

Sonoma County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024
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/89885486823?pwd=bbgCS5fQgOkIfjcfMAR3VAaftXNpfe.1>
Mtg. ID: 898 8548 6823, 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 (30 Minutes)

- Status of Copeland Creek Multi-Use Pathway Project.
- Update on County Bike Friendly Communities Application.
- Sonoma Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update.
- Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair on the Committee.

IV. General Meeting:

- A. Support for Grant Applications Proposed by Public Infrastructure Dept. that Include Bicycle and Pedestrian Components. (30 minutes)

V. Other Business & Announcements (10 Minutes)

VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment (5 Minutes)

Next meeting of the Sonoma County BPAC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

*Public Comments on Non-Agenda Issues. Please limit public 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 items already on the agenda.

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Members in Attendance		Other Participants	
Chris Woodcock*	1 st District	Lynn Deedler*	5 th District Resident
Joe Morgan	2 nd District	Amy Loukonen	5 th District Resident
Vin Hoagland	3 rd District (Chair)	Sarah Hadler*	Bicycle Coalition
Collin Thoma	4 th District (Alternate)	Emily Shartin	Bicycle Coalition
Brian Bauer	5 th District (Alternate)	Dana Turrey	Transp. Authority
		Will Lyons	Permit Sonoma
		Nader Dahu*	Public Infrastructure
		Michael Kalua*	Public Infrastructure
		Ken Tam	Regional Parks
		Matt Ridgway	Fehr & Peers
		Erin Ferguson	Fehr & Peers
		Eleanor Leshner	Leshner Planning
		Steven Schmitz	SCBPAC Staff

*Attended meeting virtually via Zoom.

Meeting Summary

I. Introductions and Public Comments

Self-introductions were made. Vin Hoagland agreed to serve as Chair for the meeting since Chris Woodcock was attending virtually via Zoom. There were no public comments.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda for the October 18, 2023 meeting agenda was approved as presented. The minutes from the June 21, 2023 meeting were approved as presented.

III. Staff Reports

Update on Copeland Creek Multi-Use Pathway Project. Ken Tam of Regional Parks reported that the construction bids for the Copeland Creek Trail project were opened on August 31, 2023. The engineer's estimate for the project was \$2.7 million. Unfortunately, the construction bid could not be awarded because only two bids were received and both bids exceeded \$3 million. It is anticipated that the project will be readvertised by Regional Parks for bids in early 2024.

Ped. Safety Improvements on Hwy. 12 at Verano Avenue. Staff reported attending a virtual meeting on September 13 that included Supervisor Gorin and staff from Caltrans, Public Infrastructure, and Regional Parks. The primary task is to propose both short-term and long-term pedestrian safety improvements at the intersection of Hwy. 12 and Verano Avenue. An additional task established during the meeting was to propose bicycle facility improvements along Verano Avenue and through intersection with the Hwy. 12.

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Status of County's Bicycle Friendly Communities Application. Staff said that the next application submittal deadline to the League of American Bicyclists for a Bicycle Friendly Communities designation for the County's unincorporated areas will be June 25, 2024. Staff will need assistance to complete the application.

Other Reports. Staff reported that a memorandum on behalf of the committee will soon be prepared with comments on the Public Infrastructure Department's most recent Pavement Preservation Projects. Comments will be prepared by staff in collaboration with the Chair of the committee.

IV. General Meeting

A. Sonoma Countywide Active Transportation Plan - Unincorporated County Milestone Update # 1 (Vision, Goals, Roles, Schedules, Conditions, Etc.) Dana Turrey of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority introduced Erin Ferguson and Matt Ridgway of Fehr & Peers and Eleanor Leshner of Leshner Planning and Transportation who have been contracted to assist with the update of the Sonoma Countywide Active Transportation Plan (ATP), as well as ATP's for several local jurisdictions including the County's unincorporated areas. Erin and Eleanor made a PowerPoint presentation to the committee that included a general description of an ATP, scope and approach, vision and goals, advisory body role, schedule, and local conditions discussion. At the conclusion of their presentation, Erin and Eleanor asked if there were any questions or comments.

Regarding the draft Countywide Vision Statement, Vin Hoagland recommended that the first line be changed from 'the transportation system is safe' to 'the transportation system must be safe.' Eleanor Leshner thanked Vin for that suggestion and reminded the committee that the vision, goals and objectives for the local unincorporated areas ATP can be different from the Countywide ATP. Brian Bauer asked if the draft Vision Statement would include any metrics for equity. Amy Loukonen expressed concern that most of the unincorporated areas may not be able to utilize the tools outlined in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Toolbox, which appear to be tailored more toward more urbanized areas. Staff responded that there are several urbanized areas in the County's unincorporated areas including, among others, Larkfield - Wikiup, Guerneville - Monte Rio, and Sonoma Springs.

Joe Morgan suggested that public transit should be expanded in the Lower Russian River area (Guerneville – Monte Rio) and buses should accommodate more bicycles on-board. Emily Shartin of the Bicycle Coalition said it is very important to have north/south and east/west bicycle route connectors that overlap with Caltrans District 4 Bike Plan. Dana Turrey mentioned that she is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Caltrans Plan. Chris Woodcock said that the committee should remember that Class I off-road multi-use pathways will also be a large aspect of the unincorporated ATP. Emily also asked how destinations and activity generators will be determined in the ATP. Erin Ferguson said that several sources would be used such as Strava heatmaps and various demographics, etc.

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Sarah Hadler of the Bicycle Coalition encouraged the consultants to capture the various bicycle and pedestrian routes that children take to schools, similar to the Strava heatmaps. She said that Christina Panza of the Bicycle Coalition can provide Safe Routes to Schools

GIS maps that include student addresses for several schools located in the unincorporated areas (i.e., Wright Charter School). Their Safe Routes to Schools maps are available on-line at www.sonomasaferoutes.org/content/school-srts-travel-plans. Erin Ferguson said that, through the Countywide ATP update process, maps will be provided via the Fehr & Peers webmap explorer portal that includes existing facilities and proposed improvements as of the 2014 Sonoma Countywide ATP. Level of Traffic Stress (LTS), High Injury Network (HIN) and Pedestrian Priority Zone (PPZ) maps will also be provided by Fehr and Peers. Feedback is needed on the accuracy of existing bicycle facilities, LTS and HIN designations, and potential PPZ locations in the County's urban service areas.

Eleanor Leshner said that a community engagement process for the Countywide ATP update has already been established including an interactive map and an online survey at <https://fp.mysocialpinpoint.com/sonoma-county-atp>. An e-mail will also soon be sent to the members of the committee with direct links to the interactive map and survey. Lynn Deedler asked how complex project ideas will be vetted for inclusion in the Countywide ATP. Erin Ferguson responded that several factors would need to be looked at to inform feasibility and input will be needed from staff of the appropriate jurisdiction. Eleanor and Matt Ridgway offered to take a bicycle ride with Lynn to further explore his project ideas.

Amy Loukonen thanked Dana Turrey of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority and the consultant team with Fehr & Peer and Leshner Planning and Transportation for initiating the process to update of the Countywide ATP and County unincorporated plan. Sarah Hadler said she will be sure to share the community engagement information with the schools she works with through the Safe Routes to Schools program. Erin Ferguson thanked the committee for having them at the meeting and said that the initial phase of the community engagement process would be focused on 'pop-up' events and working with the various bicycle and pedestrian advisory committees. Staff said that public outreach needs to include equity priority communities such as the Lower Russian River and Sonoma Springs.

V. Other Business & Announcements

Chris Woodcock thanked Sonoma County Transit for installing colorful new bicycle racks at several of their bus stops in the Sonoma Springs area. Staff announced that Tom Bahning would soon be appointed as the 3rd District Alternate Member on the committee.

VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment

The next committee meeting was tentatively scheduled for December 20. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.