

MINUTES

Oceanside Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Monday, April 17, 2023 at 9:00 AM

- A. Call to Order
- B. Attendee Roll Call
- C. Introductions
- D. March Meeting Minutes Approval*
- E. Items for Discussion

4. Open Committee Officer Position – Secretary

Tom starts w/ this item to establish notetaking for the meeting. The Secretary position has reopened due to the previous Secretary's extensive travel schedule. Committee members are asked to submit nominations for a new Secretary, and a vote will be taken.

- Tom nominates Mitch as new Secretary based on his notes from last meeting
 - Mike Bullock seconds, all vote Aye

1. Oceanside Transit Center Redevelopment

- Updates following Mike Bullock's meeting with Toll Bros. to discuss unbundled parking, and any other project updates
 - Email Mike for Toll Brothers update link, mike_bullock@earthlink.net (or do a search)
 - Mike details a handful of meetings w/ Toll Bros over the last 6 mths - 1 yr, haven't gotten much of what we've asked for unfortunately. Most recent meeting was with Toll Bros on March 6 (Arlene & Michael Winters, project managers + Joe Lujan, Toll Bros bigwig)
 - "No decisions on parking" - this means anything is possible. The OBPC big demand is managed parking, unbundling dedicated parking spots from rental units and instead charging separately for them.
 - Another meeting this month (Weds 4/26 at 630pm) in this room, OTC aesthetics & architecture
 - "Art matters" and Mike wants to see art that uplifts alternative transportation, i.e. bronze statue of a cyclist
 - There are identified bike parking spots on the current blueprints as well, and a standing invitation for OBPC to provide input
 - Howard reminds us that the current NCTD bike parking container is problematic for ebikes because it relies on hanging bikes
 - A larger single facility like the one at City Hall would be better
 - Ralph expresses some concern about theft. Would prefer individual containers for bikes. Can include his shoes, backpack, etc.
 - Howard: Regardless of what system we use it needs to address long-term storage.

- Tom: there are levels of bike parking. Day use for short trips, all day use for a transit commuter, and the eventuality of bikeshare parking too.
 - Howard: the old SANDAG containers had issues, people were using them for storage not bike parking.
 - Ralph: recounts story of petty seat theft within a bike parking facility
 - Tom: elects to create subcommittee w/ Ralph to research options and bring back some options to the committee.
 - Howard: currently 75 people signed up for the NCTD bike facility. Applications skyrocketing due to northbound train service resuming between OTC & San Clemente
- Neighbors more worried about “will there be enough parking” when we need to ensure it’s active transportation friendly to reduce need for parking in the first place (to extent feasible)
 - Decoupling parking spaces from rental units helps satisfy everyone’s worries and also helps increase potential revenue for NCTD (they own the property). Managed parking, congestion pricing, etc.
 - Free parking is always a revenue loser. NCTD worried about loss of ridership however. Is there data to support that assertion?
 - *High Cost of Free Parking*, Donald Shoup (a book plugged by Mike if you’re interested)
 - Mike makes convincing arguments that decoupling parking will equal more revenue for both NCTD and individuals who live at the new OTC apartments

2. NEV (Neighborhood Electric Vehicle) Go’Side program update

Staff updated the Committee on the status of this popular program, which has funding commitments from SANDAG and Visit Oceanside.

Howard updates:

- Council has agreed that w/ SANDAG & Visit Oceanside funding, they’ll start program again ASAP.
- Funding commitments breakdown: SANDAG \$500K over 2 years, \$100K from Visit Oceanside, \$150K from City - minimum of 2 years
- 4 vehicles during high season, 3 during low season
- Extend service area to Canyon Dr. to serve East Capistrano neighborhood (underserved)
- Hopes to have an agreement done this week.
- Tom: there is an app for it?
 - Howard: yes it’s an on-demand system.
- Carlsbad expressed interest to participate but didn’t move fast enough.
- Fare will be \$3 this time. \$6 for a group.
- Great program to reduce parking demands downtown

- Last time: 5 cars running, but didn't have the best data. Howard thinks only 3 vehicles were operating at any given time. Wants to get better data this time so we can really see how successful this program is.
- Tom: Sierra Club recommending that NCTD should fund the shuttle indefinitely as part of the OTC Redevelopment. Tom believes this is a good suggestion.
 - Howard: a lot of different jurisdictions involved and right now we're not talking to one another enough. There are big opportunities here if everyone is at the table.

3. El Corazon Development Plans

This is a place-holder for a discussion on El Corazon. Some limited information on Park Site 1 which was circulated in February appears to show a highly-automobile oriented layout. We continue to seek more information on this important community project.

- Issue percolated up due to an upcoming Planning Commission meeting on 4/24. Some concerning issues. Tom interested in submitting a comment letter endorsed by the committee
- El Corazon Specific Plan
 - Large bloc of land given to city, much of it not developable (former sand mining operation w/ giant hole in the ground)
 - Plan includes rec & habitat conservation areas, civic facilities (senior center, aquatic center, and commercial).
 - Howard: commercial needed to fund the rest
 - Vision Statement for plan includes create a "welcoming, pedestrian friendly atmosphere" and not just a "pass-through" or "highway" location
 - Steve: has been involved with this for several years now. The community wants a natural refuge type of place and the current plan "isn't it." Current plan looks like a parking lot with big lawns...
 - Tom: pulled out several of the specific plan sustainability guidelines that mandate a bike, ped and transit friendly development (on his slide deck) – *the Specific Plan is very pro ped and cyclist.*
 - Shows **District Map** which looks very green with habitat and park space
 - Shows current planning map for Oceanside Blvd. Commercial site which looks like a giant parking lot with large commercial corridors, very different. Even includes drive-thrus and a gas station (!). New street cutout from Oceanside Blvd.
 - Thomas: asserts this was destined to happen due to City's minimum parking requirements for developments.
 - Mike: 115 cars can park in 1 acre. But there are other options too like a parking garage which takes up less space.
 - Howard: we may not be able to have much effect due to city parking requirements
 - Tom: but 4 drive thrus in an era of climate change?! There are many options for how to do this better even within the city's current planning laws

- Mitch: so then we should go after current city planning ordinances that require minimum parking.
 - Mike: state taking over local zoning laws because local cities aren't responding to these issues, lack of affordable housing, also cites Coastal Commission coming into existence because cities weren't protecting coastal access (and needed state oversight)
- Thomas: form a subcommittee to monitor planning dept and committee? He is willing to start the committee.
 - Howard: also concerned that there are no bike/ebike parking requirements for new development.
- Mike: focus on fact that it's across the street from the Sprinter station.
 - w/in ¼ mi of major transit station so needs to transit oriented development
 - Does Ionis (company slated to move in there) comply w/ Oceanside's Climate Action Plan (CAP) - required transportation demand management plan (TDM).
 - Will it comply with CARB's Scoping Plan?
 - Goes back to the City planning ignoring all of these state guidelines not to mention their own CAP and plan for this area.
 - Shannon Vitale is the planner on this project. She should be the one fighting this battle not us.
 - Howard: all these things are not in concert to the direction we're going in.
- Tom: moves on to Parks & Rec map of the area. Sent to him by Kimberly Corbin at the City.
 - Shows 2 concept maps for parks. They're surrounded by parking which makes issues for bikers and even bus transit as well. Design is car-centric and puts hardship on everyone who isn't driving.
- Possible Committee Actions
 - Send a letter to planning commission asking for changes, as individuals or as a committee (Tom willing to write)
 - Members can write their own letters as well
 - Mike Bullock already wrote email, email him to see a copy.
- Howard: developments not in concert with city's specific plan, CAP, etc. It's sad that this came from the top without anyone noticing these inconsistencies.
- Steve: it's developer-driven not community driven.
- Ralph: the gas station really caught his eye. What about vehicle charging facilities? The state is desperate for those to comply with 2035 goal of no new gas cars.
 - That area already a real crunch for biking, this only doubles down on that

- Mike: brings back to TOD and the Sprinter station being a big driver of what should be done here.
- Tom: key question is whether the proposed designs are meeting the El Corazon vision and sustainability guidelines. Tom glad to write a letter. Makes motion, all voted aye.
- Secretary Note: I checked the [Planning Commission webpage](#) and did not see the 4/24 agenda posted yet. Once it's posted (usually 72 hrs ahead), email public comments can be sent to PlanningCommission@oceansideca.org. They'll be distributed to commissioners if received by 12pm day of meeting. Meetings begin at 6pm at City Hall and in-person public comments are welcome as well.

5. "Sharrows" Draft Public Information Article*

Any further discussion on the draft short piece on Sharrows, before we request review and input from the Police Department. A revised photo has been incorporated.

- Draft language attached to agenda printout
- Idea is to get published in The Tide (city online newsletter) and others too
- The O'sider magazine would be great too.
 - Steve: reads magazine and thinks it should be in there. Witnessed a bike/car accident on Coast Hwy at Cassidy St. yesterday, underscoring the need for the information to get out there.
- Ralph: not sure all the right people (i.e. drivers) are going to read this.
- Pete: photo should be a sharrow in an area where there is parked cars. Discussion of taking the photo right after the meeting since there are plenty of people here.

6. Follow-up: Cycling Safety Improvements on Highway 76

Staff will update the Committee on the Caltrans status of the safety improvements identified two years ago for Highway 76.

- Howard left a VM for Seth on this, but will continue to work on it. A bit behind on this one.
- Ralph: has been doing advocacy on this one including sending a letter to Sen Blakespear's office
- Tom: every time it rains the bike lanes turn to a rubble mess because the roadway itself is disintegrating.
- Ralph: it's also the litter and other stuff mixed in with the rubble

7. Safe Routes to School

(Howard updates)

a. Laurel Street Elementary Caltrans Cycle 4 Grant

- Upcoming meeting at Joe Balderrama Park (date n/a). Some people are opposing the roundabout near the school. Grant is submitted and item concurred 2 years ago.

- b. Sharrows on California and Coast Hwy
 - California completed, Coast Hwy starting soon & will take 2 Fridays
- c. E-Bike Video for middle schoolers
 - Done, take off agenda
- d. E-Bike 3 hr. Classes
 - Starting again next month.
 - Presentation at Oceanside H.S. this Weds at 6pm that's being conducted by Scripps Hospitals and the SDC Bike Coalition. A 2 hour program. Howard will try to attend and Steve plans to attend as well.
- e. Bike Rodeos: San Luis Rey, Mission and Laurel Street elementaries
 - No movement but still needed
- 8. Grant Updates
 - a. Coastal Rail Trail Oceanside Blvd to Morse, Caltrans Cycle 6
 - SANDAG may review the cycle 6 list of grants not given in order to inform Cycle 7, which could be good for us.
 - \$12m grant request for this.
 - Right now the path is substandard and mostly used by pedestrians. It's not wide enough at all for current uses. About 15 yrs old.
 - b. Coastal Rail Trail Improvements Morse to Carlsbad, Caltrans Cycle 5
 - c. Resubmittal of Inland Rail Trail Alignment Study Grant Request
 - Studying how to integrate this from Melrose all the way to the coast.
 - CalTrans CMCP plan made strong recommendations for this inland rail trail, and this grant has been submitted to Caltrans... so, we better get it!

9. Crowne Height Projects

- a. Sidewalks
- b. Brooks St Bridge
- c. Pump Track
 - Safe routes to healthy places. Underserved area just W of 5. Looking at improvements to get residents to grocery stores, parks, etc.
 - Add'l crosswalks
 - Brooks st. bridge sidewalk and lighting
 - Clean CA grant application is due soon, high priority for Howard.

Safe Routes to school => Michelle Cyr gave update on a SANDAG transportation committee meeting re: some bike lane updates in Vista but intersecting Oceanside. Along 78 at College and heading east. Hopeful for grant money to improve Vista Way going east w/ bike lanes etc. There is support from Vista Concilmembers Katie Melendez and Corinna Contreres (both are strong on climate).

10. 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.

11. Other Matters

- Thomas: brings up fatal accident that killed a 36-yr old mother on an ebike last year in Carlsbad. He is part of a group called [Strong Towns](#), they look at how street design plays a role in these accidents instead of some usual metrics used, i.e. was it a kid on an ebike and were they wearing a helmet, etc.
 - Steve: accident he witnessed the other day was at Coast Hwy & Cassidy St on the north side. Didn't see it happen but thinks the cyclist tried to get across the street and got hit.
 - Howard: most have to do with riding across a crosswalk.
- Howard: brings up the Oceanside Bike Walk website and needs some help on it. Currently he's lost access to the website and it's out of date (from around Covid).
 - Mitch and Thomas willing to lend a hand on updating site and keeping it current. Lots of potential for it to be a citywide resource for all things bike & pedestrian.
- Pete: committee still needs access to the powerpoint presentation from last month's presentation re: the College Ave improvements
 - Howard: he is also making add'l recommendations to improve the intersection of Oceanside Blvd. & College.
 - Pete's concerned about the intersections especially with larger (hi-profile) vehicles of today, which are like hitting a brick wall. Must ensure cars yield at right hooks, etc. A class IV solution must be very carefully designed and protected at all intersections.

Howard: work with Russ (Cunningham, Principal Planner) on this stuff he's a reasonable person who wants to do the right thing.

Pete: smart cycling class in May wants to get the word out. They're always on Saturdays, there is talk of doing a weekday too.

12. Public Communications

13. Adjournment

* Indicates Item Attachments

The Next Meeting of the Oceanside Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee is scheduled for Monday, May 22, 2023, 9:00AM, in the Oceanside Library Community Rooms.