



**REGULAR MEETING of the  
San Mateo County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (SMCBPAC)  
Thursday, December 15, 2022  
7:00 P.M.**

**\*\*\*BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ONLY\*\*\***

On March 17, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order N-29-20 suspending certain provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act in order to allow for local bodies to conduct their meetings telephonically or by other means. On June 11, 2021, the Governor issued Executive Order N-08-21 extending the suspension of those provisions to September 2021. On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB361, that allows local bodies to continue to conduct meetings through teleconferencing when it has determined by majority vote that as a result of a proclaimed state of emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. No physical location will be available for the SMCBPAC meeting.

Public Participation

- \* Written public comments may be emailed to [vcastro1@smcgov.org](mailto:vcastro1@smcgov.org) and should include the specific agenda item on which you are commenting, or note that your comment concerns an item that is not on the agenda or is on the consent agenda.
- \* Spoken public comments will also be accepted during the meeting through Zoom.
- \* Please see instructions for written and spoken public comments at the end of this agenda

**1. WELCOME**

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. TELECONFERENCE MEETING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE BROWN ACT (Action)**

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

This item is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on any SMCBPAC-related matters that are as follows: 1) Not otherwise on this meeting agenda; 2) Staff Report on the Regular Meeting Agenda; or 3) Committee Members' Reports on the Regular Meeting Agenda. Public comments on matters not listed above shall be heard at the time the matter is called.

Speakers are customarily limited to two minutes, but an extension can be provided to you at the discretion of the Committee Chair.

#### **5. ACTION TO SET AGENDA**

This item is to set the final regular agenda.

#### **REGULAR AGENDA**

- 6. Review and Approve October 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes** (Action)
- 7. BPAC Member Announcements and Discussion** (Information)
- 8. Coastal Trail Study** (Information)
- 9. Caltrans District 4 Bike Highway Study** (Information)
- 10. Follow-up on Local Roadway Safety Plan Data Collection Sources** (Information)
- 11. Draft BPAC 2023 Work Plan** (Information)
- 12. Election of Committee Chair and Vice-Chair for Calendar Year 2023** (Action)
- 13. County Updates** (Information)
- 14. Adjournment**

#### Instructions for Public Comment During Videoconference Meetings

During videoconference meetings of the SMCBPAC, members of the public may address the SMCBPAC members as follows:

\*Written Comments:

Written public comments may be emailed in advance of the meeting. Please read the following instructions carefully:

1. Your written comment should be emailed to [vcastro1@smcgov.org](mailto:vcastro1@smcgov.org).
2. Your email should include the specific agenda item on which you are commenting, or note that your comment concerns an item that is not on the agenda or is on the consent agenda.
3. Members of the public are limited to one comment per agenda item.
4. The length of the emailed comment should be commensurate with the two minutes customarily allowed for verbal comments, which is approximately 250-300 words.
5. If your emailed comment is received at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, it will be provided to the SMCBPAC members and made publicly available on the SMCBPAC website along with the agenda. We cannot guarantee that e-mails received less than 24 hours in advance of the meeting will be read during the meeting, but such e-mails will still be included in the administrative record of the meeting.

\*Spoken Comments:

Spoken public comments will be accepted during the meeting through Zoom. Please read the following instructions carefully:

1. The December 15, 2022 SMCBPAC meeting may be accessed through Zoom online at: <https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/98215054624>.

The meeting ID is: 982 1505 4624. The December 15, 2022 SMCBPAC meeting may also be accessed via telephone by dialing US: +1 (669) 900-6833 (Local). Enter the meeting ID: 982 1505 4624, then press #.

2. You may download the Zoom client or connect to the meeting using an internet browser. If using your browser, make sure you are using a current, up-to-date browser: Chrome 30+, Firefox 27+, Microsoft Edge 12+, Safari 7+. Certain functionality may be disabled in older browsers including Internet Explorer.
3. You will be asked to enter an email address and name. We request that you identify yourself by name as this will be visible online and will be used to notify you that it is your turn to speak.
4. When the SMCBPAC Chair calls on the item you wish to speak, click on "raise hand." The SMCBPAC Chair will activate and unmute speakers in turn. Speakers will be notified shortly before they are called to speak.
5. When called, please limit your remarks to the time limit allotted.

Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for the Committee meeting are available for public inspection. Those records that are distributed less than 24 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to all members, or a majority of the members of the Committee. The SMCBPAC's website has been designated for the purpose of making those public records available for inspection. The website is located at: <http://www.smcsustainability.org/livable-communities/active-transportation/>.

*Meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation (including auxiliary aids or services) to participate in this meeting, or who have a disability and wish to request an alternative format for the agenda, meeting notice, agenda packet or other writings that may be distributed at the meeting, should contact Vanessa Castro, Sustainability Specialist – Active Transportation, at least 24 hours before the meeting at [vcastro1@smcgov.org](mailto:vcastro1@smcgov.org). Notification in advance of the meeting will enable the County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting and the materials related to it*



## San Mateo County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (SMCBPAC)

### MEETING MINUTES

\*\*\*BY VIDEOCONFERENCE\*\*\*

Thursday, October 20, 2022

7:00 P.M.

#### 1. WELCOME

Chair Zyda called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. He noted that BPAC members and staff would be connecting to this meeting either by video or audio. Chair Zyda then stated the process for public comment, noted the challenges of holding a BPAC meeting online and thanked everyone for their patience during this time.

#### 2. ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Frederick Zyda  
Susan Doherty  
William Kelly  
John Langbein  
Elaine Salinger  
Cristina Aquino

**Members Absent:**

Annie Tsai

**County Staff:** Joel Slavitt, Vanessa Castro, Hanieh Houshmandi, Harry Yip, Khoa Vo

Joel Slavitt conducted a roll call. A quorum was present.

#### 3. NEW TELECONFERENCE MEETING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE BROWN ACT (Action)

Chair Zyda provided background on the new teleconference meeting requirements under the Brown Act and that the BPAC would need to pass a motion, due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency, if it desired to continue its meeting remotely via teleconference, as meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

*Motion: Chair Zyda moved to approve/Member Kelly seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Before the public comment period proceeded, Mr. Slavit briefly explained procedural logistics for receiving public comment for virtual Zoom meetings.

#### 5. ACTION TO SET AGENDA

Chair Zyda introduced the item and proposed to move agenda item 10, Pescadero Road Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Safety Audit Update, to item 8 on the agenda.

*Motion: Chair Zyda moved to approve with the recommended change in the order of agenda items/ Member Kelly seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

### REGULAR AGENDA

#### 6. Review and Approve August 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Member Langbein and Member Doherty mentioned they were abstaining from voting on the approval of the meeting minutes because they weren't present at the August BPAC meeting.

*Motion: Member Kelly moved to approve with the recommended edit/ Chair Zyda seconded. The motion carried 3-0-2.*

#### 7. BPAC Member Announcements and Discussion (Information)

Member Langbein made an announcement regarding the Department of Public Works Chip Seal Project, stating that he had gone on several rides in the area, was pleased with the thorough job, and would like to see a continuation of additional rounds of sweeping. Member Langbein also noted that Khoa Vo, Deputy Director of Road Services with the Department of Public Works, reached out for recommendations regarding future signage language. Member Langbein made a second announcement regarding Alpine Road. He noted that previously, Mr. Slavit had reached out to the BPAC to provide letters of support for a study of the Alpine Road corridor, near the Highway 280 onramp. Mr. Langbein stated that he originally had some objections to the original proposed improvements, noting that they could have negative implications for cyclists. Mr. Langbein shared that he met with Department of Public Works staff, and the group discussed a potential alternate solution for consideration.

#### 8. Pescadero Road Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Safety Audit Update (Information)

Hanieh Houshmandi, from the San Mateo County Department of Public Works, presented this item, which was a follow up to her presentation at the August BPAC meeting. She provided an overview of the roadway, described the FHWA roadway safety audit process and gave an overview of the audit and next steps.

Member Langbein inquired about crash statistics. He noted that driver behavior on weekends is a primary contributor to the collision statistics, and that engineering will not address the issue of speeding. Ms. Houshmandi stated that the Department of Public Works has done as much as possible in-

house, which is why they reached out to FHWA to see if they could identify other solutions that the County has not tried. Member Doherty noted that the FHWA brings perspective and experience from across the country.

Member Salinger noted that there hasn't been any mention of a protected bike lane between Pescadero and the Coast. Ms. Houshmandi replied that there is not room in most segments of the roadway, but the County had yet to receive the FHWA's recommendations. Member Doherty added that during the safety audit, the possibility of including off-road paths connecting local schools to the beaches on the other side of State Route 1 was raised.

#### **9. Unincorporated San Mateo County Local Road Safety Plan and Consideration to Provide a Letter of Support for Support (Action)**

Harry Yip, from the San Mateo County Department of Public Works, presented this item. He noted that he was following up on the presentation of the Draft Plan from the October BPAC meeting, providing an overview of the Draft Plan, and that the Department of Public Works was seeking a letter of support for it.

Member Langbein raised a question regarding the goals set for the year 2035, and metrics. He shared a series of comments. He suggested adding milestones to gauge progress, such as the inclusion of Vision Zero and also recommended that the word "collision" or "crash" be used instead of "accident". He noted that the data for Middlefield Avenue is based on 2021 data and recommended updating the data for this roadway segment. Member Langbein also commented that data from the Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) is incomplete and does not include near misses. He separately noted that Ringwood Avenue was not included as an equity priority roadway segment, and suggested that it should be, since it connects East Menlo Park and East Palo Alto to Menlo-Atherton High School. Member Langbein also stated that certain factors contributing to crash data, such as unsafe speeds, are vague, and sometimes were attributed to cyclists, when they should be focusing on vehicle speeds. Based on his observations, Member Langbein believed that the reported statistics may be biased and incomplete, and he commented that distracted driving is missing from the data.

Responding to Member Salinger, Mr. Yip clarified that SWITRS entries are completed by law enforcement. Although he noted that it is not a perfect science, he said it is the best that currently exists statewide, and there are not other forms of data collection as widely accepted and used as SWITRS.

Member Salinger asked if the Department of Public Works could write to the Sheriff's Department and request additional assistance collecting more accurate data. She stated that 95% of cyclists do not call law enforcement because there usually is no resolution or action, and from her perspective, this makes SWITRS unreliable. She said near misses are the primary factor that discourage people from riding and that provides the real data for where the dangerous streets and intersections are located. Mr. Yip said that a separate mechanism may be needed to collect data on near misses and that it would be difficult to submit that data to the California Highway Patrol (CHP). He said there may need to be a separate feedback map to collect that data.

Member Salinger reiterated her request that a letter be written to law enforcement to seeking assistance to receive more accurate information. Mr. Yip responded that he did not think that was the best action to take. He said what was being requested was a supplement from what the CHP does as part of their general duties and that it was unlikely the County could rely upon them for that. Mr. Yip stated that the data from SWITRS is the only information that they can rely on that is accepted as an

industry practice. He said if we want to change the way the data collected, it is a statewide issue and that it would require a heavy lift from agencies across the state, not just San Mateo County.

Member Salinger raised two concerns with the proposed improvements in the Local Road Safety Plan. She mentioned that raised crosswalks and roundabouts are unsafe for cyclists, and her impression is that these two design concepts prompt drivers to look for pedestrians or other vehicles, not bicyclists.

Mr. Yip noted that roundabouts come in a variety of different design concepts that vary in size with some that accommodate higher speed roadways to those that incorporate better design options for bicycle and pedestrian usage. He noted Member Salinger's concerns, and stated that the Plan contains general recommendations and as projects are developed, the Department of Public Works would reach out to stakeholders to receive input on the design.

Member Salinger also noted that there are roadway segments that are not identified for improvements, such as the Interstate 280/State Route 92 interchange, and that it is inherently unsafe that cyclists are expected to ride alongside vehicles merging onto these two highways. She also noted that there are many other unsafe places county-wide that people choose not to ride there at all.

Mr. Vo noted that the highway onramps for the Interstate 280/State Route 92 interchange are in Caltrans' right of way. He added that members of the BPAC could communicate their concerns to Caltrans, as individual residents of San Mateo County. Mr. Vo added that Caltrans is currently conducting numerous studies and projects and have recently required projects to incorporate Complete Streets improvements in every project. If members of the BPAC specifically identify this location, it could raise awareness. Lastly, Mr. Vo added that roundabouts are just one traffic control element, and that there are numerous other intersection design solutions that could be included if a roundabout is not the best fit.

Member Langbein commented that the Local Road Safety Plan incorporates the only available source of data, and that he agrees that any changes to data collection would have to come from entities above the County and would require statewide implementation.

Member Doherty referred to U.C. Berkeley's Safe Transportation Research and Education Center (SafeTREC), which Member Langbein noted features a more community-focused crowd-sourced system for reporting near misses and collisions (Street Story).

Ms. Houshmandi added that agencies can request a roadway safety assessment from SafeTREC and receive recommendations but that it is separate from U.C. Berkeley's Transportation Injury Mapping System (TIMS), which uses data from SWITRS.

Member Salinger noted that SafeTREC does not collect personal information, it is difficult to find online unless someone knows to search it by name, and prefers to use the cycling video evidence website for reporting incidents.

Mr. Slavik read written comments from Steve Lubin, member of the public, who but could not attend the meeting. Mr. Lubin expressed concern regarding the Plan goals, that the Plan should include collection of data about near misses, and that it should contain a mechanism to collect this data.

Craig Davis, member of the public, noted that the Local Road Safety Plan is based on injury data collected from 2014-2020 and that there were 13 fatal collisions, and 76 severe injury collisions but it



didn't specify how many were pedestrians or bicyclists. Mr. Davis stated that the collisions represented are a subpar indicator. He also stated that most collisions are not reported to law enforcement because many cyclists believe local law enforcement will not take action. He found Appendix B in the Local Road Safety Plan to be sparse and reiterated that collisions are not a reliable data source. Mr. Davis said that near misses and perceived risks are the biggest deterrents to cycling. He noted that many cyclists have video data of near misses, but this data has been rejected by law enforcement agencies in many instances. In response to Mr. Yip's statement that there are not reliable sources for near misses, Mr. Davis cited cyclistvideoevidence.com as the current source for people to use. He said the incident reports have high resolution evidence, which can be used by the County to procure grant funding.

Member of the public, Bruce Dughi, shared his thoughts about SWITRS and stated that this platform does not record collisions if no property damage is reported. Mr. Dughi shared that, from his experience, it seems that law enforcement agencies tend to blame cyclists for collisions, and that data sourced from SWITRS should not be taken at face value.

Member Salinger shared her thoughts regarding cycling video evidence.com. She said she found the website user-friendly and stated that she hoped that the County would use it as a source of near-miss data.

Mr. Yip posed several considerations, noting that it may be difficult to incorporate near-miss data regionally, and it may be difficult to normalize the data received.

Chair Zyda noted that this is an action item and that there was a request for the BPAC to provide a letter of support for the Local Road Safety Plan.

Member Kelly suggested adding a paragraph to the letter of support stating that the data source used to create the Local Road Safety Plan is incomplete, however, the BPAC finds the recommendations and findings to accurately reflect existing conditions and will ultimately create safer roadway conditions.

*Motion: Member Langbein moved to approve with Member Kelly's recommended changes to the content of the letter. Chair Zyda seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

Member Doherty made a request that discussion take place about data collection as part of a future agenda item.

#### **10. Letter to the San Mateo County Sheriff-Elect (Action)**

Mr. Slavitt introduced the item stating that a request to send a letter to the Sheriff-Elect was suggested by Member Kelly at the last BPAC meeting and that Member Kelly and Member Salinger drafted the proposed letter together. Member Kelly stated the idea of providing a letter to the Sheriff-Elect was to let her know that the BPAC is very focused on safety issues and it is looking forward to improving the relationship with the Sheriff's Office. He said that they were trying to find the right line of identifying issues and being constructive without asking the new sheriff to disavow the actions of her new team. He expressed a desire to confirm if the letter was reflective of community concerns. Member Kelly and Member Slinger further explained the purpose of the letter.

Member Langbein commented on the draft letter mentioning the need for clarification making it clear the near misses being referred to were from cars passing bicyclists near misses and the need to emphasize the impact from not having complete safety data. Member Doherty mentioned past BPAC

interaction with the Sheriff and noted there is a lot of pride in the Sheriff's Office. She said she believed that Sheriff-Elect Christina Corpus attended a prior BPAC meeting and that she has a sense of what the BPAC is trying to do. She suggested an emphasis focusing on creating a more positive working relationship. Member Salinger noted the intent to be clear and direct. Mr. Slavitt read a written comment from Mr. Lubin, encouraging the BPAC to send the draft letter to the Sheriff-Elect and that cooperation between bicyclists and the Sheriff's Office has the potential to greatly improve safety and encourage more people to ride bikes.

*Chair Zyda moved to approve with minor edits from Member Langbein, Member Langbein seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

### **11. County Office of Education School Travel Fellowship Program (Information)**

Ms. Castro, from the San Mateo County Office of Sustainability, presented this item, providing information on the recently completed pilot for the San Mateo County Office of Education's School Travel Fellowship Program.

Member Salinger commended Ms. Castro for her work on the program. Member Langbein concurred and was glad to see buy-in from the program partners. He mentioned the Silicon Valley Bike Exchange at bikex.org as good source for bike donations in disadvantaged communities, which could be a potential partner for future cohorts of the program.

Member Aquino shared that she was proud to be involved with the program, and that the South San Francisco Rotary Club donated \$10,000 to fund part of the City of South San Francisco's Every Kid Deserves a Bike Program.

### **12. County Updates**

Ms. Castro shared updates on the Coleman and Ringwood Avenues Transportation Study. She noted that walking tours were completed in September and were well attended by community members, school representatives, stakeholders representing the interests of the Belle Haven community and East Palo Alto residents, and key agencies involved in the Study. She said the second round of Community and Technical Advisory Committees would be held next week to inform and receive feedback on evaluation criteria and design concepts.

### **13. Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn: Chair Zyda moved to approve/Member Kelly seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 P.M.