

January 2, 2007

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

**RE: Center Line on West Cliff Drive Bicycle/Pedestrian Path**

Dear Mr. Dettle:

I am writing on behalf of the Bicycle Committee of the Regional Transportation Commission to recommend that your department reconsider including a center line on the West Cliff Drive bicycle/pedestrian path when this facility is repaved.

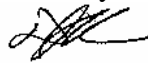
While the Bicycle Committee recommended that the Commission approve the City's Transportation Development Act allocation claim for West Cliff path repaving without a condition that the project include a center line, the Committee requests that you reconsider the decision to omit a centerline stripe. The Committee received a presentation from City of Santa Cruz staff but respectfully disagrees with staff's conclusion that the path should be left unmarked and unsigned.

The American Association of State Highway Officials' (AASHTO) *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities* notes that while markings and signage on multi-use paths are not required by law, they are a good idea under the following circumstances: (1) for heavy volumes of bicycles and/or other users, (2) on curves with restricted sight distance, and (3) on unlighted paths where nighttime riding is expected. *Chapter 1000* of Caltrans' Highway Design Manual, on Bikeway Planning and Design, offers the same advice.

All three of the conditions spelled out in the AASHTO guide and *Chapter 1000* apply to the West Cliff path. Due to the high volumes of users that are drawn to the West Cliff path, its curvy nature, and the poor nighttime lighting, the Bicycle Committee feels strongly that the inclusion of a center line on the path will help users orient themselves and reduce conflicts.

Thank you very much for considering the Bicycle Committee's recommendation on this matter.

Sincerely,



Daniel Kostelec  
Chair, SCCRTC Bicycle Committee