

Sonoma County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2023
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Place: Sonoma County Public Infrastructure Dept.
2300 County Center Dr., Room A212
Santa Rosa, California 95403

Zoom: Members of the public may also watch/listen to the meeting virtually via the following link.
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84503625905?pwd=0YOBWiw77HC2fOpifbRHVaAB3ob5fx.1>
Mtg. ID: 845 0362 5905, Phone: (669) 900-6833



Staff: Steven Schmitz, (707) 585-7516

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Introductions & Public Comments*** (10 Minutes)
- II. Approval of Agenda & Minutes** (5 Minutes)
- III. Staff Reports** (10 Minutes)
 - Update on Copeland Creek Multi-Use Pathway Project.
 - Ped. Safety Improvements on Hwy. 12 at Verano Avenue.
 - Status of County's Bicycle Friendly Communities Application.
- IV. General Meeting:**
 - A. Sonoma Countywide Active Transportation Plan - Unincorporated County Milestone Update # 1 (Vision, Goals, Roles, Schedules, Conditions, Etc.) (30 minutes)
- V. Other Business & Announcements** (5 Minutes)
- VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Sonoma County BPAC is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023.

*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

June 21, 2023 Minutes

Page 2

Members in Attendance		Other Participants	
Chris Woodcock	1 st District (Chair)	Duane Dewitt	3 rd District Resident
Joe Morgan	2 nd District	Torina Wilson	City of Santa Rosa
Vin Hoagland	3 rd District	Alexander Oceguera	City of Santa Rosa
Collin Thoma	4 th District (Alt.)	Chistina Panza	Bicycle Coalition
		Emily Shartin	Bicycle Coalition
		Nader Dahu	Public Infrastructure
		Michael Kalua	Public Infrastructure
		Ken Tam	Regional Parks
		Steven Schmitz	SCBPAC Staff

Meeting Summary

I. Introductions and Public Comments

Self-introductions were made. Duane Dewitt, 3rd District resident, said it was important for the committee to continue to provide opportunities for the public to participate in their meetings remotely. Staff said that room A212 at 2300 County Center Drive in Santa Rosa, where the committee's in-person meetings are now being held, should be upgraded within the next few months to accommodate hybrid (virtual and in-person) meetings. Duane also said it was important that staff reports are available in advance of the committee's meetings.

Emily Shartin of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition inquired if there were currently any member positions open on the committee. Staff responded that the 5th District regular member position and the 2nd District and 3rd District alternate member positions were open.

Vin Hoagland mentioned that there was discussion recently on the Santa Rosa Cycling Club chatty list regarding a near miss involving a gravel truck and a bicyclist on Martinelli Road in Forestville between Highway 116 and River Road. Staff said that Martinelli Road is not listed as a proposed route in the current version of the Sonoma County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Mirabel Road has been identified as the preferred Class II bicycle lane route between Highway 116 and River Road.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda for the June 21, 2023 meeting agenda was approved as presented. The minutes from the committee's February 15, 2023 meeting were approved as presented with a correction to the name 'Roberto' on page 2 to 'Roberta.'

III. Staff Reports

Amended Ordinance (Sec. 19-5) Restricting Camping on Public Property. Ken Tam of Regional Parks announced that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors recently adopted

Sonoma County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

June 21, 2023 Minutes

Page 3

an amended ordinance (Section 19-5) that restricts camping on public property between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., including along multi-use pathways, road rights-of-way, and within public parks. The amended ordinance will especially help with the enforcement of camping prohibitions along the Joe Rodota Trail in Santa Rosa.

State Omni-Bike Bill (AB 1909) Regarding Class 3 Electric Bikes. Staff said that AB 1909, which was passed by the State Legislature in January 2023, now permits Class 3 e-bikes (up to 28 mph) on multi-use pathways throughout the state unless a local jurisdiction prohibits Class 3 e-bikes by local ordinance. Regional Parks currently permits Class 3 e-bikes on their multi-use pathways but enforces a 15-mph speed limit.

Update on Sonoma-Schellville Class I Pathway Project. Ken Tam reported that Regional Parks has reached an agreement with Union Pacific to acquire their right-of-way for the proposed Sonoma-Schellville Trail multi-use pathway for \$2.6 million. Regional Parks has until March 2024 to compile the funding to make the acquisition. The committee has already provided a letter of support to Regional Parks for their request of \$1 million from the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District toward acquiring the right-of-way.

Status of Bicycle Friendly Communities Application. Staff said that, unfortunately, the Bicycle Friendly Communities application to the League of American Bicyclists for the County's unincorporated areas will not be ready to be submitted by the August 30, 2023 deadline. Because there is now only one submission deadline per year, the next deadline for the application will not be until June 25, 2024.

Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update. Staff provided a memorandum from consultants Fehr and Peers outlining their Advisory Committee Coordination Plan including milestones and estimated timelines. The first milestone update, which is scheduled for the committee's meeting on either August 16 or October 18, will provide an overview of the scope and schedule, desired role/input of the committee, a summary of existing conditions, approach to the technical analysis, and a discussion of the draft vision, goals and objectives.

IV. General Meeting

A. Review and Discuss Existing Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Near Jack London School in Santa Rosa. Christina Panza from the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition said that she has been trying to get the Piner-Olivet School District in Santa Rosa, which includes Jack London Elementary School on Francisco Avenue, to participate in their Safe Routes to Schools program. However, except for 7th and 8th grade students at the Piner-Olivet Charter School, the district currently prohibits students at all other schools from bicycling to school. While walking to school is still permitted, students are not allowed to bicycle to school due to a memorandum from the Sonoma County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee that was submitted to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors in June 2003.

Sonoma County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

June 21, 2023 Minutes

Page 4

Staff said that the committee's memorandum in 2003 encouraged the Piner-Olivet School District to construct Class II bicycle lanes and standard sidewalks along Francisco Avenue and San Miguel Road to and from the proposed Jack London Elementary School campus. The school district's interim solution was to only construct raised asphalt berms, which the committee argued would not provide safe access to the campus for both pedestrians and bicyclists. At the time the memorandum was submitted, the proposed school on Francisco Avenue was located in the Sonoma County unincorporated areas. Since that time, it has been annexed into the Santa Rosa city limits.

Christina Panza requested that the committee prepare a new memorandum to be submitted to the City of Santa Rosa indicating that they no longer have jurisdiction over the Jack London Elementary School campus or nearby Francisco Avenue and San Miguel Road. Alexander Ocegüera, staff with the City of Santa Rosa, said that the issue would then be presented to the members of the Santa Rosa Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board. It was also confirmed that Francisco Avenue and San Miguel Road are included as proposed Class II bicycle lane projects in the 2018 Santa Rosa Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The committee then directed staff to prepare a new memorandum on their behalf to staff of the Santa Rosa Bicycle and Pedestrian Board and copied to staff of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition.

V. Other Business & Announcements

Christina Panza asked what staff at the Sonoma County Public Infrastructure Department she should contact regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety issues near schools located in the unincorporated areas. Staff recommended sending an e-mail to either Stevan Hunter, Michael Kalua or Clyde Galantine, and copying Nadur Dahu.

Vin Hoagland announced that Caltrans has agreed to sell their excess property for the proposed Northeast Greenway (and multi-use pathway) project to be located between Farmers Lane and Summerfield Road in Santa Rosa. An appraisal now needs to be completed to determine the cost to acquire the property. Thus far, approximately \$2 million in grant funding has been identified to assist in acquiring the property.

VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment

The next committee meeting was tentatively scheduled for August 16, 2023 and will include a presentation from Fehr and Peers regarding the update of the bicycle and pedestrian plan.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.