

January 12, 2005

City Transportation Commission
City of Santa Cruz
809 Center Street, Room 201
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: Beach Street Bikeway

Dear City Transportation Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Bicycle Committee of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission to urge you to maintain a 2-way bikeway on Beach Street between Pacific Avenue and Third Street.

The temporary 2-way bike path is a great resource to the cycling community and the Bicycle Committee appreciates the legalization of 2-way bicycle traffic on Beach Street. The permanent development of this bike path is much anticipated.

Currently the pedestrian sidewalk and bike path are separate facilities. The Bicycle Committee (and pedestrian advocates present at its January 10, 2005 meeting) strongly recommends maintaining separate facilities for bicycle traffic and pedestrians. Speed differentials between pedestrians and bicyclists, congested pedestrian use by Boardwalk visitors during summer months, as well as the California Vehicle Code which stipulates cyclists ride in accordance to motorist rules make separate facilities necessary. In addition, the Bicycle Committee would be pleased to see removal of on-street parking from the Pacific Avenue to Third Street segment, if possible.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and we support your continued efforts to provide safe routes for cyclists and pedestrians.

Sincerely,

Kem Akol,
Chair, SCCRTC Bicycle Committee

Cc: SCCRTC