

COUNCIL OF SAN BENITO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 8, 2010

10:00 AM

FINAL MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gifford Swanson, Karen Rogers, Jeanne Melius, Tim Saxon, Art Bliss, David Rubcic

STAFF PRESENT:

Lisa Rheinheimer, Executive Director; Veronica Lezama, Transportation Planner; Monica Gomez, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gifford Swanson called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ELECT BPAC Chair and Vice-Chair:

The item was deferred to the next meeting.

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chair Gifford was pleased with the improvements that were made at the railroad crossings.

Ms. Lezama announced that she will be attending a 3-day "Moving Children Safely" conference in San Francisco in March. The conference is sponsored by the California Injury and Prevention Network. Ms. Lezama will provide a report at the next meeting.

David Rubcic announced that the City of Hollister received the authorization to proceed with the project schedule to go to bid in February 2010. The project will repave Nash Road from San Benito Street to West Street and it will include bike lanes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **APPROVE** Draft Meeting Minutes dated September 4, 2009 – Gomez
2. **APPROVE** 2010 Meeting Calendar – Lezama

Upon a motion duly made by David Rubcic and seconded by Art Bliss, the Committee approved the Consent agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA:

3. **RECEIVE** Report on Business Bicycle Parking Survey – Lezama

Ms. Lezama reported that at the September 4, 2009 meeting, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory

Committee directed staff to prepare a survey discussing the needs for bicycle parking at local businesses. The survey was mailed to local businesses in October 2009.

Staff mailed a total of 50 surveys to local businesses soliciting input regarding bicycle parking. A total of 32 surveys were returned.

The survey results varied in response. The majority of business owners were concerned with the costs of bicycle racks and installation. Others indicated that the landlord or corporate office would be the party responsible for authorizing any modifications to the business site.

Staff will follow up with the corporate offices or landlords responsible for authorizing any modifications to the business site and report back to the Committee.

4. Discuss 2010 Bike Week Event Ideas – Lezama

Ms. Lezama stated that every year, San Benito, Monterey, and Santa Cruz Counties plan Bike Week activities for the tri-county region. This year, San Benito County will celebrate its 14th annual Bike Week celebration, which will take place during the week of May 9-15, 2010. The benefits of Bike Week include generating interest in bicycling as an alternative to driving, which in turn, helps to reduce traffic congestion, driving stress, and air pollution from vehicle emissions.

Ms. Lezama asked the Committee to provide event ideas for the 2010 Bike Week Campaign.

Ms. Melius suggested looking into CMAP for potential advertising, as well as advertising on the local Spanish radio station. Ms. Melius also suggested contacting the Freelance newspaper reporter to get them to do a story/interview with staff, as a way to bring public awareness to Bike Week events.

Ms. Lezama stated that she would contact the Freelance.

Captain Saxon stated that the California Highway Patrol (CHP) may be able to assist with 1-2 officers during Bike to School Day and provide bicycle safety checks at the school.

Ms. Melius stated that the Public Health Department received grant money to provide helmets and suggested working together with CHP to provide the helmets and bicycle safety checks for children at the schools.

Mr. Rubcic mentioned that AAA may be another place to look for resources.

Mr. Bliss suggested adding the Condor Classic date as a "future bicycle related event in San Benito County".

5. RECEIVE and COMMENT on the Draft 2010 Regional Transportation Plan – Lezama

Ms. Lezama stated that the Council of Governments has completed the Draft 2010 Regional Transportation Plan.

The Council of Governments is coordinating the required Environmental Impact Report with AMBAG, the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission. The Draft 2010 Regional Transportation Plan and Environmental Impact Report will be released for a 45-day public review period in February. The Draft Report will be provided to the Committee for comment upon its release for public comment.

Ms. Lezama mentioned that the Committee may also e-mail any comments to her as well.

6. **RECEIVE** Update on 2009 San Benito County Bikeway and Pedestrian Master Plan – Lezama

Ms. Lezama reported that over the last 18 months, the Council of Governments has been working on updating the San Benito County Bikeway and Pedestrian Master Plan. The Council of Governments Board of Directors will consider adopting the Plan at their January 21, 2010 meeting.

Once adopted, the Council of Governments will forward the Plan to the City of San Juan Bautista, the City of Hollister, and the County for adoption.

Mr. Rubcic inquired if the City's and County will receive hard copies of the Plan because they will have to take the Plan to their respective Boards for approval.

Ms. Lezama stated that staff will provide one copy of the Plan to the City's and County, as well as a CD copy. Once it has been adopted by the COG Board, the Plan will be available on-line at www.sanbenitocog.org

There was discussion about putting together an "Adopt a Highway" program.

Staff stated that they would research the program and report back to the Committee at a future meeting.

Upon a motion duly made by David Rubcic, and seconded by Art Bliss, the Committee voted to adjourn the BPAC meeting.

ADJOURN TO MEETING OF APRIL 2, 2010 AT 10:00 a.m.