

# Caltrans District-4 Bicycle Advisory Committee (D4 BAC)

## Minutes

July 20, 2011 1:30 – 3:30

District 4 Headquarters, Mountain View Room, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
111 Grand Avenue, Oakland

### **Members Present (incl. teleconference attendees):**

Paul Goldstein, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, D4 BAC Chair (via telephone)  
Rick Marshall, Napa County Public Works, D4 BAC Vice-Chair,  
Michelle DeRobertis, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority  
Alan Forkosh, California Association of Bicycle Organizations  
Bruce “Ole” Ohlson, East Bay Bicycle Coalition, Delta Pedalers  
Robert Cronin, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition  
Carol Levine, Oakland Bike/Ped Advisory Committee/Bay Area Bicycle Coalition  
Mike Costanza, Napa County Bicycle Coalition (via telephone)

### **Non-Members Present (incl. teleconference attendees):**

Ina Gerhard, Caltrans District 4 Bicycle Coordinator  
Dave Campbell, East Bay Bicycle Coalition  
Bob Sutterfield, California Association of Bicycle Organizations  
Dave Dawson, Marin County (via telephone)  
Gladwyn D’Souza, Belmont resident  
Pat Giorni, Burlingame resident, (via telephone)  
Penny Gray, Caltrans Headquarters Bicycle Program Manager (via telephone)  
Mike Jones, Caltrans D4 System Planning

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Due to a cycling accident, Chair Goldstein, participating via telephone, requested that Michelle DeRobertis chair the meeting.

## **2. Approval of January 19, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/transplanning/bicycleagendas.htm>

The minutes were approved with one minor correction: The correct spelling of Ole’s name is Bruce “Ole” Ohlson instead of Olsen.

## **3. Introduction of HQ Bicycle Program – Penny Gray, CT HQ**

Penny Gray, the new Headquarters Bicycle Program Manager, talked about her priorities. She sees her role as an opportunity to demonstrate the importance of non-motorized transportation and explained that the primary focus of the Bicycle Facilities Unit is on bicycle safety improvements and participation in the Strategic Highway Safety Plan required by federal law. In developing and implementing new action items to include training and education of staff in Caltrans and other agencies on the importance and effectiveness of bicycle safety improvements, the Unit will work to establish baseline data for crash and fatality statistics and strive to reduce the number of bicycle-related fatalities. Penny voiced frustration in the lack of bicycling statistics (counts/mode share) at the state level.

In addition, the Unit has been very involved in the proposed changes to the CA Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and the Highway Design Manual Update. The Unit will maintain partnerships with external agencies and advocacy groups such as the California Bicycle Coalition, and public agencies such as the CA Dept of Health, CHP, DMV, cities and counties, etc., to solicit input, offer assistance, and inform about funding opportunities for development of bicycle projects. The Unit continues to coordinate the CA Bicycle Advisory Committee. And the Bicycle Transportation Account will continue to be a major focus with improved tracking and reporting of project accountability and delivery so that no funding opportunity lapses occur.

Caltrans was unable to offer sponsorship to the California Bicycle Coalition this year for “May is Bike Month” activities. Hopefully that sponsorship will resume in the future.

Requests for bicycle route plans have become low priority and will be parceled to the Districts and local agencies since there is little practical or current information at the State level. The legislatively mandated State Bicycle Map is on hold due to lack of time and resources, as is California’s inclusion in the development of the United States Bicycle Route Map.

According to the League of American Bicyclists, California is declining in “Bicycle Friendly” ranking, which is of concern. Website updates and improvements are planned in the future.

#### **4. Work Plan Review and Update – All**

Vice Chair Rick Marshall arrived to assume leadership of the meeting.

The currently posted Work Plan was updated to include coordination with local agencies’ Bicycle Transportation Plans as they relate to the State Highway System (item #7).

Regarding item #1: Review and comment on PID-level projects.

The PID list for next year is not finalized yet. Once a final list is available the committee can decide which projects to discuss at the next meetings. The Governor has vetoed funding for PID oversight and local agencies now have to reimburse Caltrans for that work.

Regarding item #3: Tracking of CT project mitigation requirements.

To allow tracking of bike projects required as mitigation for CT projects, Ina is asked to develop a matrix including information on responsible agency and date of completion.

The following two items were added to the Work Plan:

- Track and comment on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on State highways and impacts to bicycle travel.
- Review routing and signage issues to and from freeway segments that are open to bicyclists.

#### **5. Update on Caltrans Complete Streets Implementation – Ina Gerhard, CT CA**

- a. Draft Highway Design Manual (HDM) Update: Rick submitted the comments on the Draft HDM Update (developed by the subcommittee) plus a cover letter to CT HQ Design on behalf of the D4 BAC by the deadline on July 8, 2011. Committee members felt that the public review period was too short and that there should be opportunity for a second round of reviews given that this is a 1000-page document and the changes are

extensive. Ina was asked to convey this request at the next CT Technical Advisory Committee meeting on Complete Streets.

- b. CA Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD): The CA MUTCD will be released in September for another round of review and comments, with the Final Draft scheduled for release in January, 2012. A total of 961 pages of comments were received on the first draft. This Committee submitted comments pertaining to Part 9 on June 30, 2011.
- c. CT document “Main Streets: Flexibility in Design and Operations” is in the process of being updated for a more comprehensive inclusion of Complete Streets. Currently, the draft is being circulated internally and Ina has provided comments. Review by external groups is anticipated.
- d. CT guidebook “Complete Intersections: A Guide to Reconstructing Intersections and Interchanges for Bicyclists and Pedestrians” has finally been released:  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/survey/pedestrian/Complete-Intersections-A-Guide-to-Reconstructing-Intersections-and-Interchanges-for-Bicyclists-and-Pedestrians.pdf>

## 6. Update on Various Projects – Ina Gerhard, CT

### a. **Ralston Ave @ US 101** in San Mateo County

Gladwyn d’Souza provided a summary the issues: The overcrossing was reconstructed in 2004 with a dual right turn at the westbound ramp access to northbound US 101. At that time cyclists initiated talks with Caltrans about the difficulty for cyclists to cross two right-turn lanes when traveling westbound on Ralston Ave. As a consequence of those meetings there was an agreement between Caltrans and Redwood City to install bike lanes. Redwood City installed the bike lanes in its right-of-way; however, no bike lanes have been installed in State right-of-way. Redwood City’s Director of Public Works has agreed to do the striping work if Caltrans provides the striping drawings. The Belmont grade separated ped/bike overcrossing, currently in construction, should not be considered as mitigation for lack of accommodation on the Ralston Ave overcrossing as it adds a 1 mile detour for cyclists and pedestrians.

The committee brainstormed suggestions on how to improve the striping such as colored pavement marking for the bike lane and travel lane width reduction, and asked that the drawings be completed and the bike lanes be striped as soon as possible.

### b. **Decoto Rd (State Route 84) @ I-880** in Alameda County (new)

This is to inform the committee that the Decoto Rd crossing over I-880 will be restriped with bike lanes following a request by a Fremont resident. The bike lanes connect to a Class I bike path parallel to State Route 84 constructed in the late 1980’s west of the overcrossing.

### c. **Dixon Landing @ I-880** in Santa Clara County (new)

Following a request by an East Bay cyclist to look at ways to improve bike travel across the overcrossing, the committee discussed options: Westbound bike travel is an uphill challenge with two right-turns outside lanes plus an HOV lane access that severely inhibits transition from the bike lane to the through lane. The eastbound bike lane is striped only in locations where there is sufficient room and then discontinued. Lane

striping is faint. Most pedestrian and bicycle traffic occurs on the southern sidewalk. The planned parallel bicycle path west of I-880 (Bay Trail segment), which would connect to the Coyote Creek trail, could provide an alternative connection in the future.

Alan suggested that CABO members from the area could do a site visit and come back with assessments/recommendations at the next meeting.

- d. **Skyline Drive/Skyridge Drive** in San Mateo County  
Caltrans has issued a work order to remove some of the channelizers and stripe a travel path for cyclists at the intersection. The city of Pacifica is supportive of the proposed changes. The Skyridge Homeowners Association representative did not attend the meeting he had called for.
- e. **Redwood Shore Pkwy to NB US 101** in San Mateo County  
Peter Delgado with Redwood City is fine-tuning the encroachment permit details and expects the striping at the northbound on-ramp to be in place at the end of August.
- f. **Alpine Rd @ I-280** in San Mateo County  
San Mateo County did not get the funding for bike lane striping at this location and must wait for another funding opportunity.
- g. **Bikeway signage to Dumbarton Bridge**  
The CT project manager is working on the details with engineers from both cities, Fremont and Menlo Park.
- h. **State Route 84 (Niles Canyon) Project** in Alameda County  
The project, which currently is designed to widen and realign State Route 84 in rural Niles Canyon and add centerline and shoulder rumble strips, was presented and discussed at the Oct 20, 2010 D4 BAC meeting. There is public opposition to making the scenic route more freeway-like. Therefore, Caltrans is proposing to reduce the footprint in order to address environmental concerns. Dave Campbell reported on a stakeholder meeting he participated in as EBBC representative to provide input and ideas that would address concerns raised by the bicycle community regarding the 3 existing narrow bridges, vehicle speeds, and shoulder rumble strips. He suggested the following treatments to be considered by Caltrans:
  - Signage to slow traffic to 25mph posted 1000' from bridge approaches
  - Post "Narrow Bridge" signage
  - Stop fog-line rumble strips ¼ mile (1500') back from bridge
  - Add flashing beacons
  - Sign as Bicycle Route
  - Install Super Sharrows (shared lane marking plus green lane striping of the part of the travel lane)
  - Install traverse rumble strips ahead of the bridges
  - Add hanging sidewalks to bridges

There are public meetings and more workshops scheduled in the fall.

**7. Relevant CTCDC Agenda Items – Ina Gerhard, CT**

CA Traffic Control Devices Committee meeting held on the same day as D4 BAC meeting. On the agenda: 1) Caltrans will add two members to represent non-motorized users of the transportation system to the committee; 2) Adoption of the FHWA interim approval of the use of colored bike lanes for CA.

**8. Google Group for D4 BAC – Alan Forkosh**

In order to facilitate and moderate out-of-meeting and/or subcommittee discussions, Alan suggested and committee agreed to set up a private Google Groups account. There is an on-line archive for conversations, but no document storage. Committee members can be invited to join. Alan and Ina will be the group administrators.

**9. Future Agenda Items/Announcements/Adjourn**

Item for next meeting agenda: Discuss traffic control for bicycle accommodation in work areas as part of the CT permit process. Ina will invite a representative from Permits to review and discuss policy and procedures.

**D4 BAC meeting date in 2011:**

October 19, 2011