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If you or someone you know owns a local business and would like to support Bike Santa Cruz County by becoming a business member, please contact Amelia at director@bikesantacruzcounty.org.

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UPDATE

ISSUE 83
 SPRING 2016

★ ★ ★ June 2016 Election Endorsements ★ ★ ★

Every election cycle, Bike Santa Cruz County endorses candidates that we believe will improve conditions for cyclists throughout our county. In the upcoming election, several local seats are open, including County Supervisor for Districts 1, 2 and 5. The election in November will include additional open seats locally, statewide, and nationally.

Election day is June 7, 2016. Mail-in voting starts on May 9, and the deadline to register to vote in this election is May 23. For more information about voting visit www.votescount.com or call the Santa Cruz County Elections department at **(831) 454-2060**.

Our Endorsement Process

All candidates received surveys from Bike Santa Cruz County and were given a deadline for submitting answers. Our endorsement committee reviewed each candidate's responses and, when applicable, past record. Our endorsement is meant to guide voters in choosing candidates who will be allies in furthering cycling in Santa Cruz County. As always, we recommend that you read the

surveys and consider the candidates' positions on all issues you care about.

DISTRICT 1: JOHN LEOPOLD

John Leopold has been a tremendous supporter of local bike projects throughout his two terms in office. He has been an ongoing champion of the Coastal Rail Trail and is working to secure funding for the section in his district as soon as possible. John led the initiative to complete the bike lanes through Soquel Village and install the first green lane treatments in the county. He has also supported green lanes at the Soquel Drive freeway interchange, which are due to be installed this year. Currently, he is working to fill the final bike lane gap on Soquel between Center and Main, and hopes to find future funding for a protected bikeway on Brommer Street, to connect Live Oak neighborhoods to the Arana Gulch Trail.



(continued on page 3)

Open Streets Becomes a Project of Bike Santa Cruz County

After four years of successful events, big changes are in store for Open Streets Santa Cruz County. Founder and event director Saskia Lucas is pursuing new career paths, and the event has found a new home with Bike Santa Cruz County. Planning is underway for the fourth Open Streets Santa Cruz event, which will take place on West Cliff Drive on October 9.



Open Streets Santa Cruz County founder Saskia Lukas

Saskia was inspired by similar events across the US and around the world. Bogota, Columbia, hosts one of the best-known Open Streets events, opening up nearly 75 miles of roadways to walking and biking every Sunday. In recent years, the number of Open Streets events has grown exponentially, with

(continued on page 4)

Green Lanes Approved for Lower Broadway

Last year, Bike Santa Cruz County ran a campaign to keep funding for green lane treatments in the City budget. Now, those funds are being used to improve lower Broadway between the Laurel Street Bridge and Clay Street. The green lane treatments will be used to highlight the conflict zones—areas where drivers may be entering the bike lane—to let drivers know to check for people on bikes. Green lane treatments have been shown to increase “motorist yielding behavior,” where drivers yield to cyclists before crossing the bike lane to make a right turn.

The new treatments should be installed on lower Broadway this coming summer. Thanks to City staff for a great design, and to all our members who supported this campaign!

Want to see more campaigns like this? Support our advocacy work by becoming a Bike Santa Cruz County member today at bikesantacruzcounty.org. ■

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 Bike Santa Cruz County
 703 Pacific Ave.
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060
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Join Bike Santa Cruz County to make our county a better place to ride. Membership includes subscription to our newsletter, email Action Alerts, and discounts from business sponsors.

BIKE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Make checks payable to **Bike Santa Cruz County** and mail to **703 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

\$1,000 **Wheel** includes two t-shirts (Tax deductible—call to arrange)
 \$500 **Hub** includes two t-shirts (Tax deductible—call to arrange)
 \$100 **Bearing** includes two t-shirts
 \$50 **Household** includes t-shirt
 \$30 **Individual**
 \$20 **Underemployed** (Work exchange available—call to arrange)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

I am a new member.
 I am renewing my membership.
 I would like to volunteer. Please contact me.

GREEN WAYS NEWS

Earn-a-Bike

After a six-month hiatus, Earn-a-Bike is up and running again in Watsonville. The program, which hires high school students to mentor younger students and help them repair and refurbish donated bicycles, needs your help to survive



Earn-a-Bike students at Nisene Marks.
PHOTO BY STEVE PIERCY

and flourish. Since the program launched in 2014, over 50 bikes have been provided to students in need. High school students receive stipends, work towards earning their own bicycle, or complete community service hours, which are required for graduation. The Watsonville program is getting kids hooked on bikes, building bike culture, and giving high school students meaningful work and leadership experience. We couldn't do this program without the generous contributions of Bike Santa Cruz County members who have donated dozens of bikes and volunteered their time to prepare bikes for program participants.

With the re-launch of Earn-a-Bike, we are asking community members to sponsor an Earn-a-Bike student. As a sponsor, you help cover the costs of getting bikes, lights, secure locks, helmets, basic bike repair skills, and on-road safety training to our participants. For as little as \$25, the community can support the next generation of safe, confident cyclists. Find out ways to support Earn-a-Bike at bikesantacruzcounty.org/greenways. ■

7th Annual Bike the Bay!

For all Santa Cruz County teens who want to explore bike touring or just see where those two wheels can take them over a three-day weekend, Bike the Bay is back this June. On the 100+ mile trip, teens from around the county will get to know each other and the landscape up-close and personal. Past trips have included close encounters with white pelicans, sand hill cranes, and paragliders catching the updraft off the epic Fort Ord dunes. The ride includes many stops to rest, eat, and take in the vistas. As fears and hills are conquered, participants often remark that they have a new appreciation for the Monterey Bay. As Ernest Hemingway once said "It is by riding a bicycle that you learn the contours of a country best." If you know a young person who might enjoy or benefit from getting to know themselves, their peers, and our beautiful coastal environment better, please contact Tawn at (831) 425-0667 or greenways@bikesantacruzcounty.org. To support Bike the Bay, see "Fundraising" article on this page. ■

Santa Cruz Bike Party

7:00PM / 2nd Friday of each month
@ the Bike Church (Spruce & Pacific, Santa Cruz)

Its a party—on bikes—with a different costume theme each month! Riders of all ages and skill levels welcome.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.santacruzbikeparty.org

Facebook: *Santa Cruz Bike Party*

Green Ways Fundraising Campaign Help Sustain Our Youth Education Programs!

Since 2009, Bike Santa Cruz County's youth education program, Green Ways to School, has helped to build bike culture and remove barriers to bicycling for youth in Santa Cruz County. Through our Middle School Bike Clubs, Watsonville Earn-a-Bike program, Bike the Bay youth bike tour, classroom presentations and assemblies, as well as dozens of annual youth bike rides, we have helped thousands of young people discover the joys of bicycling.

Since its inception, Green Ways to School has been funded through the generosity of a private foundation. Now that funding is being reduced and we need your help to continue providing our programs to youth throughout the county. This spring, we're raising funds to support two programs:

- **Spring session of the Watsonville Earn-a-Bike program**

This free, seven-week after-school program provides middle school participants with bike safety and maintenance training. At the end of the session, students have earned their own bikes, helmets, locks, lights, and multi-tool. High school students receive stipends for mentoring for their younger peers, modeling safe cycling practices and teaching bike maintenance and repair.

- **Annual Bike the Bay youth bike tour**

Now in its seventh year, this annual tour gives students the opportunity to ride over 100 miles to Monterey and back. With lots of beach time, good food and company, this event allows students to push their limits and discover that if they can bike the Monterey Bay, they can bike anywhere.

Help us provide these programs to youth in Santa Cruz County!

Your donation of \$25 or more will enable more students to participate in the Watsonville Earn-a-Bike program and Bike the Bay, and help Green Ways to School continue to build bike culture, encourage safe cycling, and get bikes to youth in need.

Visit bikesantacruzcounty.org/greenways to learn more and make a donation. ■

Support the Bike Santa Cruz County Climate Ride Team!

Help us reach our \$35,000 goal!

Last year, the three intrepid members of Team Bike Santa Cruz County rode in the Climate Ride and raised \$13,000 to support our advocacy work. This year, we're back at it with a team of 12 riders and a fundraising goal of \$35,000.

This is a game-changing amount for our organization and would help us tackle more advocacy issues, host more events, and reach more youth throughout the county. Even better, a generous donor has committed a \$5,000 match if we reach our goal.



Find the complete list of team members and make a donation by May 13 at the link below:
<http://support.climateride.org/team/bikesc>

Caltrans Seeks Input for First Statewide Bike & Pedestrian Plan

Caltrans, the state transportation agency, is in the early stages of creating the first California State Bike & Pedestrian Plan, which will guide the State towards its goal to triple bicycling by 2020. The plan will include statewide goals for active transportation, performance metrics to measure success, and investment strategies to fund bike and pedestrian improvements. This is a major shift for Caltrans, which has only recently set goals to increase biking and walking.

Weigh in! Caltrans wants your input to inform development of the California Bike & Pedestrian Plan. Take their quick survey at www.cabikepedplan.org. ■

Plan for Two-Way Bike Traffic on Pacific Avenue Moves Forward

On March 21, the City of Santa Cruz Transportation and Public Works Commission unanimously voted in favor of a plan to change Pacific Avenue to one-way automobile traffic and install a contra-flow bike lane. This plan is intended to reduce confusion for residents and visitors traveling downtown. The contra-flow bike lane would allow people on bikes to ride against car traffic, making Pacific Avenue two-way for cyclists. The exception to this is the last block at the north end of Pacific, between Locust and Water Streets. A contra-flow lane on this block would require reconfiguring the intersection of Water, Pacific and Front, which is expensive and would require extensive design work. However, Bike Santa Cruz is asking the city to plan for this as a Phase 2 project.

Bike Santa Cruz supports the contra-flow lane because it creates safer streets and more convenient alternatives to driving downtown. Wrong-way riding and riding on sidewalks are currently problems on Pacific Avenue. A contra-flow lane would improve safety for everyone by providing a safe, legal way to ride in the street in both directions.

Transportation Commissioners brought up concerns about the safety of a contra-flow lane, since parking would remain on both sides of the street and drivers would be crossing the bike lane to access parking spaces. We've looked at similar facilities in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Washington DC, and neither city reported a rise in collisions after a contra-flow lane was installed. With slow traffic speeds on Pacific Avenue, we believe that visibility and reaction times for drivers and cyclists will be sufficient to avoid safety issues—in fact, the contra-flow lane would improve safety by eliminating wrong-way riding.

Thanks to the nearly 40 folks who wrote letters of support and came out to the meeting! Stay tuned for ways to support this project when it goes to Council.

Bike Santa Cruz County campaigns are supported by our dues-paying members. Visit bikesantacruzcounty.org to become a member or renew your membership. ■

Bike Valet Volunteers Needed!

Spring is here and Bike Santa Cruz County will be providing valet bike parking at lots of great events. We're looking for volunteers to help park bikes. To learn more or sign up contact Amelia at (831) 425-0665 or director@bikesantacruzcounty.org.

Cyclists Brave Rainy Weather for Light Up the Night

Huge thanks to all our volunteers and sponsors for our third annual Light Up the Night ride! Special thanks go to Bell Sports, Epicenter Cycling and Blackburn for donating 50+ lights that we were able to give away to community members.



Two jellyfish took home prizes in our costume contest.



A young rider shows off his new lights.



Cyclists making spoke cards.



County Health Services was on hand to provide helmet fittings.

Although it was a wet night, the skies cleared just in time for riders to take to the streets!



Another costume contest winner was a tea party on the back of a bike.

PHOTOS: RICHARD MASONER, CYCLELICIO.US

CalBike 2016 Legislative Watch

Here are four of the bills that the California Bicycle Coalition is supporting or sponsoring this year. For more information or to contact your representatives visit calbike.org/legislation.

SBX 1-1 is a budget proposal that includes new funding for the Active Transportation Program, the statewide grant funding source for bike and pedestrian projects. This bill also includes Complete Streets requirements for Caltrans-funded projects.

AB 2509 clarifies the rights of cyclists to ride side-by-side, and only as far to the right of the roadway as is safe and practicable.

AB 2796 requires that a minimum 5% of Active Transportation Program funds be designated for planning in disadvantaged communities and that a 10% minimum be designated for non-infrastructure programs such as bike safety education.

AB 2222 creates a new state program to fund discounted transit passes for students of public schools, community colleges, Cal State and University of California. The program would be funded with \$50 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. ■

Problem With Your Daily Bike Route? File a Hazard Report!

If you see glass in the bike lane, a dangerous pothole, or find a signal that doesn't change for you on your bike, you can take action by filing a hazard report with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC).

Go to sccrtc.org/services/hazard-reports and, if possible, submit a photo of the hazard to send with your report. Reports will be forwarded to the appropriate jurisdiction. The RTC tracks each case to make sure that the issue is addressed.



June 2016 Election Endorsements

DISTRICT 2: ZACH FRIEND

During his first term as County Supervisor, Zach Friend worked for a variety of Safe Routes to School projects in his district and fought to prevent further delays to the Mar Vista Bridge project. This bridge will cross Highway 1 to link coastal neighborhoods with Mar Vista Elementary, and provide cyclists with an alternative to State Park Drive. The Mar Vista Bridge is Bike Santa Cruz's top priority project in District 2, and we urge Supervisor Friend to move this project to construction if he is elected for a second term. Finally, Zach has been a supporter of the Coastal Rail Trail, and passed a policy to allow private fundraising for specific segments in his district.



DISTRICT 2: BECKY STEINBRUNER

Becky Steinbruner is a former avid bike commuter and bicycle tourist. Her survey demonstrated strong understanding of the importance of safe bike routes, including the rail trail, protected bikeways and green lane treatments. She also expressed the desire to involve community members in decision-making as a way to balance the needs of drivers and cyclists. Becky suggested temporary road closures for a few hours on weekends to provide families with safe places to bike with kids. Bike Santa Cruz County appreciates Becky's enthusiasm and new ideas for improving cycling.



DISTRICT 2: RICH McINNIS

Rich is a cyclist who bikes for daily transportation. He understands the importance of the Mar Vista Bridge to provide a safe way to cross Highway 1, and is committed to getting this project built if he becomes supervisor. He pledged to work to get the Coastal Rail Trail segments in his district funded as soon as possible, and expressed support for protected bikeways to decrease cyclist injuries and fatalities. Rich owns the Seabreeze Tavern in Rio Del Mar, and invites folks to bike on down and talk to him. He's there every weekend, 4-10PM.



District 5 and other candidates

Benjamin Cogan (District 1) and Roy Kaylor (District 5) did not return our survey and were therefore not considered for endorsement. The two other District 5 candidates, Bruce McPherson and Bill Smallman, returned surveys but were not endorsed by our Steering Committee for the following reasons:

- Bike Santa Cruz County has a long-standing Safe Routes to School campaign for the San Lorenzo Valley Schools campus which has not moved forward under Bruce McPherson's first term in office.
- Bill Smallman opposes the rail trail if the train tracks remain in place. We believe in leaving options open for future passenger rail, as passenger rail service would provide a convenient way for people who ride bikes to travel farther distances across the county and access regional rail systems. ■

(continued from page 1)



29th Annual Bike Week is May 6-13!

For complete details and event locations visit <http://ecoactbike.org>

Bike Week Schedule Presented by Ecology Action

Friday, May 6 – Museum of Art & History Bike Night
(5-9PM) / Co-hosts: Ecology Action & Bike Santa Cruz County

Saturday, May 7
• **Rail Cleanup** (10AM-noon) / Host: Friends of the Rail & Trail
• **Girly Mountain Bike Ride** (10AM) / Host: Epicenter Cycling

Sunday, May 8 – Bike & Bird Tour (9AM-1PM)
Host: The Bird School Project

Monday, May 9 – Bike-In Movie Night (7-9PM)
Host: Santa Cruz Mountain Brewing

Tuesday, May 10 – Cycle & Dine
Discounts for cyclists at select restaurants

Wednesday, May 11 – Gear Up Day
Discounts for cyclists at select bike shops

Thursday, May 12
• **Bike To Work** – 12 free breakfast sites
• **Bike/Walk to School** – 45+ school sites

Friday, May 13 – Bike Party Group Ride (7-9PM)
Host: Santa Cruz Bike Party

Bus Service Faces Significant Cuts



On March 25, the board of Santa Cruz Metro Transit District reviewed a plan to address the system's \$8.8M structural deficit that includes the elimination of 10 bus routes and service reductions to many others. Among the proposed cuts is the 91 Express, which is the quickest route between Santa Cruz and Watsonville. Service to Bonny Doon would be eliminated, and service to Cabrillo College from Santa Cruz and Watsonville would be drastically reduced. Metro estimates that these cuts will result in 735,910 fewer bus trips annually.

Metro's deficit is a result of declining state and federal funds, decreasing local sales tax revenues, and increased labor and operating costs. The agency receives 39% of its operating funds from a half-cent local sales tax. With the economic crash of 2008, sales tax revenues went down, resulting in a \$26M revenue deficit. As Metro's buses are aging, the cost of replacing buses, upgrading facilities, and making other capital improvements in the next decade is estimated at \$200M.

Many cyclists depend on bus service for longer legs of a commute or to enable longer-distance travel. Reduced bus service will result in more single-occupancy vehicle trips around the county. The proposed cuts will also make it harder for some low-income residents to access jobs, doctor appointments, shopping and other services.

There is still time to weigh in the plan. The Metro board will review an updated plan at their April 22 meeting, with a 30-day comment period to follow. Final decisions will be made at a June 24 meeting, with changes going into effect September 8.

Learn more at scmetroforward.com. Send comments and suggestions to info@scmetroforward.com. ■

EILEEN CAVALIER, M.A.
PSYCHOTHERAPY



831.425.3118

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST
LICENSE NO. MFC36759

Open Streets

(continued from page 1)

more than 35 US cities now closing streets to create temporary car-free public space.

"Starting this program has been one of the most gratifying accomplishments of my life," says Saskia. "I am so thankful to all the supporters along the way: residents, political leaders, businesses, Ecology Action and other community organizations, and friends. As an organization that supports safe bicycling and community, Bike Santa Cruz is a great new home for Open Streets. I'm excited to see events thrive and grow under new leadership."

Bike Santa Cruz County is thrilled to be taking on a program that so closely aligns with our mission. Past Open Streets events on West Cliff have drawn over 9,000 participants, and others in Capitola and Watsonville have also seen tremendous success. We hope to continue to expand to new locations around the county.

To receive updates on future Open Streets, or to volunteer for this year's Santa Cruz event, look for the "Contact/Subscribe" tab at www.scopenstreets.org. ■

THE BIKE CHURCH: Upcoming Classes

All events are free (donations accepted)

Hands-on learning in a supportive environment. No prior experience necessary! For more information about classes or volunteering, send email to bikechurch@santacruzhub.org.

INTRO TO BICYCLE MAINTENANCE Noon–2PM

2nd Sundays, May 8, June 12, July 17 / PLEASE BE ON TIME

This class covers the three major systems that operate on a bicycle. We will go over basic maintenance and tour the Bike Church. A great class for beginners or newcomers.

WOMEN/TRANSGENDER/FEM WORKSHOP (WTF!) Noon–3PM

DROP IN: 1st and 3rd Sundays

May 1 & 5, June 5 & 19, July 3 & 17

This class is a space for women, trans and fem folks to work on bikes and learn new skills. Taught by women/queer mechanics.

BIKE CHURCH SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Email us (bikechurch@santacruzhub.org) or drop in during open hours (listed on website) to let us know if you are interested in volunteering. Orientations will be scheduled as needed. You do not need to have bike mechanic experience to volunteer.

703 Pacific Avenue (Entrance is on Spruce Street)

831-425-BIKE • bikechurch.santacruzhub.org

GUEST OPINION: Support Sustainable Transportation, Not Highway Widening

– Jack Nelson, Co-chair, Campaign for Sensible Transportation

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) is considering a half-cent sales tax for the November 2016 ballot that would fund transportation projects in the County by raising a projected \$450 million over 30 years. The tax would provide funds for safer routes for bicyclists and pedestrians, including segments of the rail trail, and next steps for passenger rail transit. In addition, the measure would help support and improve the bus system, and fund local street and road maintenance.

However, the RTC is also considering assigning over \$100 million of the sales tax revenue to widen Highway 1 with three auxiliary lane projects between Soquel Avenue and State Park Drive. At the same time as RTC commissioners consider pouring funds into widening Highway 1, many of those same commissioners are presiding over serious cutbacks in Metro service in their role as Metro Board members (see article on page 4). These skewed priorities have the biggest impact on low-income travelers.

The Campaign for Sensible Transportation (CFST), a local all-volunteer group, is circulating a petition urging the RTC to remove highway widening from the sales tax formula before it is finalized this summer. Here's why:

The Caltrans Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on Highway 1 widening indicates congestion relief from auxiliary lanes would be negligible:

- The project "would result in a very slight improvement in traffic congestion when compared to the No Build Alternative."

What's in the Proposed Transportation Tax Measure?

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) has approved a Transportation Improvement Plan (TRIP) which they propose to fund through a November 2016 sales tax measure. If approved by 2/3 of voters, the sales tax will help address the County's transportation budget shortfall.

With state and federal funding for transportation dwindling, more than 80% of California residents now live in "self-help" counties, meaning that they have passed tax measures to generate their own local transportation dollars. In addition to being secure, these local dollars can also be used to leverage state and federal funds.

Here is the current breakdown of the TRIP:

- **30% (\$135M) for Neighborhood Projects:** includes funds for road repair, safe routes to school projects, bicycle and pedestrian projects, traffic calming, and money for improvements to Highway 9.

- The EIR projects a wider Highway 1 would fill up with more traffic and more vehicle miles traveled. That's even with an erroneous assumption there would be no meaningful "induced travel" from new trips attracted by an initial reduction in congestion.

- The EIR projects a 25% increase in greenhouse gas emissions if a sequence of five auxiliary lanes projects is built.

Prospective voter polling in May 2015 found 72% support for the idea of reducing congestion on Highway 1, but only 46% supported actually widening the highway.

The most recent Community Assessment Project reported 5,250,000 vehicle miles traveled daily in our county in 2013. With an average of nearly a pound of CO2 emitted per mile traveled by car, this is by far our county's biggest contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. Can we honestly plan to widen Highway 1 and grow carbon emissions, while talking about saving the future from catastrophic climate change?

Bike Santa Cruz County members can help the Campaign for Sensible Transportation's petition campaign by visiting the CFST website at www.sensibletransportation.org. In addition to signing the petition online, you can view a slide show about alternatives to widening Highway 1. You can also contact us and see information on our upcoming events. ■

- **25% (\$113M) for Highway Corridors:** funds auxiliary lanes on Highway 1 from Soquel to State Park Drive, as well as bike/ped freeway overcrossings at Chanticleer and Mar Vista, safety programs, and a wildlife undercrossing on Highway 17.

- **16% (\$72M) for Elderly/Disabled Transportation:** will fund Metro and Community Bridges' Paratransit services.

- **15% (\$68M) for the Coastal Rail Trail:** includes construction and maintenance.

- **14% (\$63M) for the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line:** includes maintenance, further study of options for passenger rail, and funds for the planned Pajaro Junction train station.

Bike Santa Cruz County has not yet taken a position on the proposed measure, and will do so after the measure is placed on the ballot in June. To weigh in on our Steering Committee's decision, contact Amelia at director@bikesantacruzcounty.org. ■