



490 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 206
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Countywide Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

MEETING AGENDA

September 22, 2009 1:30-2:30 PM

Sonoma County Transportation Authority
SCTA Large Conference Room
490 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 206, Santa Rosa, California 95401

ITEM

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes, July 28– DISCUSSION / ACTION*
3. Approval of Agenda – DISCUSSION / ACTION
4. Public Comment
5. Roundtable Members Reports
6. Staff Reports:
 - 6.1. Way to Go! Expo Report*
7. Other Business / Comments / Announcements
8. Adjourn – ACTION

*Materials attached.

The next **SCTA** meeting will be held **October 19, 2009**
The next **CBPAC** meeting will be held **November 10, 2009**

Copies of the full Agenda Packet are available at www.sctainfo.org

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Pagers, cellular telephones and all other communication devices should be turned off during the committee meeting to avoid electrical interference with the sound recording system.

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◆ Valerie Brown, Sonoma County ◆ Pat Gilardi, Cotati ◆ David Glass, Petaluma ◆ Sarah Gurney, Sebastopol ◆ Paul Kelley, Sonoma County ◆
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**COUNTYWIDE BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
 MINUTES
 July 28, 2009**

ATTENDEES

Arthur, Brant	Climate Protection Campaign
Bates, Curt	City of Petaluma Public Works Department
Dadko, Beth	Co. of Sonoma Dept. of Health & Human Services
Favila, Fabian	City of Santa Rosa
Kelly, Sue	City of Sebastopol
Schmitz, Steven	Sonoma County Transit
Skinner, Geoffrey	Citizen Representative, City of Sebastopol

SCTA staff present: Lynne March, Chris Barney, Nina Donofrio, Jazmine Whitlock.

Vice Chair Fabian Favila called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. in Chair Wendy Atkins' absence.

ITEM

1. Introductions

Round table introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes, May 26– DISCUSSION / ACTION*

The minutes were approved with the following changes, as noted by Mr. Favila: Page 3, Item 7, Status of Highway 101 Overcrossing, paragraph 5 is to be corrected to read: "...A public meeting was held May 7 and the preliminary consensus was that the public prefers the Bear Cub alignment option through the junior college. The next step is completion of the feasibility study report, which will address all proposed options: whether the bridge will be a trestle or single span design."

Steve Schmitz of Sonoma County Transit moved for approval of the minutes as corrected. Geoffrey Skinner of Sebastopol seconded the motion and it passed, with Sue Kelly abstaining.

3. Approval of Agenda – DISCUSSION / ACTION

Lynne March announced that she would be reporting on the Regional Bicycle Program under Item 7, Staff Reports.

4. Public Comment

There being no public comment, the agenda moved on to Item 5.

5. Roundtable Members Reports

City of Santa Rosa:

Mr. Favila reported that the City of Santa Rosa Public Works Department will be demonstrating a pilot bicycle program on Humboldt Street.

5.1. Commonwealth Club Meeting of 6/3 brief Report by Fabian Favila

Mr. Favila reported on a "Commuting by Bicycle the Last Two Miles" presentation/work shop that was held in San Jose. This was mainly a panel discussion, which included the following participants: a representative of the University of Colorado who is conducting a study for the Mineta Transportation Institute of San Jose State University; a representative of the San Jose Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator's office; a representative of the Bicycle Coalition of Santa Clara County; and the Assistant to the General Manager of

SamTrans (which works with CalTrain), who addressed the issue of bicycles on trains and how the surge in bicycling has resulted in a higher rate of bicycles being refused on trains. Discussion involved cuts in funding and CalTrain noted that more funding would allow for additional cars on trains to carry more bicycles. The discussion addressed facilitating riding bicycles to stations (mainly rail). Mr. Favila referred the Committee to the podcast that is available online at www.commonwealthclub.org.

SCTA:

Chris Barney reported that SCTA staff is working on updating the Measure M Strategic Plan maps. A few of the bicycle/ pedestrian maps are on this list, among which are the SMART Trail and McCray Trail maps, which have been updated. These are being worked on for the Bicycle/Pedestrian and Local Streets and Roads projects for the Measure M Strategic Plan. This is scheduled to come before the Board in September as part of the Measure M Strategic Plan and will likely also be included in the Technical Advisory Committee meeting agenda.

In response to Beth Dadko's inquiry regarding the availability of bicycle maps to the public, Mr. Barney explained that this is determined on a case-by-case basis, for a few copies of a map at a standard size there may not be a cost; for larger quantities and/or sizes of maps there would be a fee.

City of Petaluma:

Curt Bates had nothing to report, other than noting that he is the Chair of the Petaluma Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee and looks forward to serving on this Committee as the new representative for the City of Petaluma.

City of Sebastopol:

Sue Kelly reported that the City of Sebastopol Street Smart Phase 2 project has gone out to bid. Staff anticipates awarding a contract in September. This project consists of a good deal of pedestrian improvements. Caltrans advised City staff that they will be installing interim signing and red curbing. Plans for Phase 3 have been submitted for an additional nine intersections. Staff hopes to get these plans approved within the next three to four months. This would improve a total of 12 intersections in Sebastopol.

Ms. March added that the City was commended at the previous Citizens Advisory Committee for their persistence and success in working with Caltrans to make valuable improvements. Ms. Kelly acknowledged that Street Smart projects are progressing well.

Sonoma County Health & Human Services Department:

Beth Dadko reported that Safe Routes to School non-infrastructure program officially began July 1. Staff is contracting with the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition on education and encouragement components of the program. Staff is working with Caltrans in its implementation.

Ms. Dadko announced that their Department has convened a County-wide Safe Routes to School work group to identify different sources of funding to implement a County-wide model similar that which is in place in Marin County. She invited anyone interested to participate, and to forward any referrals or funding information they become aware of.

City of Sebastopol:

Geoffrey Skinner announced that the Sebastopol Safe Routes to School Task Force is working towards developing a map of safer routes in Sebastopol. They are examining Portland's maps, which include a family-friendly map of safe routes to school. Staff is studying the costs involved and how to fund these maps, which will be distributed to students and be made available through Chambers of Commerce and other sources.

Ms. Kelly added that staff has done a commendable job of identifying problem areas on routes. She will then examine where some of these problems may be currently in the process of resolution through various projects that are under way.

Ms. March raised the issue of school bussing policy. She noted that some unintended consequences include an impact on attendance. She expressed the need to understand the mandated parameters for bussing students to school.

Ms. Kelly stated that the Task Force may make a recommendation regarding this issue. A staff level meeting is scheduled with the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition on Monday, August 3 to address this issue. Ms. Kelly observed that the majority of students in Sebastopol are within one-half mile of school.

Ms. March reported that through public outreach for the Healdsburg Community-Based Transportation Plan it was stated out that current school policy does not encourage or provide incentives for bicycling to school; e.g., bicycle parking is not conveniently located at the school(s).

Ms. Kelly confirmed that the City has support of the schools and other local officials in encouraging bicycling and bussing to school.

Sonoma County Transit:

Steven Schmitz reported that the Western Avenue project is in progress; preparation for tree removal is under way and this is scheduled to go to construction in the summer of 2010.

6. Complete Streets Checklist Feedback --- DISCUSSION/ACTION*

Ms. March reported that the MTC initiated the Routine Accommodations Checklist in association with the federal stimulus projects; they acknowledged that this was not an ideal "fit" for programmatic types of projects; the Checklist is generally oriented towards distinct construction projects. The MTC is seeking input as to how the process could be improved.

Ms. March invited comments from ARRA sponsors to be submitted to Sean Co of MTC, with copies to her. To date no comments have been received. She referred to specific questions posed by the MTC relating to the checklist.

Ms. Kelly reported that the process did not lend itself appropriately to ARRA projects in general; the deadline was not practical or possible for many projects. Ms Kelly stated she would send Sean Co comments regarding her experience with the Checklists

7. Staff Reports:

7.1.1. Pedestrian Counts Report by Jazmine Whitlock*

Mr. Barney introduced Jazmine Whitlock, intern for the SCTA, who has been conducting pedestrian counts and working on GIS projects with staff. Mr. Barney explained that staff utilized the MTC collection methodology. Locations included those listed earlier in the year by the Committee; he referred to this list in the staff report. Mr. Barney invited Committee feedback on prioritizing locations for collecting data.

Ms. Whitlock explained how she counted and entered data, indicating direction of traffic, time of day, and whether the traffic is pedestrians or bicyclists.

Mr. Barney noted that additional data showing the intersection profile indicates whether there are sidewalks, bicycle lanes, traffic signals, etc.

Mr. Barney reported that staff was contacted by consultants who are conducting pedestrian/bicycle counts for the County. Interest has been expressed in establishing a central, accessible database with this information.

Discussion followed regarding the various jurisdictions' traffic counts and which areas still to have this done. Mr. Barney explained that this data would be available upon request, but would not be posted on the SCTA web site.

In response to Ms. Kelly's question, Ms. Whitlock reported that she conducted counts on Main Street and on the Joe Rodota Trail in Sebastopol.

Mr. Barney offered to have SCTA train any City staff in collecting bicycle and pedestrian traffic counts, noting that it is a simple process and does not require any special equipment.

Discussion continued regarding specific areas in Santa Rosa (southwest and southeast) where pedestrian and bicycle counts could be conducted.

7.1.2. Quarterly TDA3/TFCA Report*

Ms. March reported that the Transit Bicycle Marketing Program for the City of Petaluma was amended, so funding has been extended and is no longer in jeopardy.

Ms. March announced that Joe Rye is the new Transit Manager for the City of Petaluma and that he has been working with the schools to increase ridership on this program.

7.1.3. Status of the Healdsburg Community Based Transportation Plan Report*

Ms. March announced that Beth Dadko and Steve Schmitz both participated in this project. She explained that the Community Based Transportation Plan is funded by the MTC; four specific communities were identified in Sonoma County as "communities of concern" based on their concentrations of lower income populations. Public outreach to the local community is emphasized to identify issues and needed transportation improvements of all types.

Ms. March referred to a list that ranks transportation solutions based on public input. The CBTP program has an associated funding program; the Lifeline Transportation Program. Projects identified through the CBTP Program are favored for funding through the Lifeline Program, although this funding is not guaranteed for all projects.

Ms. March answered questions regarding the public outreach and prioritization of needs and solutions, as well as an apparent discrepancy between some issues that have been identified as high priority but which are lower ranking in the list of solutions. An example of this is that the biggest issue identified by outreach was maintaining existing transit service; however, this was not ranked as the highest priority as a solution by the stakeholders committee. There seemed to be an assumption of the ongoing existence of the foundation transit services provided by Sonoma County Transit and Healdsburg Transit.

7.1.4. Way to Go Expo Report*

Ms. March distributed additional fliers announcing this event, which is to be held August 12 in conjunction with the Santa Rosa Downtown Market and invited Committee members to post these. There are 55 participants. A new bicycle will be given away (from the Trek Bicycle Store) and a pair of Amtrak tickets.

8. Other Business / Comments / Announcements

Ms. March presented 2035 Plan information from the MTC; specifically the Regional Bicycle Program. She referred to listings of projects which are part of this Plan. Summary of Discretionary Funding shows MTC's commitment to funding these programs. Opportunities to fund pedestrian projects will be through the TLC (Transportation for Liveable Communities) and the Transportation Climate Action Campaign. She also noted that MTC has made a commitment to fund the buildout of a 2,100 mile bicycle network in the amount of \$1 billion over the course of this Plan. The top priority is the on-street portion.

Ms. March referred to safety issues identified in this Plan and the goal of reducing injuries and fatalities involving bicyclists and pedestrians by 25% by 2035.

Ms. March noted that the County is fixed to the cost parameters of the Plan; a jurisdiction can submit projects other than those that are currently on the list; however, the total cost must not exceed the plan dollar amount

Further discussion continued regarding issues for projects and the discrepancy between current project lists and the 2001 list identified by the MTC. Comments included incorporating changes in the updated list and each jurisdiction's updates on their projects.

Ms. March announced that the new Regional Bicycle Program does not include pedestrian projects. The Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Program has been eliminated.

9. Adjourn – ACTION

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Staff Report

To: Countywide Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

From: Lynne March, Transportation Planner

Item: 2009 Way to Go! Expo

Date: September 22, 2009

Post-Event Status Report

SCTA's **2009 Way to Go! Expo** was held Wednesday, August 12th, again in conjunction with the Santa Rosa Downtown Market. The Santa Rosa Downtown Market Board is due thanks for providing the venue free of charge. The transportation alternatives fair was staged on the east side of Old Courthouse Square. This 4th annual community event was the best attended to date. It was held on a warm summer evening, staged between when the county fair ended and school terms began. The forty-eight participating entities represented a wide range of perspectives on transportation. Alternatives to driving a single-occupancy gasoline-powered vehicle were showcased and the public was provided information about how to use various modes, as well as why they might wish to do so.

Reasons why people might elect to use alternatives include doing one's part to protect the climate; reducing local air pollution and traffic congestion; saving money; and increasing one's personal health and fitness. Signs were posted throughout the site suggesting ways by which people could help reduce their greenhouse gas production.

As event attractions, music was provided, and a drawing was held for a Trek commuter bicycle, Amtrak tickets, a backpack, and bicycle map. There were 168 drawing entries.

The SCTA had a booth as well, allowing SCTA visibility as an organization that supports sustainable transportation.

Sincere thanks are due to the many participants who gave their enthusiasm, effort and time; and to the media for assisting in getting the word out about the event. The displays afforded the public a wealth of information in a fun and enjoyable setting.

Expenditures for the expo came in under budget at -\$4,000 (of \$5,000).

Please see the attached collage of expo images.

**The Sonoma County Transportation Authority's 4th annual
*Way to Go! Expo***

