



**REGULAR MEETING of the
San Mateo County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (SMCBPAC)
Thursday, August 20, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

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

Pursuant to the Shelter in Place Orders issued by the San Mateo County Health Officer and the Governor, the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, and the CDC's social distancing guidelines which discourage large public gatherings, the regular meeting location of the SMCBPAC is no longer open for public meetings.

Public Participation

- * Written public comments may be emailed to jslavit@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. 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 Special Meeting Agenda; or 3) Committee Members' Reports on the Special 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.

4. ACTION TO SET AGENDA

This item is to set the final regular agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 5. Review and Approve June 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes** (Action)
- 6. BPAC Member Announcements and Discussion** (Information)
- 7. Presentation on the C/CAG Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update** (Information)
- 8. Update on the Santa Cruz Avenue//Alameda de las Pulgas Improvements Study** (Information)
- 9. Consideration to Prepare and Submit a Comment Letter on the Santa Cruz Avenue/Alameda de las Pulgas Improvements Draft Report** (Action)
- 10. Crystal Springs Trail Gap Funding Discussion** (Information)
- 11. Election of a Vice Chair for the Remainder of Calendar Year 2020** (Action)
- 12. County Updates** (Information)
- 13. 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 jslavit@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

SMCPAC 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 August 20, 2020 SMCBPAC meeting may be accessed through Zoom online at <https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/94660126387>

The meeting ID is: 946 6012 6387. The August 20, 2020 SMCBPAC meeting may also be accessed via telephone by dialing US: +1 669 900 6833 (Local). Enter the meeting ID: 946 6012 6387, 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 Joel Slavit, Senior Sustainability Specialist at least 24 hours before the meeting at jslavit@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, June 18, 2020

7:00 P.M.

1. WELCOME

Chair Doherty called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M. It was noted that BPAC members and staff would be connecting to this meeting either by video or audio. Chair Doherty then stated the process for public comments and noted the challenges of holding a BPAC meeting online and thanked everyone for their patience during this time.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

None

County Staff: Joel Slavit, Julia Malmo-Laycock, Khoa Vo

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

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

Malcolm Robinson, member of the public and the CCAG BPAC Chair, expressed a desire for the committees to work together to focus on the key issues that prevent San Mateo County from having a complete network. Member Kelly thanked Mr. Robinson and mentioned that it would be good for each

of the committees to know more about what each is doing. Alternate Member Salinger mentioned that she had Mr. Robinson's e-mail and looked forward to collaborating with him.

Randy Heen, member of the public, stated that he noticed from the May meeting minutes that he knows Jonathan Penn, who was injured near the intersection of SR 92 and Lower Skyline. Mr. Heen stated that he has lived in San Mateo for about 21 years, he considers himself an experienced bicyclist and is a member of the Palo Alto Bicycle Club Western Wheelers, and on the past Monday he almost had a collision bicycling in this area. He stated he wanted to report a section of Crystal Springs Road he has concerns about between Tarton Trail and Woodridge Road, a mile west of El Cerrito Avenue, 6/10 of a mile east of the Polhemus Road. In general, it has been much improved in the last few years with signage and sharrows. Mr. Heen mentioned his concern is a narrow curb section he mentioned, which has no guard rails and no shoulders on either side of the road. He mentioned that on the prior Monday, while riding westbound, there was an oncoming cyclist and a truck passing the cyclist, and he had almost no room between the guard rail and the truck side mirror. He would like to propose that this particular section be set up as a no-passing zone in both directions, or minimally, a sign indicating there is a narrow bridge ahead. Randy thanked the BPAC for allowing him to comment.

Chair Doherty mentioned that she is grateful that Khoa Vo from Public Works is here. Mr. Vo stated that he took notes on the issue that Mr. Heen mentioned, and that staff will look into it. Alternate Member Salinger asked if Mr. Vo understood the location and Mr. Vo requested that Mr. Heen send an e-mail so he could better understand the location. Mr. Heen said he would and that he googled it on a map and that the location is between 1534-1536 Crystal Springs Road. Mr. Slavik said that Mr. Heen could e-mail him, and he would forward the information to Mr. Vo. Alternate Member Langbein noted that this could require coordination between County and the Town of Hillsborough. After the meeting, through subsequent e-mail with Mr. Heen, it was confirmed that the location mentioned was in the Town of Hillsborough and Mr. Vo reached out to directly to the Hillsborough Deputy Director of Public Works, copying Mr. Heen on an e-mail.

4. ACTION TO SET AGENDA

Chair Doherty requested a motion to set the agenda.

Motion: Member Kelly moved to approve/Member Gore seconded. The motion carried unanimously with Alternate Member Langbein voting in-lieu of Vice Chair Dianna Butcher, who hadn't yet entered the Zoom video-conference.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Review and Approve May 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Chair Doherty moved to approve the May 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes and member Kelly seconded. *The motion carried unanimously with Alternate Member Langbein voting in-lieu of Vice Chair Dianna Butcher, who hadn't yet entered the Zoom video-conference.*

6. BPAC Member Announcements and Discussion

Chair Doherty asked if members had any announcements or discussion. Seeing none, Chair Doherty moved on to the next item.

7. Presentation on the Bay to Sea Trail

Chair Doherty introduced Rachael Faye from the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST). Ms. Faye pulled up a PowerPoint presentation, which she shared with everyone and introduced herself as the Public Access Program Manager with the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST). She noted that she previously presented to the BPAC two years ago on the Bay to Sea Trail and would be providing updates. Ms. Faye noted that the Bay to Sea Trail is a 40-mile multi-use trail that will connect people and communities on the Bay in Redwood City and East Palo Alto over the mountains to the ocean in the vicinity of Half Moon Bay and south of Half Moon Bay. She stated that the corridor for this trail is very conceptual at this juncture and that a specific route has not yet been decided and that it has been a vision of POST's since the late 1970s. POST has worked with its partners to acquire land in the corridor to help enable future connections for this trail

Ms. Faye announced a big milestone for the project this year; that POST had signed a letter of intent with 11 critical partners who are integral to making this vision a reality. She noted that County Parks, the Office of Sustainability, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and other key landowners are among key partners with POST to take the next steps moving forward in implementing the vision.

Ms. Faye then noted the many types of trail experiences that will be offered, including a coastal segment with a connection to trails in Purisima Open Space Preserve, a mountain and an urban bayside section. She stated that the intent is to provide a multi-use trail with hiking, biking and equestrian use, although as it goes through the urban area on the bayside, equestrian trails may not be realistic. Ms. Faye mentioned that POST has worked with Redwood City and they believe that a specific route can be found between the mountains and Bair Island. She mentioned in the urban area that she hoped there would be a trail adjacent to a rail line in the Dumbarton Corridor. She stated that the Dumbarton Corridor is the most uncertain section and that SamTrans and Facebook were working on a feasibility study on this segment to activate it with improved transportation in a 100 foot wide corridor. The vision that POST has is that the trail could serve both recreation and commuter use in approximately 4.8 miles on the Dumbarton Corridor. POST has been engaged in a lot of advocacy work to try and secure the opportunity for a trail on this corridor. She stated that Facebook is reevaluating their investment in funding a feasibility study for transportation improvements on the Dumbarton Corridor as a result of COVID-19. There is an opportunity for this group and others to weigh in and encourage Facebook to continue with their investment. She stated that we need improved transportation and reduced congestion, and the opportunity to have an off-road trail on this corridor would be incredible.

Ms. Faye stated that POST is playing the role of the backbone organization for this partner project and is the coordinator and project manager for it. She encouraged the BPAC to reach out to her with any questions. She identified a couple of ways to get engaged and support the project: along the Dumbarton Rail Corridor they need folks to encourage Facebook to continue to invest in this study. This would serve an area on the Peninsula that needs it most.

She also mentioned that Caltrans has a District 4 Pedestrian Plan and Caltrans is receiving partner agency comment through July 3rd in order to gain input on where their state highway system needs safety and connectivity improvements for pedestrians.

Member Kelly noted that the Dumbarton Corridor is something this group has mentioned multiple times and during the BPAC's last meeting they talked about making sure it is a key element of the Unincorporated San Mateo County Active Transportation Plan that is being developed. He asked about the rest of the urban portion of the trail and what kind of right of way was anticipated through Redwood City. Ms. Faye mentioned that it was conceptual at this point and that it might be similar to the Peninsula bikeway, with on-street bikeway and wayfinding and with phased improvements over time.

Member Gore asked if there might be other corporations interested in funding what Facebook currently has taken on if those plans fall through. Ms. Faye said she didn't know. Member Kelly said that Facebook is the dominant player in the area east of U.S. 101 and didn't think that any other business or combination of companies that could match Facebook's ability to support the trail.

Chair Doherty asked Ms. Faye, with Facebook employees now indefinitely working from home, about the possibility of the Dumbarton Corridor just becoming a greenbelt. Ms. Faye said she thought Facebook's re-envisioning where their employees will be working is a reason why they are re-evaluating their plans but she hasn't heard any word about it being turned into a greenbelt. She said the latest plans were proposing rail and a trail in the Corridor but that the trail wasn't a certainty. Chair Doherty asked if the rail option might go away if Facebook pulls out. Ms. Faye wasn't sure. Member Kelly stated that it's important to remember that these communities, Belle haven in East Menlo Park for instance, are critically underserved in terms of connectivity to the rest of the County and the idea of having rail combined with pedestrian/bicycle access is what we should be aspiring toward.

Alternate Member Langbein said his understanding is that the rail would cross the Bay, which is a very expensive proposition. Member Kelly, said that one version of this plan, would have heavy rail over a rebuilt Dumbarton Bridge but that he thought there would significant feasibility issues with it and that a light rail connection to downtown Redwood City seems like a much more attainable objective. Ms. Faye noted that the Dumbarton Rail project does include connecting across the bay on a new rail bridge to the Union City BART station in the East Bay. Member Kelly said it would be a shame if a heavy rail option precluded a pedestrian/bicycle trail.

Alternate Member Salinger asked Ms. Faye if the role of social justice and serving communities of color had been raised and if she had a name and e-mail of someone at Facebook who the BPAC could direct their attention towards. Ms. Faye said she did and that she would e-mail Joel and Julia with the best contact information. Ms. Faye said POST's advocacy coalition is trying to elevate these issues.

Alternate Member Langbein noted that although the route through Redwood City may not be more than a line on a map at this point, he wanted to know if there had been consideration for utilizing the Hetch Hetchy right of way. Ms. Faye said there has been and that POST did some feasibility studies a few years ago and that there are a lot of encroachments on the right of way between Middlefield and Edgewood County Park. She said it could present an incredible trail experience but there isn't a clear route through the ROW because of all the backyard encroachments. John asked if they were legal our informal encroachments. Ms. Faye mentioned they are legal encroachments, but they don't get renewed when property is sold. When property is exchanged, the new owner has to reapply for the permit. She mentioned it is a complicated matter but not that something couldn't be done.

Chair Doherty raised the idea of a greenbelt along the Dumbarton Corridor in North Fair Oaks and asked if the route would go from the Redwood City Caltrain station to the Dumbarton Bridge. Shae said it would. Chair Doherty said if Facebook is foregoing this plan, then a greenbelt could be an interim project. Ms. Faye said that would be amazing, but she said Facebook hasn't officially pulled out yet and SamTrans manages the Dumbarton Rail Corridor and that SamTrans would need to decide whether a trail on a greenbelt would be permitted if a rail option doesn't proceed. She did note there is a lot of local community support for rail improvements but that it's difficult for her to comment on the rail component because the focus of her work is on the trail.

Chair Doherty opened the item for public comment. Mr. Robinson thanked Ms. Faye for her presentation. He mentioned he was mountain biking on Tunitas Creek Road and many cars passed by, which was disturbing. It would be great to have a trail over the ridge through the mountains. He mentioned that Rails to Trails is an organization that converts old rail lines into trails but that he didn't see them listed as a partner in the Bay to Sea Trail project. He asked if any thought had been given to North County trails? He said the north county doesn't have as many trails. He also asked if the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition has been involved with this project. Malcolm mentioned that the C/CAG BPAC recently approved funding for Redwood City to develop bicycle alternatives for crossing the city. Chair Doherty stated that the BPAC would take his comments under consideration. Ms. Faye said that POST works very closely with the Rails to Trails Conservancy and they have been engaged with them on many projects, including Dumbarton and that POST is working all over the Peninsula on trail projects.

8. Parks Department Crystal Springs Trail Gap Work on SFPUC Lands

Chair Doherty welcomed Nicholas Calderon, the County Parks Director. Mr. Calderon mentioned that he would talk about one of the remaining gaps in the Crystal Springs Trail near State Route 92 and Lower Skyline and that the BPAC has been made aware of the Department's decision to step away from that project due to funding and regulatory constraints. He stated that the high level summary is that some of the mitigation measures were not only new types of mitigations that had not been tested before, but they made the project extremely expensive. The concern was that the Parks Department wouldn't be able to properly construct the project and meet all mitigation requirements. For that reason, one of the prior directors made the decision not to proceed with the project.

The project has been on hold since that time. In light of the current financial state of the County, and competing Department priorities, primarily the overhaul of facilities and infrastructure at Memorial Park, the Tunitas Creek Beach Improvement Project, Reimagine Flood Park, the Eastern Promenade project at Coyote Point Park and other initiatives, the County is unable to proceed with the project properly at this point in time. He said it would be in the best interest of the project to wait until the Parks Department has more resources to proceed.

Alternate Member Salinger thanked Mr. Calderon for the presentation and said she had several questions. She said she heard that there was a desiccated red legged frog found on a road on SFPUC lands that a truck had run over. Alternate Member Salinger mentioned that she is a veterinarian specializing in reptiles and that all that would be needed is an elevated portion of the trail. She said it would be more expensive but meanwhile the PUC is using those roads for trucks. She asked if this makes sense.

Mr. Calderon stated that he could only speak for the project and whether the project makes sense for the Parks Department at this time. Alternate Member Salinger mentioned that she has been thinking of funding, outside of San Mateo County and the Parks Department, to build that trail in exchange for a company putting their name on the trail. She asked if the Parks Department has discussed this for this project. Mr. Calderon said not to his knowledge. Alternate Member Salinger asked what can we do to make this happen?

Mr. Calderon said the Parks Department has to be involved in any project that will result in a facility they will be managing. Parks would need to participate in the design process, the public engagement process, and oversight of construction, which requires a lot of staffing. He said that due to the hiring freeze and staff assisting with the COVID-19 response, staff needs to consider the opportunity costs. Other ongoing projects would be adversely impacted if they need to pull staff off of them to work on this project. He stated that the Parks Department is limited in the number of projects they can take on and they want to make sure they can deliver the highest quality projects with the best experience for their users and the best management of their facilities. He also noted that if the Parks Department pulls staff away to work on new projects, the quality of existing and new projects could be sacrificed.

Member Kelly asked Mr. Calderon how many people's lives are at risk if the other projects are abandoned. He stated that we've seen a consistent pattern of people being at risk because of this trail gap and that due to safety it should be moved up the que.

Mr. Calderon said that we need to look at the bigger picture for this project, this also involves other entities like Caltrans and SFPUC and County Parks alone doesn't have the resources to take this on at this time.

Chair Doherty thanked Mr. Calderon and said the BPAC is in this for the long haul, and we have really good problem solvers. If we somehow got funding or resources, what would it take to get safe trail access south of the Dam past State Route 92 to connect safely to Canada Road?

Mr. Calderon said that he would need to go back and look at the project permits, and they likely may need to go through the environmental review process again and potentially revise design plans, and then go through the process to construct. If it is privately funded and managed, County counsel would need to be involved. There are examples of this happening successfully at the County; a private entity funded and constructed the Sherriff's Office gun range in Coyote Point Park. Mr. Calderon made it clear that he's not saying it can't be done, but that if the Parks Department is pulled in too many different directions they could have safety issues elsewhere. He also said, as a cyclist, he has also had many close encounters with cars and he appreciates the BPAC's perspective.

Alternate Member Langbein said he heard there were several projects in the que, such as Memorial Park, that will take place over a finite number of years. He asked if the BPAC could get a commitment from Parks that the initiation of work on Crystal Springs would proceed at a future time. Mr. Calderon stated that without knowing what the budget situation will be, he's not able to make a commitment at this time. He did say that he could commit to re-evaluating this project when Parks has the staff

capacity and if funding is available. He said this segment is part of the Ohlone -Portola Trail and is a very critical bicycle and pedestrian corridor route and that it warrants further consideration.

Alternate Member Salinger asked if it is possible to get a commitment from the Parks Department if a company were to fund the trail, that they would be able to put their name on the trail. Nicholas said County Parks has given naming rights to donors in exchange for financial assistance in the past and was confident something could be worked out but would need to consult with legal. Alternate Member Salinger asked how can the BPAC get a cost estimate within a year for this work. Nicholas said that further work would need to be done coordinating with multiple regulatory agencies to determine what changes may need to be made to the design but they could try and develop a high level ballpark number that would be subject to change.

Alternate Member Langbein asked if the mitigation was from the SFPUC or from others? Nicholas said that the SFPUC has been very supportive in doing this project. The mitigation was a requirement from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Alternate Member Salinger asked how closely does SFPUC work with the Department of Fish and Game? She had her doubts about the red-legged frog story. Mr. Calderon said he wasn't with the Department at that time, although he thought it was in regard to a snake, and he couldn't speak to what type of analysis occurred.

Chair Doherty Susan thanked Mr. Calderon for all the work that Parks is doing. She asked about the Tunitas Creek Beach project outreach. Mr. Calderon said there was a general survey open on the website and there will be media content to be released soon regarding the project, project alternatives, the solicitation of public outreach on the alternatives and the uses they'd like to see.

Mr. Robinson, member of the public, thanked Mr. Calderon and the committee. The first time he rode a bike on the Crystal Springs trail, he thought of riding down to Canada Road, but two big cement trucks went by on a Sunday afternoon. He said there is a lot of truck traffic there, there's no shoulder and it's scary. He said there was a need for traffic calming and there is no crosswalk at State Route 92. He noted there is already an existing old roadway that covers most of the area we're talking about and it seems like a simple project but he knows there's a lot of work that needs to be done.

9. County Updates

Mr. Slavik mentioned that the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition will be hosting their 10th Annual Silicon Valley Bike Summit on August 6th & 7th, which will be held virtually this year. He said it's billed as the region's largest gathering of active transportation leaders and organizers from government, law enforcement, non-profit, and the public with plenty of information on best practices and current active transportation related events and trends. Although he noted that the agenda hadn't yet been released, further information, including registration for the Summit can be found on their website at bikesiliconvalley.org

Mr. Slavik also noted, as part of the Unincorporated San Mateo County Active Transportation Plan, that County staff & its consultant were still working on finalizing the Draft Pedestrian Focus Area recommendations to further enhance safety and access and that it may be brought forward at the BPAC's next meeting.

In addition, he referred to prior mention of community engagement that Planning and Building was conducting regarding the Connect the Coasts Plan and said that a 3rd virtual public workshop was being held on June 25th to gather input from the community through small group conversations regarding the Connect the Coasts Plan. He said the 3rd workshop will focus on the unincorporated neighborhoods of Princeton, El Granada and Miramar and that he would send web links to the BPAC.

Wrapping up Mr. Slavit noted that Caltrans has a virtual open house and is gathering input as part of the start of the environmental process for the 'El Camino Real Roadway Renewal Project', which stretches 3 miles, primarily through the City of Burlingame, but that it also touches San Mateo, Hillsborough and Millbrae. He said the deadline to provide input is July 6th and the weblink is ecrscooping.com.

Chair Doherty asked Mr. Slavit if there was something to mention about term limits. Mr. Slavit mentioned that some of the BPAC members terms will be expiring on June 30th. He thanked everyone, especially those whose terms will be expiring for all their input. He said their participation serving on the BPAC has been instrumental in promoting active transportation and he encouraged all those who can, continue to do so. He mentioned that none of the current BPAC members have reached the limit on the number of terms they can serve. Mr. Slavit said that he has notified all those whose terms are expiring separately and is in the process of collecting information and reiterated his encouragement to those that are able to continue to serve and to request reappointment.

Adjournment

Chair Doherty requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Member Kelly moved to approve/Member Gore seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 P.M.