

City of Arcata Transportation Safety Committee

Annual Report to the City Council

Presented at the September 22nd, 2010 City Council Meeting

Committee Members:

Stan Elcock, Chair
Kristine Davis-Pepper, Vice Chair
Desmond Cowan
Ashley Hanson
Joe James
Steve Jones
Shelley Mitchell
Marguerite Powers (through October 2009)
Christopher Rall (through September 2009)

Staff Liaisons:

R. Charles (Doby) Class, Public Works Director
Morgan Kessler, Deputy Director Public Works/Assistant City Engineer
Monica Campbell, Public Works 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.

During the past year the TSC held eleven regular meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. Additionally, the TSC held two special meetings for the Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan Update. This would equate to approximately 280 hours of volunteered time and at least 268 hours of City staff time.

One of the major attributes of the TSC is the oral communications portion of the meeting when citizens may discuss their safety issues/concerns before the TSC and staff. Numerous concerns were discussed which sometimes lead to a change or a better understanding by all of the reason why something is the way it is.

While most of the committee's time seems to surround the issues of speeding/traffic calming, bicycle and pedestrian safety issues, development review, potential hazards and parking issues are also discussed. These additional specific items were discussed and/or reviewed:

- Reviewed, recommended and arranged air time for public service announcements relating to bicycle safety, negotiating roundabouts, and pedestrian safety
- Reviewed current City projects: Bike Boulevard Project; Samoa Gateway Project; Rail with Trail
- Reviewed Development Projects: CVS Drive-Through; Mad River Parkway Business Center Subdivision; Campbell Creek Apartments; Arcata Bay Crossing
- Participated in Walk to School Day; Car Free Day; Bike to Work Week
- Discussed City's Draft Panhandling Ordinance

- Discussed Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) Grant Application
- Discussed Transactions and Use Sales Tax funded projects
- Discussed Bicycling to School Incentive Program
- Discussed Safe Routes to School (SR2S) project scoping
- Began implementation of Bicycle Boulevard Project
- Evaluated petitions and made recommendations for neighborhood speed hump Installation on Vassade Road to be placed on the traffic calming priority list
- Recommended Speed Hump Infill on Aldergrove Road
- Discussed alternative street sign locations and bike route signage
- Reviewed APD Statistical Reports
- Participated in an emergency response demonstration with the Arcata Fire Department
- Met with the Energy Committee and created a sub-committee – TSC & Energy Committee will meet periodically (not more frequently than quarterly)
- Discussed possible street painting enhancements for South “F” Street residents
- Revisited the “G” Street and “H” Street Sidewalk Widening Projects
- Discussed Roadway Enhancements funded through Measure “G” proceeds
- Reviewed Draft Capital Improvement Program
- Recommended Sidewalk infills in various locations
- Completed Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan Update

Next Year's Goals:

- Recommend traffic calming projects/priorities (Funding Priorities)
- Recommend roadway enhancements funded through Measure “G” proceeds
- Review the Bay Trails Project Alternatives and make recommendations
- Continue to discuss issues related to bike/pedestrian facilities improvements
- Develop public service announcements and offer educational materials relating to traffic safety and bike/pedestrian issues