

Caltrans District 4 Bicycle Advisory Committee (D4 BAC)
Meeting Summary
July 17, 2013
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
111 Grand Ave, Oakland, Room 240, 15th Floor

Members Present (including teleconference attendees):

Eric Anderson, City of Berkeley
Andrew Boone, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (San Mateo County)
Alan Forkosh, Alameda County resident
Paul Goldstein, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (Santa Clara County)
Gary Helfrich, Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition
Bert Hill, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition
Rick Marshall, Napa County Public Works Department, D4 BAC Vice Chair
Carol Levine, Oakland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Bruce “Ole” Ohlson, East Bay Bicycle Coalition (Contra Costa County), Delta Pedalers
Alisha Oloughlin, Marin County Bicycle Coalition
Corinne Winter, Bay Area Bicycle Coalition

Non-Members Present (including teleconference attendees):

Matthew Bomberg, Alameda County Transportation Commission
Robert Cronin, San Mateo County resident
Dan Dawson, Marin County Public Works
Lauren Ledbetter, Alta Planning and Design
Alan Wachtel, Santa Clara County resident, California Bicycle Advisory Committee member

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Orders of the Day

No changes were made to the agenda.

3. Review and Approval of Summary of May 2013 Meeting

The summary was approved with three edits: the last sentence of section 4 was moved to where it should have been at the end of section 5; the word “within” was inserted before “2 feet” in the third sentence of the second paragraph of section 5; and “The PAC members” was changed to the “BAC members” in the next to last sentence of section 6.

4. Review of Draft Letter re. Caltrans “Understanding Bicycle Transportation” Training

Some members expressed concern that the draft letter was worded too strongly. Some also expressed frustration that they were not able to get into the course. One member suggested that Caltrans try to make the course through University of California Extension available at less cost. The BAC members concluded the item by voting to form a sub-committee to edit the letter and for the Chair to recirculate the revised draft letter electronically for approval. Bert and Paul were selected to rewrite the letter, which would then be sent to Eric and Aleisha to review and edit before being forwarded to all the members by Rick for approval. (Bert, Eric, and Aleisha had attended the course.)

5. Pacheco Pathway Construction – Bike Access during Construction

Larry Jones and Arlissa Pang from the Caltrans Design SHOPP (State Highway Operations Protection Program) Office were in attendance for this item. Many of the BAC members expressed concern about the proposed nighttime closure of this pathway between San Rafael and Novato during the two-week period of its reconstruction given that there is no parallel route for bicyclists. Larry and Arlissa explained why they were not proposing to allow bicyclists to use the shoulder of 101 in this segment because the shoulder narrows at the freeway entrances and exits. Also, they explained that protecting the shoulder with K-rail would be much higher in cost than what the contingency in the project budget could afford. Most of the discussion then centered around the scheduling of a shuttle bus to transport cyclists using 101. The BAC members and Caltrans staff agreed to the following: the shuttle would run on a 20-minute headway (20 minute wait at each end) from 5:00 AM to 10:00 PM; the shuttle would change position from one end to the other on an hourly basis between 10:00 PM and 5:00 AM; a notice would be posted at each end with a phone number to call between 10:00 PM and 5:00 AM in order to request a pick-up if the shuttle is not waiting on the end from which the cyclist needs transportation; a record would be kept of how many cyclists were transported.

6. Update on Shoulder and Center Line Rumble Strip Placement – Proposed District 4 Guidance

Roland Au-Yeung, Chief of the District 4 Office of Traffic Safety, attended the meeting for this item. Ole asked how the lane width is measured. Roland responded that it is from the edge line to the middle of the centerline. Gary asked that the following statement be added to the guidance: “The safety of all users will be considered on a co-equal basis.” Roland responded with a concern regarding how that could be quantified.

The discussion then focused mainly on the placement of centerline rumble strips and a concern that they could encourage motorists to enter the shoulder. Paul requested that the following statement be inserted into the guidance: “Centerline rumble strips are discouraged unless there is at least a 2 foot wide shoulder.” Ole indicated that he would like centerline rumble strips only where there is 5 feet of shoulder width. Rick added that, according to input from the Napa County Bicycle Coalition, the guidance should indicate that centerline rumble strips be used only

where the shoulder is at least 3 feet wide. Corinne indicated that it is only comfortable where there is at least 5 feet of shoulder.

Regarding shoulder rumble strips, Paul stated that he would rather that the rumble strip be placed on the edge line than 6 inches to the right.

Alisha then indicated that she would like to see crash data to justify the use of rumble strips and that a threshold be established for their use. Roland indicated that he would talk to staff at Caltrans Headquarters and the Federal Highway Administration about these issues. Dan asked that he also consider the grade of the road. Rick then requested that Roland summarize the input he receives in a report back to the BAC.

7. Review of District 4 BAC Charter

This item was postponed until the following meeting due to a lack of time.

8. Updates on Policies/Guidance/Issues Previously Presented

Due to a lack of time, this item focused on the update regarding the recent chip seal application on Skyline Road. Corinne asked if the white paint markings around potholes were for future digout and repair work. She indicated that she would follow up by email with Beth for more information.

9. Public Comments

No public comments were received.

10. Topics for Next Meeting, Announcements and Information Sharing

Roland announced that the Alex Zuckerman bike path on the Bay Bridge needs a sponsor for the signage to commemorate Mr. Zuckerman, which is estimated to cost between \$1,500 and \$2,000. Alan indicated that the Grizzly Peak Cyclists and East bay Bicycle Coalition may be interested in this and requested that additional information be sent to him by email. Beth agreed to relay the information.