Sonoma County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Meeting Announcement

Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2019
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Place: Sonoma County Permit & Resource Management Department
2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa

Staff: Steven Schmitz
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Agenda:

I. Introductions & Public Comments* (10 Minutes)

II. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

III. Staff Reports (30 Minutes)
   - Lower Russian River Trail Feasibility Study - Community Workshops.
   - Update on West County Trail Maintenance Closure & Striping Projects.
   - Recreational Trails & Greenways Grant Application for Bodega Bay Trail.
   - Status of Petaluma Blvd. South Connection to San Antonio Creek Pathway.
   - Feedback on Shoulder Sweeping Frequencies on List of Priority Roads.

IV. General Meeting:
   A. Report by the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition on Bicycle Safety Education Activities in 2018-19. (30 Minutes)
   B. Update from the Sonoma County Health Services Department on County of Sonoma’s Vision Zero Project. (15 Minutes)

V. Other Business & Announcements (5 Minutes)

VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment

The next meeting of the Sonoma County BPAC is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019.

*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.
Meeting Summary

I. Introductions and Public Comments

Self-introductions were made. The committee welcomed 5th District Residents Quinn and Joe Horak to the meeting. Tim Gonzalez, 5th District Resident, distributed information about his preferred bicycle rack (www.groundcontrolsystems.com) and the need for more bicycle parking throughout the County. Brad McCarty, 1st District Resident, inquired why recent paving projects are not including the shoulder areas where bicyclist ride. He also mentioned having issues with receiving responses through So-Co Report-It when submitting dangerous bicycling conditions.

Eris Weaver of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition announced that an educational event called ‘Sebasto-pedal’ would be held on September 21 and that a documentary movie about cargo bikes titled ‘Motherload’ would be playing at the Rialto Cinemas in Sebastopol on September 25. She also said that Bicycle Coalition staff would be participating on the multi-day Green-fondo climate bike ride September 27 - 29. Staff read an e-mail on behalf of 2nd District Resident, Ben Grangereau, requesting the installation of bicycle and pedestrian warning signs along Cleveland Lane in the Petaluma area.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The minutes from the May 22, 2019 meeting were approved as presented. The agenda for the August 21, 2019 meeting was approved with the ‘Staff Reports’ agenda item moved after the ‘General Meeting’ agenda item.

IV. General Meeting
A. Presentation on Proposed Project to Install Free Bike Repair Stations on the Joe Rodota Trail & West County Trail. El Molino High School student Quinn Horak presented his proposed Eagle Scout project to the committee, which is to design and install bicycle repair stations along the Joe Rodota and West County trails. The repair stations would be based on the honor system, similar to neighborhood lending libraries. He said he is applying for a grant through the Community Investment Fund and is also soliciting donations of parts and tools from local bicycle shops. Feedback from the committee members regarding the project would be appreciated, especially related to potential locations and fundraising ideas.

On behalf of the committee, Amy Loukonen thanked Quinn for his excellent presentation. She suggested that he look at the ‘grass roots’ bicycle repair stations that are located along Copeland Creek in Rohnert Park. She asked if anyone else knew of any similar types of bicycle repair stations in other locations in Sonoma County and Quinn responded that he has seen some on mountain bike trails in Annadel State Park. Chris Woodcock said that bicycle repair stations based on the honor system might not work very well along certain segments of the Joe Rodota Trail. Gary Helfrich suggested contacting bicycle shops located in both Sebastopol and Forestville for donations.

B. Presentation on Final City of Santa Rosa Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Jeff Knowles of Alta Planning and Design made a presentation about the Final City of Santa Rosa Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, which was recently completed. On behalf of the committee, Amy Loukonen thanked Jeff for his presentation and asked what it means when a project in the plan requires further study, such as Stony Point Road. Jeff responded that it general means that further study is needed to determine what other bicycle improvement options might be appropriate besides standard Class II bicycle lanes. Further study is need that is beyond the scope of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

Chris Woodcock commented that the Design Guidelines provided in Appendix ‘B’ of the plan look very comprehensive and should be extremely helpful. Jeff said that the committee and staff are more than welcome to utilize the Design Guidelines in the plan. Joe Morgan asked if motorized scooters were addressed at all in the plan. Jeff responded that, although that was beyond the scope of the current plan, it would certainly need to be addressed in the next version. How best to integrate new modes of alternative transportation such as motorized scooters into traditional bicycle and pedestrian facilities will be one of the next challenges. With no further comments, Jeff thanked staff for the opportunity to present the plan to the committee.

III. Staff Reports

Status of Bicycle Safety Education Campaign Implementation. Staff reported that $50,000 from the TDA Article 3 grant for the campaign has now been fully expended. However, utilizing an additional $5,000 in Tourism Impact Funds (TIF) approved through Supervisor Zane’s office, the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition’s ‘Give Them Space’ PSA was shown ‘before the movie’ in Santa Rosa and Petaluma cinemas during the months of
June and July. Also, the Spanish-language version of the ‘3-feet for bicycle safety’ print advertisements are being run on-line in local Spanish-language newspaper La Prensa during the months of July, August and September. This will end the bicycle safety campaign until additional advertising funding can be secured.

**Progress of Requested Shoulder Sweeping on List of Priority Roads.** Staff reported speaking with the County Transportation and Public Works Department’s Integrated Waste Division who confirmed that Recology had completed shoulder sweeping along most if not all of the committee’s list of priority roads. A good next step by the committee would be to monitor the shoulder sweeping currently being completed and to develop recommended frequencies for shoulder sweeping along each of the roads on the list. Chris Woodcock asked staff to check-in with Caltrans regarding their shoulder sweeping procedures. Joe Morgan said that there should be a requirement for the County to sweep shoulders along roads adjacent to the Central Landfill and all of the landfill’s transfer stations.

**Update on Petaluma Blvd. South Connection to San Antonio Creek Pathway.** Chet Jamglochin of the Transportation and Public Works Department said that there is limited space at the Kastania Road intersection and that traditional Class II bicycle lanes in the southbound direction do not appear to be feasible. The County is currently looking into installing ‘sharrow’ markings in the southbound motor vehicle travel lane and a ‘bikes may use full lane’ sign at the approach to the intersection. Ken Tam of Regional Parks said that Caltrans would be opening the pathway at San Antonio Creek by the end of the month and would be installing some directional signs for the pathway.

Bjorn Griepenburg, 2nd District Resident, said that the mitigations offered by the County for the Kastania Road intersection are less than ideal. He would like the Transportation and Public Works Department to be open to installing some striping at the intersection with green paint. Such treatments have been installed along roadway in many other jurisdictions throughout Sonoma County and would work well as an interim solution for this issue. Chet responded that the County has not used green paint for bicycle facilities in the unincorporated areas and the costs to maintain such striping could be an issue.

**Review of Pedestrian and Resurfacing Improvement Projects.** Staff reported that the Transportation and Public Works Department recently referred pedestrian improvement and resurfacing projects to the committee for review and comments. Chico Avenue and Price Avenue in the southwest Santa Rosa unincorporated areas is being resurfaced with asphalt and the pedestrian crosswalks re-striped. A pedestrian hybrid beacon system is being installed on Old Redwood Highway at Lark Center Drive in Larkfield. Comments from the committee included consideration of a center-island or a four-way stop for the pedestrian crossing, and including Chico Avenue and Price Avenue as Class III bicycle routes in the next version of the County’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

**Lower Russian River Trail Feasibility Study Progress Update.** Ken Tam of Regional Parks reported that Jeff Knowles of Alta Planning and Design is also working on the Lower
Russian River Trail Feasibility Study. Ken said that over 500 surveys had been completed and received from the public thus far. Jeff said that they are currently working on compiling right-of-way information along the proposed trail alignment and that a concept plan should be ready for the committee’s review later this fall.

**Other Staff Reports.** Gary Helfrich of Permit Sonoma reported that the Local Coastal Plan is now ready for public circulation. The plan includes substantial changes to proposed bicycle and pedestrian policies and staff is seeking feedback. Public workshops are being scheduled in Bodega Bay in October and Santa Rosa in November. Committee members were encouraged to sign up for the Local Coastal Plan e-mail updates to receive further information.

**V. Other Business & Announcements**

Amy Loukonen announced that there are currently Alternate Member positions that need to be filled on the committee. Committee members were encouraged to spread the word and have anyone interested in the positions contact staff to the committee or the offices of the respective 1st or 3rd District Supervisors.

Vin Hoagland announced that the Santa Rosa City Council recently approved the Southeast Greenway project. The next step in the process will be to begin negotiating with the State of California to purchase the property.

Jeff Knowles announced that work would soon begin on the Great Redwood Trail Study to develop a trail that would connect Sonoma, Mendocino, and Humboldt counties and that Alta Planning and Design would be a part of the study team.

**VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment**

The next meeting of the committee was scheduled for October 16, 2019. Agenda items for the next meeting will include a presentation by the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition on their bicycle safety education activities, and an updated from staff of the Sonoma County Health Services Department on the County’s Vision Zero project.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.