

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 18, 2019
CORTE MADERA TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FINAL MINUTES

Committee members Robert Ravasio, Chair
Present: Kirby Bartlett
 Tony Garza
 Cheryl Longinotti
 Tomas Nofziger

Committee members David Macpherson
Absent: Marc Madden

Staff Present: Public Works Director Peter Brown

1. Call to Order

Chair Ravasio opened the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

2. Open Time for public regarding non-agenda items

Ms. Cindy Winter, Larkspur, discussed the concept of an overcrossing/bridge between the two shopping centers and how it would bring more business to the centers. The 2018 Expenditure Plan for the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) includes Measure AA funds (Category 2) which promotes innovative transportation investments with a priority to matching public and private funds. She wondered if the owners of the centers would be willing to contribute to the cost of the ramps.

Mr. Jim Robinson, Ash Avenue, thanked staff for the new ADA approved ramps and crosswalks in front of Neil Cummins School. He discussed a problem with parking on Apache, Birch, and Lakeside as a result of a change to the parking on Riviera Circle in Larkspur and at Redwood High School. This is an area where students walk and bike to school and he is concerned about the increased volume in traffic.

Ms. Anita Block, representing the Christmas Tree Hill Neighborhood Response Group, stated the area has a tremendous number of pedestrians and bicyclists on the weekends. The group would like about twenty emergency evacuation signs posted in the area. It is important that people know the location of evacuation routes.

Ms. Jean Severinghaus, Greenbrae Boardwalk, stated the parking issue brought up by Mr. Robinson has been discussed by the Safe Routes to Schools group. Redwood High School and the City of Larkspur are working on solving these problems. She suggested a parking ban in these areas during school hours. Chair Ravasio stated Corte Madera Town Manager Cusimano is working on this issue.

3. Committee Member Reports

Chair Ravasio reported the Town Council approved the initial expenditures for the improvements to the area around Wornum and Nellen Avenues (the bike path and intersection). Funding for this project is through an ATP grant.

Committee member Longinotti reported May 9th was “Bike to Work” Day. REI has agreed to take charge of the “energizer station” at the end of the Sandra Marker Trail. She asked BPAC members to make an appearance.

Committee member Longinotti reported the tree damage on the Redwood path was getting worse.

Committee member Bartlett had a question about the limitations with respect to this agenda item. Chair Ravasio stated this item provides committee members a chance to report back on meetings they have attended as a BPAC member. Committee members can contact staff with any other concerns

4. Project Updates and Discussion

A. Sanford/Casa Buena Intersection Improvement Out to Bid

Public Works Director Brown presented the staff report and a PowerPoint presentation. Staff finished the final design, had several community meetings, and did a trial closure (northbound Sanford movement). The trial closure improved circulation and reduced confusion at the intersection. The plan includes the following bicycle and pedestrian improvements: 1) Improved crossings at Casa Buena at the bus stop; 2) A new crossing along the base of Meadowsweet; 3) A reconfiguration to improve safety for all primary modes. Staff will present responsible bids to the Council for approval with construction occurring in the summer.

Chair Ravasio opened the meeting to public comments.

A resident pointed to an area where the Town added new parking spaces right up to the intersection and noted there is no longer a lane for cars that want to turn right. She would like at least two parking spaces removed to improve safety.

Mr. Jim Robinson, Ash Avenue, had a question about the design at a particular intersection. Public Works Director Brown stated the solution was “lead ped intervals”- the pedestrian gets the green walk symbol before vehicles get the green light.

Chair Ravasio closed the meeting to public comments.

Committee member Bartlett asked where a pedestrian would cross if they were coming from the 76 gas station heading towards the library. Public Works Director Brown pointed to the preferred route and explained the rationale for removing the crosswalk.

Chair Ravasio re-opened the meeting to public comments.

Ms. Jean Severinghaus asked if they could install a crosswalk from the library to Peet’s Coffee.

Chair Ravasio closed the meeting to public comments.

Public Works Director Brown stated Ms. Severinghaus’ idea was not included in the plan- this would require a warrant, sight lines, and intersection data, etc.

Chair Ravasio stated the trial closure lasted for three days and it seemed to be surprising well accepted. This is a good improvement.

Committee member Garza referred to the circuitous route to the library and stated signage would be helpful.

B. Central Marin Gap Closure Project Update (MND)

Public Works Director Brown presented the staff report and a PowerPoint presentation. The Council decided to move forward with the environmental and design phase and issued a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). Staff has another year to finish the engineering plans. The Notice of Completion was filed and there are 28 days remaining in the protest period. The project includes the following: 1) Enhanced pedestrian crossings across Fifer; 2) A Class IV facility on Nellen Avenue; 3) Improvement of the pedestrian and bicycle environment along Wornum. There are issues with vehicular circulation along Tamal Vista and staff is thinking about opening up Fifer with perhaps a roundabout or traffic signal.

Committee member Longinotti asked if pushing the curb to the north along Wornum Avenue would eliminate the shoulder. Public Works Director Brown stated there is not a lot of room there and pushing the curb enhances this area from eight feet to ten to twelve feet wide making it attractive for all users.

Chair Ravasio opened the meeting to public comments.

Ms. Cindy Winter had questions roundabouts (will large vehicles squeeze out cyclists?). She asked the BPAC for further discussion about this option at future meetings.

Chair Ravasio closed the meeting to public comments.

Committee member Bartlett stated there is a roundabout near the Marin County Civic Center and he was impressed with the way both pedestrian and vehicular traffic flowed.

Chair Ravasio stated he has been through a lot of roundabouts and they seem to make everything work better.

Public Works Director Brown discussed the advantages of roundabouts and stated they can improve safety and circulation. There will be a lot of public outreach.

C. Discuss “give cyclists 3 feet” signage location

Public Works Director Brown presented the staff report and a PowerPoint presentation. He stated the BPAC discussed several locations in 2016 including Paradise/Harbor in both directions, the bottom of Corte Madera Avenue, and others.

Committee member Bartlett asked about rules pertaining to signage. Public Works Director Brown stated there were a lot of rules contained in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) which is the governing document. Safety, sight distances, applicability, and other factors need to be considered along with engineering judgement.

Chair Ravasio opened the meeting to public comments.

Ms. Anita Block stated cyclists often ride side-by-side along Corte Madera Avenue and she asked if the 3-foot law applied to this situation. Perhaps the Town could also install signs asking cyclists to ride single file.

Mr. Jim Robinson, Ash Avenue, recommended the BPAC consider what was prudent, safe, and conservative in the number of signs that are installed. Drivers can be distracted by too much signage.

Chair Ravasio closed the meeting to public comments.

Committee member Bartlett stated he saw this as a public service and a way to inform people about state laws. This information could be included in one of the banners that are put up around Town.

Chair Ravasio stated they were talking about putting up several signs, mainly along the key bike routes. He supported the staff recommended locations

Committee member Nofziger stated it was a good rule and people should know about it.

Public Works Director Brown responded to the question about cyclists riding single file and stated the Vehicle Code states they should ride as far to the right as is practical. It does not say they have to ride single-file. He would like to install signs at the San Clemente Corte Madera Avenue locations and see how they are received.

D. Progress with Steps Lanes and Paths (SLP) maintenance

- Initiate volunteer committee
- Prioritize top 5

Public Works Director Brown presented the staff report and a PowerPoint presentation. Staff came up with the following top five locations: 1) Tainter Path; 2) Hill Path; 3) Spring Trail; 4) Jean Bean; 5) Ridge Way or California Lane. There are three to four major and ten to twelve minor SLPs. Staff will continue to coordinate with Ms. Lori Rice and work on the geographic information systems and maps. The first steps are clearing, cleaning, and assessing the paths.

Committee member Bartlett acknowledged the Town could not install signs that indicate evacuation routes and he asked if they could install a sign indicating the location of a path. Public Works Director Brown stated “yes”.

Chair Ravasio stated some paths have tree roots that are moving the steps and he asked if this would be part of the maintenance/rehabilitation process. Public Works Director Brown stated “yes” and added some trees would need to come down.

Chair Ravasio opened the meeting to public comments.

Ms. Anita Block reported her group has done an extensive evaluation of the SLP's on Christmas Tree Hill- all 30 of them. Public Works Director Brown stated he would love to meet with the group.

Chair Ravasio closed the meeting to public comments.

Committee member Longinotti stated some type of community event such as a Treasure Hunt would be helpful in educating residents

Committee member Bartlett stated the Spring Trail path is steep and in disrepair. It would be nice to have some stable steps.

Chair Ravasio asked staff to work closely with the neighborhood groups.

E. Sidewalk program

- Pilot project with recent paving 50/50 match
- Precision Concrete has started 2 surveys
 1. All roads in BRIP
 2. All roads in 2019 Paving Project

Public Works Director Brown presented a staff report and a PowerPoint presentation. The City of San Rafael has a program where they partner with residents on sidewalk repairs. The Corte Madera Municipal Code states that it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain a sidewalk adjacent to his or her property. The goal is to improve the walking environment in Town. This will be done in conjunction with the Town's Paving Program. The Town has hired Precision Concrete to survey and develop recommendations. He briefly discussed the Barrier Removal Implementation Plan (BRIP) and how that would be a part of the program.

Chair Ravasio opened the meeting to public comments.

Mr. Jim Robinson asked if the Town would continue to respond to complaints about sidewalk conditions. He supported the new program. He stated the Age Friendly Corte Madera survey, done several years ago, indicated that safe sidewalks were a priority among seniors.

Chair Ravasio closed the meeting to public comments.

5. Approve minutes of the December 13, 2018 meeting

M/s, Bartlett/Garza, to approve the December 13, 2018 minutes as submitted.

AYES: All

ABSENT: Madden, Mcpherson

6. Set Next Meeting Date and Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 20th at 6:00 p.m.