

MINUTES

Oceanside Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Monday, April 15, 2024 at 9:00 AM

1. Call to Order

2. Attendee Roll Call

- Tom L (Chair), Kevin R (Co-Chair), Shari M, Steve S, Ralph N, Ricki C (NCTD), Mitch S (Secretary), Mike B (Community Outreach), Howard L, Joel W

3. Introductions

4. March Meeting Minutes Approval*

5. Items for Discussion

a. Coastal Rail Trail Improvement Project – Morse to Eaton

Staff provided an update on the alignment alternatives analysis.

- Project has a technical advisory group (TAC). Meeting this week to determine final alignment. Several Committee members on TAC.
- Eaton St. has limited options due to resident encroachment
 - Members concerned about this - can't the city simply take back public property?
- Howard presents slides w/ history, costs, + existing conditions of the O'side CRT
- Morse to Eaton is about 1 mile. \$13m though, includes bridge over railroad tracks
- Design phase (now) paid by \$339K Caltrans grant, includes \$120K for outreach
- This trail will close gap between Oceanside Transit Center and Carlsbad
- Member comment: heard from many residents between Coast Hwy & Broadway that they didn't receive the outreach postcard until the day before
 - There will be additional workshop + 2 more popups for community outreach
 - Members recommend Lion's Club Park with large signage, sandwich board at Morse St or end of Broadway.
 - Decals in the streets have good visibility
 - 500-600 public comments from online survey, more than any other project Howard has worked on
 - Survey and counts show that bikers and walkers are about equal, sometimes more walkers
- Project study report and recommended alignment should be done by end of year
- Also looking at how to get better entry to Buccaneer Beach from Morse & Broadway
- Another issue to address - Buena Vista lagoon request for crosswalk across Coast Hwy in front of their nature center entrance. A member feels it makes more sense to have a crosswalk at Eaton.
- Wayfinding signs - grants often pay for them, but not long-term maintenance. City doesn't always budget for sign maintenance. Member comment - maybe Visit Oceanside can allocate some funding for this since it does fall under visitor services?
- Design criteria is similar to CRT from Wisconsin to Oside Blvd - 10 feet wide trail

- plus 2' paved shoulders on each side.
- Project segments:
 - Myers to Broadway via North-side rail overcrossing between Morse and Cassidy - lots of debate about the angle of the overcrossing ramp (over the train), i.e. more gradual turn for bikers to carry their speed, make the grade as gradual as possible to accommodate bikes & peds of all abilities. ADA requires 6% maximum, some would like even lower.
 - Solana Beach already went through this, they do graded trail with flat spots
 - Cassidy to Eaton
 - Encroachment issues on Eaton. North side is the worst, homes include retaining walls, gates, etc.
 - Howard shows 5 options for Eaton. Some include reacquiring private encroachment.
 - Priorities - we need sidewalks for peds, Eaton currently does not have one.
 - Are sharrows OK for this low-volume street?
 - There haven't been many crashes on Eaton west of Coast Hwy.
 - Make Eaton a Bicycle Blvd? Basically just a "slow street."
 - City may be unwilling to reduce parking on Eaton, unwilling to take back its property. Members take issue with this position.
 - City is considering installing a crosswalk at Eaton, south side of the intersection. Not sure what the design would be yet (signals, [HAWK light](#), etc.)
 - Member sees potential bike & ped conflicts with this plan since so many bikes make that right turn from Eaton to Coast Hwy without stopping (despite stop sign).
 - Some talk about a new effort to get easement from Buena Vista Lagoon Foundation so we can avoid all of these issues. Foundation currently opposed.

b. Other Active Grants Status

i. Laurel Elementary

- Construction begins this Summer. Crosswalks, roundabout, turnaround, drop off area, etc.
- 100% designed, bids out for construction

ii. Inland Rail Trail – Staff to provide update on the RFP process for this recently-funded Alignment Study.

- Request for proposal went out last month, 6 consultants submitted. 4 strong submissions. Hopefully we'll have a consultant for the IRT study by next month's meeting.
- Segment is Melrose to Coast Hwy.
- Probably needed to allocate an add'l \$100K to this project.

c. Coastal Rail Trail – Oceanside Blvd. to Morse St. including Bridge over Loma Alta Creek. Staff provided an update on the Caltrans Cycle 7 grant application for potential construction funding.

- Lots of moving parts and permitting involved. Unlikely to be ready for construction until May 2026, completed in April 2027

d. Bike Education Programs

i. Oceanside School District E-Bike Plan

- Not happening right now

ii. OPD Diversion Ordinance

- Asking Howard to provide the 1-hour class. Agreed to a 3 hour class at minimum.
- Carlsbad does an hour class. They spend ½ hour on rules of the road, add'l time showing kids images of ebike battery explosions, etc., and then some time to write up the ebike parking certificates to kids
- They then recommend the full Smart Cycling 9 hour class to parents/kids who seek more education
- Member comments:
 - Space it out to several one-hour classes to give kids more time to digest each class' content
- OUSD does not have time or resources to take on bike education for students
 - Discussion about previous student/child deaths on bikes and how we must prevent that from happening again. Well-intentioned parents who don't know safe biking can give their kids bad advice that puts them at greater risk of being struck by a motorist.

iii. City Education Classes for 2024

iv. Elementary School Rodeos

e. gO'side Shuttle: Staff provided an update on the performance of the shuttle service.

- Riders can't be charged when they call instead of using the app. It's a glitch that needs to be addressed.
- SANDAG has a page where they feature performance info on all of these micro mobility programs
- Go'side app should have info on when service begins again instead of just saying "closed"

f. Race Across America – June 10th and 15th from Oceanside

Staff will discuss volunteer needs for this year's RAAM and RAW events.

- Recruiting volunteers

g. Bicycle Trail Network in the Tucson, AZ area

The Chairman provided a brief presentation on the bike trail network in Tucson.

- Reviewed trail loop rules, presented slides. Large, wide lanes (15 feet or so). Large metal piping fence (rail) alongside trail to prevent falling into a riverbed. SLR trail would benefit from this.
- Member who lived in Tucson mentioned that they don't have a beach,

- so they put their money into parks
- Showed add'l images of nice biking conditions from a bike tour of the greater Tucson area, including Saguaro National Park which features a bikeable road through the whole park
 - Presentation facilitated good, free-flowing discussion about wide range of bike infrastructure, climate, water issues, and some non-related topics.

h. Project/Program/Initiatives Tracking /Sheet: We have included a “Project/Program/Initiatives Tracking Sheet” attached to this Agenda. We will include this each month and update it as new information becomes available, to ensure we don’t lose track of the many items the Committee has discussed.

- Member comment: some haven’t been updated in 2 years & would like to see the list updated, edited, new items or dropped item, etc.
- Item 16 mentioned - Berkeley study showed some solutions to help bike traffic along Oceanside Blvd. and El Camino. No movement from the City side though.

i. Other Matters

- Good discussion of Howard’s approaching retirement and the replacement position. Howard hoping to have the position filled by July.
- Member suggests a cloud-based system to have all the great slide presentations and other visuals available to the committee and to the greater public. Secretary to do some research and suggest a small budget to Howard. In the meantime, create more folders on Google Drive to Chair and others to upload documents.
- Frontwave Arena is a massive project. Dense housing included as well. How do people get there? If everyone goes by car, it can overload College Blvd. Offramp at Rancho Del Oro? Discounted Sprinter tickets? Some debate on the CA CARB Scoping Plan and how that relates to the situation in Oceanside (including the Plan’s call for “priced parking”).

j. Public Communications

k. Adjournment

The Next Meeting of the Oceanside Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee is scheduled for Monday, May 20, 2024, 9:00AM. **We will again meet at the Country Club Senior Center due to construction at City Hall.**