



Marin County Bicycle Coalition

Annual Progress Report to the County of Marin

for Fiscal Year 09-10: \$40,000 Contract

Submitted August 23, 2010

The Marin County Bicycle Coalition (MCBC) received a \$40,000 contract from the County of Marin for the 09-10 fiscal year to assist with implementation of the County's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. We are very pleased to work with the County of Marin to achieve our mutual goal of making Marin County a model bicycle and pedestrian community for the nation.

Throughout the year, the MCBC used the resources from this contract to assist the County of Marin in three main ways:

- 1) Providing Technical Assistance on Project Design
- 2) Helping to Coordinate Government Agencies
- 3) Working to Leverage Additional Funding

MCBC's work has lead to substantial gains for the County of Marin in terms of grants received, long term cost savings, and partnerships with other agencies that contribute to reducing project costs. The outcome is successful implementation of the County's non-motorized transportation network, which continues to position Marin as a national leader and contributes to the goals of the Countywide Plan including reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

What follows is a summary of specific projects that the Marin County Bicycle Coalition assisted with since July 1, 2009, within each of the three categories listed above.

1) Providing Technical Assistance on Project Design

Alameda del Prado: MCBC provided design input to the County for the Alameda del Prado bike lanes, a project funded by the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTPP). We helped to plan the ribbon-cutting event with Supervisor Judy Arnold, which attracted 30+ cyclists to ride the new lanes and celebrate with County staff.

Bike Racks: MCBC has helped to publicize the County bike rack program and worked with local jurisdictions in unincorporated areas to link them with this program so that more bike racks are available for public use.

Bolinas Pathway: MCBC worked with Supervisor Kinsey's office and local residents on the final design and opening of this pathway.

Central Marin Ferry Connection Project: This project is included in the County's bicycle and pedestrian master plan, and the County provided a \$2 million award of NTPP funds to TAM to work on Phase A and B design and Phase A environmental review. Our work included:

- A) Working closely with TAM staff to provide comments on the design of Phase A and to ensure that Phase A designs won't preclude Phase B options.
- B) Ensuring that our comments on this project have been included in the Greenbrae Corridor Improvement Program process.

- C) Rousing public attendance for the June 17 public meeting at which the Phase A environmental report was presented. We submitted comments on the same and thanked project manager Bill Whitney for his incorporation of the majority of our suggestions for improving the bicycle/pedestrian route.
- D) Collaborating with TAM to help find funding sources that could fill the \$3 million gap. One approved funding source secured during this fiscal year was \$1.3M from MTC through the Regional Bike Program.

Complete Streets: MCBC has provided design comments to County staff on a variety of projects including Lucas Valley Road. We requested the latest Capital Improvement Projects list from County DPW to incorporate the projects into our database for verification of their implementation. Projects are identified by cross-referencing an MCBC database that contains all proposed projects within the County's Unincorporated Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan with Capital Improvement Projects noticed by the County. MCBC looks for opportunities to include bicycle and pedestrian projects, and verifies opportunities with County staff whenever a match is found.

Greenbrae Corridor Improvement Program: MCBC attended several meetings with project staff and prepared detailed comments for the Caltrans scoping process. Many of the projects that will be part of the preferred alternative are on County lands and affect unincorporated areas including the Greenbrae Boardwalk.

Guide Sign Program: MCBC provided technical assistance to the Department of Public Works related to placement of bicycle guide signs in West Marin and proximal to the Golden Gate Bridge through several bridge improvement projects including the Dillingham parking lot reconstruction and East Road reconstruction and repaving.

Los Ranchitos Road: MCBC provided comments on the Los Ranchitos Road project design and transitions that are needed between the County project and the Caltrans/San Rafael project at the top of the hill. We are pleased to see the new bike lanes in use.

Puerto Suello Hill: MCBC worked closely with the County Department of Public Works and Caltrans on the design of the multi-use pathway. Despite delays in final construction of the facility by Caltrans, we are beginning to coordinate an opening celebration for this pathway in fall 2010 with County staff.

Road Repairs: As MCBC notices and is contacted by the public regarding hazardous conditions on roadways, we have worked with the County Department of Public Works to make "spot fixes" for pavement problems such as pot holes along multiple locations on Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Fairfax-Bolinas Road, Nicasio Dam Road, White's Hill and Pan Toll Road.

Sir Francis Drake Boulevard Reconstruction: MCBC has continued to participate in the process for the reconstruction of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. through Samuel P Taylor State Park, and provided design input on how to preserve trees while also increasing the shoulder width. When the DEIR was released this summer, MCBC provided written and verbal comments endorsing the County's proposed alternative which would provide shoulders that are 1 to 4 feet wide in most locations while preserving as many trees as possible. We have backed the County's preferred alternative in communications with the media and other organizations.

SMART Pathway: Plans for the North-South Greenway along the SMART right-of-way are in the County's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. While MCBC has not used County funds to move SMART forward, we are reporting on our work with SMART because the bikeway is included in the County's plans.

MCBC participated in design and field meetings for the pathway which will connect to Marin County's bikeway system. MCBC met with Lillian Hames, General Manager, to discuss NCRA (freight) issues and the project's \$155 million funding shortfall, pledging to assist in locating funds for a proportionate amount of the pathway. MCBC served on SMART's technical advisory committee, encouraged SMART to apply for a federal TIGER II grant and participated on the committee that drafted the proposal. In response to the Marin County Civil Grand Jury's report, "SMART: Steep Grade Ahead," that advocated for a delay in building the bike path until the funding gap was closed, MCBC sent a letter to the Civil Grand Jury indicating our discontent with their report and stating our commitment to help SMART secure funding to close the fiscal gap. SMART rejected the Grand Jury's recommendation.

Sonoma-Marin Narrows: MCBC reviewed the FEIR to ensure that the pathway will have an optimal design and connect with existing and proposed pathway segments. We are currently working with County and TAM staff to plan for a meeting with Caltrans to review preliminary designs.

TAM Valley: MCBC worked with Supervisor McGlashan's office and Tamalpais Valley residents to facilitate safety improvements along Shoreline Highway and within the community, including: new crosswalks with safety paddles, proposed new stop lights, potential widening of Shoreline to include bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and future removal/relocation of utility poles and fixtures that reduce space for nonmotorized transportation within Tam Valley. MCBC worked with Caltrans to improve some Shoreline design elements. We continue to partner with our state representatives, Leno and Huffman, to pressure Caltrans to implement improvements on Shoreline, as nothing has been done in the year since a bicyclist was hit there, despite Caltrans' promise to act within four months.

Tennessee Valley Pathway: MCBC worked with Supervisor McGlashan's office on the Tennessee Valley Pathway, attended BCDC and local meetings, and helped to get the project approved through BCDC including preferred path width, intersection treatments, potential spurs, and connections to surrounding bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The project is slated to begin construction later this year.

2) Helping to Coordinate Government Agencies

BCDC: We worked closely with BCDC on requirements for the Tennessee Valley Pathway.

Caltrans: MCBC has helped to facilitate communication between the County of Marin and Caltrans on various bicycle and pedestrian projects especially in Tam Valley along Highway 1, for the Shoreline Highway improvements, and for the Puerto Suello Hill Pathway and the Sonoma Marin Narrows.

Central Marin Ferry Connection Project: MCBC helped to bring SMART and TAM together to coordinate on the design for the Central Marin Ferry Connection Project.

NCRA: When NCRA released trail guidelines which would preclude construction of a pathway along the SMART Corridor (which is in the County's master plan), we worked with agencies to provide comments to NCRA which were accepted as part of their new trail guidelines.

Traffic Counts: MCBC worked with the County Department of Public Works on traffic counts and ensuring that counts were re-done due to poor weather on the first day of counting.

3) Working to Leverage Additional Funding

MTC Safe Routes to School: MCBC worked diligently on the MTC Safe Routes to School program funded through the RTP. This will result in approximately \$450,000 additional funds for Marin County.

Pilot Program Reauthorization: In conjunction with the County Department of Public Works, MCBC helped prepare information to present to Senator Boxer for ensuring that the Pilot Program funding was extended as part of the extensions for the federal transportation bill. This resulted in Marin County receiving an additional \$7.5M from September 2009 through December 2010, to add to the \$1.5M in reserve funding left over from the original \$25M project budget.

Protecting Pilot Program Funding: MCBC worked to protect the County's Pilot Program funding through our federal connections. When TAM was submitting projects to MTC for the next round of stimulus funding, we pointed out that the Bicycle Detector program was already funded through the NTPP, and that any funds secured through a future stimulus should result in funding returned to the County of Marin.

For additional information, please contact:

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