 Accepted correspondence from Lex Rau regarding his resignation from the Bicycle Committee
- 5.7 Accepted correspondence from the RTC Executive Director to Assembly Member DeSaulnier regarding AB 2971
- 5.8 Accepted Community Traffic Safety Coalition and Bicycle Committee correspondence to Caltrans regarding bicycle crossing signs on Highway 1
- 5.9 Accepted Bicycle Hazard Reports
- 5.10 Accepted Roster
- 5.11 Approved Bikes Secure Applications from Karen Roitz, DC (Seabright Spine and Sport), City of Watsonville, and the City of Capitola

6. Mission Street Bicycle Safety Task Force – Update and Oral Presentation from Piet Canin, Ecology Action

Ecology Action Transportation Director Piet Canin provided members with an update on activities of the Mission Street Task Force. The Task Force was convened by Assembly member John Laird and City of Santa Cruz Mayor Ryan Coonerty after a second bicycle fatality on Mission Street at Bay. Many organizations are represented, including the RTC, and are working together on various aspects of improvements for bicyclists traveling on Mission Street. Some efforts under way include installing “bikes in lane” signs on Mission Street advising cyclists and motorists that bicyclists may take the full travel lane when necessary, considering the benefits and drawbacks of legalizing riding on Mission Street sidewalks, improving and signing King Street and other alternate adjacent bicycle routes, developing and distributing safety information geared towards commercial drivers on sharing the road with bicyclists, and developing and distributing information to bicyclists on ways to ride safely and predictably. Members discussed specific aspects of some of the efforts identified and all commended Piet Canin for spearheading various activities.

7. Tour of California – Oral Presentation from Piet Canin, Ecology Action and Member of the Local Organizing Committee

Piet Canin provided an update on the Tour of California professional multi-stage bicycle road race that will bring a stage finish to the City of Santa Cruz on Monday, February 16th, 2009. Planning activities have begun and involve arranging race logistics and organizing an elaborate expo area that will feature community bicycle organizations, health related programs and other local organizations. Volunteers are being recruited to organize the expo, community rides and other activities. The Bicycle Committee, along with Bike to Work, the Community Traffic Safety Coalition, will have the opportunity to provide bicycle education resources to the public while showcasing its activities and committee membership openings. Members asked to be kept abreast of the planning progress and opportunities to participate in event logistics. A motion was made (Akol/Langley) to write a letter to the City of Santa Cruz conveying the Bicycle Committee's endorsement and support. The motion passed unanimously.

8. City of Santa Cruz King Street Bikeway Concept Report – Receive written report and consider request for letter of support from People Power; receive correspondence from members of the public

Committee staff Cory Caletti informed members that the Bicycle Committee received a copy of the City of Santa Cruz King Street Bikeway Concept Report but that City staff was not available to present a summary of the report. Members also received correspondence from members of the public regarding one of two bicycle improvement plans for King Street as well as a request for a similar letter of support from People Power. Micah Posner, People Power Director, spoke to the letter of support he is requesting and explained that the goal of the project from his perspective is to draw cyclists away from Mission Street and to encourage increased use of bicycling as transportation. A motion was made (Milburn/Ramer) to write a letter to the City of Santa Cruz to encourage the City to proceed swiftly in providing improved bicycle facilities on King Street and enhancing the safety and number of cyclists along the corridor. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Reaching the Next Level of Bicycle Friendliness – Oral Presentation from Rick Hyman

Committee member Rick Hyman discussed the League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly Community program and reminded members that the City of Santa Cruz recently received a silver level designation. He explained that the bicycle friendly award provided the City of Santa Cruz an opportunity to survey its bicycle programs and to identify additional programs to be expanded county-wide with the goal of making bicycling a regular part of the community's fabric. Members discussed different programs they'd like to see in Santa Cruz County or that they'd like to work on developing locally. This item will be discussed further at future meetings.

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

a. City of Santa Cruz Project Tracking: Fieberling/Hyman

Rick Hyman mentioned that City of Santa Cruz staff has been working on updating the City's Bicycle Plan which will be reviewed by the Committee in September. Member Peter Scott mentioned that he was pleased to see the San Lorenzo river trestle by the Boardwalk repaired. A motion was made (Scott/Milburn) to write a letter of appreciation to the City of Santa Cruz public works staff and maintenance crew. The motion passed unanimously.

b. City of Capitola Project Tracking: Kostelec/Ward

Daniel Kostelec reported that the City of Capitola's restriping contract was recently put in place and that faded lane lines and Shared Lane Pavement Markings would be striped within the next 6 weeks.

c. City of Scotts Valley Project Tracking: Milburn

No report was provided.

d. City of Watsonville Project Tracking:

No report was provided.

e. County of Santa Cruz Project Tracking: Casterson

Kem Akol provided updates regarding upcoming bicycle facility improvements on 30th Ave and redevelopment efforts at Twin Lakes beach. Daniel Kostelec mentioned that the "bicycles OK" sign that the Committee requested at the entrance to 9th Avenue (at East Cliff) has been installed. A motion was made (Kostelec/Scott) to write a letter of appreciation to the County Redevelopment Agency. The motion passed unanimously.

David Casterson informed members that he's been requesting bicycle parking for the Rio del Mar State Beach parking lot.

Jim Langley addressed the reduced shoulder width on NB Highway 1 by Dimeo Lane as a result

of a chip seal project. He indicated that the pinch point creates unsafe conditions for bicyclists. Members requested that staff investigate the issue with Caltrans and bring back a report to the September meeting.

f. Bike To Work Update: Ramer

Elaina Ramer and Piet Canin announced that the fall Bike to Work Day event will be held on October 2nd and planning and organization activities are underway.

g. CTSC Update: Langley

Jim Langley provided an update on the Ride and Stride and Bicycle Traffic School programs. Both programs are active and meeting their goals.

h. UCSC: Scott

No report was provided.

i. Rail Acquisition: Moll

Members were pleased to read about rail acquisition efforts reaching another milestone. A motion was made (Ramer/Scott) to write a letter of appreciation to the RTC and urge Commissioners to allocate all necessary staff time to bring about completion of the acquisition. The motion passed unanimously.

j. Legislative Tracking: Ward

Leo Jed addressed a couple pieces of legislation that the Bicycle Committee would be interested in and indicated that the RTC received a matrix of bills and positions they've taken or that RTC advisory committees recommended at their August meeting. He encouraged members to read that report.

k. Sanctuary Scenic Trail: Vernazza/Fieberling

Cory Caletti indicated that the RTC approved release of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Master Plan and Environmental Review. The Trail Network project consolidates the previous Rail Trail, Coastal Trail and other trail projects into the one umbrella effort for streamlined planning and administration. The Master Planning process is expected to take one to two years.

l. Committee Effectiveness: Milburn/Kostelec/Casterson/Menchine/Akol

No report was provided.

m. Technical Subcommittee: Menchine/Ramer

No report was provided.

n. Media Monitor: Akol

No report was provided.

o. RTC Packet Monitoring Subcommittee: Hyman

No report was provided.

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

Minutes respectfully prepared and submitted by:

Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner