

Sonoma County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Meeting Announcement

Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Place: Zoom Mtg.
Link: <https://zoom.us/j/93980241114>
Phone: (669) 900-9128, ID # 939 8024 1114



Staff: Steven Schmitz
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Agenda:

- I. Introductions & Public Comments*** (10 Minutes)
- II. Approval of Agenda & Minutes**
- III. Staff Reports** (30 Minutes)
 - Improvements on Petaluma Boulevard South at Kastania Road.
 - Proposed Roseland Apartments Project Next to Joe Rodota Trail.
 - Feedback on Committee's Project Development Referral Process.
 - Potential Timeline for Update of 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.
 - Compilation of Committee Comments on Local Coastal Plan Update.
- IV. General Meeting:**
 - A. Comments on Transportation and Public Works Department's Draft Local Road Safety Plan. (30 minutes)
 - B. Review of Proposed Bicycle Lane Enhancements on Green Valley Road for Manzana Products 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, Jan. 20, 2021.

*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 (Chair)	Eris Weaver	SC Bicycle Coalition
Brad McCarty	1 st District Alt.	Nader Dahu	Public Works
Joe Morgan	2 nd District	Ken Tam	Regional Parks
Matt Frazier	2 nd District Alt.	Chris Seppeler	Permit Sonoma
Vin Hoagland	3 rd District	Gary Helfrich	Permit Sonoma
Amy Loukonen	4 th District	Steven Schmitz	SCBPAC Staff
Jennifer Neeley	5 th District		

Meeting Summary

I. Introductions and Public Comments

Self-introductions were made. Eris Weaver of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition made comments regarding 'Bike to Wherever Day,' the campaign for Measure DD sales tax for transportation, status of several bicycle incidents, and issues with shoulder sweeping and trash receptacles in bicycle lanes. Eris also asked about a timeline for update of the 2010 Sonoma County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

Gary Helfrich of Permit Sonoma mentioned his work on the Local Coastal Plan Update and how the committee's comments on that plan would dovetail nicely into the next update of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Chris Woodcock asked staff to include a discussion and comments on the Local Coastal Plan Update on the committee's future meeting agendas.

Staff reported receiving an e-mail from 2nd District resident Jack Rhodes requesting several improvements along South Ely Road, between Frates Road and Brown Lane located in unincorporated Petaluma, to make it safer and more usable for bicyclists and pedestrians. After seeking feedback from 2nd District representative Matt Frazier and committee Chair Chris Woodcock, staff said that an e-mail response was sent to Mr. Rhodes indicating that South Ely Road is not included as a proposed project in the 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and improvements to the road could not be justified at this time.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda for the September 16, 2020 meeting was approved as presented.

The minutes from the May 20, 2020 meeting were approved with the following correction; Chris Seppeler said that the words 'at least' should be changed to 'shall be' in the fourth sentence in the second paragraph under Staff Reports on page 3 regarding the County's proposed bridge maintenance projects. Brad McCarty asked for clarification of the minutes on page 5 regarding the 'Vehicle Miles Traveled' presentation by Gary Helfrich.

III. Staff Reports

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Status of Improvements on Petaluma Blvd. South at Kastania Road. Nader Dahu of Transportation and Public Works reported that, due to weather delays and COVID-19, the re-striping of the intersection is now planned for Spring 2021. Joe Morgan and Chris Woodcock said that the committee absolutely needs to review the striping design prior to implementation. Staff added that green bicycle lane striping was raised as a possibility, at one point, for the Kastania Road intersection. Nader said the striping plans should be ready for the committee's review by January 2021 but would likely not include green bicycle lanes because the intersection is located in a rural area. Nader also mentioned that there is an issue with the placement of drainage grates within the bicycle lanes along Petaluma Blvd. South, which Caltrans is currently working on resolving.

Overview of County's Roadway and Shoulder Sweeping Program. Staff reported that the Integrated Waste Division staff could not attend the meeting but provided information regarding their sweeping program that was shared with the committee. Recapping the information, staff said that each of the roads on the committee's priority shoulder sweeping list is swept on a rotating basis at least one or two times per year. Requests for additional sweeping in between these frequencies and/or along roads not currently on the committee's list should be submitted via So-Co Report-It. Proposed amendments to the committee's list should be provided to the Integrated Waste Division for consideration with the next contract amendment with Recology, which performs road sweeping for the County.

Amy Loukonen said that she is still receiving frustrating responses from So-Co Report-It regarding requests for shoulder sweeping and litter/debris removal. Staff said that the Public Affairs Manager of Transportation and Public Works will be invited to a future meeting of the committee to make a presentation and answer questions about So-Co Report-It. Staff also said there is some good advice on how to submit issues more effectively in So-Co Report-It, which will be distributed to the committee.

Review of Bodega Bay Trail - Coastal North Harbor Project. Ken Tam of Regional Parks reported that they are currently working on the next segment of the Bodega Bay Trail between Porto Bodega Marina and the Nicholas Green Bell Tower. An environmental document with mitigations was completed and now regulatory permits need to be acquired, including a coastal development permit. This segment of the trail will be constructed with sections of elevated boardwalk and stabilized aggregate. Regional Parks is now seeking funding for the estimated \$1.8 million project. A project referral was distributed recently by Permit Sonoma regarding the coastal permit, which seeks comments from various agencies and committee's including the bicycle and pedestrian advisory committee. Ken was thanked for the presentation but there were no comments on this segment from the committee.

IV. General Meeting

A. Presentation on Proposed Arnold Drive Bicycle Lane Project. Nader Dahu said that Measure M funding through the Sonoma County Transportation Authority was used to help

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complete a feasibility study in December 2019 to determine if a Class I pathway or Class II bicycle lanes could be constructed along a 2-mile segment of Arnold Drive in Sonoma Valley. The study recommended Class II bicycle lanes primarily because a Class I pathway would require significantly more right-of-way and negatively impact several trees. The cost estimate for the construction of Class II bicycle lanes along Arnold Drive is \$2.2 million. The next step for Transportation and Public Works is to secure additional funding to complete necessary environmental documents and prepare engineering designs.

Brad McCarty said that it was his understanding that the project was already fully funded, which includes \$600,000 in Transportation Development Act Article 3 funding previously approved by the committee. Nader responded that only the construction costs for a Class II bicycle lane project are fully funded and the project still needs final authorization from the Board of Supervisors. Chris Woodcock asked if the project is now on hold until additional funding can be secured for environmental, engineering and perhaps also public outreach. Nader responded that staff should contact Cindy Rader, who is the engineer for the project, to verify the status of the budget, timeline and any plans for outreach. Chris Seppeler of Permit Sonoma said that in the past there has been strong opposition to further widening along this segment of Arnold Drive. Therefore, a strong public outreach component would be critical to the successful project implementation.

B. Process for Submitting Comments on Development Referrals. Staff said that a memorandum prepared in 2014 regarding the committee's process for commenting on development referrals was distributed to the committee for review prior to the meeting. One of the recommended changes to the process in the 2014 memorandum was for staff to provide copies of development referrals to specific committee members for their feedback depending on the geographic location of a project. Since that time, staff was given more discretion by the committee to decide whether comments were warranted for projects. Therefore, in recent years, not all project referrals have been copied to specific committee members. With turnover in members serving on the committee over the past few years, it is now prudent to revisit the process for submitting comments on development referrals, including how much discretion should be given to staff.

Brad McCarty said that, although he doesn't want to bog down the process, at this point he would like all project referrals from Permit Sonoma located in the 1st District copied to him so he can decide whether he would like to provide feedback. Nader Dahu mentioned that it's important to understand that 'time is of the essence' for project referrals because comments need to be submitted within thirty days or the project becomes vested. Responding to Vin Hoagland, staff said that the number and type of project referrals ebbs and flows throughout the year and estimates that one project warrants comments every two to three months. Jennifer Neeley said that the full committee should be provided with a list of project referrals at their meetings for which comments were submitted. Chris Seppeler pointed out that there are several policies on page 18 of the 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan that address project referrals to the committee.

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Chris Woodcock asked staff to compile a list of all project referrals received over the next two months highlighting which projects had comments submitted on behalf of the committee. The committee can then provide further feedback to staff during the next meeting on whether any additional adjustments need to be made to the referral process.

V. Other Business & Announcements

There was no other business or announcements.

VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.