

Sonoma County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Meeting Announcement

Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2014
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Place: Sonoma County Permit & Resource
Management Department
2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa
Staff: Steven Schmitz
Phone: (707) 585-7516
E-mail: steven@sctransit.com



Agenda:

- I. Introductions & Public Comments*** (10 Minutes)
- II. Approval of Agenda & Minutes**
- III. Staff Reports** (15 Minutes)
 - Updates on Various Development Project Referral Comments.
 - Report on Proposed Dutch Bill Creek Alignment in Monte Rio Area.
 - Proposed Legislation Regarding Electric Bicycles & Skateboards.
 - Status of Update to SCTA's Countywide Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan.
 - Feedback to Public Works on Bridge Railing Height Standards.
- IV. General Meeting:**
 - A. Presentation on Safe Routes to Schools Evaluation Reports by Sonoma County Health Services Department. (15 Minutes)
 - B. Review and Approve TDA Article 3 Three-Year Funding Plan. (45 Minutes)
- V. Other Business & Announcements** (5 Minutes)
- VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment**

Next meeting of the Sonoma County BPAC is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, 2014.

*Public Comment on Issues Not on the Agenda. Please limit comments to 3 minutes each. The Committee will hear public comments on non-agenda issues within the Committee's scope of authority. The Committee will hear public comments on non-agenda issues for up to 10 minutes, at which time they will hear scheduled agenda items. Any additional public comments will be heard at the conclusion of the items that are already on the agenda.

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Members in Attendance		Other Participants	
Chris Woodcock	1 st District	Jeff Crouch	3 rd District Resident
Joe Morgan	2 nd District	Ken Tam	Regional Parks
Erick Ratliff	2 nd District (alt.)	Amy Lyle	PRMD
Vin Hoagland	3 rd District	Jason Nutt	Trans. & Public Works
Bill Harrison	4 th District (alt.)	Steven Schmitz	SCBPAC Staff
Tim Gonzalez	5 th District		

Meeting Summary

I. Introductions and Public Comments

Self-introductions were made. The committee welcomed Jeff Crouch to the meeting who is interested in being appointed as the 3rd District alternate member on the committee. The committee also welcomed Jason Nutt, Deputy Director of the County Transportation and Public Works Department, to the meeting.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda for the January 15, 2014 meeting was approved as presented. The minutes from the November 20, 2013 meeting were approved as presented.

III. Staff Reports

Mitigation Measures for Proposed Mark West Quarry Expansion Project. Staff summarized the mitigation measures that were agreed upon by the Transportation and Public Works Department and the Permit and Resource Management Department, and subsequently approved for the proposed Mark West Quarry expansion project. The approved mitigation measures included striping and signing for Class II bicycle lanes along portions of Mark West Springs Road and Porter Creek Road. Mitigation measures also included installing bicycle-activated flashing beacons and pullouts at several locations where roadway shoulders cannot be provided, and sweeping and vegetation management. In addition, the mitigation measures included the requirement of a truck driver education program related to bicycle safety.

Jason Nutt pointed out that several of the mitigation measures require only a fair share of the cost of shoulder widening and installation of Class II bicycle lanes from the applicant. The applicant has until the end of calendar year 2016 to make all the other improvements that are not related to a fair-share contribution. The County has 10 years to identify funding for its share of several of the widening and Class I bicycle lane improvements. Staff asked if condition U 27 related to a fair-share contribution by the applicant to widen a segment of Mark West Springs Road includes Class II bicycle lane signs and striping. Jason responded that the County would be responsible for the Class II bicycle lanes under condition U 27.

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Planning Grants for Sonoma Springs and Airport Employment Center. Amy Lyle announced that the Permit and Resource Management Department was recently awarded Priority Development Area planning funds through the Sonoma County Transportation Authority. One of the federal grants will be used to update the 1984 Airport Industrial Area Specific Plan into a transit-oriented employment center with the new SMART rail station as the central component. The other federal grant will be used for the development of a Sonoma Springs Area Plan with a focus on revitalizing the area into a pedestrian and transit oriented mixed-use corridor. Both plans will also include the preparation of programmatic Environmental Impact Reports to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the plans. Work on the plans is due to begin during spring of this year and will be completed by 2016.

Central Sonoma Valley Trail & Sonoma-Springs Mixed-Use Project. Ken Tam reported that another mixed-use project is being proposed in the Sonoma-Springs area along Hwy. 12 between Depot Road and the Sonoma Charter School. Ken said that the proposed plans for the Central Sonoma Valley Trail through the project site are much better than the previous version, but still requires mid-block crossings at Rancho Drive and Depot Road. Regional Parks already has other funding available to extend the pathway south from Depot Road adjacent to Flowery School and connecting to Larson Park. Chris Woodcock asked if the developer would be providing any traffic calming measures at the mid-block crossings at Rancho Drive and Depot Road. Ken said that he would research the feasibility of such measures with input from the Transportation and Public Works Department.

Proposed Redwood Gospel Mission Project at Joe Rodota Trail. Ken Tam reported that the Redwood Gospel Mission will be proposing a homeless shelter located along the Joe Rodota Trail between Dutton Avenue and the SMART railroad right-of-way. While the project has not yet been released for comments through the City of Santa Rosa, Regional Parks is concerned about the potential for excessive litter and debris on the trail due to the nearby shelter. There has also been an ongoing issue of homeless persons blocking the trail in this area of Santa Rosa.

Additional Staff Reports. Staff said that a memorandum was prepared on behalf of the committee to Regional Parks regarding the proposed North Wright Road gas station project at the Joe Rodota Trail in Santa Rosa. The memorandum requests that Regional Parks work with the developer and the City of Santa Rosa to complete an additional traffic analysis, which is needed to determine the potential impacts the project would have on bicyclists and pedestrians. The memorandum also requests that the additional traffic analysis include recommendations to address the impacts to the future mid-block crossing of North Wright Road for the Joe Rodota Trail.

Ken Tam reported that there is also a retail project being proposed at the northwest corner of the intersection of Hwy. 116 and Occidental Road behind an existing gas station. Staff said that comments are in the process of being prepared on behalf of the committee that will request a possible right-in-right out configuration into the retail project via Hwy. 116, the installation of Class II bicycle lanes along the project frontage on Occidental Road, and the

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installation of a pedestrian crosswalk across Hwy. 116 on the south side of Occidental Road. Ken also mentioned that Regional Parks will be proposing an amendment to the 2010 Sonoma County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to include a new Class I pathway along Occidental Road providing a connection between the two existing segments of the West County Trail at Hwy. 116 and Atascadero Creek.

Joe Morgan asked staff if another version of the Transportation and Public Works Department's Capital Projects Plan (CPP) for Roads would be distributed sometime soon. In the past, the committee has reviewed the Roads CPP and provided comments on various projects. Jason Nutt responded that a new CPP should be ready for the committee's review by the end of February, but with limited funding the priorities this year will be primarily agricultural and tourism roads. Jason said that, moving forward, the Transportation and Public Works Department would be striping and signing for Class II bicycle lanes in conjunction with their road projects whenever possible.

IV. General Meeting

A. Review the Committee's Current Development Referral Comment Process and Discuss the Need for Any Modifications. Staff provided the committee with following information on the County's development referral comment process.

The Project Review Division of the County's Resource Management Department (PRMD) reviews new development proposals for conformance with the County's General Plan, Zoning Code Regulations, design guidelines and other code requirements, to determine the site's suitability and that the development will be compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. Staff evaluates applications for new land uses and proposed construction through the permit process, as well as new subdivision proposals. They also conduct design review for all new commercial and industrial developments and some residential projects in sensitive scenic resource areas.

After a complete application is submitted, a project planner in the Project Review Division of PRMD is assigned to the project. Project descriptions (a.k.a. referrals) are sent to various PRMD Divisions, County departments, and State agencies for review, comment(s) and condition(s). Environmental review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is required unless the proposed project is specifically exempt.

Additional information or studies may be required to complete processing of the application. The project planner will prepare an Initial Study under CEQA. This is an assessment of potential environmental impacts and identification of mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level to complete environmental review and/or process the application. If the project planner determines that no significant environmental impact will result from the proposed project, a Negative Declaration, or Mitigated Negative Declaration, will be prepared incorporating any mitigation measures as conditions of approval.

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The Environmental Review Division of PRMD evaluates the environmental impact of public projects, such as bridges, roads, and airport projects, to comply with the CEQA and other laws and regulations that protect water quality, biotic and cultural resources. Environmental Review staff also prepares EIR's for private projects. Staff coordinates environmental review and public participation through the Environmental Review Committee, Landmarks Commission, Board of Zoning Adjustment and Planning Commission. Environmental Review staff also work with resource agencies during the planning and design of public projects and obtain all applicable permits. They develop and implement mitigation and monitoring programs to ensure that biotic and cultural resources are protected during project construction and operation.

Staff also provided the committee with the following information on the current process for submitting the SCBPAC's comments on development referrals.

The SCBPAC is on the PRMD's list to receive all development referrals. Development referrals are provided to SCBPAC staff by the PRMD via e-mail on an ongoing basis. SCBPAC staff reviews each development referral and determines if the project warrants mitigation measures or conditions of approval. If warranted, staff prepares comments on behalf of the SCBPAC that are specific to Class II and III bicycle improvements and/or pedestrian improvements.

Depending on the project, typical SCBPAC comments include providing Class II bicycle lanes or Class III bicycle routes along project frontage and requiring the installation of bicycle racks as a condition of project approval. Normally, comments are prepared and submitted by SCBPAC staff on behalf of the SCBPAC members. However, development referrals are periodically brought before the SCBPAC for their review and feedback, as determined necessary by SCBPAC staff.

The Regional Parks Department is also on the PRMD's list to receive development referrals. SCBPAC staff forwards development referrals to Regional Parks if the project might impact an existing or future Class I facility. Regional Parks staff review development referrals and submits comments, if warranted, that are specific to Class I multi-use pathway improvements. Regional Parks staff provides copies of their comments to SCBPAC staff. The Transportation and Public Works Department is also on the PRMD's list to receive development referrals. Transportation and Public Works staff review development referrals and submits comments, if warranted, that are specific to roadway improvements. SCBPAC staff provides copies of their comments to Transportation and Public Works staff.

In addition, staff proposed the following potential changes to the SCBPAC's current development referral comment process; 1) staff to provide copies of development referrals from PRMD to specific SCBPAC members for feedback depending on the location of the project, 2) staff to consult with the SCBPAC Chair to determine if a specific development referral needs to be brought before the full SCBPAC for feedback, 3) staff to work with all cities to receive development referrals that may impact bicycle and pedestrian facilities in

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the unincorporated areas, 4) staff to improve coordination with city BPAC's on proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the unincorporated areas within urban growth boundaries.

The committee thanked staff for the very thorough outline of the County's development referral process and recommended changes to the SCBPAC's comment process. After some brief discussion, Vin Hoagland made a motion and Tim Gonzalez seconded for the committee's unanimous approval of staff's recommendations to change the SCBPAC's development referral comment process.

B. Consider Including New Class I Segments for Joe Rodota/West County Trail with Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Amendments. Ken Tam said that Regional Parks would like to propose amending two new Class I pathway segments for the Joe Rodota/West County Trail into the 2010 Sonoma County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The first proposed segment is located just south of North Wright Road and follows the County's easement to the south connecting to Sebastopol Road and the existing Joe Rodota Trail to the west. This segment was inadvertently left off the project list of the current plan, but provides a vital Class I pathway link between North Wright Road and Sebastopol Road. The second proposed segment is located along Occidental Road between Hwy. 116 and Atascadero Creek. Occidental Road currently serves as high traffic an on-road connection for bicyclists and pedestrians between two existing segments of the West County Trail.

Staff mentioned that a similar situation exists along Green Valley Road between Ross Road and Atascadero Creek near the town of Graton. Currently, Green Valley Road serves as a high traffic on-road connection for bicyclists and pedestrian between two existing segments of the West County Trail. Regional Parks should consider adding this as another new Class I segment for the West County Trail to be amended into the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. After some discussion, the committee agreed that a Green Valley Road should also be included as a proposed new Class I pathway segment. Tim Gonzales made a motion and Vin Hoagland seconded for the committee to endorse Regional Parks proposed new Class I segments between North Wright Road and Sebastopol Road and along Occidental Road between Hwy. 116 and Atascadero Creek, and to include an additional proposed new Class I segment along Green Valley Road between Ross Road and Atascadero Creek.

V. Other Business & Announcements

Ken Tam announced that Regional Parks would be hosting a workshop regarding Tolley Lake Regional Park at the Petaluma Community Center at 6 p.m. on Thursday, January 16. Vin Hoagland announced that there would be a presentation on the Southwest Greenway project at the Glaser Center in Santa Rosa on February 8 from 10 a.m. to noon.

VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment

The committee adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:45 p.m.