

Sonoma County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Meeting Announcement

Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2021
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Place: Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83240238617>
(669) 900-6833, ID # 832 4023 8617

Staff: Steven Schmitz
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Agenda:

- I. Introductions & Public Comments*** (10 Minutes)
- II. Approval of Agenda & Minutes** (5 Minutes)
- III. Staff Reports** (10 Minutes)
 - Letter from Moscow Road Preservation Coalition.
 - Letter from Bicycle Coalition on Advocacy Priorities.
 - Regional Parks Grant Application for West County Trail.
 - Sonoma Developmental Center Specific Plan Update.
 - Status of Bicycle Friendly Communities Application.
- IV. General Meeting:**
 - A. Discuss County Permit Requirements for Bicycle Events. (30 minutes)
 - B. Review Proposed Design for Arnold Drive Bicycle Lanes. (30 minutes)
- V. Other Business & Announcements** (5 Minutes)
- VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment**

Next meeting of the Sonoma County BPAC is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 19, 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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Members in Attendance		Other Participants	
Chris Woodcock	1 st District (Chair)	Brian Grant	5 th District Resident
Joe Morgan	2 nd District	Austin Murphy	Press Democrat
Matt Frazier	2 nd District Alt.	Eris Weaver	Bicycle Coalition
Vin Hoagland	3 rd District	John Mack	Permit Sonoma
Amy Loukonen	4 th District	Gary Helfrich	Permit Sonoma
Jennifer Neeley	5 th District	Chris Seppeler	Permit Sonoma
		Jackson Ford	Permit Sonoma
		Deborah Waller	Permit Sonoma
		Janice Thompson	Public Works
		Samuel B.-Kranz	Public Works
		Nader Dahu	Public Works
		Vincenzo Corazza	Public Works
		Melanie Parker	Regional Parks
		Ken Tam	Regional Parks
		Steven Schmitz	SCBPAC Staff

Meeting Summary

I. Introductions and Public Comments

Chris Woodcock called the meeting to order and self-introductions were made. The committee welcomed Brian Grant and Austin Murphy to the meeting.

Eris Weaver of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition said she was glad to hear that the Kastania Road green bicycle lanes were moving forward. Regarding the County's 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, she said protected bicycle lanes should be included the next time it's updated. She also mentioned that the placement of trash receptacles within bicycle lanes has become an issue throughout the County, once again. In addition, she announced that Taco Tuesday bicycle rides are held in Santa Rosa leaving from Humboldt Park at 6.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The August 18, 2021 meeting agenda was approved with the recommendation that the Staff Reports be moved after the General Meeting. The May 19, 2021 minutes were approved as presented.

IV. General Meeting

A. Review Bohemian Highway Bridge Over Russian River Replacement Project in Monte Rio. John Mack of Permit Sonoma said the Monte Rio bridge has been determined to be seismically deficient and is a very high priority for replacement. Samuel Baumgardner-

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Kranz of Transportation and Public Works said that several community workshops on the project were held to help select the preferred alignment, cross-section and type of bridge. Through that process an arch structure with a smaller 60-foot wide cross-section is proposed for the replacement bridge. The bridge will also accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists with both Class I and II facilities.

Samuel presented the cross section of the bridge in more detail highlighting that the proposed 6-foot wide sidewalks would be separated from motorists by a barrier rail. The sidewalks would serve as one-way Class I bikeways on the bridge. Class II bicycle lanes would also be provided across the entire length of the bridge with curb cut transitions to the Class I bikeways/sidewalks. To enhance safety, a buffer area is being proposed adjacent to the Class II bicycle lanes to encourage motorists to give bicyclists more space.

Jennifer Neeley said that including green paint with the Class II bicycle lanes would further enhance safety on the bridge. Vin Hoagland expressed concern about getting to the correct side of the street to access the Class I bikeways on the bridge. Samuel responded that the only option would be to transition from Class II bicycle lanes to one-way Class I bikeways and there would be no need to cross the street to access a two-way Class I bikeway. Chris Woodcock said that the buffer area for the Class II bicycle lanes should be cross-hatched as opposed to a solid wide line.

Brian Grant, resident of the 5th District, thanked Transportation and Public Works for the community workshops but said he was concerned about the lack of pedestrian crosswalks on the north side of the proposed bridge. Eris Weaver of the Bicycle Coalition said that the accommodation of bicycles and pedestrians on the bridge was much appreciated but that consideration should be given to reducing the motor vehicle travel lanes to 11-foot wide and increasing the Class II bicycle lanes to 6-foot wide.

Samuel thanked everyone for their helpful feedback and asked the committee to support a determination that the project is consistent with the policies in the Sonoma County General Plan and the Sonoma County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. With no further comments from the committee, Vin Hoagland motioned, Jennifer Neeley seconded and the committee unanimously approved the determination. Staff said that a memorandum on behalf of the committee regarding their approval would be submitted to Permit Sonoma.

B. Discuss Proposed E-Bike Policy for Trails and Class I Pathways Located in Unincorporated Areas. Melanie Parker of Regional Parks outlined various existing policies for e-bikes at the national, state, regional and local levels. The policy for Sonoma County Regional Parks since 2017 is that e-bikes are allowed on paved pathways but prohibited elsewhere. Regional Parks is now proposing to update their e-bike policy for 2021 to allow e-bikes wherever bicycles are allowed, unless otherwise posted. To further define the policy, they're considering limiting the type of e-bikes to pedal-assist only and within speed limits. The other option being considered is to limit e-bikes to Class I defined bikes that are pedal-

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assist only, with no throttle, and have a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph. In comparison, Class II defined e-bikes are throttle-assisted up to 20 mph and Class III bikes are pedal-assist only, with no throttle, and a maximum assisted speed of 28 mph.

Jennifer Neeley wondered how speed limits will be enforced on Regional Parks trails and paved pathways and said it likely just needs to be a matter of bicyclists being courteous toward others. Vin Hoagland said that speed is the most important factor whether it be e-bikes or bicycles. Amy Loukonen said that use of e-bikes is becoming more popular and their speed on pathways and trails needs to be limited for the safety of other users. Chris Woodcock agreed that limiting speeds is most important and Regional Parks should consider added more signage regarding speeds along their facilities.

The committee agreed that the type of e-bike technology does not need to be a factor in the proposed policy and speed should be the limiting factor. Melanie said that Regional Parks is currently deciding on what an appropriate maximum speed limit should be on their trails and pathways. With no additional comments, Amy Loukonen motioned, Chris Woodcock seconded and the committee unanimously approved their recommendation that e-bikes be allowed on Regional Parks trails and paved pathways wherever bicycles are allowed, unless otherwise posted, and must follow established speed limits.

III. Staff Reports

Application for LAB ‘Bicycle Friendly Communities’ Designation. Staff reported that the next round of applications will not be due until Fall 2022. There will be no Spring 2022 round because the questions are being updated. The current timeline is to complete the County’s draft application by May 2022 and have it ready for submittal in September 2022. Eris Weaver of the Bicycle Coalition said she would be willing to help with the application.

Comments to Permit Sonoma on Draft Winery Events Ordinance. Comments prepared by staff on behalf of the committee were submitted to Permit Sonoma on May 28. Additions and changes to the proposed Traffic Management Plan requirements in the ordinance were recommended to help ensure bicycle and pedestrian safety on adjacent roadways.

Transportation Authority’s 2021 Funding Program Call for Projects. Staff said that the Sonoma County Transportation Authority’s recent Call for Projects will program various State and Federal funding sources over the next five years. In response to their request for each jurisdiction’s top five projects, staff recommended providing the committee’s Three-Year Funding Plan, which includes some of the highest priority bicycle and pedestrian projects in the unincorporated areas. In anticipation of similar process in the future, staff suggested that the committee develop an additional top ten priority project list.

Updated from Health Services on Sonoma County Vision Zero Project. No update on the project was available because Health Services staff was unable to attend the meeting.

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Other Staff Updates. Ken Tam of Regional Parks updated the committee on the proposed Roseland Apartments project in Santa Rosa to be located adjacent to the Joe Rodota Trail. The project originally included a vehicle crossing of the trail at West Avenue, but that has now been changed to emergency vehicle access only. A future nearby development could include a vehicle crossing of the trail at West Avenue.

V. Other Business & Announcements

Staff announced that the committee's meeting agendas and minutes are now being archived at <https://sctransit.com/scbpac-meetings/>. There was no other business or announcements.

VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8 pm.