

City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG)
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2021

1. Call to Order

Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Name	Agency	Jan 2021
<u>Public</u>		
Malcolm Robinson – Chair	San Bruno	X
Matthew Self	County of San Mateo	X
Marina Fraser	Half Moon Bay	X
Justin Yuen	South San Francisco	X
Alan Uy	Daly City	X
Brian Levenson	Redwood City	
Vacant Seat		
<u>Elected</u>		
Ann Schneider – Vice Chair	Millbrae	X
Don Horsley	County of San Mateo	
Emily Beach	Burlingame	X
Mary Bier	Pacifica	X*
Patrick Sullivan	Foster City	X*
Vacant Seat		
Vacant Seat		
Vacant Seat		

*Members appointed to position at January 2021 Board Meeting

C/CAG Staff: Mikaela Hiatt, Sandy Wong, Kaki Cheung, Sean Charpentier, Jeff Lacap

Others: Emma Shlaes – Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, John Langbein - Public

2. Review of Meeting Procedures

C/CAG Staff Mikaela Hiatt explained how the meeting would run.

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

C/CAG staff Mikaela Hiatt introduced Mary Bier, Councilmember of Pacifica, and Patrick Sullivan, Councilmember of Foster City, to the Committee as newly elected members.

Member Bier expressed her excitement in joining the Committee and looked forward to learning more and getting involved in active transportation.

Member Sullivan shared his close relationship to the region and excitement to be a part of the Committee. He expressed interest in helping to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety throughout San Mateo County.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the October 22, 2020 committee meeting

None.

Member Fraser motioned to approve the minutes/Member Self seconded. Roll call was taken. Vice Chair Schneider, Member Bier, and Member Sullivan abstained. All others in attendance motioned to approve. Motion passed.

5. Receive an update and provide input on the San Mateo County Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (CBPP) Update

C/CAG staff Mikaela Hiatt introduced Brooke Dubose, Principal in Charge from Toole Design, the consultant team assisting C/CAG with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (CBPP) Update. Brooke provided updates on the progress made to date on the Plan, including the public outreach conducted, development of the bicycle and pedestrian project lists, the prioritization of the bicycle projects, and the development of the Draft Plan. Brooke provided a demonstration of the project webmap tool, and shared information on how Committee members could review the prioritized bicycle projects and add comments to webmap directly.

Member Sullivan asked about the \$1,400,000 per mile cost estimate for bicycle projects along the backbone network, and where funding would be coming from. C/CAG Staff Mikaela Hiatt explained that the project cost estimates in this plan were developed primarily to understand the need, and to provide local jurisdictions a high level planning estimate to help with grant applications. Brooke further explained that compared to other transportation projects, the total cost of the bicycle backbone network equates to about one mile of highway construction.

Member Beach asked how local networks would be integrated into the C/CAG bicycle backbone network. Brooke Dubose showed Member Beach that on the webmap, Committee members are able to overlay the local bike networks to view what is existing and proposed.

Chair Robinson commented that El Camino Real is an unsafe place to bicycle. He asked if the Plan should focus on parallel routes to the corridor. Mikaela Hiatt responded that the desire to integrate El Camino Real into the Backbone Network is to advocate to agencies at the state and regional level the importance of this corridor, and the need to make it safer for all users. Mikaela Hiatt added that the project team also incorporated a bike network

on parallel routes to El Camino Real, such as on Old County Road, for the purpose of a more timely integration of north-south routes in the County.

Mikaela Hiatt shared some of the other high priority projects in the Plan, including various overcrossings at Highway 101. She also mentioned that the regional trails are analyzed separately from the backbone network due to differences in project nature and funding source. Brooke Dubose mentioned that the trail projects would be integrated in the Plan once they are finalized.

Chair Robinson asked if a connection from Sweeney Ridge Trail to State Route 92 would be incorporated. Mikaela Hiatt responded that C/CAG, as a Congestion Management Agency, would mostly focus on transportation projects. and integrate recreation through the mention of trails throughout the County.

Vice Chair Schneider mentioned that Millbrae staff is working with County Parks to open a trail connection in Millbrae. Vice Chair Schneider also asked about the difference in grant funding evaluation between upgrading an existing facility and implementing a new facility. Brooke Dubose stated that the Plan Technical Advisory Group raised a similar question. She responded that there is merit in upgrading an existing facility given that the facility was likely placed there due to higher usage. Member Schneider commented that there is a project on Centennial Way and along San Anselmo that has requested funding and not received it in prior years.

Member Yuen commented that he felt local jurisdictions are typically on board with including bicycle facilities on El Camino Real, and asked if there was a way to communicate to Caltrans that the corridor is a priority. C/CAG staff Mikaela Hiatt mentioned that a member from Caltrans District 4 serves on the Technical Advisory Group for the Plan, and is apprised of recommendations in the Plan. Caltrans District 4 is also proceeding with studies such as the Bicycle Superhighway to incorporate recommendations on the their facilities.

Chair Robinson asked about how the Plan made design recommendations for bicyclists traveling at varying speeds. Brooks Dubose responded that this is a big question to be solved, but answers include widening and separating paths, capping bicycle speeds, and local ordinances around where electric bikes are permitted.

Member Self expressed concern that Caltrans may not be the barrier to implementation on El Camino Real, but it may be political will as well, and thus not a lot of progress has been made. Vice Chair Schneider stated that the City of Millbrae is working with Caltrans to try to make the corridor more accommodating for cyclists and pedestrians. Brooke Dubose mentioned that although change is slow, it is happening throughout the region, citing examples in the East Bay and New York.

Member Sullivan asked about the status of the Grand Boulevard Initiative along El Camino Real. C/CAG Executive Director Sandy Wong explained the history of the Initiative and cited some of the work local cities implemented themselves.

Member Beach commented that for the segment of El Camino Real in Burlingame, the Plan should consider a parallel path as right of way is limited there.

Member Sullivan asked, for the Grand Boulevard Initiative and implementation of facilities along major corridors, was it largely up to the cities? Brooke Dubose confirmed that, and stated that C/CAG predominantly plays a funding and planning role as the Congestion Management Agency for the County. Project implementation responsibilities fall on the cities. There are some exceptions, C/CAG occasionally supports the delivery of large capital projects of countywide significance.

Public Member John Langbein commented that El Camino Real should be left as a high priority as parallel routes can sometimes be circuitous and hard to follow.

6. Receive information on the proposed MTC Safe and Seamless Mobility Quick Strike Program and proposed C/CAG approach

C/CAG staff Jeff Lacap gave a presentation to the Committee on the MTC Safe and Seamless Mobility Quick Strike Program. Jeff explained that \$49 Million would be set aside for cities addressing the COVID-19 crisis throughout the region and that MTC would be using the formula used for the One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) 2 program to allocate funds throughout the counties. San Mateo County is expecting about \$4 Million, although this county targets are not guarantees. Eligible projects include quick build projects, projects that improve bikeshare, and bicycle and pedestrian transit and equity access projects. The MTC guidelines state that a project must be ready for construction by September of 2022, must adhere to the federal guidance, and must be in a priority development area, a transit priority area, or in communities of concern.

C/CAG must submit a letter of interest by the end of March and thus does not have sufficient time to conduct a Call for Projects. C/CAG staff proposes to use the three recent Call for Projects to make a recommendation. Those recent calls include Transportation for Clean Air (TFCA), the San Mateo County Transportation Authority Bike/Pedestrian Program, and the Active Transportation Program Cycle 5. Jeff requested that information be shared for projects that may be good candidates for the program.

Vice Chair Schneider asked how the Committee would meet in February with no currently scheduled meeting? C/CAG staff Mikaela Hiatt responded that she would send out a Doodle Poll to find a time that works best for all members to meet, then schedule a special meeting.

Member Fraser asked if C/CAG staff would be meeting again with cities to see if all projects were still viable. Jeff Lacap responded that C/CAG staff will be confirming project status and interest with city staff.

Member Beach expressed support for spreading the money around to projects who did not receive funding, but also requested that C/CAG staff also consider providing funding for projects that are more shovel ready.

Member Self asked if BPAC members could receive information on which projects were awarded with funding previously. Member Bier echoed the request for further information. Mikaela Hiatt and Jeff Lacap said they would share information.

7. Receive a presentation from Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition on the 2020 Bicycle Polling Data

C/CAG staff Mikaela Hiatt introduced Emma Shlaes from the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC), who presented on bicycle polling data from 2020.

Emma Shlaes introduced herself and briefly commented that SVBC advocated for this money to come to the counties in the region. She expressed support for the strategy that C/CAG plans on using to recommend projects.

Emma Shlaes then presented information on the bicycle polling data from 2020. This information depicted the correlation between demographic information and comfortability and likelihood of bicycling. Some of the information found that largely, people are not comfortable riding under high stress conditions. Riders also typically prefer riding on an off street path, and are more likely to bike when there are time savings.

Member Beach expressed appreciation for the work that the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition does.

Member Fraser commented that there is a lot of opportunity to implement more bicycle and pedestrian facilities, as more people are biking and walking during COVID times. Emma Shlaes commented that SVBC is creating local teams now to help educate new cyclists.

8. Member Communications

Chair Robinson welcomed Member Bier and Sullivan to the Committee.

Member Beach shared that she participated in a meeting with Bird scooters and would share information about the service to the Committee.

C/CAG staff Mikaela Hiatt shared that there are currently three open until filled elected positions on the Committee and one open until filled public member position on the Committee. Additionally, she announced that Caltrans currently has two surveys available for the D4 Pedestrian Plan and the Bicycle Superhighway Study.

Member Sullivan mentioned that there is a shortage of bicycles and inquired about a list of places where you could purchase or repair bicycles. Member Fraser and Beach mentioned that they had success on Craigslist. Member Bier mentioned that this question is especially important under an equity lens, given the high price of bicycles limits accessibility for many people.

9. Adjourn

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 8:38 PM.