



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Board of Supervisors



Date: July 29, 2015
Board Meeting Date: September 1, 2015
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Carole Groom

Subject: County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the establishment of the San Mateo County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee staffed by the Office of Sustainability

BACKGROUND:

On January 27, 2015, the Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No. 073601 designating the San Mateo County Park and Recreation Committee as the County Bicycle Advisory Committee ("BAC"). This action was taken in order to meet the eligibility requirements for the California Transportation Development Act of 1971 ("TDA") Article 3 Fiscal Year 2015-2016 timeline, thereby enabling County departments to remain eligible to apply for grant funds.

The TDA established a program supported by state sales tax to fund various types of transportation projects. TDA funds are appropriated by the regional transportation planning agencies to local congestion management agencies to fund local bicycle and pedestrian projects through a competitive grant process.

On June 26, 2013, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission ("MTC") amended its policies and procedures governing the process for jurisdictions to be eligible to receive TDA grant funds. The amended policy mandates that all cities and counties establish a BAC that meets certain guidelines. The policy took effect at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2014-2015 but jurisdictions in the process of establishing a BAC remained eligible to apply for funds.

The BAC, according to MTC Resolution No. 4108, must represent the interests of pedestrians as well as bicyclists. The BAC is authorized to review and prioritize TDA,

bicycle and pedestrian projects and grant applications, and participate in the development and review of comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plans.

DISCUSSION:

When the Board designated the San Mateo County Park and Recreation Commission as the County BAC, it was anticipated that it might be for an interim basis. At the time of the designation, the Parks Commission recommended to the Board of Supervisors to consider establishment of a separate BAC or San Mateo County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (SMCBPAC).

Establishment of a separate SMCBPAC will allow for a transportation focus to address the infrastructural, educational, and enforcement issues that differ from the recreational focus of the Parks Commission. In addition, a separate SMCBPAC will include members with expertise to more fully represent the interests and needs of demographic groups such as older adults, school children, and others who walk or bicycle or use assistive mobility devices for daily transportation along public streets and roads. In January 2015, the Office of Sustainability was a pilot project without the capacity to support an on-going Committee. As of July 1, 2015, the Office of Sustainability has become an established County department which can support the SMCBPAC. The Active Transportation Coordinator in the Office of Sustainability has specific duties that align with the goals of the SMCBPAC.

At the August 6, 2015 meeting, the Park and Recreation Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the establishment of a separate SMCBPAC.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the resolution as to form.

Approval of this resolution contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcomes of a livable and healthy community by increasing the proportion of people making daily trips by walking and bicycling. Regular walking and bicycling reduces risk of chronic disease. Increased numbers of people making active trips improves social cohesion and reduces crime. Establishing the SMCBPAC contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of an environmentally conscious community because 20% of automobile trips are short enough to be shifted to walking or bicycling. Reducing car trips reduces pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The SMCBPAC will be staffed by the Office of Sustainability Active Transportation Coordinator. That position is funded by Measure A.