



**REGULAR MEETING of the
San Mateo County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (SMCBPAC)
Thursday, February 20, 2020**

Martin Luther King Community Center
725 Monte Diablo Avenue, Conference Room
City of San Mateo, CA 94401
7:00 p.m.

If you wish to speak to the Committee, please fill out a speaker's slip located on the tables as you enter the meeting room. If you have anything that you wish to be distributed to the Committee and included in the official record, please hand it to a member of SMCBPAC staff who will distribute the information to the Committee members and other staff.

1. WELCOME

2. ROLL CALL

3. 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 Agenda; or 3) Committee Members' Reports on the Regular Agenda. Public comments on matters not listed above shall be heard at the time the matter is called.

As with all public comment, members of the public who wish to address the Committee are requested to complete a speaker's slip and provide it to SMCBPAC staff. Speakers are customarily limited to two minutes, but an extension can be provided to you at the discretion of the Committee Chair.

4. ACTION TO SET AGENDA

This item is to set the final regular agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Review and Approve December 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes (Action)

- 6. BPAC Member Announcements and Discussion** (Information)
- 7. Presentation on the Alameda de las Pulgas/Santa Cruz Avenue Improvement Project** (Information)
- 8. Consideration to Prepare and Submit a Comment Letter Regarding the Alameda de las Pulgas/Santa Cruz Avenue Improvement Project** (Action)
- 9. Presentation on the Unincorporated San Mateo County Active Transportation Plan** (Information)
- 10. County Updates** (Information)
- 11. Adjournment**

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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 Joel Slavit, Senior Sustainability Specialist, at least two working days before the meeting at 650-363-4745 and/or jslavit@smcgov.org. Notification in advance of the meeting will enable the SMCBPAC to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting and the materials related to it. Attendees to this meeting are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical based products.



San Mateo County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (SMCBPAC)

MEETING MINUTES

Martin Luther King Community Center Conference Room

San Mateo, California

Thursday, December 19, 2019

7:00pm

1. WELCOME

Chair Gore called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Dianna Butcher
Susan Doherty
Natalie Gore
William Kelly
Frederick Zyda
John Langbein (alternate)
Elaine Salinger (alternate)

Members Absent:

County Staff: Joe LoCoco, Matthew Petrofsky, Julia Malmo-Laycock, Paul Sheng

Julia Malmo-Laycock conducted the roll call. A quorum was present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Ms. Malmo-Laycock read a public comment from Mr. Bruce Hildebrand, who could not make the meeting. The letter was regarding his opposition of the potential closure of the Crystal Springs trail to cyclists and pedestrians during San Francisco Public Utilities Commission draining work being completed, and a request to consider alternative work methods that wouldn't require the closure.

Mr. LoCoco responded that the original proposal was to close the facilities to accommodate crane work. As they're cutting into the concrete there may be dust that the ops would create. However, since the original proposal was provided it has been modified twice. Today the new proposal is to leave everything open and to bring on additional flaggers so there would be no closure for cyclists and pedestrians. Monday through Friday the bridge will be closed to vehicles, and flaggers will stop all pedestrians and

cyclists as needed for work to occur, and allow them through when it's safe. Weekends it will be open to traffic. The work will take longer overall, however the SFPUC believes the window set for the work (February 3 – March 27) will be a sufficient amount of time.

Member Gore asked if there will be signs to advertise the closures, and Mr. LoCoco indicated that signage will be an element of the traffic control plan.

Alternate Member Slinger asked whether this an example of the SFPUC being more open to public input or being more open to cyclists' and pedestrians' needs. Mr. LoCoco said it was unclear to him whether this was representative of a larger trend.

Member Butcher inquired as to whether the work was occurring in the jurisdiction of the County, whether a County permit was required. Mr. LoCoco confirmed that a County permit was required because the work would occur on the bridge, which is owned and maintained by the County. Member Butcher also suggested that across the board there has been more consideration for bicycle and pedestrian considerations among agencies.

4. ACTION TO SET AGENDA

Chair Gore requested a motion to set the agenda.

Vice Chair Kelly moved to approve/ Alternate Member Salinger seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Review and Approve October 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Chair Gore requested a motion to adopt the October 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes.

Vice Chair Kelly moved to approve/ Alternate Member Salinger seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

6. BPAC Member Announcements and Discussion

Chair Gore introduced Member Zyda, the newest member of the BPAC. Mr. Zyda lives in North Fair Oaks, and is a self-described avid cyclist and pedestrian. Has a young daughter, so his interest in bicycle and pedestrian improvements is in thinking long term.

Alternate Member Langbein provided an update on the Santa Cruz Avenue improvements project, explaining that alternatives will be presented to the community at the next public meeting. Mr. LoCoco added that while the meeting had been planned for January 15th, it was recently revealed that the City of Menlo Park was holding a meeting to discuss sidewalks on Sharon Road from 6-8pm on the same day. Given that the meetings are intended for the same community members, Mr. LoCoco's team is investigating the possibility of holding the Santa Cruz Avenue meeting on another date.

Alternate Member Langbein referenced a comment from the October 2019 meeting saying that perhaps this committee ought to review the plans before the community meeting, wondering whether this was still feasible. Mr. LoCoco indicated that the documents aren't final yet. Alternate Member Langbein added that conceptually the alternatives could be presented to the BPAC. The project looks at three different areas, and alternatives range from do nothing options to road diet options through the different areas.

Mr. LoCoco explained that some pretty significant space needs exist to put in the ideal pedestrian and bicycle facilities while maintaining vehicle flow. For the most part, cyclists will not have a lot of buffer space.

Chair Gore asked whether there was concern that there will be cut through traffic on other streets as a result of the improvements, to which Mr. LoCoco responded that the neighborhood to the east doesn't let itself well to cut-through traffic. Vice Chair Kelly added that motorists will likely just find another way along a major arterial.

Ms. Malmo-Laycock offered to coordinate with Mr. LoCoco to let the BPAC know when the Santa Cruz Avenue meeting will occur.

Vice Chair Kelly asked what the next steps after that meeting would be. Mr. LoCoco indicated that the plan would be to have a period of time where there's a survey that's out there for community members to indicate their preferences in terms of the alternatives. Results from this community feedback would then be shared with the Santa Cruz Avenue Task Force members. Vice Chair Kelly opined that the BPAC really ought to take a view on this project.

Member Butcher asked if it would make sense to do a joint project with Menlo Park on the 15th so as not to have to move the meeting. Mr. LoCoco responded that the time allotted for the County's meeting is already constrained.

Alternate Member Landbein added that after the last meeting he corresponded with Mr. LoCoco about putting "congested area ahead" signs on the Crystal Springs roadway (Skyline Boulevard) to encourage drivers to slow down given the high bicycle and pedestrian volumes. Mr. LoCoco responded that it was something that could be accomplished.

7. Presentation on Coleman Ave (Information)

Mr. LoCoco delivered a presentation on the history of the Coleman Avenue improvements and community feedback, noting that historically the Menlo Oaks community has been opposed to any changes to roadways, particularly if that meant the removal of trees or hedges. Currently the striping on Coleman demarcates two 11-foot lanes, and one four-foot walking area on the eastern side.

Alternate Member Salinger wondered whether one approach would be to curve around the trees, and Mr. LoCoco responded that there was likely not much value to piecemeal improvements like that.

Member Butcher asked whether the road could be modified a one way, rather than two way road. Mr. LoCoco indicated that there has been some discussion about that approach, and that it would definitely fit.

Vice Chair Kelly asked what the force of the Menlo Oaks roadway standards were, and Mr. LoCoco explained that the policies had been shaped by the community and approved by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. LoCoco also mentioned that there is likely an opportunity for dialog with the community to revisit this roadway and potentially the standards, but that the County's preference would be for the ask for this dialog to come from those residing in the Menlo Oaks community.

Alternate Member Langbein asked Mr. LoCoco what the width of the County's right of way was on Coleman. Mr. LoCoco suggested it might be 50 feet, and that typically County right of way widths are at least 40 feet.

Mr. LoCoco's presentation also highlighted a project completed in West Menlo Park last month with a striped contraflow bike lane in one direction, and sharrows in the other direction to allow cyclists to travel in both directions on a street that allows vehicle traffic in only one direction. The project was prompted by observations that cyclists were riding in the wrong direction on the one-way street. Member Butcher asked whether this approach might work on Coleman Avenue. Mr. LoCoco suggested it could work.

After the presentation public comment was heard from Jen Wolosin from an organization called Parents for Safe Routes. Mrs. Wolosin stated that much of the traffic on Coleman is local, and that while during off-peak hours the road is pleasant and rural, during peak school pick up and drop off times it's chaos due to the buses, vehicles and kids and parents biking and walking to school.

Mrs. Wolosin also mentioned a potential equity component to the project, in that a lot of the kids coming to these schools don't have the resources to do anything but bike or walk to school from their neighborhoods in East Palo Alto.

Mrs. Wolosin stated that the reason the project was being resurrected is that the neighborhood has changed, and that there are now a lot of young families who are environmentally-conscious. Also, the schools themselves are changing and development in the surrounding area as well as increased enrollment has added to the traffic issues, in all modes.

Mrs. Wolosin suggested that the Santa Cruz Avenue project process be used as a model, and that the roadway needs to be designed to accommodate the ways in which the road is being used, much like was done with the Altschul Avenue contraflow bike lane in West Menlo Park.

Chair Gore asked Mrs. Wolosin what exactly she was looking for from the BPAC, to which Mrs. Wolosin responded that she'd like for the BPAC simply to keep it on their radar so when the neighborhood support is there the BPAC is ready to support the discussions and the project. She added that it seems to her that to get the County to address this issue, they need community support. Mr. LoCoco expressed that the County recognizes that there is dialogue possible with Coleman, and understands that the top down approach taken last time didn't work very well.

Vice Chair Kelly suggested that on the one hand he absolutely supports letting the community help think through it, while on the other hand it's a disaster if a bunch of micro-neighborhoods are making decisions about resources and being given a veto on an issue that deals with something bigger than the confines of their own neighborhood.

Mr. LoCoco indicated that if the conversation was spun a little differently, by saying "here are some opportunities to look for solutions" rather than "here are four alternatives, which one do you want," the process might be more successful. He added that the County is open to the dialog with the caveat that there would be the expectation that the Menlo Oaks homeowners' association recognizes that this is a conversation worth having. A task force might make sense to get the community to buy into the process.

Public comment was received from a Mr. Drew, who expressed that when streets are closed it creates a binary choice, and that speed bumps and other traffic calming measures would thus be preferable. Forcing drivers to take alternate routes due to one-way streets was perceived by Drew as Inefficient from a ghg emissions standpoint.

8. Discussion of BPAC 2020 Work Plan (Action)

Ms. Malmo-Laycock presented a revised version of the Work Plan that included edits based on the BPAC's discussion of the Work Plan at the last meeting. Vice Chair Kelly requested that Coleman Avenue be added as a project to monitor, and Member Doherty requested that language be added regarding engaging with the Sherriff's Office regarding working towards shared safety enforcement priorities and goals.

A member of the public in attendance shared that the BPAC might consider adding a multi-use path adjacent to the Caltrain right of way throughout the County.

Chair Gore requested a motion to adopt the Work Plan as revised.

Motion: Vice Chair Kelly moved to approve/ Alternate Member Salinger seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Discussion of BPAC 2020 Neighborhood Responsibility Areas (Action)

Ms. Malmo-Laycock introduced the Neighborhood Responsibility areas, asking whether the BPAC wished to maintain this approach for keeping track of neighborhood happenings and projects. Vice Chair Kelly indicated he thought it was a useful way for the BPAC to divide responsibilities. Member Zyda volunteered to be responsible for the North Fair Oaks neighborhood, and Chair Gore and Alternate Member Salinger volunteered to be responsible for the Burlingame Hills neighborhood.

Member Butcher then asked Mr. LoCoco whether the County's Department of Public works was at all involved in talking to Caltrans about the newly-installed crosswalk in Moss beach. Mr. LoCoco responded that he thought Supervisor Horsley's office had had some conversations with Caltrans.

Member Butcher provided some background for the benefit of the other members: a crosswalk appeared in Moss Beach over a couple of days, and the community wasn't not aware of its arrival. In her opinion, the crosswalk didn't look like other Caltrans crosswalks. It doesn't currently have advance warning signs or a flashing light, making it difficult for drivers to see. Mr. LoCoco added that a Highway 1 corridor study conducted several years ago identified a number of challenging places, and that this may have been the result of that study. Mr. LoCoco and Ms. Malmo-Laycock agreed to follow up with the BPAC if they were able to gain any additional information about the crosswalk.

10. Election of a Committee Chair and Vice-Chair for Calendar Year 2020

Ms. Malmo-Laycock provided some background on the role of the Chair and Vice Chair as well as how elections of the Committee Chair and Vice Chair occur. Vice Chair Kelly added that on the BPAC historically the Chair has assumed the Vice Chair.

Vice Chair Kelly moved to nominate Member Doherty for the position of Chair, and Chair Gore seconded the nomination. The motion carried.

Chair Gore moved to nominate Member Butcher, and Member Doherty seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Member Doherty then asked how she could communicate with other members as Chair without violating the Brown Act. County Counsel Paul Sheng explained that she could communicate with members one on one, following a “hub and spoke” model of communication.

11. County Updates (Information)

Ms. Malmo-Laycock provided an update on the Unincorporated San Mateo County Active Transportation Plan, explaining that the project team would be presenting the draft project recommendations to the BPAC at their February 20, 2020 meeting. Alternate Member Langbein suggested the project team collect feedback at Bicycle Sunday.

Vice Chair Kelly suggested to Member Zyda that it would be nice if at some point he could provide some information to the BPAC on North Fair Oaks, given that he lives in the area. Member Zyda agreed that he could do so.

Mr. LoCoco provided an update on the Middlefield Road improvements project, indicating that the construction would begin in Fall 2020 rather than Spring 2020 as initially anticipated.

Ms. Malmo-Laycock reminded BPAC members to provide feedback on the Caltrans District 4 Pedestrian Plan interactive map.

12. Adjournment

Chair Gore requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Vice Chair Kelly moved to approve/ Alternate Member Salinger seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.