

Sonoma County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Meeting Announcement

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020
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)
 - Update on Lower Russian River Trail Feasibility Study.
 - Review List of Priority Roads for Ongoing Shoulder Sweeping.
 - Report on Caltrans District 4 Bike/Ped. Advisory Committee Meeting.
- IV. General Meeting:**
 - A. Presentation on Sonoma Valley Trail Feasibility Study Including Preferred Alignments and Phasing. (30 Minutes)
 - B. Review and Approve Draft FY 2020 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 Three-Year Funding Plan. (30 Minutes)
- V. Other Business & Announcements** (5 Minutes)
- VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Sonoma County BPAC is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2020.

*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.

Sonoma County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

December 18, 2019 Minutes

Page 2

Members in Attendance		Other Participants	
Chris Woodcock	1 st District	Matt Frazier	2 nd District Resident
Brad McCarty	1 st District Alt.	Eris Weaver	SC Bicycle Coalition
Joe Morgan	2 nd District	Laurel Chambers	Health Services
Erick Ratliff	2 nd District Alt.	Tanya Narath	SC Transp. Authority
Vin Hoagland	3 rd District	Ken Tam	Regional Parks
Amy Loukonen	4 th District	Gary Helfrich	Permit Sonoma
Jennifer Neeley	5 th District	Steven Schmitz	SCBPAC Staff
Brian Bauer	5 th District Alt.		

Meeting Summary

I. Introductions and Public Comments

Self-introductions were made. Eris Weaver of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition asked if there was an update on the homeless encampment along the Joe Rodota Trail. Ken Tam said that Regional Parks hopes to have the encampment cleared by the end of January. Eris also showed a video of the shoulder conditions along Petaluma Blvd. South between the Petaluma city limits and the Kastania Road intersection. There is a significant amount of debris in the shoulders, especially near the Highway 101 overpass. Joe Morgan asked if relocation of the button for the pedestrian crossing signal at the Petaluma Blvd. South and Kastanian Road intersection is feasible. Staff said that a response from Transportation and Public Works would be forthcoming.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda for the December 18, 2019 meeting was approved with the 'Staff Reports' agenda item moved after the 'General Meeting' agenda items.

The minutes from the October 16, 2019 meeting were approved with the following correction; the name 'Helen' is misspelled in fourth sentence of the third paragraph on page 3. Also, the following sentence needs to be added to the end of the second paragraph on page 5; 'Brad also said that he was disappointed with the quality of some of the responses from So-Co Report-It.'

IV. General Meeting

A. Presentation by Health Services on Vision Zero Project. Appoint Committee Member to Vision Zero Advisory Committee. As was reported during the committee's previous meeting, Laurel Chambers of Health Services reiterated that Vision Zero is a multi-national road traffic safety project that aims to achieve a highway and roads system with no fatalities or serious injuries involving road traffic. She said that Health Services is working

Sonoma County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

December 18, 2019 Minutes

Page 3

with the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) on developing a Vision Zero Action Plan for Sonoma County with funding provided by a Sustainable Communities grant through Caltrans. A kick-off meeting for the project was held at the SCTA on October 24.

Tanya Narath of the SCTA said that the Vision Zero data subcommittee met yesterday and they are looking at several different sources to create a data dashboard. They are also soon releasing a Request for Proposals for a consultant that will assist with the dashboard. Tanya mentioned that a representative from the California Highway Patrol was at the Vision Zero kick-off meeting and said that small adjustments could be made to the Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) to help make the reports more useful for the Vision Zero data dashboard. The data dashboard, however, should rely on more than just SWITRS and needs to collect data from at least a few other sources.

Brad McCarty agreed that SWITRS definitely has a bias toward motor vehicle crashes as opposed to collisions involving bicyclists and pedestrians. He's not sure how SWITRS could be adjusted as was suggested by the CHP. Joe Morgan said that most bicycle collisions are between bicyclists or with fixed objects, which would more likely be captured in emergency room reports. Erick Ratliff suggested that such collision data might be able to be compiled from medical claims. Tanya and Laurel said that was a very good suggestion and they'd be open to any other potential data sources the committee could recommend.

Regarding the appointment of one of the committee members to the Vision Zero Advisory Committee, Brad said that he was hesitant to serve on such an advisory committee because it seemed like it was putting the cart before the horse. All resources should first be focused on making the needed bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements at this point. After all infrastructure projects have been completed throughout the County, then resources could be put toward a countywide Vision Zero program. Although committee member Brian Bauer attended the Vision Zero kick-off meeting, he said that he did not have time in his schedule to attend future meetings. Therefore, staff offered to attend the quarterly Vision Zero advisory meetings on behalf of the committee, at a minimum. Tanya said that the next data subcommittee meeting would also be scheduled in February.

B. Presentation by Regional Parks on Proposed Alignments for Lower Russian River Trail Feasibility Study. Ken Tam of Regional Parks gave a presentation on the Lower Russian River Trail Feasibility Study, which included updates on project timeline, community outreach, draft concepts, recommended alignments, and segment concept plans. Ken said that stakeholder feedback and community outreach indicated that user safety was of the highest priority in the development of the pathway. Therefore, the study recommends that, where there is limited right-of-way along the corridor, every effort should be made to develop the off-road pathway as opposed to on-road shoulders or bicycle lanes. Ken mentioned that the pathway segment along Monte Rio Beach would need to be seasonal due to flooding. The same would be true for the pathway segments through the downtown Guerneville area.

Sonoma County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

December 18, 2019 Minutes

Page 4

Brad McCarty said that he understood the need to prioritize segments as Class 1 pathways based on general user safety. However, shoulders and Class 2 bicycle lanes also provide safety improvements for bicyclists and would be just as desirable. Ken said he didn't disagree but that the purpose of the study was focused on the feasibility of developing a multi-use pathway along the corridor. The next steps will be to present the draft study to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and request comments during their meeting on January 14. The study is then scheduled to go before the Board of Supervisors, once again, on February 10 to request that they accept the final recommendations and findings. Implementation of the trail would occur in phases as funding becomes available, similar to the development the West County Trail.

Chris Woodcock thanked Ken for his presentation and requested that he return for the committee's next meeting to provide an update on the Sonoma Valley Trail Feasibility Study. Safety also continues to be a priority in the Sonoma Valley area, especially with the recent bicyclist fatality at the intersection of Highway 12 and Madrone Road.

C. Election of Committee Chair and Vice-Chair for Two-Year Terms. After some discussion among the committee members, Amy Loukonen made a nomination and Joe Morgan seconded that Chris Woodcock serve as the next Chair of the committee. Vin Hoagland then made a nomination and Brad McCarty seconded that Amy Loukonen serve as the Vice-Chair of the committee. With no other nominations, the committee unanimously elected Chris and Amy as the Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, for the next two years.

III. Staff Reports

Status of West County Trail Connector to Forestville. Ken Tam of Regional Parks reported that the planned West County Trail boardwalk segment connecting to downtown Forestville has been delayed due to wet weather. They now anticipate the boardwalk to be completed by March 2020.

Progress of Ongoing Shoulder Sweeping on Priority Roads. Reporting on behalf of Chet Jamgochian of Transportation and Public Works, staff said that they are currently working with Recology to get a cost estimate for additional shoulder sweeping and roadside litter removal services. Recology has been sweeping the shoulders along the priority roads on the committee's list every five weeks. River Road was the most recent road to be swept.

Brad said that a similar priority shoulder sweeping list still needs to be compiled for all Caltrans-maintained highways in the County. Chris said that he's interested in attending the next Caltrans District 4 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting and he'll ask Caltrans staff the best process for submitting a shoulder sweeping list.

Request Feedback on Caltrans District 4 Draft Pedestrian Plan. Staff said that an e-mail message was sent to the committee members and other staff regarding the Draft Pedestrian

Sonoma County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

December 18, 2019 Minutes

Page 5

Plan for Caltrans District 4 on December 2. Caltrans is requesting public feedback on their draft plan as soon as possible since they have a very tight timeline to complete the plan by Spring 2020. Their primary tool for receiving feedback is via the Street Story on-line tool. Staff said that the e-mail message from December 2 would be resent to the committee along with links to the draft pedestrian plan and Street Story tool.

Other Staff Reports. Regarding the Joe Rodota Trail homeless encampment issue, Ken Tam said that there is now a court injunction requiring the provision of housing options prior to relocating homeless individuals from the trail. The County is currently looking at a couple of options that would provide some long term housing solutions. In the meantime, Regional Parks is advising use of alternate routes between Fulton Road and downtown Santa Rosa.

Ken also reported that The Villas residential development in the Roseland area to the east of Stony Point Road adjacent to Highway 12 would include an easement for a vehicle access road across the Joe Rodota Trail. However, similar to the Sebastopol Independent Charter School project, trail users would continue to have the right-of-way while the vehicle access road will be designed with a speed table and stop signs.

On behalf of Chet Jamgochian of Transportation and Public Works, staff said that the bicycle signing and 'sharrow' striping improvements at the Petaluma Blvd. South and Kastania Road intersection were postponed first due to the recent wildfires and now due to wet weather. The signing and striping work has been scheduled and is anticipated to be completed in January, weather dependent.

V. Other Business & Announcements

Joe Morgan said that Transportation and Public Works did a great job rolling the shoulders with the recent paving improvements along Pepper Road.

Vin Hoaglad said that there is still a vacancy for the 3rd District alternate member position on the committee. Staff said that Matt Frazier has expressed interest in being appointed as the alternate member on the committee for the 2nd District.

The committee and staff thanked Erick Ratliff for his 10 years of service on the committee as a 5th District and 2nd District member. Erick attended the committee's meetings on a consistent basis and served as the Chair for two years. His very good understanding of bicycle and pedestrian issues and insightful comments during meetings will be missed.

VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled to take place on February 19, 2020.