

March 28, 2005

Mark Dettle, Director
City of Santa Cruz Public Works
809 Center Street, Room 201
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: Mission Street Extension K-Rails

Dear Director Dettle:

I am writing on behalf of the Bicycle Committee of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission in response to your letter dated January 14, 2005 regarding the Committee's on-going concern with the bike/pedestrian path on Mission Street Extension from Shaffer Road to Natural Bridges.

While the Committee understands the City's funding constraints to complete the project, we appeal to you to seek the funds needed or work with the Pacific Shores developer to make the necessary improvements to the bike/pedestrian path in question. Enhancing the structure separating bike and vehicular traffic, improving drainage and erosion, smoothing the pavement surface and improving the transition of the raised curb from the roadway are all areas the Bicycle Committee urges you to address.

In lieu of additional funding being secured, improvements such as the removal of the K-rails, a hard barrier posing a hazard to cyclists when entering the path from the Wilder Ranch Bike Path, would be appreciated. While the K-rails are in place to separate vehicular traffic from bicycle traffic, that function can be served by the elevated path/sidewalk.

Thank you for your attention to 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

