



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1523 PACIFIC AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060-3911 (831) 460-3200 FAX 460-3215

May 7, 2007

SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES (SAFE)

Mayor Emily Reilly
City of Santa Cruz
809 Center Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: Support for Bicycle Traffic School

RAIL/TRAIL AUTHORITY

Dear Mayor Reilly:

COMMUTE SOLUTIONS

I am writing on behalf of the SCCRTC Bicycle Committee to urge you and the City of Santa Cruz to support the Bicycle Traffic School project proposed by the Community Traffic Safety Coalition.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY WORKSHOP

The Bicycle Traffic School would provide cyclists who receive a moving violation citation the opportunity to exercise a one-time option to appear in court and request a court order to attend a two-hour bicycle safety class in lieu of paying the moving violation fine. Instead of simply penalizing cyclists who have committed a traffic infraction, providing them with an educational opportunity to understand the impact of their infraction and their responsibility as a bicycle transportation user could have a longer term behavioral impact.

BUDGET & ADMINISTRATION PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The California Driver handbook states that bicyclists on public streets have the same rights and responsibilities as automobile drivers, which includes following all the traffic laws. Bicyclists need training on how to ride in traffic. Most have never received it, certainly not formally. Some do not have driver's licenses and therefore do not receive information on how to function in traffic as a driver of any kind. Proper education could also potentially reduce the high number of bicycle accidents and injuries in Santa Cruz County. Granted, Santa Cruz County has a large cycling population and therefore naturally sees a greater than average number of injuries and accidents. Nevertheless, it is still critically important to reduce bicycle related incidents and proper education is a key element. Effective cycling requires correct information combined with an attitude of respect and care.

INTERAGENCY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thank you very much for considering our opinion in this matter.

BICYCLE COMMITTEE

Sincerely,

ELDERLY & DISABLED TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Daniel Kostelec
Chair, SCCRTC Bicycle Committee

cc: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Bicycle Committee
Community Traffic Safety Coalition

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