



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Sustainability Committee

Supervisor Ken Carlson, Chair
Supervisor John Gioia, Vice Chair

Monday, May 12, 2025

1:00 PM

11780 San Pablo Ave., Ste. D,
El Cerrito, CA 94530 |

2255 Contra Costa Blvd., Ste. 202,
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

ZOOM LINK

<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/81614339223>

| Dial: 888-278-0254 |

ACCESS CODE: 841892

The public may attend this meeting in person at either above location. The public may also attend this meeting remotely via ZOOM or call-in.

AGENDA ITEMS: Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee.

1. INTRODUCTIONS Call to order and roll call.

Chair Carlson called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Staff Present: Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Emily Warming, Program Manager, Contra Costa Health;
Jeff Valeros, Senior Civil Engineer, Public Works;
Joe Smithonic, Associate Civil Engineer, Public Works;
Jamar Stamps, Principal Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Colin Clarke, Senior Transportation Planner, CCTA;
Danielle Elkins, Executive Director of Planning, Programs, and Policy, CCTA;
Mary Griswell, Sm. Business Enterprise Outreach Liaison, Tax Collector's Office;
Raquel De La Torre, Advance Level Secretary, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Lia Bristol, Deputy Chief of Staff, Supervisor Carlson's Office;
Adam Scarbrough, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Emily Groth, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Robert Sarmiento, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Samantha Harris, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Salvador Morales, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Ronda Boler, Executive Secretary, Tax Collector's Office

Attendees: Shoshana Wechsler (Sustainability Commission Chair)
OG Strogatz

Lisa Jackson
Carol Mascali
Allison Brown
Andrea Bailey

Present: District I Supervisor John Gioia and District IV Supervisor Ken Carlson

2. PUBLIC COMMENT on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two (2) minutes).

There was no public comment.

3. APPROVE Record of Action from March 10, 2025, meeting of the Sustainability Committee.

Attachments: [Meeting Minutes 03.10.25](#)

Record of Action approved.

There was no public comment.

4. RECEIVE report on County Progress in Achieving Active Transportation Goals and Implementing Programs and PROVIDE DIRECTION, as needed.

Attachments: [Presentation on TR-1](#)

The Committee received a presentation highlighting the County's progress in achieving its active transportation goals as part of the County's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) implementation. The presentation covered a range of topics beginning with an overview provided by Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, of the CAAP transportation goals and the policy levers available to staff to advance these goals. The next update was given by Jamar Stamps, Principal Transportation Planner, on the County's Vision Zero Policy, the County's Active Transportation Plan, and the Complete Streets Program where Stamps highlighted four Complete Streets Project locations:

- *Fred Jackson Way in North Richmond*
- *Danville Boulevard in Alamo*
- *Bailey Road/SR-4 Interchange in Bay Point*
- *Treat Boulevard in Walnut Creek (currently in planning phase)*

Joe Smithonic, Associate Mechanical Engineer, shared the existing and planned paths, lanes, routes, and bikeways in the County, highlighting the regions of the County with high rates of bike/pedestrian collisions and the locations within each supervisorial district where grant funding is supporting active transportation projects. Smithonic discussed the Fred Jackson Way First Mile/Last Mile connection and a bike/pedestrian improvements project along the Treat Boulevard Corridor in Walnut Creek which is currently in the design phase with construction beginning in 2026. Also highlighted were the efforts by staff in developing an interactive web

map to view the County's Active Transportation Plan projects and their status.

Emily Warming, Program Manager for Contra Costa Health's Healthy Communities Program, share the program's goal to improve safety and promote active transportation in the County. Warming provided updates on the Safe Routes to School Programs in the County and the Slow Roads Save Lives marketing campaign. She also reinforced that the County continues working to integrate public health principles into transportation infrastructure planning through the County's Planning Integration Team for Community Health (PITCH) group. PITCH includes representatives from the County's Public Works, Conservation and Development, and Health Departments.

Staff concluded the presentation by highlighting the strategies that continue and accelerate this work which included continuing to leverage General Fund dollars for grant matching, strengthening the connection between the Capital Road Improvement and Preservation Program (CRIPP) and the Active Transportation Plan, and continued support from the Board of Supervisors for improved active transportation access.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

The Committee asked what the measures for success for projects and plans around this work. Smithonic responded citing safety and pre/post counts of active transportation users as the primary metrics..

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

5. RECEIVE update from Contra Costa Transportation Authority on Active Transportation Goals and Programs.

Attachments: [CCTA SustainabilityCommittee-BoS_ActiveTransportationUpdate](#)

The Committee received a presentation from Danielle Elkins, Executive Director of Planning and Colin Clarke, Senior Transportation Planner, both of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA).

The presentation began with a general overview and timeline for the Integrated Transit Plan (ITP) and Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP). CCTA is working towards adoption for the ITP in Winter 2025 and for the CTP in early Summer, 2025. As part of this work, CCTA completed a needs assessment concurrently with the CTP development and the report identified transportation needs in the County and opportunities for CCTA to work to meet these needs. These opportunities include continuing to implement the County's Vision Zero Safety Action Plan, advancing Safe Routes to Schools programs, further building out the County's regional active transportation network, and utilizing the CCTA Countywide Toolbox for Designing Safer Travel policy framework. An additional needs assessment was conducted with a focus on Regional Routes of Significance (RORS) which resulted in the following conclusions RORS projects' success.

- *Continue to progress the Countywide Smart Signals project*
- *Continue implementation of complete streets projects*
- *Taking a context-sensitive approach in some RORS by differentiating streets that are intended for moving people and goods from streets that are intended as places for people to*

live, work, and enjoy

Elkins provided an overview of the Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (CBPP) goals and objectives. The CBPP aims to encourage more people to walk and bicycle in by creating a safe, connected, and comfortable network of bikeways and walkways that increases livability in communities and districts with a focus on projects posing the greatest benefit. The CBPP includes objectives for tracking progress toward these goals which include:

- Percentage (%) increase of trips made by biking or walking*
- Rate of pedestrian and bicycle injury/fatality per capita*
- Miles of low-stress bikeway increase*
- Number of jurisdictions with bicycle, pedestrian, or active transportation plans increase*
- Integration of Complete Streets principles and best practices into CCTA funding and design guidance*

CCTA staff have developed a Dashboards and Mapping webpage to convey the number of projects, project status, and location/project sponsor.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

The Committee asked for clarification on the killed or seriously injured (KSI) rates mentioned on Slide 7. Do these always involve collisions with automobiles or does this capture both accidents involving automobiles and accidents not involving automobiles. Staff responded that the metric does include both types of collisions and clarified that the vast majority of these accidents do involve automobiles. The Committee also asked about the intended use for these low-stress safe biking routes, inquiring as to whether they were intended for recreation, commuting, or both. Staff indicated that there is precedent in other regions for utilizing trail systems for economic activity and that CCTA has been coordinating with the East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD) and other entities to reorient land-uses along these trails to be more compatible with trail access. In response, Chair Carlson highlighted that the Transportation Partnership and Cooperation Committee (TRANSPAC) has also been focusing on increasing accessibility for these active transportation networks.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment

6. RECEIVE report from the Sustainability Commission Chair, or Designee.

Shoshana Wechsler, Sustainability Commission Chair, gave an update on the Sustainability Commission's activities. At the last meeting of the Commission spent much of the session working to onboard 17 new members. The Commission also received a presentation from Jamar Stamps on the County's new tree protection ordinance which was well received. Wechsler ended her report by highlighting an upcoming presentation on native trees for the urban forest by the Native Plant Society at the City of Albany Library on May 18, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment

7. RECEIVE report on staff activities that support sustainability goals.

Attachments: [Sustainability Staff Progress Report](#)

Jody London gave an update on the County's Sustainability work. Staff are working to finalize contract agreements and starting to develop RFPs for two grants the County has been awarded; a grant to help the County prepare for Sea Level Rise as well as a grant to fund the development of the County's first Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP). Staff are currently implementing the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). These grant funds will be used to complete an inventory of the County's existing building stock and an analysis of the costs related to transitioning the building to be all-electric, which is currently underway, as well as retrofitting licensed home-based daycare facilities to be more energy efficient and to run on clean energy. Staff are currently working to draft the RFP for the retrofit component of this work. Last week, staff received an official termination letter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the \$19 million grant awarded in late 2024. The County is currently exploring options to dispute the termination.

In addition to grants, staff have begun organizing an All-Electric Working Group for Existing Buildings which is open to virtually any stakeholder interested in transitioning existing buildings to be all-electric. Staff continue to work on finalizing the Clean Energy Roadmap for Existing Buildings (Roadmap). The public comment period for the Roadmap ended on April 24, 2025 so staff is going through and addressing the comments received and preparing to bring the Roadmap back to the Sustainability Committee over the Summer for recommendation to the Board.

Staff have developed a new program in the City of Pittsburg based on the Pinole Energy Enhancements Program (PEER) model. This new program, dubbed the Bay Point/Pittsburg Energy Enhancement Program, is funded through the Keller Canyon Mitigation Fund and open to those in the community living near the Keller Canyon Landfill. Currently the program offers additional rebates for heat pumps to community members living in the program area.

London quickly highlighted a few additional items the Sustainability Team is working on:

- Staff continue to monitor the work related to the Green Empowerment Zone (GEZ)*
- On May 1, 2025, the County's Energy Efficiency Ordinance (2024-17) went into effect*
- The upcoming Sustainability Newsletter scheduled to be published at the end of May*
- The latest Sustainability Exchange focused on the County's Green Business Program*
- The Sustainability Team lost its AmeriCorps Fellow due to the Federal Governments' defunding of the AmeriCorps program*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment

8. ADJOURN until the next Sustainability Committee Meeting to be held on, Monday, July 14, 2025, at 1:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 2:11pm.

GENERAL INFORMATION**HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

DRAFT