

City of Arcata Transportation Safety Committee Annual Report to the City Council

Presented at the September 23rd, 2009 City Council Meeting

Committee Members:

Stan Elcock, Chair
Christopher Rall, Vice Chair
Doug Boileau (through October 2008)
Joe James
Steve Jones
Shelley Mitchell
Kristine Davis- Pepper
Marguerite Powers

Staff Liaisons:

R. Charles (Doby) Class, Public Works Director
Morgan Kessler, Deputy Director Public Works/Assistant City Engineer
Monica Campbell, Public Works Administrative Assistant
Desmond Cowan, Assistant Chief Arcata Fire Department

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 twelve regular meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. Additionally, the TSC held one public meeting for residents in the Sunset area to discuss the Foster Avenue Extension Project and one special meeting for the Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan Update. This would equate to approximately 294 hours of volunteered time and at least 272 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, and parking issues are also discussed. These additional specific items were discussed and/or reviewed:

- Developed measures to relieve school congestion and surveyed schools for parental participation (twice)
- Reviewed, recommended and arranged air time for public service announcements relating to bicycle safety, negotiating roundabouts, and pedestrian safety
- Reviewed current projects: Foster Avenue Extension; Bike Boulevard Project; Samoa Gateway Project
- Conducted Boyd Road traffic counts and considered possible intersection modification
- Unveiled bicycle friendly signs, showing Arcata to be at the "bronze" level

- Reviewed Development Projects: 27th Street; 10th Street (Los Harbors); 29th Street; “Q” Street; Zanzi – Giuntoli Lane; Trillium Creek;
- Participated in Walk to School Day
- Discussed Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) Grant Application
- Discussed Transactions and Use Sales Tax issues
- Compiled an infrastructure wish list for possible Federal funding projects (Stimulus Funds)
- Conducted Buttermilk Lane, Vassaide Road, and Diamond Drive traffic counts
- Encouraged participation in the Intersection Bicyclist Comfort Study
- Reviewed results of HSU International Walk to School Day Study
- Discussed Mobility Management Project
- Discussed Samoa Blvd. Traffic Calming/Gateway Project
- Reviewed/recommended options for Downtown Sidewalks Widening Project
- Discussed Safe Routes to School (SRTS) – 2009 Application (discovered funding not available)
- Discussed expanding the TSC to include parking issues
- Participated in Bike to Work Week
- Began implementation of Bicycle Boulevard Project
- Evaluated petitions and made recommendations for neighborhood speed hump installations
- Discussed Roadway Enhancements funded through Measure “G” proceeds
- Recommended Sidewalk infills in various locations
- Began Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan Update
- Discussed Fickle Hill traffic calming – use of HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Program) Grant

Next Year’s Goals:

- 🚲 Recommend traffic calming projects/priorities (Funding Priorities)
- 🚲 Recommend roadway enhancements funded through Measure “G” proceeds
- 🚲 Complete Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan Update
- 🚲 Review the Bay Trails Project Alternatives and make recommendations