

Sonoma County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Meeting Announcement

Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Place: Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89612057381>
(669) 900-6833, ID # 896 1205 7381

Staff: Steven Schmitz
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Agenda:

- I. Introductions & Public Comments*** (10 Minutes)
- II. Approval of Agenda & Minutes** (5 Minutes)
- III. Staff Reports** (15 Minutes)
 - Status of Application for Bicycle Friendly Communities.
 - Funding for County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update.
 - Support Letters for Active Transportation Program Grants.
 - Process for Updating Committee's Shoulder Sweeping List.
- IV. General Meeting:**
 - A. Caltrans Presentation on Bay Area Bike Highway Study. (30 minutes)
 - B. Update on Signalization Project at Todd Rd. and Standish Ave. (15 minutes)
- V. Other Business & Announcements** (15 Minutes)
- VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Sonoma County BPAC is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 17, 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	
Brian Canepa	1 st District Alt.	Neil Hancock	2 nd District Resident
Joe Morgan	2 nd District	Rick Kreutzer	5 th District Resident
Matt Frazier	2 nd District Alt.	Nader Dahu	Public Works
Vin Hoagland	3 rd District	Amanda Bouillerce	Public Works
Amy Loukonen	4 th District (Vice-Chair)	Michael Kalua	Public Works
		Ken Tam	Regional Parks
		Steven Schmitz	SCBPAC Staff

Meeting Summary

I. Introductions and Public Comments

Self-introductions were made. There were no public comments.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The March 16, 2022 meeting agenda was approved as presented. The January 19, 2022 minutes were approved with the following correction; the word 'west' should be changed to 'east' and the word 'east' should be changed to 'west' in the first bullet point on page 4.

III. Staff Reports

Feedback on So-Co Report-It and Shoulder Sweeping. Amanda Bouillerce of Public Works said that all three shoulder sweeping and vegetation issues that were raised during the committee's previous meeting have been resolved. Matt Frazier confirmed that the issues were addressed toward the end of February. Amy Loukonen thanked Public Works for their responsiveness but said that there still seems to be issues with the So-Co Report-It app. Amanda said they are aware of the issues and are in the process of transitioning to a new platform. In the meantime, she said an alternative to using the So-Co Report-It app is always to call road maintenance or contact her via e-mail or phone directly.

Joe Morgan asked if the public could be notified in advance on what roads Public Works would be mowing so that bicyclists could avoid those roads. Amanda and Matt said they would look into making that information available. Vin Hoagland express frustration that the center of the shoulders and bicycle lanes still have debris even after they have been swept. Amanda acknowledged this issue and responded that it is an ongoing educational issue with the operators of the shoulder sweeping equipment. Staff said that the committee's shoulder sweeping list would be discussed during the next meeting.

Timeline for Sonoma County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update. Staff reported that the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) is still waiting to hear if their application for state funding to update the Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan has been approved.

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The SCTA's application also includes a request for funding to assist with the update of the 2010 Sonoma County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Depending on approval of the SCTA's grant request and staff availability, an update to the plan could begin within the next year. Ken Tam of Regional Parks strongly recommended that consideration be given to hiring a public outreach consultant even if the intent is to update the plan in-house. There is a lot more reliability on social media and interactive on-line feedback now compared with when the plan was previously updated over ten years ago.

Status on Bicycle Friendly Communities Application. Staff said the timeline remains to complete a draft of the application this Spring and submit the final version to the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) in Fall 2022. Sonoma County Transit recently hired new staff who will be available to assist in completing the County's Bicycle Friendly Community application.

IV. General Meeting

A. Presentation by Moscow Road Preservation Coalition. Rick Kreutzer, a resident of the 5th District representing the Moscow Road Preservation Coalition, made a presentation to the committee regarding the desire to preserve the current character of Moscow Road. Moscow Road is currently not a through road due to a landslide in March 2019 that closed the road for a short distance to the east of Casini Ranch Campground. Because motor vehicles cannot currently travel through from Main Street in Monte Rio to Highway 116 in Duncans Mills, the residential neighborhoods along two miles of Moscow Road to the east of the campground have seen a dramatic reduction in vehicle traffic, especially large trucks and recreational vehicles. Moscow Road is currently very safe because there is very little vehicle traffic, which allows people of all ages and skill levels to bicycle and walk.

Mr. Kreutzer said that in September 2021, he wrote a letter to County officials that was cosigned by several of his neighbors recommending that Moscow Road be designated as a Heritage Road, a Bicycle Boulevard and a Local Road. These recommendations would help to preserve the character of Moscow Road and the quality of life that has emerged after the landslide. However, the recommendations have been rejected by the County because funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the landslide repairs requires that the County make Moscow Road accessible to anyone, not just local residents, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

In response to the rejection of his previous recommendations, Mr. Kreutzer said that the Moscow Road Preservation Coalition would now like to request the following of the County's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

1. Accelerate the Class 3 bicycle route designation process and make sure as much debris as possible is removed from the shoulders of Moscow Road.
2. Consider a Bicycle Boulevard designation and request bikeway and pedestrian improvements over the entirety of Moscow Road.

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3. Endorse the reduction of heavy commercial and recreational vehicle traffic in the residential part of Moscow Rd.
4. Support efforts to designate Moscow Road as a Heritage Road and/or Local Rd.
5. Demand review of the washout repair design and assess impacts to bicycling and walking. Consider improvements to the repair plan such as a separate bike and pedestrian lane, traffic slowing, and special signage.
6. Ensure that all shuttles connecting Duncans Mills, Monte Rio, Guerneville and Occidental have bike racks.

After much discussion, the committee unanimously directed staff to submit a memo on their behalf to the County Transportation and Public Works Department requesting, that weight limitations, if not already in place, be reviewed for consideration along the two-mile residential stretch of Moscow Road to the east of Casini Ranch campground. Staff said that request # 1 could be made through So-Co Report-It for road maintenance issues. Request # 2 could be considered when the County's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is updated and could include the elevation of Moscow Road as a higher priority project. Additional information is needed regarding the feasibility of request # 4. In order to ensure that FEMA funding for the landslide repairs would not be jeopardized, the committee could not consider request # 5. Regarding request # 6, staff said that bicycle racks are provided on all Sonoma County Transit buses, including the local Route 28 River Shuttle.

B. Review of Draft TDA Article 3 Three-Year Funding Plan. Staff briefly explained to the committee the purpose and need for the Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 Three-Year Funding Plan, which covers Fiscal Years 22/23, 23/24 and 24/25. Ken Tam of Regional Parks described the new or increased TDA Article 3 funding requests for the Bodega Bay Trail, Sonoma-Schellville Trail, and Sonoma Valley Trail projects. Nadur Dahu of the Transportation and Public Works Department described the new TDA Article 3 funding request for the West County Trail/Mirabel Road project. Nader also said that funding for the Crocker Street Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge project could be moved to Fiscal Year 23/24.

Staff said that the draft version of the Three-Year Funding Plan indicates a negative balance in TDA Article 3 funding of over \$300,000. This would mean that approximately two years of annual TDA Article 3 funding allocated to the County would be needed to pay back such a deficit. Staff recommended that the committee reduce the negative balance to a point where only one year of the County's annual TDA Article 3 funding would be needed to pay back the deficit. To achieve this recommendation, Regional Parks and the Transportation and Public Works Department would need to reduce the amount of TDA Article 3 funding requested for their respective projects on the Three-Year Funding Plan.

After some discussion among various staff and committee members, staff from Regional Parks agreed to reduce the amount of TDA Article 3 funding requested for the Bodega Bay Trail (Smith Brothers Road), Sonoma-Schellville Trail, and Sonoma Valley Trail projects by \$25,000 each totaling \$75,000. Staff from the Transportation and Public Works Department

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agreed to reduce the amount of TDA Article 3 funding for the West County Trail/Mirabel Road project by \$75,000. The reductions for these projects reduced the negative balance in TDA Article 3 funding to approximately \$150,000, which could be paid back with only one year of annual TDA Article 3 funding allocated to the County. With these adjustments to requested TDA Article 3 funding, the committee unanimously approved the County's Three-Year Funding Plan and directed staff to forward it to the Sonoma County Transportation Authority.

V. Other Business & Announcements

Amy Loukonen announced that she was recently hired as a Senior Office Assistant at Permit Sonoma (a.k.a. Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department).

VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment

The next meeting of the committee was tentatively scheduled for May 18. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.