

BIG SUR BYWAY ORGANIZATION (BSBO) MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES for Wednesday, September 24, 2025
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES – September 24, 2025, 10am

Call to Order: (Martha Diehl) called the meeting to order at (10:04)am

Roll Call

District/Region	Representative	Attendance
Highlands Resident	Mark Grandcolas	Present
Mid Coast Resident	Dan Perlstein	Present
Big Sur Proper/Valley Resident	Vacant	
South Coast Resident	Sarah Harvey	Present via Zoom
Resident At Large	Martha Diehl, Chair	Present
Caltrans	Darren Hill, Chad Stoehr, John Olejnik, or Alternative	John Olejnik Present
U.S. Forest Service	Parker Erickson, Jason Field, or Alternative	Parker Erickson and Jason Field Present
CA State Parks	Mike Dippel	Present
Big Sur Chamber	Rick Aldinger or Alternative	Present

Staff Present: Kelsey Shoup, See Monterey, Member Relations Specialist
Sarah Wikle, County of Monterey, Principal Planner
Katie Scariot, County of Monterey, Assistant Planner

Guests Present:

Rachel Goldberger, Community Association of Big Sur (CABS)
Patte Kronlund, Community Association of Big Sur (CABS), Executive Director
John Hiles, California State Parks, Monterey Sector Manager
Eric Stevens, California Coastal Commission
Breylen Ammen, California Coastal Commission
Lindsay Stevens, VP of Marketing & Communications, See Monterey
Scott California Department of Transportation
Peter California Department of Transportation
Laura Schulkin
Bruce Merchant

- Martha Diehl mentions the passing of Steve Beck – beloved community member

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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- Ms. Diehl called for people not on the committee to speak on non-agenda items.
 - Matt Glazer: Invasive species brought Steve Beck to all meetings, (mentioned the various meetings and committees that Steve Beck was involved). Mr. Beck was an ideal community member. He would participate in community meetings often and was a model citizen, his death is a shock to the Big Sur community. Matt presents his memorial on October 4th. Civic engagement is important; Matt encourages the audience to continue to do the work and care for a cause like Mr. Beck did for invasive species.
- Ms. Diehl comments on how long Mr. Beck has been active in the community on these issues, since 1990's. Thanked Matt for his comment.
- Ms. Diehl called for any additional items not listed on the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes of June 18, 2025

- *A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by Mr. Perlstein, seconded by Mr. Aldinger. The motion carried unanimously.*
- Ms. Diehl approves minutes from last meeting
- Before moving forward, Mr. Perlstein asks are there are folks online who have questions, Ms. Diehl asks and there are none.

Scheduled / Other Matters

1. Bridges and Bridge Rails – Mr. Olejnik from Caltrans
 - a. Mr. Wilkinson – deputy director of environmental division
 - b. Mr. Smith – capital projects – environmental projects and general projects
 - c. Mr. Wolfram – project manager focusing on Big Sur Coast – specifically working on historic bridge rail projects
- In the past few years, they have not been successful in obtaining a coastal development cert to replace bridge rails. Where do you go from here? Through traffic speed zone surveys, they are going to be lowering speed limits from 55 to 40 or 45.
- With this study nearly complete, pending admin work, now with the lower speed limit, they are now looking at different speed rail options. In the past they have looked at a bridge rail called 511H & 86H (Graphic is shown on screen of bridge rail types).
- Caltrans felt like this was a good time to showcase this new type of barrier, which fits the character of a historic rail.
- The point of this graphic is to share with the group, now that speed limits have lowered thresholds have lowered, a good time to present to the group.

- Ms. Diehl thanks the team for all the work and reminds group that this is not the beginning but the continuation of a longer conversation. Gives Caltrans kudos for bringing us the “thoughts before they’re gelled”
 - Ms. Diehl mentions that all the bridges are a set and should be considered not to be individual.
 - Mr. Grandcolas thanked Caltrans for their work and their job of taking a flexible stance. They like the 511H design, and think this design looks a lot better.
 - Ms. Diehl asks if anyone else online has questions – no one else does.
2. Mr. Olejnik: Coast Highway Management Plan
- a. Caltrans wants to dedicate a majority of the next BSBO meeting to this issue
 - b. They have secured funding for a major update, developing community groups, landscape management, and emergency response, but now they have more layers to think about. Cal Trans has strategic goals themselves, but they are moving their efforts to hire staff to do this work, and then potentially hire consultants.
- They might poll the group next time to understand areas of hiring focus
 - Wants this group to have a hand in these changes over the next 3 years
 - Ms. Diehl comments that group considers writing a written report from their constituents and how we can be of most use to the CHMP
 - Mr. Olejnik: as we get closer to the 19th
 - Ms. Diehl reiterates that there will be staff dedicated to this project and the level of participation in the last project was incredible and she was amazed so she is looking forward to the input in this project. They are looking forward to the land use plan in Big Sur
 - Ms. Diehl asks the group to spread the word to their own public groups and what the group would do.
 - Ms. Goldberger inquires about long-term invasive mitigation plans?
 - Mr. Grandcolas comments on feedback from Caltrans is very much appreciated and the work they do is incredible, thanks Cal Trans team for the work and hard challenges they are faced with.
 - Mr. Olejnik mentions he will discuss more in Regent’s slide.
 - Ms. Diehl mentions again to the Group that this will be the focus of the next November meeting.
3. Check in on the process – offsite mitigation projects (coastal commission – Mr. Stevens)

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- a. Does not have a full update- they have not really started the process. They are working with Cal Trans, committed to bringing the community along with them.
 - Ms. Diehl wants to mention the reason this is on the agenda so that it is not forgotten
 - Scott from Caltrans: public input and continues conversation.
 - Mr. Perlstein notes it's important not to equate access to development. Conservation mitigation previously mentioned needs to be distinguished from other types of mitigation.
 - Ms. Diehl mentions Rural bus routes issues. There are no safe places to turn around, but more bus access would help address the problem.
 - Scott: references to his conversation with Peter
 - Ms. Schulkin raises her hand online, stating that she thinks ridership would be affected by the frequency and cost of service. Design something for free, and consider funding, don't assume low participation, and not create low participation by the way it's designed.
 - Mr. Olejnik proposes a future meeting to invite MST to a future meeting. It's easy to consider MST as a larger motorcoach, but we don't need to necessarily consider them as that. There are ways to cater and custom craft service.
 - Ms. Diehl asks the online group if there are any more questions at one more time.
4. Bixby Bridge Emergency Task Force
- a. Ms. Diehl asks if there are any reps from Supervisor Daniels office
 - b. She spoke with Ms. Daniels last week, and she was committed to following up with success on emergency railings, and all agreed that emergency measures have been an improvement but not a solution.
- Mr. Dippel mentions stationing law enforcement officers at Bixby Bridge is a challenge; they cannot stay all day because of incoming calls, where they would need to leave.
- Mr. Aldinger chimes that they should eliminate parking altogether at Bixby Bridge.
- Ms. Diehl proposes that maybe there can be no parking "sometimes" and then maybe it serves all parties. Ms. Diehl plugs traffic counter in Big Sur.
- Ms. Diehl asks Ms. Schulkin to speak about her experience, but she does not reply. Ms. Diehl explains what happens; Ms. Schulkin is a volunteer firefighter, telling people passing by not to block a fire route with their cars. The point of the story is that this is a moderate effort that made a difference.
- Mr. Perlstein states that he had to tell people to move twice so they could respond to a call. There is a cost for the crowds. Mr. Perlstein acknowledges that things have gotten much better but mentions that many jurisdictions outsource parking tickets, but this might create internet noise, and we should also raise the cost of the parking ticket, which is merely a fee at this point. He wanted to mention the situation at Point Lobos as well.

- Every time Mr. Perlstein drives past Point Lobos, there are people walking along the highway to get into the park. Mr. Perlstein is currently a docent there. He asks why we don't repair the train that has always existed; he has offered to get a brigade of senior citizens who could fix that train in a weekend, sooner or later this is the next fatality.
- Ms. Diehl asks Mr. Hiles to respond.
- Mr. Hiles mentions cones were set up, no parking on the east side, during peak times. This takes a lot of enforcement time from officers. Agencies working together almost garnered 100% compliance; this didn't fix the whole issue, but we should be proactive. There are efforts underway to clear the vegetation, another exciting project with improvements coming soon.
- Mr. Grandcolas mentions ticketing comments, west side, people have walked out on the highway to stop traffic so that they can back out. People shouldn't be doing it on highway 1.
- Mr. Dippel states that they are in fact ticketing those violating parking and pedestrian road crossing safety laws.
- Mr. Merchant agrees to help clear the trail.
- Mr. Merchant mentions that it was once discussed about parking on one side of the highway
- Mr. Hiles states that the study still being looked at, coastal development projects through Monterey County will provide offsite parking through marathon flats and a parking shuttle. Public tours let's go outdoors. They filled up the morning tour, but the afternoon tour was a little light. The public can learn more about goals for the project. Go to Park It website for updates and visuals.
- Member of the Public – cones need to be in the dirt and pushed bicyclists in the roadway
- Mr. Perlstein seems it would be practical to implement, wondering if we should consider pedestrians to be paying as well to enter.
- Mr. Merchant - follow up question for Park it, what is the plan or follow up date to implement? Why the delay? Reservation program for point lobos?
- Mr. Hiles states the Point Lobos project means you would need to have a reservation to enter, it's hard to give a deadline to the county, state parks is eager to move it along, once approved there would need to be construction at marathon flats, realistically it could be a 2-year project. Mr. Hiles mentions future parking options and other feasibility assessments. Working with Cal Trans on highway improvements.
- Mr. Ammen speaks online to state that the capacity issue on Point Lobos, stating that the process is on the county's timeline. The Coastal Commission has been working with state parks and the county closely, they are in mutual agreement with State parks on what the project should look like, looking to the future on this project moving forward now and what the long-term improvements are.
- Member of the public – regarding parking initiative, is the shuttle a for profit initiative?

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- Mr. Hiles replies on what Park IT is; shuttle system would be up for bid. A request for proposal would go out and shuttle companies can bid for this project.
- Mr. Dippel mentions a Giants Game parking attendant on how he directed parking. This issue could easily be stopped by a well-trained person, may not need a police officer
- Ms. Diehl mentions an anecdote on her training as well and agrees, but now would this be done?
- Mr. Dippel asks is there could be a trial one weekend?
- Ms. Diehl agrees that this could be a trial but with little funding and peace officers and does not need a permit. Ms. Diehl asks if Mike can take this for action.
- Mr. Aldinger. States that he would be curious about the difference in someone doing this in plain clothes or in uniform.
- Ms. Goldberger notes the virtue of carrying a clipboard. She honors members of the Bixby Bridge community and the work they have done.
- Ms. Schulkin states that the county maintains this road to fight fires etc. Public responds better when people are there in uniform. This can be part of the solution if there is a more sustained presence.
- Ms. Diehl moves on to a round table for members' comments.

5. Roundtable

- a. Mr. Olejnik asks the group if they have any questions about their projects please ask. This week they were able to open an estimated opening date in March 2026 they are working diligently, next week they will have another update. Recently they had a Caltrans employee that was killed recently on the road and wanted to take a moment and reflect to drive safely in work zones, moments like this are tragic and sad, be mindful for safety for all workers.
- Ms. Diehl asked about an injury at Rocky Creek recently. The group replies that there was a Trespasser that made its way through the work zone.
 - b. Mr. Aldinger: Comments regarding Regents, disappointment that it is March 2026. They do not question the work ethic of Cal Trans but just to be mindful of the timing, do not let off the gas, because of the slow season and how it might hurt people. Impressed by how KSBW covered the news.
 - c. Ms. Stevens: Echoing Mr. Aldinger's excitement and the How2Hwy1 campaign from See Monterey. Stating that it doesn't matter if the road is closed, it depends on how you plan your trip, either from the North or South. They will continue to be pushing our messaging, and we will be working with our tourism partners and look at what celebration, activation, and messaging will look like. She was on the team back in 2017 when Hwy 1 reopened, and what that event looked like, they want to do

something similar. See Monterey will make a lot of noise about it, but keep pushing safe and responsible travel, where and where not to park and where to keep driving. See Monterey to update messaging and travel alerts for the safety of workers; Mrs. Stevens asks the group if they have questions.

- d. Mr. Hiles discusses updates to the Garapata restroom project. After the presentation at BSMAAC, they got public feedback, which was a great success; they are working through comments they received, and visual impacts. Invasive plant subcommittee was one of the last conversations he had with Mr. Beck about managing invasive species on state parks. He wants to applaud this effort and get this committee back online, and this is a top priority for him.
 - e. Mr. Dippel states that the point about the cones in the roadway has been heard, and illegal parking they are taking into consideration. They want to fix issues; he will discuss with Mauricio Arias and the subcommittee.
 - f. Mr. Field stated that the signage was successful, application process, to discuss with Cal Trans about large boulders.
 - g. Mr. Perlstein asks if the work is done and if it's safe to open something and whether it is ok? He said he hopes it is soon.
 - h. Ms. Harvey supported the improvement of the Coastal Commission on item C, offsite mitigation. She hopes to focus on improvements to what is already here. Asks California Highway Patrol representative if there have been any updates on Flock Safety Camera near Point Sur.
- Mr. Dippel - one of the cameras is a state parks camera that is being relocated to Fort Ord, they will be using gained access from a private homeowner nearby.
 - Ms. Harvey asks if there has been any public messaging or input on this.
 - Mr. Dippel - yes it has been mentioned twice in and at BSMAAC last year
 - Ms. Diehl asks Ms. Harvey if she has anything else to say; Mr. Grandcolas had to leave to go to a fundraiser.
 - Ms. Diehl mentions she has been doing this forever. The new presentation to the CABS data asks all partners to at least review the data, all of us can make use of the data, we can look at the correlation between peak traffic hours and peak business hours. We finally have data with respect to issues and concerns and problems at the choke points. This is of interest to See Monterey, how and when tourists might be coming here.
 - Ms. Diehl mentions that two separate residents have asked about what the speed limit is at Rocky Point; perhaps the information is conflicting from North and South. She went and looked at it and was even confused herself.
 - Ms. Diehl asks if Ms. Kronlund and Ms. Goldberger have information to share.
 - Ms. Kronlund states that right now they are in the process of refreshing their website, which now includes the traffic counter; they send out the raw data and visuals in the middle of the

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following month. This is invaluable information for all stakeholders, as soon as the highway opens, she would like to circle back to Cal Trans on how they can get the information back to the South Coast. Ms. Kronlund is appreciative for being a part of the BSBO but mentions one thing she'd like to see if the historic railing we have today.

- Ms. Goldberger: What ends up happening in these congested hot spots is pushing people out onto the highway. She got her hands on the traffic study from the late 70's, the work CABS is doing now, has anyone ever defined carry capacity? It would behoove Cal Trans to do a traffic study at these hot spots, so we can do comparison traffic studies.
- Mr. Dippel mentions the private landowner has a camera on both sides
- Mr. Olejnik states that work that slowed down traffic on Garapata bridge, Caltrans put up a speed detection system. So the new station does the traffic counts too.
- Ms. Diehl stated that the traffic data could be sent to County Staff to be put on the website.
- Ms. Diehl asked if there were any final questions.

Final Questions

- Aaron Wolfman highlighted 2 projects of interest to the group. Rocky Creek Electrochemical Extraction Project that is expected to start, either winter or spring of next year. Another project to rehabilitate drainage culverts; these will have overnight closures. North of Allen Road. Work is expected to begin in summer 2026.
- Sarah Wikle mentioned the ADU ordinance is scheduled for the CCC on October 10th, and then will go to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.
- Mr. Perlstein asks, "why can't power line be hidden at Bixby Bridge what is the point of this?"
- Ms. Diehl - PG&E is hard to get ahold of.
- Caltrans team mentioned a similar situation at Rocky Point and that they will investigate it.
- Ms. Diehl asks the group if they have any burning questions or topics; they would like her to bring them up at the next upcoming BSMAAC?

Adjournment

10. Adjournment – Ms. Diehl adjourned the meeting at **(11:56AM)**

- Ms. Diehl shared Mr. Becks' memorial information.

Next Regular Scheduled Meeting: (November, 19, 2025)