

MINUTES

Oceanside Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Monday, January 22, 2024 at 9:00 AM

1. Call to Order

2. Attendee Roll Call

- Howard L, Mitch S, Ricky C., Joel W., Steve S., Ralph N., Claire K., Mike B., Tim P. (Bicycle Encinitas), Kevin R., Tom L.

3. Introductions

4. November Meeting Minutes Approval

- Approved

5. Items for Discussion

a. The Year in Review, the Year Ahead - The Chairman will review the Committee's activities and accomplishments in 2023 and review proposed goals for the Committee in 2024.

- Highlights include: letters and meetings w/ NCTD/Toll Bros re: OTC redevelopment project, installed sharrows & signage on Coast Hwy from Carlsbad to Harbor Dr, city agreed to upgrade to more durable thermo-plastic sharrow paintings, staff developed 3-hr ebike training for youth, study for Morse-Eaton segment of CRT is underway, Caltrans to provide lighting and wider bike lane on Brooks St bridge, provided detailed comment letter for CMCP w/ focus on IRT (inland rail trail), provided input on College Blvd. class IV bike lane project, published Sharrow piece in The Tide e-newsletter, published updated O'side bike map, IRT study grant funded, comment letter on City Smart & Sustainable Corridor plan (SSCP), and *MUCH* more (Chairman presented entire list via slides)
- Proposed 2024
 - Safety - advocate for cyclist safety improvements where accidents have been occurring, esp Hwy 76, Oside Blvd, downtown
 - Inland Rail Trail - support alignment study, including TAC committee if appropriate
 - Coastal Rail Trail - seek grant funding
 - Bikeshare - pursue reconsideration by city for support for multi-city BikeShare program w/ consistent rules & vendor in coastal cities
 - Climate Action Plan - support/implement updating the CAP
 - Support dedicated annual city budgeting for bike & ped improvements
 - Support changes & enhancements to OTC Redevelopment Plan
 - Continue to advocate for active transportation
- Highest Priority Projects
 - Loma Altra Creek bridge and CRT extension project
 - Grant funded study of city segment of IRT

- Complete feasibility study for improving Morse-Coast Hwy segment of CRT
- Implement Berkeley study recommendations for Oceanside Blvd.
- Support Active Transportation Plan Update to GPU
- Support College Blvd. Class IV bike lanes
- Other Projects
 - Pump track/MTB park (El Corazon lot 9 perhaps)
 - Update committee brochure for current activities
 - Increase visibility of Committee activities through media, social, The Tide, etc.
 - Some issues with the website and esp the FB page
 - Local Strong Towns group worth keeping an eye on, many of their ideals align with the committee.
 - Continue supporting Coast Hwy Corridor Plan rollout
 - Seek permanent funding of Go'side NEV shuttle
- Discussion - reflected on recent bike accidents on Hwy 76, what the SSCP is and isn't (more a vision than anything else), synthesis between SSCP, CAP, COAST HWY incentive district, and CARB Scoping Plan... which will be very good for bikers and pedestrians. Municipalities do not necessarily take the CARB Scoping Plan seriously
 - Coast Hwy plan took 12-15 years to reach engineering/design aspect. SSCP is way earlier on in the process. We have opportunity to advocate for active transportation and public transit improvements, managed parking.
 - Question - is it within the purview of this committee to advocate for managed parking, reducing parking minimums, banning new drive-thrus, etc.
 - Yes to the extent that these developments ought to be transit oriented, reduce VMT, promote bicycling and pedestrian safety, etc.
- Other Items
 - Howard is retiring this year, timing depends on how soon his position can be published and someone can be found. Lively discussion on what qualifications and focus areas we think Howard's successor should have - planner vs community engagement, LCI instructor, understanding regulations, etc. Includes micro mobility, transit, bikeshare, etc. Big shoes to fill!
 - Local Strong Towns group worth keeping tabs on, many of their ideals align with the committee. Ran a crash test analysis of the fatal ebike accident in Carlsbad last year and found that it had nothing to do with ebikes and everything to do with urban design.

b. Alternative Transit and Active Transportation in Mexico City - The Chairman will show slides from a recent trip to Mexico City on an interesting public transit alternative, and also a Sunday “Ciclovía” on the City’s main business thoroughfare.

- Cablebus - like a ski lift, but in highly urbanized areas. An aerial lift transport system that runs in several areas of Mexico City since 2021. There are 2 lines.
 - These can be deployed very quickly. In contrast the Sprinter line took 30 years.
 - Because it’s above existing built infrastructure
 - Line 2 capacity is 2000 passengers per hour (one freeway lane).
 - Strangers share the gondolas, which could create some pushback in US markets. Cars are completely closed (no chance of throwing stuff)
 - The cars bypass extremely dense areas in a more efficient way than bus, tunneling for subways, rail installation, etc. It requires pillars in the ground but that’s the main thing.
 - Comments: a lot of oohs and awws. Very common in Latin America, some that go long distances. Quito Ecuador, Medellin Columbia.
 - Opposition can be privacy concerns from homeowners, locations as well. These have been proposed in San Diego but never panned out.
 - So where would these be cool in Oceanside?
- Mexico City Ciclovía
 - Ciclovía is a weekly event (every Sunday) in Mexico City when major streets are closed to vehicular traffic and opened to use by cyclists, pedestrians, other active transportation.
 - 55 car-free kilometers *every Sunday* 8am-2pm (weekly Ciclovía)
 - Expands into a Cicloton on the last Sunday of each month, stretching up to 97 km across Mexico City and several highways!
 - Both are massive undertakings and exceedingly well organized
 - Lots of people guiding traffic, holding signs, etc.
 - Comments: great ones used to happen in LA, generates massive public awareness. A couple smaller ones in San Diego and Encinitas. Not a race or a place with a specific entrance and exit, just giving the streets back to people and bikes for a day. **Several members expressed excitement about doing this in Oceanside along Coast Hwy.**
 - Was proposed 25 years ago on Coast Hwy but voted down due to business owners' concern. But they agreed to close down The Strand - attendance was poor.
 - But times have changed – Maybe this is something to look into again for Coast Hwy. Get businesses involved, get bands to play on corners & in parking lots, close the entire Coast HWY, have vendors, parking lot hangouts, etc.

c. Smart and Sustainable Corridors Specific Plan*

At our November meeting, we discussed this Plan and additional comments the Committee wished to submit. Attached is a copy of our final comment letter to the City.

- Copy of OBTC comment letter attached to meeting agenda email

d. Active Grants Status

i. Laurel Elementary

- Delayed due to Covid, some concern about the proposed roundabout. All resolved thanks to a demonstration project, design is proceeding and construction will begin at the end of school year and take 3 months. Happy ending!

ii. Coastal Rail Trail – Morse St to Eaton St. – Study Alternatives evaluation Status

- Alternatives analysis published (but not public yet... coming soon to city website). Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) soon to provide input. Option N1 has some fans on this committee.
- Debate over bike lanes on Eaton vs. Vista Way from Coast HWY to the CRT.
- We will have a better presentation and discussion on this by our next meeting, after the TAC meets

e. Grant Applications

i. Inland Rail Trail – Next steps now that Caltrans has decided to award the grant for the Alignment study

- CIP Engineering will take over IRT in the short term since Howard is retiring soon.

ii. Green California – Crowne Heights

- Didn't get that grant, unlikely to pursue again after 2 rejections.

f. Coastal Rail Trail – Oceanside Blvd to Morse St. including Bridge over Loma Alta Creek

- Need to develop timing strategy for next grant request submission. Cycle 7 grant app deadlines will be coming up soon. Not sure design will be ready by grant deadline, shovel ready grants get extra points. \$12-15m project.
 - Could be affected by statewide budget deficits

i. Design Status

ii. Caltrans Cycle 7 Grant announcement for potential construction funding

g. Sharrows – Coast Hwy and Pacific St – Update on thermoplastic paint

h. Bike Education Programs

- Continuously evolving how we handle bike education. Getting too many youth in adult classes, directing them to ebike class.

i. Oceanside School District E-Bike Plan

- Not a plan right now, but there are examples in nearby communities that require ebike education in order for students to be eligible to park their ebikes at schools

ii. OPD Diversion Ordinance

iii. City Education Classes for 2024

iv. Elementary School Rodeos

- No luck yet

i. gO'side Shuttle: Staff will provide an update on the performance of the shuttle Service.

- Ridership in disadvantaged area is increasing. Drivers picking up service employees who live in East Capistrano area. This is positive for city to recognize that the shuttle is supporting underinvested communities. 303 is the bus route (Mission Ave) but the Go'Side probably serves those who live a bit off the corridor.
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j. 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.

k. Other Matters

Coast Hwy redesign:

- bike lanes are a big improvement but leaves much to be desired for bike lanes.
- Bike lane between moving cars and parked cars, it creates conflict points for riders. Proposal is 5 ft. bike lanes with 3 feet buffers.
- No grade separation. Which is preferred by less competent riders many times.
- Also conflict points for bus lanes too.
- A lot of questions are being raised about this project. Traffic intersections and roundabouts are combined, but the original concept was all roundabouts which some members feel would be better.

Possible future meeting agenda items:

- Ideally Russ to present General Plan Updates
- Victor to present Coast Hwy redesign
- Feb 2 community meeting on ZOOM for => Toll Bros update on OTC redevelopment design changes including the wayfinding tower, customer service center,"and more". Must register to receive a zoom link.

Update from Planning Staff on the General Plan Update

Update from Planning Staff on Climate Action Plan Update

Traffic Staff report on new traffic signal cameras at some intersections and if they recognize cyclists.

I. Public Communications

m. Adjournment