



**Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission's**

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**MEETING
MINUTES**

**Monday, February 10, 2025
5:30 pm to 8:00 pm**

This meeting was held in person at the RTC Offices, 1101 Pacific Ave, Suite 250, Santa Cruz.
Remote participation was via Zoom and followed AB 2449 requirements.

1. Call to Order: Chair Anna Kammer called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

2. Introductions

Members Present, in Person:

Scott Roseman, District 1
Aaron Robinson, District 2
Sally Arnold, District 3
Anna Kammer, District 4 (Chair)
Rick Hyman, District 5
Theresia Rogerson, Dist. 5 (Alt.)
Paula Bradley, City of Capitola
Matt Farrell, City of Santa Cruz
Gina Cole, City of Watsonville (Vice Chair)
Matt Miller, Ecology Action
Kelly Curlett, CTSC (Alt.)

**Members Remote, Voting under Just
Cause or Emergency:** None

Staff:

Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner
Max Friedman, Transportation Planner
Grace Blakeslee, Sr. Transportation Planner

Members Remote, Not Voting:

Steven Jonsson, District 4 (Alt.)
Leo Jed, CTSC

Unexcused Absences: None

Excused Absences:

Corrina McFarlane, District 1 (Alt.)
John Hunt, District 2 (Alt.)
Jae Riddle, City of Santa Cruz (Alt.)
Drew Rogers, City of Watsonville (Alt.)
Jennifer Villegas Moreno, Ecology Action
(Alt.)

Vacancies:

District 3 - Alternate
City Capitola - Alternate
City of Scotts Valley - Primary
City of Scotts Valley - Alternate

Guests:

Rob Tidmore, County of Santa Cruz
Jim Helmer, Member of the public
Steven Leib, Member of the public

3. Considered any AB 2449 requests by voting members to participate remotely: None.

4. Staff announcements

Staff announced that the RTC approved a \$50 per meeting stipend for volunteers serving on the Bicycle Advisory Committee and other RTC advisory committees.

Staff announced that there will be a general update on the Rail Trail presented at Watsonville City Council on February 11th.

5. Oral communications

Scott Roseman commented about mountain biker safety on Smith Grade.

Jim Helmer commented about bicycling safety on Highway 9. Steven Leib expressed similar concerns around safety and bike lanes on Highway 9.

6. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas: Item 13-Presentation on Netherlands Cycling Trip, was tabled to a future meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

7. Approved draft minutes of the December 9, 2024, Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting

8. Received Summary of Hazard Reports

9. Recommended to the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) the nomination of new committee appointment

10. Letter to the County of Santa Cruz from Bicycle Advisory Committee on Bicycle Safety in Construction Zones

A Committee member commented that in the past the Committee helped collaborate on the development of the Community Traffic Safety Coalition’s construction guidelines for bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Gina Cole left after item 10.

A motion was made (Farrell/Roseman) to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Roseman, Robinson, Arnold, Kammer, Hyman, Bradley, Farrell, Cole, Miller, Curlett voting in favor.

REGULAR AGENDA

11. Reviewed and provided input on Coastal Rail Trail Segment 10 Park Avenue Alignment - Grace Blakeslee, RTC and Rob Tidmore, County of Santa Cruz

Rob Tidmore (County of Santa Cruz) and Grace Blakeslee (RTC) presented on the Coastal Rail Trail Segment 10 alignment and sought feedback and approval on two alignment options: A and B. The project team explained that Option B preserves critical windbreak eucalyptus trees, reduces cost, provides better connectivity, is consistent with Capitola traffic calming, preserves the rail corridor and monarch wintering grove, and provides a wider buffer between vehicles and trail users. The Project Team recommends Option B. Committee members inquired about buffer protection and questioned if width variation would cause bottlenecking.

Concerns were raised by Johanna Lighthill of the public about safety and design standards.

Some Committee members suggested halting planning for this portion of trail that is now proposed adjacent to, rather than within the rail corridor right-of-way and prioritizing other areas of the trail.

Matt Farrell made a motion to support option B. Sally Arnold offered an amendment to recommend a fence or vegetation be added to the buffer. This amended motion was seconded by Aaron Robinson. **The motion to support option B and recommend a fence or vegetation be added to the buffer passed (7-2) with Robinson, Arnold, Kammer, Bradley, Farrell, Miller, and Curlett voting in favor and Roseman and Hyman voting in opposition.**

12. Reviewed and provided input on Caltrans bicycle pullouts on Highway 9 – Paul Guirguis, Caltrans District 5

Paul Guirguis (Caltrans District 5) provided an update on Caltrans' consideration of bicycle pullouts and turnouts on Highway 9 north of Boulder Creek, stating that the concept has not yet been accepted, and internal discussions are ongoing at Caltrans. Committee members requested data on the size of cyclist groups using Highway 9 and the potential benefits and burdens of vehicle restrictions at passing locations were discussed. The design and layout of the proposed areas were questioned, and committee members were asked to identify any missed considerations for the project team.

Committee members discussed their familiarity with bicyclist needs in this area, and some suggested that Strava heat maps or Strava Metro could be used to verify usage and get cyclist counts for specific segments. Committee members expressed concern about the wording of signage and the potential for drivers to use the pullouts and asked if Paul Guirguis could amalgamate feedback and present it back to the committee.

13. Presentation on Netherlands Cycling Trip - Matt Miller, Ecology Action
This item was moved to the next meeting in March due to time constraints.

14. Updates related to committee functions – Committee members

Draft ZEPRT alignments subcommittee letter re. ZEPRT Milestone 3: **A vote to submit the letter was moved by Rick Hyman, seconded by Matt Farrell, and passed unanimously with Roseman, Robinson, Arnold, Kammer, Hyman, Bradley, Farrell, Miller, Curlett voting in favor.**

Highway 9 subcommittee:

Discussion covered 4 segments of upcoming Caltrans projects between Santa Cruz and Felton that were presented at a public meeting. A subcommittee was suggested to review plans and recommend alignment with the Hwy 9/SLV Plan and past Committee comments about Highway 9. Matt Miller, Theresia Rogerson, and Rick Hyman were appointed to an ad-hoc subcommittee.

15. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next Bicycle Committee meeting is a special meeting scheduled for March 17, 2025, from 5:30pm to 8:00pm at the RTC offices. Members of the public and non-voting committee alternates may join remotely.

Minutes respectfully prepared and submitted by:
Max Friedman, Transportation Planner

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