

Caltrans District 4 Bicycle Advisory Committee (D4 BAC)

Meeting Summary

January 16, 2013

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

111 Grand Ave, Oakland, Room 230, 15th Floor

Members Present (including teleconference attendees):

Eric Anderson, City of Berkeley

Paul Goldstein, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (Santa Clara County), D4 BAC Chair

Bert Hill, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition

Rick Marshall, Napa County Public Works Department, D4 BAC Vice Chair

Robert Cronin, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (San Mateo County)

Michelle DeRobertis, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

Gary Helfrich, Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition

Carol Levine, Oakland Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, Bay Area Bicycle Coalition

Bruce “Ole” Ohlson, East Bay Bicycle Coalition (Contra Costa County), Delta Pedalers

Alisha Oloughlin, Marin County Bicycle Coalition

Rochelle Wheeler, Alameda County Transportation Commission

Corinne Winter, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, Bay Area Bicycle Coalition

Non-Members Present (including teleconference attendees):

Aleida Andrino-Chavez, City of Albany staff

John Langbein, San Mateo County resident

Bob Page, San Mateo County resident

Beth Thomas, Caltrans District 4 Pedestrian & Bicycle Senior Planner/Coordinator

Anh Nguyen, Caltrans District 4 Pedestrian & Bicycle Planning Branch

Sergio Ruiz, Caltrans District 4 Pedestrian & Bicycle Planning Branch

Aprile Smith, Caltrans District 4 Pedestrian & Bicycle Planning Branch

Jean Finney, Caltrans D4, Office of Transit & Community Planning Chief

Richard Chan, Caltrans D4 Senior Materials Engineer

Vijith Thilakarathne, Caltrans District 4 Senior Maintenance Engineer

Roland Au-Yeung, Caltrans District 4 Office of Traffic Safety Chief

Gary Pursell, District 4 Design East Division Chief

Jack Ezekiel, Caltrans Headquarters Resource Conservation Branch Senior Engineer

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Orders of the Day

The Committee Chair (Paul Goldstein) announced that the terms of Chair and Vice Chair had expired as of January 2013. Since many of the members had forgotten that elections were due, Paul requested that Beth send the District 4 BAC Charter out to the members by email. The Committee then approved a motion to amend the agenda to hold elections of Chair and Vice Chair. Rick Marshall was unanimously elected Chair. Gary Helfrich nominated himself for Vice

Chair and was unanimously elected. Rick then assumed his responsibilities as Chair and began to facilitate the meeting.

3. Approval of October 2012 Meeting Summary

The summary was approved with one edit, which is the addition of two names under the list of members who were present at the meeting: Alisha Oloughlin and Corinne Winter.

4. Discussion and Comment on Types of Chip Seal and Use – Richard Chan, Caltrans D4 Senior Materials Engineer and Vijith Thilakaratne, Caltrans District 4 Senior Maintenance Engineer

This item had been placed on the agenda in response to the complaints received regarding the recent application of chip seal on a 20-mile stretch of State Route 35 (Skyline Boulevard) in San Mateo County. Richard explained that Caltrans only applies chip seal where the annual average motorized vehicle traffic volume is less than 30,000 per day. Corinne indicated that she thought that the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition could provide the bicycle volume for project area on SR 35. Paul suggested that, for future repaving projects, Caltrans review local bicycle plans to see if the route in question is designated or planned as a bicycle route and use this information as a means of deciding whether or not to apply chip seal. Others on the Committee agreed and asked that repaving projects be sent to Beth's branch for cross-checking with local bicycle plans and consultation with local bicycle coalitions.

Richard further explained that the Caltrans standard special provisions call for use of aggregate no smaller than 1/2", as was applied for the project on SR 35. He said that he would try to work with Caltrans Headquarters to revise the standard special provisions for chip seal. (Richard later clarified by email to Beth that the Caltrans standard special provisions for chip seal have been updated to allow the use of the smaller 3/8" aggregate, which is consistent with guidance in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials 2012 *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*.)

5. Discussion and Comment on Provision for Bicyclists at Constrained Construction Sites Relative to Traffic Conditions – Roland Au-Yeung, Caltrans District 4 Office of Traffic Safety Chief and Gary Pursell, District 4 Design East Division Chief

This item was a follow-up to the October 2012 discussion of the provision for bicyclists at a construction site to build a retaining wall on State Route 84 (Woodside Road) in the vicinity of Southgate Drive. Bob requested that flexible channelizers be placed along the shoulder line at the project site. Paul explained that, where channelizers have been knocked off their base, cyclists can hit the base and be thrown into traffic. He qualified that by indicating that channelizers can be useful in a construction situation where a hazard is already present. Bob specified that he would like channelizers placed along the shoulder line at the start of the project to direct motorists away from the shoulder. Gary Helfrich asked that the K-rail barrier and channelizers be reversed such that cyclists would be protected from traffic by the barrier, while the channelizers would keep cyclists away from the construction site.

Eric suggested that the decision to use channelizers along the shoulder line be context-specific. He further indicated that it should be fine at the project site since the cyclist is proceeding in the uphill direction and therefore going slowly such that the cyclist would not be thrown into traffic if bumping into the channelizer base.

Eric asked whether Caltrans has Complete Streets guidance on consulting with the District 4 BAC. Roland replied that the stage construction plans are reviewed during the design phase. Beth added that she can check with the District Division of Design to make sure that she is on the list for review of maintenance projects. Bert asked that construction plans be brought to local Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees (BPACs) for review and comment. Corinne stated that the Bay Area Bicycle Coalition can help circulate plans to BPACs.

6. Information Item on Alpine Road (at I-280) Bike Lane Planning

Beth described this project to provide green buffered bike lanes on Alpine Road under I-280 and where it intersects the I-280 on- and off-ramps. Visual displays were provided. The project sponsor is San Mateo County, which acquired the project funding from the Alameda County Transportation Authority. San Mateo County will construct the project through an encroachment permit from Caltrans.

7. Presentation on Caltrans Construction Evaluated Program for Experimental Features – Jack Ezekiel, Caltrans Resource Conservation Branch Senior Engineer

The Committee reviewed a description of the program, which would be the process to construct experimental bikeway features, and collect data to test them, for locations in State right-of-way. (Locations in California outside of State right-of-way would go before the new Caltrans committee of external advisers being formed per Assembly Bill 819.) Jack explained that the testing period under the Caltrans Construction Evaluated Program is 3 to 5 years with an annual evaluation. Paul asked about the opportunity for public input on a request or results within the process. Jack replied that these would go through the Caltrans design engineer. Bert asked how the public gives input. Michelle further asked Jack to give examples. Jack replied that the Construction Evaluated Program is usually used for paving projects, but that new projects can be submitted to Caltrans Headquarters for consideration if the application has the signature of a Deputy District Director and of the identified Principal Investigator. Rochelle asked how the rejection of a local proposal would be communicated to local agencies. Jack replied that Caltrans could work through the Local Assistance Division. The Committee agreed that this process should be revisited at a future District 4 BAC meeting.

8. Updates on Policies/Guidance/Issues Previously Presented

The meeting was running late so Beth agreed to send updates to the Committee by email.

9. Public Comments

No public comments were received.

10. Topics for Next Meeting, Announcements and Information Sharing

A few items were suggested for placement on the agenda for the next meeting. Paul, Rick, and Gary (Helfrich) asked that the District 4 BAC Charter be reviewed. Eric requested a discussion of the Caltrans Understanding Bicycle Transportation training. Alisha asked that the US 101/Greenbrae interchange project be presented.