

# MEETING AGENDA

## TOWN OF CORTE MADERA

### Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

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Thursday, April 21, 2016  
6:00 P.M.

Corte Madera Town Hall Council Chambers  
300 Tamalpais Drive, Corte Madera, CA 94925

1. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE
2. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC REGARDING NON-AGENDA ITEMS
3. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS
4. SENIOR ENGINEER REPORT
5. APPROVE MINUTES OF March 2, 2016 BPAC MEETING
6. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS
  - A. Update on Bicycle and Pedestrian Matters (Corp. Robert French)
  - B. Bike to Work Day (Bob Ravasio)
  - C. Tamal Vista Bicycle Facilities and Corte Madera Inn Rebuild Project Update (Staff)
  - D. Tamalpais Drive Pedestrian Crossing Safety Improvements (Staff)
  - E. Central Marin Regional Gap Closure Project for ATP funds (Staff)
  - F. Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (Staff)
  - G. High Canal Pathway (Staff)
  - H. North South Greenway Gap Closure Project Update (Staff)
  - I. Capital Project Status Update (Staff)
7. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURN

Attachments:

1. Draft Minutes from 3/2/2016 BPAC Meeting

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Department of Public Works at 415-927-5057. For auxiliary aids or services or other reasonable accommodations to be provided by the Town at or before the meeting, please notify the Department of Public Works at least 3 business days before the meeting in advance of the meeting date. If the Town does not receive timely notification of your reasonable request, the Town may not be able to make the necessary arrangements by the time of the meeting.

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MARCH 2, 2016  
CORTE MADERA TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
DRAFT MINUTES

Committee members Present: Robert Ravasio, Chair  
Kirby Bartlett  
Leif Christiansen  
Cheryl Longinotti  
David Macpherson  
Marc Madden  
Tomas Nofziger

Staff Present: Senior Engineer Nisha Patel  
Planning Director Adam Wolf  
CMPA Traffic Officer Scott

1. Call to Order/Flag Salute

Chair Ravasio opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

2. Open Time for public regarding non-agenda items

Chair Ravasio welcomed newly appointed Committee members Madden and Nofziger.

3. Committee member reports

Committee member Longinotti reported she met with Mr. Monte Stephens at Town Center about the Bike to Shop Event scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup>. She and Committee member Macpherson met with a representative from the Corte Madera Inn to talk about how they would accommodate bicycling in their development plan. Committee member Macpherson stated the BPAC might want to weigh in on their proposals. The representatives of the Inn reviewed bike improvements and programs that would apply to the hotel including encouraging employees to bike to work, provide bikes that would be available on site for hotel guests, provide bike parking, etc. They also pledged support of the concept of setting aside property close to the freeway if that bike path project becomes a reality. They are open to making improvements to the sidewalk along Tamal Vista.

Committee member Macpherson reported he and Committee member Longinotti met with representatives from Marin Country Day School regarding the lack of progress on the extension of the bike path from Westward to the new development. They are committed to helping the Town get this done. Committee member Longinotti stated there was a lot of parking at the bottom of that condo complex and it seemed like an agreement could be made. Committee member Macpherson asked that the issue regarding the continuation of that path be placed on the next agenda.

Committee member Macpherson reported Safe Routes to Schools was doing a “Green Sneaker Challenge” in April at all Marin schools. It involves four days of getting students to bike, walk, or carpool to school.

Committee member Macpherson reported he is helping with organizing the Corte Madera Centennial Bike Parade on June 11<sup>th</sup>. The parade will start at 10:00 a.m. at Town Park and would include bike decorating, free bells, etc.

Chair Ravasio stated he would like to schedule regular meeting dates. He is no longer on the Council but was asked to continue as Chair of the BPAC until they find a replacement. He continues to be the liaison to the Council. He reminded the Committee members that this is an advisory committee and committee members should be careful not to give people the wrong impression about how much authority they have. He did not want to see a communications gap and wanted to keep Town staff in the loop. Planning Director Wolf stated this is a “work in progress” and he wanted to keep the lines of communication open. He has talked with Town Manager Bracken and Senior Engineer Patel about putting a more formal protocol in place. Chair Ravasio stated more frequent (but shorter) BPAC meetings would help facilitate this.

Chair Ravasio stated he participated in a focus group made up of community bike advocates who discussed concerns and issues regarding the North/South Greenway. Funding is in place for the portion of this project that would connect the new bridge over Sir Francis Drake Boulevard to the creek by widening the freeway off-ramp. The path will drop down onto Industrial and end at Wornum.

Chair Ravasio stated he was approached by the Marin County Bicycle Coalition (MCBC) about participating in Bike to Work Day on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The BPAC sets up a station at the foot of the Sandra Marker Trail he asked for volunteers.

Chair Ravasio stated he would like to rearrange the order of the agenda.

#### 7. Discussion/Action Item

##### A. Update on Bicycle and Pedestrian Matters

CMPA Officer Scott stated the department was currently working on directed enforcement on Tamalpais, Tamal Vista, and Madera Avenue related to traffic safety issues. This is where most collisions occur. The department received an Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) Grant which is given for extra bicycle and pedestrian violation enforcement. This grant also funds a crosswalk sting- they had one in November at Chapman and at Tamal Vista. They plan to do another one in the next three weeks on Chapman, Tamal Vista, and Madera. Committee member Macpherson stated he hoped the department would also look at vehicle related infractions, such as the new law related to vehicles violating the “three foot zone”. Committee member Longinotti asked about the length of the grant. Office Scott stated it was a one-year grant (received last October).

Committee member Bartlett asked if a car could cross a double yellow line to avoid a bicycle riding in a “sharrows” lane. Office Scott stated “yes, if it could be done safely”. Very few officers would issue a citation. He discussed the “spirit” of the law vs. the “letter” of the law.

#### 4. Report From Parisi Transportation Consulting

- A. Tamal Vista Boulevard Class 2 Bicycle Lanes
- B. Tamal Vista Boulevard Class 4 Bikeway

Mr. Andrew Lee, Senior Transportation Engineer for Parisi Transportation Consulting, presented some concepts regarding possible bicycle facilities on Tamal Vista. He gave a PowerPoint presentation. They were tasked with finding opportunities and identifying constraints along Tamal Vista with respect to bicycle facilities that could be accommodated keeping the existing width of the road or widening the road. They looked at two segments: 1) Madera Boulevard up to Wornum; 2) Wornum up to Fifer. He discussed sidewalk and road width measurements and explained the classifications for bicycle facilities. He presented the following five concepts: A) A northbound bike lane only and a shared facility (“sharrows”) southbound; B) Bike lanes in both directions with parking on the west side of the road maintained; C) Bike lanes in both directions but no parking on the west side of the street; D) Northbound and southbound bike lanes, no parking, and reduced lane widths; E) A Class IV facility from Madera to Wornum- beyond Wornum to Fifer there would be bike lanes in both directions. Class IV is a new classification- it is a two lane (two-way) facility on one side of the street with some separation from vehicular traffic.

Senior Engineer Patel stated this bicycle facility was prioritized in the proposed bike plan. It makes sense to look at now.

Planning Director Wolf stated this information would be useful as they move forward with the Tamal Vista Corridor Study and possible development standards. The Planning Commission will be discussing this at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Lee answered questions from staff and the Committee.

Mr. Jim Robinson, Ash Avenue, stated these are great alternatives and he asked if there were any land use changes planned (expansion, changing ingress or egress) for the area from the fabric store down to the hotel. This could have an impact on any of the alternatives.

Ms. Cindy Winter, Greenbrae, is worried about a Class IV path because of the number of driveways and curb cuts along Tamal Vista. The center turn lane on Tamal Vista adds complexity. She noted two, one-way Class IV lanes might work.

Ms. Janet Ferman, Chapman Avenue, stated the idea of a Class IV from Fifer to Madera was not a good one because it is piecemeal. It would be a good idea if it went all the way down Madera Boulevard to the creek. It would be better to have a Class II lane on each side.

Ms. Jean Severinghouse, Greenbrae Boardwalk, was thrilled to see they are looking at Class II lanes with “sharrows” and/or a Class IV on Tamal Vista. The safety data suggests that a buffer or vertical barriers provide the greatest amount of safety. She asked if a buffer could be added to alternative D. Mr. Lee stated that was a possibility and he would consult with staff.

Mr. Peter Chase, Planning Commissioner, stated the Commission would like a decision from this body tonight since it will be a centerpiece on how they approach the Corte Madera Inn development application.

Committee member Macpherson stated the BPAC should request the maximum amount of real estate from the Corte Madera Inn that could accommodate the more ambitious plan D. Planning Director Wolf stated the Planning Department and Commission would be looking at where the developers should be starting the fence and parking lot (where they should be designing to). Part of that relates to the type of bike facility that is appropriate along with any pedestrian improvements.

Chair Ravasio asked if they considered putting the Class IV on the other side. Mr. Lee stated “no, but it could be an option”.

Commissioner Macpherson stated the more right-of-way the Town gets along Tamal Vista the more flexibility and opportunities they have. Chair Ravasio agreed and stated this was a big decision because of the hotel project and the future development of the North/South Greenway. This is a critical piece and they need to think short and long term.

Committee member Bartlett stated it is a mistake to think like a driver in a car when discussing solutions for pedestrians and bicycles. This is not a good mix. The solution is to “think like a train”- that is the route they should be trying to put a Class IV bikeway in. The path should run adjacent to the freeway. As an alternative, he supported a Class II with raised pylons.

Mr. Chase stated negotiating for property was a longer-term plan and vision that could take a significant amount of time. The near term plan could be a Class II with the existing curbs. Chair Ravasio agreed and stated “thinking like a train” was the optimum route but there were significant engineering issues with that.

Committee member Longinotti stated approaching improvements along Tamal Vista was the shorter-term approach and then they could start working towards “thinking like a train”. She noted the High Canal Path could be part of the option. She supported at least a Class II with some delineators. Safety and usage should be the priorities.

Committee member Christiansen stated they should keep their options open and go for the maximum amount of right-of-way. The Class IV (two-way) does not seem feasible for the full length. He would like to see the two bike lanes, with a buffer and parking.

Chair Ravasio stated he did not want to do the design tonight but plan as if they have the Class IV to get the amount of real estate they need and figure out how to put it in later.

Committee member Longinotti asked what prerogative the Town would have in terms of the other parcels along that stretch if they negotiated with the Corte Madera Inn now for that additional right-of-way. Mr. Lee stated that was the longer plan. Senior Engineer Patel stated it would be possible to negotiate with the new owner of the movie theater property. They could use grant money to negotiate for other properties but they need to have the plan in place.

Commissioner Christiansen referred to Concept B and asked about the encroachment. They could save the parking and get both bike lanes in with some type of buffer. Mr. Lee stated it included a 5-foot landscape buffer with a 6-foot sidewalk. The encroachment into the right-of-way could get up to as high as 16 feet.

Committee member Bartlett stated they should ask for property along Tamal Vista and also the property running along the highway- the time to ask is now. Mr. Chase stated the property owners are aware of the desire for this long-term solution. This can be dealt with during the Tamal Vista Corridor Study.

Committee member Bartlett took a straw poll and asked how many Committee members supported a Class IV bikeway down Tamal Vista. He noted nobody was in favor of a Class IV pathway.

Committee member Christiansen stated they should be focused on Concept B. Chair Ravasio stated they should focus on the amount of real estate that needs to be set aside.

M/s Macpherson/Christiansen, motion that the BPAC finds that bicycle and pedestrian issues along this corridor are very important and therefore recommends as a condition of approval for the Corte Madera Inn development plan that the necessary real estate be given over that would accommodate Concept B. In addition to dedicating that real estate the Corte Madera Inn should be prepared to pay for the striping improvements that are proposed in Concept A.

Ayes: All

The committee took a 5-minute break at 8:07 p.m.

#### 5. Senior Engineer Report

Senior Engineer Patel reported she attended several meetings regarding the North/South Greenway. Staff from the County of Marin and the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) were also at the meetings. She pointed to a map and indicated the northern part of the project and the route the pathway would take. The Town of Corte Madera would be contributing towards the maintenance of the path and will enter into a maintenance agreement. The northern part of the project was managed by TAM. She pointed to where the southern portion begins and noted it would be managed by the County of Marin. She pointed to the terminus of the North/South Greenway Gap Project (Redwood and Wornum). The original cost estimate was around \$200,000 but no plans were presented for the transition. The County and TAM are not open to a grade separated crossing at this time but they did agree to set aside additional funds (\$300,000) for this connection. Committee member Christiansen asked about the timeline for the project. Chair Ravasio stated they have the money. Senior Engineer Patel stated the plan is to start construction in the fall of 2017 with completion in 2018.

#### 6. Approve Minutes of September 24, 2015 BPAC Meeting

M/s, Macpherson/Christiansen, move to approve the September 24, 2015 BPAC minutes as corrected.

Ayes: All

#### 7. Discussion/Action Items

##### B. Tamalpais Drive Pedestrian Crossing Safety Improvements (Staff)

Senior Engineer Patel presented a staff report and displayed a map. She stated staff has been working a lot of this project and asked Parisi Transportation Consulting to take a look at the proposed location for the rectangular rapid flashing beacons. Parisi Transportation Consulting also proposed some additional striping but staff is not ready to embark on that right now. Parents in the area are anxious to get this project constructed as soon as possible. Staff and Mr. David Parisi have decided to step back and take another look at the project. One of the rectangular flashing beacons was relocated from Montecito and Tamalpais to Lakeside. Mr. Parisi wanted to locate the rectangular rapid flashing beacons in a consistent manner and where there is a multiple threat. Staff is proposing the installation of bulb-outs at several locations. The green color on the map shows the installation of either bulb outs or upgrading of a handicapped ramp (out of compliance). Bulb outs bring more visibility to pedestrians but also provide additional room to make the ramps ADA compliant.

Committee member Longinotti asked why one crosswalk on the east/west was chosen over the other. Senior Engineer Patel stated they follow Mr. Parisi's recommendations. Ramps need to be upgraded when the alignment of crosswalks are changed.

Committee member Macpherson stated he has received many comments of concern about the crossing at Redwood Avenue from the bus stop at Menke Park to the bus stop on the other side. A lot of kids cross at this intersection at peak times. He had expected to see a rectangular rapid flashing beacon there even if it is not an optimal location. Senior Engineer Patel stated she would have someone look at this suggestion. The other Committee members agreed with Commissioner Macpherson's suggestion. Senior Engineer Patel stated she would bring this back to the Committee at the next meeting. Chair Ravasio asked about the timeline for this project. Senior Engineer Patel stated she and the Town Manager are supportive of moving forward with these improvements and a civil consultant will be putting together the final design. A lot of the intersections have thermal plastic paint that has created an impervious surface accompanied by adjacent tripping hazards. They will grind out the crosswalks that have these issues and then doing a slurry seal and restriping.

Committee member Bartlett stated the Bicycle Plan calls for a Class II bikeway down this road and he asked if it would be a good time to take a further look at the plan. Senior Engineer Patel stated parents were waiting for this project to be constructed and this would prolong it. Committee member Macpherson stated restriping the motor vehicle lanes would need to be done as a result of the slurry seal. Now is the time to reduce the motor vehicle lane widths from thirteen feet to ten or eleven feet to give shared use for bikes going east and west. Committee member Christiansen stated this was a simple traffic calming strategy.

Chair Ravasio asked when the project was supposed to begin. Senior Engineer Patel stated it was scheduled to start in July. Chair Ravasio asked if Committee member Macpherson's suggestions would delay the project. Senior Engineer Patel stated "yes, a lot". They got the grant for a "pedestrian safety project" and these suggestions widen the scope. She would need to get the support of the Town Manager and the Town Council if they plan to start narrowing lanes. This could delay the project for several months.

Mr. Jim Robinson made some comments about the project.

Committee member Longinotti appreciated the comments made by Committee member Macpherson but stated they need to address the street issues. Committee member Christiansen stated the proposed project would be a huge improvement and the sooner it is done the better.

Committee member Macpherson clarified that he is not suggesting engineering and striping bike lanes going east and west on Tamalpais as part of this crosswalk enhancement project. He is suggesting that moving the motor vehicle lines to narrow the widths provides greater space for bicycles going east and west. He does not see how this would increase the timeline.

Chair Ravasio asked staff to get the BPAC more information. They are not going to narrow lanes without having a study done, talking to the Central Marin Police Authority, and having it go through the Town Council.

Ms. Patti Stoler made some comments.

#### C. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (Staff)

Senior Engineer Patel presented a staff report. The plan has been released for public comments. She will compile the comments, prepare a set of plans, and make edits as needed. She would like to bring the plan to the Council for approval in May. Committee member Longinotti asked if the plan would go back to Alta Planning. Senior Engineer Patel stated she would take the public comments, make the edits, and submit the edited version to the BPAC.

Mr. Jim Robinson discussed the plan, pedestrian issues, and sidewalk repairs.

Committee member Macpherson stated he would like to see the following topic on the next agenda: 1) The concept of shared responsibility between property owners and the Town with respect to the repair of sidewalks.

Chair Ravasio stated the BPAC would take public comment on the plan at the next meeting.

D. Bicycle Rack Installation on Tamalpais Drive at Serra Street (Staff)

Chair Ravasio stated this item would be continued to the next meeting.

E. High Canal Pathway (Staff)

Chair Ravasio stated this item would be continued to the next meeting.

F. Capital Project Status Update (Staff)

Chair Ravasio stated this item would be continued to the next meeting.

8. Set Next Meeting Date and Adjourn

Chair Ravasio stated he would like to meet on a monthly basis and try to keep the meetings two hours long.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next meeting was schedule for Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.