

City of Arcata Transportation Safety Committee
Annual Report to Council

Presented at the September 2, 2015 City Council Meeting

Committee Members

John Bergenske
Sue Cashman Vice-Chair
Stan Elcock
Bill Witzel
Josh Wolf, Chair
Two vacancies

Staff Liaisons:

R. Charles (Doby) Class, Public Works Director
Netra Khatri, Public Works Deputy Director
Melanie Dabill, Administrative Assistant

The Transportation Safety Committee (TSC) was recreated by the City Council by adoption of Ordinance No. 1292 effective 6/18/99. The powers and duties of this committee are to review all transportation safety matters and make recommendations to the Council, commissions, or City staff as appropriate.

Since the last Annual Report on October 15, 2014, the TSC held nine regular meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. This would equate to approximately 100 plus hours of volunteered time and at least 100 plus hours of City staff time.

The work of the TSC throughout the last year was focused on receiving public written and oral communication, community outreach and activities, reviewing accident data and trends, reviewing and tracking current and planned City projects, and updating the City's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.

Description of main tasks reviewed during the year:

Public Written and Oral Communication

- One of the major attributes of the TSC is the oral and written communications portion of the meeting when citizens may discuss their safety issues/concerns before the TSC and staff. Numerous concerns, such as speeding, requests for crosswalks, speed-humps, signage, sight visibility and parking, were discussed which sometimes lead to a change or a better understanding by all of the reason why something is the way it is.
- Specific Items of Concern:
 - Old Arcata Road between Buttermilk Lane and Jacoby Creek School – Speeding, enforcement, lack of bike/pedestrian facilities, circulation around Jacoby Creek School, pavement condition and general safety.
 - South G Street – Speeding and lack of crosswalks.
 - Q Street – Speeding and crosswalk sight distance.

Community Outreach and Activities

- Participated in Bike Month Activities including:

- Bike Rodeo (May 3rd) - A favorite yearly event sponsored by the Recreation Division, City staff, TSC members and community volunteers helped with this year's rodeo. Free helmets and bicycle registration were provided by the City. Public Works staff also led several family tours of the newly constructed Bicycle Boulevard down 10th Street.
- Bike to Work Day - May 14th
- Bike Month Proclamation by Council - April 15th
- Submitted an application to become a Walk Friendly Community
 - The TSC worked with Council to complete an application for Arcata's recognition as a Walk Friendly City in December of 2014. The designation celebrates and encourages communities that have prioritized pedestrian safety and access through a variety of plans, policies and developments. In early 2015, the City was designated as a bronze-level community due to its high mode share, comprehensive planning efforts, and engineering improvements.

Tracked Accident Trends

- Reviewed monthly and quarterly Arcata Police Department Accident Data Reports looking for "hot spots" and/or trends.

Reviewed and Tracked of Current or Planned City Projects

- Reviewed and tracked progress of City projects: Arcata Bicycle Boulevard, Foster Avenue Extension; Rail with Trail Phase 1; Humboldt Bay Trail North (RWT Phase 2); South I Street Improvements; Arcata Elementary School ATP Project, Samoa Boulevard Trail Crossing, and the planned Old Arcata Road Improvements,
- Arcata Bicycle Boulevard (constructed in 2015)
 - Distributed PSA's (including a video)
 - Ongoing evaluation (what's working and what's not) and recommendations for changes/improvements:
 - Recommended removal of the "hub"
 - Additional wayfinding signage
- Arcata Elementary School – Active Transportation Program (ATP) application

Pedestrian & Bicycle Masterplan 2015 Update

- Assisted staff with the review and update to the Pedestrian & Bicycle Masterplan (2010).
 - Reoccurring agenda item in 2015
 - The update is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2015

Next Year's Goals:

- Recommend traffic calming projects/priorities (Funding Priorities)
- Continue to discuss issues related to bike/pedestrian facilities improvements
- Continue community outreach, events, activities and PSA's to encourage and promote transportation safety
- Continue to monitor and evaluate the Arcata Bicycle Boulevard
- Complete the update of Pedestrian & Bicycle Masterplan
- Review the Humboldt Bay Trail North project
- Assist with the planning efforts related to the Old Arcata Road improvements and prepare the project for future grant funding opportunities
- Enhance Bike Friendly City application and reapply
- Monitor the use and safety of the new multi-use trail between Sunset Avenue and Samoa Boulevard