

# Sonoma County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

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## Meeting Announcement

**Date:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Zoom Meeting  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84963478036>  
(669) 900-6833, ID # 849 6347 8036

**Staff:** Steven Schmitz  
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steven@sctransit.com



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## Agenda:

- I. Introductions & Public Comments\*** (10 Minutes)
- II. Approval of Agenda & Minutes** (5 Minutes)
- III. Staff Reports** (20 Minutes)
  - Correspondence with Moscow Rd. Preservation Coalition.
  - Community Workshop on Draft Vision Zero Action Plan.
  - Feedback on So-Co Report-it and Shoulder Sweeping.
  - Progress on Bicycle Friendly Communities Application.
  - Sonoma County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update.
- IV. General Meeting:**
  - A. Bicycle Coalition Presentation on Their Advocacy Priorities. (30 minutes)
  - B. Review Signalization Project at Todd Rd. and Standish Ave. (15 minutes)
- V. Other Business & Announcements** (10 Minutes)
- VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment**

Next meeting of the Sonoma County BPAC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

\*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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<b>Members in Attendance</b>		<b>Other Participants</b>	
Chris Woodcock	1 <sup>st</sup> District (Chair)	Steve Saxe	S.R. Cycling Club
Joe Morgan	2 <sup>nd</sup> District	Bridgette Deshields	S.R. Cycling Club
Matt Frazier	2 <sup>nd</sup> District Alt.	Eris Weaver	Bicycle Coalition
Vin Hoagland	3 <sup>rd</sup> District	Nader Dahu	Public Works
Amy Loukonen	4 <sup>th</sup> District	Stevan Hunter	Public Works
		Cindy Rader	Public Works
		Bradley Dunn	Permit Sonoma
		Chris Seppeler	Permit Sonoma
		Deborah Waller	Permit Sonoma
		Yoash Tilles	Permit Sonoma
		Rashod Gibson	GHD Consulting
		Jeremy Schmal	GHD Consulting
		Ken Tam	Regional Parks
		Steven Schmitz	SCBPAC Staff

## **Meeting Summary**

### **I. Introductions and Public Comments**

Self-introductions were made. The committee welcomed Steve Saxe and Bridget Deshields of the Santa Rosa Cycling Club to the meeting. There were no public comments.

### **II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

The November 17, 2021 meeting agenda was approved with the recommendation that Staff Reports be moved after the General Meeting agenda items. The August 18, 2021 minutes were approved as presented.

### **IV. General Meeting**

**A. Discuss County Permit Requirements for Bicycle Events.** Bradley Dunn of Permit Sonoma made a presentation on potential ordinance revisions proposed for special events located in the County's public right-of-way, including requiring permits for events with awards/winner or a timed component, applying the current 50-person limit for other events besides bicycling, requiring permits for all events for which participants must pay, or some combination of these revisions. A special event calendar serving as a repository for permitted events is also being considered with the potential revisions. In addition, the revisions could allow promoters to reserve dates for permitted events up to five years in advance. Currently, event promoters can apply for a permit only one year in advance. Finally, the revisions would establish a multi-department and agency committee to hear requests for all special event permits.

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Joe Morgan said that special events that do not have a mass start and do not close roads or block intersections should be considered a different type of special event. Bicycle tours are much different than timed bicycle races. Bradley responded that first responders have indicated that bicycle tours are still challenging, even without road closures. Consistency in requirements for special events is important regardless of the size or type of special event. At this point, the most helpful feedback from the committee would be their recommended threshold for needing a special event permit and what would be considered a reasonable cost for a permit.

Steve Saxe of the Santa Rosa Cycling Club said that he would like to see a minimum threshold of 250 participants for a special events permit. Also, the cost for a permit must be affordable for non-profits and charitable rides and not overly time consuming. Bridgette Deshields of the Cycling Club reiterated Joe Morgan's point that there needs to be language in the revised ordinance that distinguishes between timed bicycle races with large mass starts versus smaller rides or tours with staggered starts. Bridgette said she also opposes requiring encroachment permits for smaller bicycle events. Bicyclists participating in smaller events should not be considered encroaching into the public right-of-way.

Eris Weaver of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition said that the need for permits really seems to be about convenience for motorists and not safety for bicyclists. Other similar special events such as car clubs using public rights-of-way are not required to get permits. She supports exempting bicycle rides and tours from needing a special event permit if they fall below a certain threshold of participants. Bradley Dunn said that the safety aspect of needing a permit is primarily related to first responders' concerns about bicycle events hindering their response times in rural areas. Bradley apologized for needing to leave the committee meeting earlier due to another commitment.

Joe Morgan said that, in his experience, the vast majority of safety issues at bicycle events involve bicycle versus bicycle, not motorist versus bicycle. He also thought a special events calendar and centralized multi-agency review committee, similar to what is in place in San Francisco, are excellent ideas. If possible, the events calendar should be designed to trigger Nixle Alerts, especially for the larger bicycle events with mass starts and closures. In addition, he said that if the County will now be requiring permits, they should assume some liability for the condition of the roads being used, especially potholes and other hazards.

Chris Woodcock asked the committee what their recommended participant threshold should be to trigger the need for a special event permit for bicycle events. Joe Morgan and Vin Hoagland responded that they would support a 500 participant threshold to require a permit, which is what Santa Clara County uses. Matt Frazier concurred with the proposed 500 participant threshold and added that any reference in the ordinance to 'events with awards' should be simplified as 'competitions.' Stevan Hunter said it is very important that the County's Transportation and Public Works Department be notified about bicycle events well ahead of time so that they can coordinate the timing of road construction projects.

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With no further comments from committee members, Joe Morgan made a motion and Vin Hoagland seconded with unanimous approval to recommend a 500 participant threshold to trigger the need for a bicycle event permit, and the establishment of a master calendar for bicycle events with alerts sent through Nixle or similar platforms. Staff was directed to notify Bradley Dunn of these recommendations and to convey to him that the committee could not recommend the establishment of a centralized committee for bicycle event permits until they received additional information regarding associated costs and proposed timelines.

## **B. Review Proposed Design for Arnold Drive Bicycle Lanes.**

Cindy Rader of the Transportation and Public Works Department introduced Rashod Gibson and Jeremy Schmal of GHD Consulting who are working on the preliminary design for the proposed Class II bicycle lanes along approximately 2 miles of Arnold Drive between Country Club Drive and Madrone Road. Rashod made a brief presentation to the committee that included a project overview and history, bicycle lane features, existing opportunities and constraints, and next steps. Chris Woodcock thanked GHD for their presentation and asked about the extent of any tree removal that would be required with the project. Jeremy responded that it will be unclear how many trees might be impacted until they can proceed with more detailed plans.

Chris Seppeler of Permit Sonoma said that the next step would be public outreach after the 35% design plans were completed early next year, which will also allow for determinations on right-of-way needs and environmental impacts. Historically, the construction of bicycle lanes along this segment of Arnold Drive has been controversial to nearby residents who have opposed road widening and the potential removal of trees. Chris Woodcock said that the Transportation and Public Works Department should reach out to local fire districts and the Sonoma Developmental Center to ask for their support for the project. A reduction to some of the dense tree groves along Arnold Drive would provide a very good fire break.

With no further discussion, the committee unanimously agreed that the proposed Arnold Drive Class II bicycle lane project is consistent with the 2010 Sonoma County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Staff was directed to send a memorandum on behalf of the committee to Chris Seppeler regarding their determination of consistency. Cindy Rader thanked the committee for their support and said she looked forward to moving forward with the project.

## **III. Staff Reports**

**Letter from Moscow Road Preservation Coalition.** Staff reported receiving a letter from a group of residents and users of Moscow Road in the Lower Russian River area called the Moscow Road Preservation Coalition. The coalition's letter urges the County of Sonoma to reimagine Moscow Road's status as part of the County's transportation mix and repair the road in a manner that increases resident safety and quality of life and strongly promotes values and principals within the Sonoma County General Plan. Stevan Hunter of the Public

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Works Department said he was familiar with this group and that they are requesting further improvements to Moscow Road in conjunction with proposed landslide repairs by the Federal Emergency Management Agency near Casini Ranch Campground that closed a portion of the road in 2019. Joe Morgan said it will be important to continue to allow bicycle and pedestrians access along Moscow Road during the landslide repairs. Staff said it might be good for someone from the Moscow Road Preservation Coalition to attend a future meeting of the committee to make a presentation.

**Letter from Bicycle Coalition on Advocacy Priorities.** Staff reported recently receiving a letter from the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition about their advocacy priorities related to bicycle infrastructure and policies and programs. Eris Weaver said the bicycle coalition's advocacy 'manifesto' is modeled after a similar effort by the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition. Staff the coalition's letter would be distributed to the committee and invited Eris to a future committee meeting to make a more detailed presentation.

**Regional Parks Grant Application for West County Trail.** Ken Tam of Regional Parks reported that they would be requesting a total of \$3.1 million through the Sonoma County Transportation Authority's recent call for projects to construct 1.1 miles of Class 1 pathway gap closures in the West County Trail along Occidental Road and Green Valley Road. The committee directed staff to prepare a letter of support for Regional Parks' grant application.

**Sonoma Developmental Center Specific Plan Update.** Ken Tam reported that Permit Sonoma has released the Sonoma Developmental Center (SCD) Alternatives Report, which presents and analyzes three draft land-use alternatives to guide redevelopment of the site. Several community workshops are being hosted this month to discuss the alternatives. An on-line survey has also been released by Permit Sonoma that is due by November 23. Chris Woodcock and staff said that the SCD Specific Plan can be viewed on-line at [www.sdcspecificplan.com](http://www.sdcspecificplan.com) and it would be good for members to comment on proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities outlined in the alternatives. Eris Weaver added that it would be wonderful to have a trail connection between Sonoma Valley Regional Park and Jack London State Park through the SDC property.

**Status of Bicycle Friendly Communities Application.** Staff reported that progress on the application is anticipated in the near future now that an additional staff person was recently hired at Sonoma County Transit. The overall timeline is still on schedule to complete a draft of the applicaiton by May 2022 and submit the final version in September 2022.

**Other Staff Updates.** Nadur Dahu reported that Stevan Hunter will be the new staff liaison to the committee from County Transportation and Public Works. The previous committee liaison, Vincenzo Corazza, resigned from County employment last month.

## **V. Other Business & Announcements**

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There was no other business or announcements.

## **VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment**

Amy Loukonen said she would like the committee to discuss several issues with So-Co Report-It and revisit the shoulder sweeping list during the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.