

Countywide Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

MEETING AGENDA

November 10, 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 and September 22– DISCUSSION / ACTION*
3. Approval of Agenda – DISCUSSION / ACTION
4. Public Comment
5. Report on Safe Routes to School Portland Conference and Countywide Safe Routes to School Implementation Efforts: Beth Dadko of Sonoma County Department of Health Services
6. Roundtable Members Reports
7. Staff Reports:
 - 7.1. SCTA bicycle & pedestrian counts, Chris Barney*
 - 7.2. TFCA & TDA 3 Quarterly Report*
 - 7.3. Status of Community Based Transportation Plans
 - 7.4. Web-linked articles*
 - 7.5. 2009 Measure M Strategic Plan: available at http://www.sctainfo.org/measure_m_strategicplan.htm
 - 7.6. Regional Pedestrian Safety Summit*
8. Other Business / Comments / Announcements
 - 8.1. City of Sonoma League of American Bicyclists Award*
9. Adjourn – ACTION

*Materials attached.

The next **SCTA** meeting will be held **January 12, 2009**
The next **CBPAC** meeting will be held **January 26, 2010**

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

DISABLED ACCOMMODATION: If you have a disability that requires the agenda materials to be in an alternate format or that requires an interpreter or other person to assist you while attending this meeting, please contact SCTA at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

Board of Directors

◆ Mike Kerns, Chair, Sonoma County ◆ Jake Mackenzie, Vice Chair, Rohnert Park ◆
◆ Valerie Brown, Sonoma County ◆ Pat Gilardi, Cotati ◆ David Glass, Petaluma ◆ Sarah Gurney, Sebastopol ◆ Paul Kelley, Sonoma County ◆ 1
◆ Mike McGuire, Healdsburg ◆ Carol Russell, Cloverdale ◆ Sam Salmon, Windsor ◆ August Sebastiani, Sonoma ◆ Gary Wysocky, Santa Rosa ◆

SB 343 DOCUMENTS RELATED TO OPEN SESSION AGENDAS: Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the **CBPAC** after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Sonoma County Transportation Authority office at 490 Mendocino Ave., Suite 206, during normal business hours.

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.

**COUNTYWIDE BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
 MINUTES
 September 22, 2009**

ATTENDEES

Atkins, Wendy	City of Sonoma
Culver, Christine	Sonoma Co. Bicycle Coalition
Kelly, Sue	City of Sebastopol
Perez, Alejandro	Town of Windsor
Roberson, Chip	Citizen Representative City of Sonoma
Skinner, Geoffrey	Citizen Representative City of Sebastopol

Staff present: Lynne March, Chris Barney, Nina Donofrio

Chair Wendy Atkins called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

ITEM

1. Introductions

Round table introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes, July 28– DISCUSSION / ACTION*

The minutes of July 28, 2009 were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

3. Approval of Agenda – DISCUSSION / ACTION

The agenda was approved as submitted.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Roundtable Members Reports

Sue Kelly of the City of Sebastopol reported that the City is almost ready to sign a contract with Republic ITS for construction of Phase 2 of the Street Smart Program for intersection improvements. Safety signage and sidewalk improvements are planned as part of the federal stimulus project, which is also in contract.

Staff is preparing an update to City Council on the Safe Routes to School Program that will be presented in November. Ms. Kelly acknowledged the hard work and contribution of Tina Panza of the Bicycle Coalition, Program Coordinator for Safe Routes to School, in preparing this.

Street Smart Phase 3 involves improvements at nine additional intersections. Each will have bulbouts; there will be some reconfiguration of some intersections; in-pavement and overhead flashing beacons; colored crosswalk and landscaping. The project has just gone through the first round of comments for the encroachment permit.

Christine Culver of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition reported that staff will be assisting Fleet Feet with the “Take Back the Creek” event scheduled for October 28. This is in response to an assault that took place.

Ms. Culver next reported that the Bicycle Coalition will be providing bicycle valet parking for the 2009 Handcars Regatta Sunday, September 27. This will be at the Chevy’ s parking lot in Santa Rosa Railroad Square.

The Bicycle Coalition will also be providing valet bicycle parking for both days of Levi Leipheimer's GranFondo event, October 2 and 3.

The Bicycle Coalition has been hired to conduct a Street Skills Class starting September 26. Transition Cotati, a non-profit organization for sustainable communities, also inquired about having the Bicycle Coalition conduct a similar type of class. Lunch time classes have also been conducted at Medtronic.

Ms. Culver announced that the Bicycle Coalition is in need of more trained instructors in teaching bicycle street skills. She invited anyone interested in becoming a licensed instructor to contact her.

October 7 is International Walk and Roll to School Day. At least 34 schools have signed up to date, with possibly up to 55 participating. Many of these activities are supported by Measure M. Various prizes (straps for leg bands, pencils, bookmarks and blinking lights) will be offered.

Ms. Culver reported that the Coalition has been active in trying to get "No Bicycles" signs removed from the Wild Oak community in Oakmont.

The Coalition has also been working closely with the Santa Rosa Police Department in getting the bicycle law available in the form of a "Ready Rack" card that is easy to read and accessible. It goes in the officer's ticket book. An educational campaign has been conducted with presentations at Police Department briefings. Coalition staff have also participated in ridealongs with the police, accompanying them in identifying bicycle violations and issuing citations. Fliers of "The Rules of the Road" were distributed in both English and Spanish.

Geoffrey Skinner reported on a pedestrian forum that was co-sponsored by the City of Sebastopol and Bike and Walk Sebastopol. Discussion centered around crosswalks. One comment made on the overhead and in-pavement flashing lights was that there is no feedback for the pedestrian. The pedestrian is unable to see lights flashing overhead and is unable to determine if traffic is responding to them. Ms. Kelly responded that this issue has been addressed and is under review. She noted that there are alternative ways to address the issue and it has been referred to City staff to resolve.

At the pedestrian forum, a member of Bike and Walk Sebastopol, Lynn Deedler, suggested possible north/south and east/west Class I routes through Sebastopol. He has conducted outreach with property owners, whose response was very favorable. He and Mr. Skinner have given presentations to Bike and Walk Sebastopol and the Safe Routes to School committee. Mr. Skinner outlined the route, which would be approximately from the Joe Rodota Trail potentially as far as the Bloomfield Road intersection on Highway 116 (paralleling Highway 116). The other boundary would be from Bodega Avenue to Watertrough Road. Ms. Kelly reiterated that this has been discussed at this point by the public only; it has not yet come up to the City Council.

Ms. Kelly added that the County was awarded the state Safe Routes to School grant. This includes improvements at Watertrough Road and a bicycle/pedestrian connection all the way to River Road.

Chris Barney of the SCTA reported that the internship was completed and the intern has left. The Bicycle/Pedestrian counts have been completed. He announced that it is possible the SCTA will have another intern on staff this fall, in which case there may be some additional counts. He will present the final list of count locations and final data at the next meeting.

Alejandro Perez of the Town of Windsor announced that they received a BTA grant to continue a bicycle lane on Windsor Road.

City staff has also been given approval to proceed with the Old Redwood Highway pedestrian linkages project. This will include completing a sidewalk and bicycle lanes around Town Hall.

Mr. Perez next provided an update on the Brooks Creek residential area Class I bicycle lane project. This is being presented at the October 7 Town Council meeting. Residents of this area do not want bicycles going through the area.

Ms. Culver added that the Bicycle Coalition has intervened with educational presentations for junior high and high school students. She will follow up to determine if this includes training in bicycle trail etiquette.

Ms. March inquired as to the status of the TFCA-funded Mitchell Lane striping and the bicycle locker projects. Mr. Perez responded that the bicycle lockers have been installed and the striping of Mitchell Lane is completed. He will follow up with invoicing for both projects.

Chip Roberson announced that staff is planning the second annual Sonoma Springs Bicycle Festival, to be held October 10 at Depot Park. Activities include a community tour with City Council members and City Staff and a 25-mile bicycle ride. It is hoped this will become a fundraiser. He invited members to participate.

Ms. Atkins recognized the hard work done by Mr. Roberson and staff in coordinating this festival. She also announced that the City of Sonoma is conducting two training classes, Saturday, September 26. One is for adults and the other is for students. She invited anyone interested to attend. Ms. Culver acknowledged that the class is very educational and informative.

Mr. Roberson announced the implementation of the Bicycle Restoration Project; which is a program that refurbishes old and/or unused bicycles for donation to children. He invited donations.

Ms. Atkins reported that the City of Sonoma is installing bicycle racks at the Plaza. Part of the bicycle project is to develop a merchant bicycle parking plan. They were not awarded the BTA grant for which they had applied for this project; however, they have funding from other sources. Staff is also working on implementing TFCA grant funding projects; they hope to have the layout and plans for signs and shows the first week of October.

Ms. Atkins announced that she is continuing to participate in the Caltrans District 4 Pedestrian Advisory Committee. She said eventually a project will come up that will involve a field trip to Sonoma. When this happens, committee members are invited to attend. She will announce this as soon as it is scheduled.

Mr. Roberson announced that he is now Valerie Brown's representative to the Sonoma County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (this committee addresses unincorporated Sonoma County).

Ms. Atkins reported that the Briar Creek Bridge proposal was addressed at the Sonoma City Council earlier this month. Two locations are proposed; one will be selected. This will be taken back to the Council. Ms. Atkins will then follow up to ensure that this information is forwarded to the Advisory Committee.

6. Staff Reports:

6.1. Way to Go! Expo Report*

Ms. March reported that this was very successful. Even with less space in the reconfigured venue it was the best attended Expo thus far. A few participants were no-shows. Indications are that the Board wishes to hold this again next year. Almost all participants from last year were in attendance, in addition to some new participants.

Ms. March presented fliers with information on pedestrian laws and an information sheet on federal funding sources for bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Ms. March reported that the MTC Pedestrian Advisory Committee had been considering conducting a pedestrian educational event. This may be in the fall; a date has not been set as of yet.

The Springs (Central Sonoma Valley) CBTP will begin in the near future. The contract is anticipated to be in place September 23.

Ms. March explained the CBTP program. The program is funded by the MTC. It is a result of the MTC identifying communities of concern, particularly among low income and minority populations. The community based transportation plans to address local transportation issues. The plans focus on public outreach to identify needs, problems and solutions, which are prioritized. She reported that the Roseland and Lower Russian River CBTPs are currently available online.

Discussion ensued regarding improvements on Highway 12 in The Springs area. Mr. Roberson asked whether the newly striped areas could be better identified so that drivers do not confuse them with parking spaces. Ms. Culver explained that these are not officially bicycle lanes, but shoulders. Ms. Kelly pointed out that shoulders are required by Caltrans to allow for vehicles to pull off the road. Ms. Kelly reported that Caltrans does not officially designate bicycle lanes on State highways; they only mark the shoulder of the road.

Discussion continued regarding methods of striping that would better identify bicycle lanes and designate safer vehicular movement and visibility of bicyclists (e.g., bicycle lanes that are parallel to bulbouts).

Ms. March reported that MTC recently announced that the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Program has been discontinued. There will be a Regional Bicycle Program and there is a commitment to fund this. Pedestrian projects are a concern; the Sebastopol Street Smart projects were funded in part by this program. Ms. March noted that there are indications that pedestrian projects will be funded by the TLC program; however, there are also indications that TLC will favor priority development areas. Three Sonoma County areas had applications to ABAG for priority development area status, and were denied. These included the Springs area in Sonoma and the Russian River area.

Ms. March pointed out that the next meeting is not on its regular schedule and will be held November 10 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

7. Other Business / Comments / Announcements

Ms. Culver presented fliers on the Humboldt Bicycle Boulevard project. A public meeting is scheduled to discuss what is effective and what issues need to be resolved. Ms. Culver will follow up to confirm whether this is being held October 8 or 10.

8. Adjourn – ACTION

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

SCTA 2009 Bicycle/Pedestrian Count Program - Intersection Counts

STREET NAME	LOCATION	INTERSECTION LEG	COMBINED PEAK	AM(7-9AM)	PM (4-6PM)	BIKE	PED	DATE
Santa Rosa Ave.	2nd St.	N	134	38	96	31	103	7/10/2009
Santa Rosa Ave.	2nd St.	S	213	74	139	33	180	7/10/2009
Santa Rosa Ave.	2nd St.	E	144	29	115	32	112	7/10/2009
Santa Rosa Ave.	2nd St.	W	185	45	140	10	175	7/10/2009
Joe Rodota	Prince Memorial	N	72	53	19	57	15	7/15/2009
Joe Rodota	Prince Memorial	S	73	35	38	55	18	7/15/2009
Joe Rodota	Prince Memorial	E	128	86	42	69	59	7/15/2009
Joe Rodota	Prince Memorial	W	116	81	35	58	58	7/15/2009
Mendocino Ave.	Pacific Ave.	N	57	23	34	24	33	7/9/2009
Mendocino Ave.	Pacific Ave.	S	102	56	46	33	69	7/9/2009
Mendocino Ave.	Pacific Ave.	E	89	44	45	17	72	7/9/2009
Mendocino Ave.	Pacific Ave.	W	91	36	55	28	60	7/9/2009
Mendocino Ave.	College Ave.	N	64	20	44	42	22	7/8/2009
Mendocino Ave.	College Ave.	S	42	17	25	25	17	7/8/2009
Mendocino Ave.	College Ave.	E	91	41	50	41	50	7/8/2009
Mendocino Ave.	College Ave.	W	91	45	46	31	60	7/8/2009
Expressway	Commerce	N	49	15	34	15	34	7/27/2009
Expressway	Commerce	S	36	13	23	14	22	7/27/2009
Expressway	Commerce	E	53	12	41	15	38	7/27/2009
Expressway	Commerce	W	20	7	13	7	13	7/27/2009
Old Redwood Hwy	E. Cotati Ave.	N	20	8	12	6	14	7/27/2009
Old Redwood Hwy	E. Cotati Ave.	S	22	12	10	6	16	7/27/2009
Old Redwood Hwy	E. Cotati Ave.	E	16	6	10	6	10	7/27/2009
Old Redwood Hwy	E. Cotati Ave.	W	13	4	9	4	9	7/27/2009
Yulupa Ave.	Bethards Dr.	N	46	11	35	9	37	7/28/2009
Yulupa Ave.	Bethards Dr.	S	34	20	14	9	25	7/28/2009
Yulupa Ave.	Bethards Dr.	E	42	9	33	16	26	7/28/2009
Yulupa Ave.	Bethards Dr.	W	38	11	27	12	26	7/28/2009
South Main St.	Burnett	N	44	22	22	3	41	7/23/2009
South Main St.	Burnett	S	32	15	17	5	27	7/23/2009
South Main St.	Burnett	E	74	21	53	7	67	7/23/2009
South Main St.	Burnett	W	113	45	68	11	102	7/23/2009
Broadway	E. Napa	N		38		3	35	8/6/2009
Broadway	E. Napa	S		51		6	45	8/6/2009
Broadway	E. Napa	E		15		9	6	8/6/2009
Broadway	E. Napa	W		12		9	3	8/6/2009
North Main St.	Analy Ave.	N	65	20	45	3	62	8/10/2009
North Main St.	Analy Ave.	S	85	18	67	13	72	8/10/2009
North Main St.	Analy Ave.	E	65	17	48	6	59	8/10/2009
North Main St.	Analy Ave.	W	85	24	61	8	77	8/10/2009
Old Redwood Hwy	Conde Ln./ Windsor River Rd.	N	15	6	9	4	11	8/3/2009
Old Redwood Hwy	Conde Ln./ Windsor River Rd.	S	16	7	9	2	11	8/3/2009
Old Redwood Hwy	Conde Ln./ Windsor River Rd.	E	17	11	6	3	11	8/3/2009
Old Redwood Hwy	Conde Ln./ Windsor River Rd.	W	17	11	6	6	11	8/3/2009
Center St.	Matheson St.	N	28	11	17	12	16	8/7/2009
Center St.	Matheson St.	S	34	15	19	8	26	8/7/2009
Center St.	Matheson St.	E	21	8	13	5	16	8/7/2009
Center St.	Matheson St.	W	28	11	17	6	22	8/7/2009
Highway 12	Boyes Blvd.	N		23			23	8/6/2009
Highway 12	Boyes Blvd.	S		15		3	12	8/6/2009
Highway 12	Boyes Blvd.	E		15		4	11	8/6/2009
Highway 12	Boyes Blvd.	W		18		2	16	8/6/2009
East Washington St.	N McDowell Blvd./ Hwy 101	N	113	42	71	5	108	8/24/2009
East Washington St.	N McDowell Blvd./ Hwy 101	S	101	25	76	5	96	8/24/2009
East Washington St.	N McDowell Blvd./ Hwy 101	E	76	26	50	10	66	8/24/2009
East Washington St.	N McDowell Blvd./ Hwy 101	W	86	21	65	10	76	8/24/2009
Guerneville Rd.	Range Ave.	N		11		1	10	10/6/2009
Guerneville Rd.	Range Ave.	S		10		7	3	10/6/2009
Guerneville Rd.	Range Ave.	E		17		4	13	10/6/2009
Guerneville Rd.	Range Ave.	W		6		2	4	10/6/2009

Extracted from SCTA bike/ped. Count database 10-28-2009

Staff Report

To: Countywide Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

From: Lynne March, Transportation Planner

Item: Quarterly Status Report for TFCA and TDA3 projects not fully expended

Date: November 10, 2009

This quarterly report provides the status as of October 21st, of TFCA and TDA3 projects that have not yet been fully expended.

Jurisdiction	Project	Programmed Amount	Funds Expended	Funds Remaining	Funds Expire
Cloverdale	TDA3 Bicycle Lane Striping (09-0010-16)	42,000.00	21,120.72	20,879.28	06/30/11
Healdsburg	TDA3 Foss Creek Pathway Segment 3 (09-0010-18)	110,000.00	-	110,000.00	06/30/11
Healdsburg	TDA3 Healdsburg Ave., Grove St., & Rosewood Drive, Class II Bike Lane Re-striping (09-0010-17)	18,000.00	-	18,000.00	06/30/11
Petaluma	TFCA Transit/Bike Marketing Program (07-SON-04)	143,528.00	67,292.10	76,235.90	12/26/09
Petaluma	TDA3 Lynch Creek Trail Extension (10-0010-01)	306,976.00	-	306,976.00	06/30/12
Rohnert Park	TDA3 Copeland Creek Multi-Use Path Overlay (09-0010-19)	142,000.00	122,205.95	19,794.05	06/30/11
Rohnert Park	TDA3 Copeland Creek Multi-Use Trail (09-0010-20)	30,000.00	-	30,000.00	06/30/11

Jurisdiction	Project	Programmed Amount	Funds Expended	Funds Remaining	Funds Expire
Rohnert Park	TDA3 Bike Path Striping Project (10-0010-02)	\$120,000	-	\$120,000	06/30/12
Santa Rosa	TFCA Student Pass Subsidy (08-SON-03)	88,000.00	59,591.44	28,408.56	12/19/10
Santa Rosa	TFCA Santa Rosa Free Ride Program (08-SON-04)	189,856.00	140,603.30	49,252.70	12/19/10
Santa Rosa	TDA3 Santa Rosa Bicycle / Pedestrian Plan (08-0010-02)	248,934.00	125,402.46	123,531.54	06/30/10
Santa Rosa	TDA3 Sonoma Ave. Class II Bike Lanes & Public Education Campaign (09-0010-21)	31,500.00	13,791.49	17,708.51	06/30/11
Santa Rosa	TDA3 Class III (Citywide) Signage Phase I (10-0010-03)	40,000.00	-	40,000.00	06/30/12
Santa Rosa	TDA3 West College Avenue—Class II Bicycle Lanes (10-0010-04)	41,000.00	-	41,000.00	06/30/12
Santa Rosa	TDA3 Electronic Bicycle Locker Program (10-0010-05)	47,280.00	-	47,280.00	06/30/12
Sonoma County	TFCA Transit Marketing Program (08-SON-02)	89,485.00	-	89,485.00	12/19/10
Sonoma County	TFCA Cotati Intermodal Facility (08-SON-01)	360,000.00	1,296.71	358,703.29	12/19/10
Sonoma County	TDA3 Santa Rosa Creek Trail, Reach F (Son Regional Parks) (08-0010-03)	100,000.00	-	100,000.00	06/30/10
Sonoma County	TDA3 Central Sonoma Valley Trail (09-0010-23)	50,000.00	-	50,000.00	06/30/11
Sonoma County	TDA3 Share the Road Bicycle Caution Signs (09-0010-24)	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	06/30/11

Jurisdiction	Project	Programmed Amount	Funds Expended	Funds Remaining	Funds Expire
Sonoma County	TDA3 Unincorporated Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan (09-0010-25)	20,000.00	19,999.32	.68	06/30/11
Sonoma County	TDA3 Arnold Drive Multi-use Pathway (09-0010-22)	100,000.00	-	100,000.00	06/30/11
Sonoma County	TDA3 Western Avenue Bicycle Shoulder Widening (10-0010-06)	500,000	-	500,000	06/30/12
Windsor	TFCA Town Center Bicycle Lockers (08-SON-05)	4,000.00	-	4,000.00	12/19/10
Windsor	TFCA Mitchell Lane Class II Bicycle Lanes (08-SON-06)	10,400.00	-	10,400.00	12/19/10

Staff Report

To: Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

From: Lynne March, Transportation Planner

Item: News Article Links: Humboldt Bicycle Boulevard, Schellville Trail

Date: November 10, 2009

News articles of possible interest to the CBPAC

Headline:

Humboldt bike lanes 'starting to work': Community members offer positive feedback, suggest changes for safety

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20091008/ARTICLES/910089868/1350?Title=Bike-lanes-starting-to-work->

Headline:

Close to Home: Humboldt bike lane is no 'success' story

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20091015/OPINION/910159888>

Headline:

Old railroad bed to get new life as bicycle trail: County to use \$100,000 in transit tax funds toward path linking Schellville and Sonoma

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20091007/NEWS/910071008>

Staff Report

To: Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

From: Lynne March, Transportation Planner

Item: MTC's Regional Pedestrian Safety Summit

Date: November 10, 2009

Subject: Regional Pedestrian Safety Summit - January 29, 2010

Please Save the Date!

On January 29, 2010, MTC, along with event partners California Walks and CALPED, will host a Regional Pedestrian Safety Summit from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in MTC's Joseph P. Bort Auditorium, 101 8th Street (across the street from Lake Merritt BART in Oakland). The event will bring together community pedestrian advocates, transportation professionals and local government officials to share ways pedestrian injury accidents and fatalities can be reduced. The event will be free of charge, lunch will be provided, and you must be pre-registered to attend. A full conference agenda and registration information will be made available in December.

Thank you,

MTC Public Information



PRESS RELEASE
October 26, 2009

Contacts:

Meghan Cahill, League of American Bicyclists, 202.822.1333, meghan@bikeleague.org
Wendy Atkins, City of Sonoma, 707.933.2204, WendyA@Sonomacity.org
Sandra Lupien, Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition, 707.694.8702, Sandra@BikeSonoma.org

**The League of American Bicyclists Announces the City of Sonoma
as a Fall 2009 Bicycle Friendly Community
Public Welcome at November 5th Award Ceremony**

Washington, DC - October 20, 2009 – The League of American Bicyclists is proud to announce the City of Sonoma as one of our prestigious bronze-level Fall 2009 Bicycle Friendly Communities. “The League is proud to award the City of Sonoma for its work to promote bicycle safety and education while encouraging bicycling in their community,” said League President Andy Clarke. “The League congratulates the City of Sonoma and all of our BFC winners for implementing successful, long-term bicycle plans that provide quality of life improvements for their citizens.” The League is recognizing 15 new Bicycle Friendly Communities and three BFC renewals in its fall 2009 award cycle.

The BFC award recognizes the City of Sonoma’s commitment to improving conditions for bicycling and its practice of making focused investment in bicycling programs and facilities. The BFC judges were particularly impressed with the City of Sonoma’s dedication to implement its Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan that the City Council adopted in October, 2008. Clarke noted the impressive advances of all BFC applicants and said, “This round of applications had more communities in the east and Midwest than ever before that are investing wisely in bicycling – all areas of the U.S. are realizing the importance of bicycling.”

An awards ceremony for the City of Sonoma will take place at the Grinstead Amphitheatre located in the Plaza on Thursday, November 5th at 4 p.m. The City of Sonoma and the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition will host a ceremony to celebrate the Bicycle Friendly designation. The public is invited to attend and is encourage to bicycle to the event.

The City of Sonoma is a stand-out community in California for its initiative and progress to become more bicycle-friendly. The BFC’s reviewers were impressed with the City’s strong community support for bicycling and the fact that eighteen of the City’s thirty-six proposed bikeways and project priorities identified in the Sonoma Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan are currently in the process of being installed.

The award comes just one year after, at the first annual Sonoma/Springs Bicycle Festival in Depot Park when former Mayor Joanne Sanders and Mayor Brown both committed to applying for the award.

“The staff of the City of Sonoma worked diligently to acquire this wonderful award,” says the City’s Mayor, Ken Brown. “This further proves that the City of Sonoma is truly committed to creating a bicycle friendly community in Sonoma.”

“Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition commends the City of Sonoma for its commitment to creating better facilities for bike riders,” says the organization’s Executive Director, Christine Culver. “As the first City in the County to receive the League’s certification under its new criteria, Sonoma is leading the way. We’re thrilled that the City’s leadership wants to continue working toward a platinum certification.”

The BFC program is revolutionizing the way states and communities evaluate their quality of life, sustainability and transportation networks, while allowing them to benchmark their progress and work toward improving their bicycle-friendliness. The application process to become a BFC is rigorous; currently only 124 of the 318 total applicants have a BFC four-year designation. The renewal process and four levels of the award – platinum, gold, silver and bronze – provide a clear incentive for communities to continuously improve. The new and expanded BFC program began at the League in 1995, and in the past 14 years it has evolved into the tool it is today – evaluating, recognizing and improving cities, states and businesses.

The BFC program is generously supported by program partners [Bikes Belong](#) and [Trek's One World Two Wheels Campaign](#). Applicants complete a detailed on-line form with numerous questions in five key areas: engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation/planning. Local cyclists, national experts, and League staff review the applications.

To learn more about the League's Bicycle Friendly Community program, visit <http://www.bicyclefriendlyamerica.org>.

The League of American Bicyclists promotes bicycling for fun, fitness and transportation, and works through advocacy and education for a bicycle-friendly America. The League represents the interests of America's 57 million bicyclists, including its 300,000 members and affiliates. For more information or to support the League, visit www.bikeleague.org.

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