

Thanks to our business members for supporting Bike Santa Cruz County

- Bay Area Bicycle Law
 - Bicycle Trip—15% off parts and accessories for members (excludes bikes, labor and special orders)
 - The Bike Church
 - Blix Bikes
 - Caletti Cycles
 - ComForcare Home Care
 - Eileen Cavalier Psychotherapy
 - Greenspace
 - Law Offices of Daniel Rose
 - Santa Cruz Pedicab
 - Skip Leonard Insurance Agency, State Farm Agent
 - Spokesman Bicycles—10% off for Bike Santa Cruz County members (excludes bikes and service)
 - Staff of Life—support Bike Santa Cruz County with your store bag tokens (5¢ for each paper bag you don't use!)
- 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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BIKE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

UPDATE

ISSUE 81
 FALL 2015

Four Santa Cruz County Projects Receive \$5M in Grant Funding

It's been a great year for Santa Cruz County bike projects. In addition to funding for green lanes in Santa Cruz, Capitola and Live Oak and for the north coast rail trail segment, our county just received over \$5 million in grant funds for four bike and pedestrian projects through the state's Active Transportation Program. Here are the projects that received funding:

- **Branciforte Creek Bike/Ped Bridge** – Funding for this new bridge will fill the final gap in the San Lorenzo Riverwalk and allow people to travel across Branciforte Creek and Soquel Avenue without leaving the levee path.
- **Walker Street Rail Trail segment in Watsonville** – This grant extends the section of rail trail near Lee Road that was funded in 2013. The new segment will connect to Walker Street in downtown Watsonville and provide access to the Watsonville Slough Trails.
- **Countywide Bicycle Route Signage Program** – This network of signed bike routes through the County will help residents and visitors on bikes find the best routes to their destination.
- **Santa Cruz City Schools Crossing Improvement Program** – This program funds crosswalk improvements around Santa Cruz



When completed, the Branciforte Creek Bridge will fill the final gap in the San Lorenzo Riverwalk.

City Schools, as well as education and encouragement programs to get more kids walking and biking to school. Congratulations to the Cities of Santa Cruz and Watsonville, the Regional Transportation Commission and Ecology Action for their successful grant applications! We will update you as these projects move towards construction. ■

Green Lanes Approved for Soquel Drive

Back in February, we launched a campaign for green lane treatments at freeway on-ramps. The green lanes would connect the bike lanes across the on-ramps, reminding drivers to check for people on bikes before merging onto the freeway.

We're thrilled that the first of these projects has been funded by the County and approved by Caltrans with installation scheduled for early next year. Green lanes will be installed at the Soquel Drive interchange near Dominican Hospital. This will improve conditions at a site that is particularly scary for people on bikes.

Earlier this year, the City of Capitola also approved funding for green lane treatments at 41st Avenue which are expected to be completed by summer 2016. Another high-priority interchange for green lane treatments is State Park Drive in Aptos, which was the site of a cyclist fatality in 2009.

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Join Us for Our Annual Fundraising Dinner!

**Sunday, December 6, 5–8PM at The Food Lounge
 1001 Center Street, downtown Santa Cruz**

Purchase tickets at bikesantacruzcounty.org

- Help celebrate this year's Transportation Award winners
- Enjoy a locally-sourced dinner by Food Lounge chef Andrea Mollenauer
- Bid on silent auction items from local businesses, service providers, and artisans

Free valet bike parking will be provided.

We're looking for volunteers. Please contact Amelia at director@bikesantacruzcounty.org or 425-0665.

The UPDATE is published by Bike Santa Cruz County. Our mission is to promote bicycling through advocacy, education and community building. Printed on recycled paper using solar power by MaverickMailing.com.

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I am a new member. I am renewing my membership.

I would like to volunteer. Please contact me.

- \$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
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- \$30 **Individual**
- \$20 **Underemployed** (Work exchange available—call to arrange.)

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

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.



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Green Ways Happenings

Pajaro Valley High Grizzlies Going Green

Green ways to School, in collaboration with Ecology Action, have just launched Grizzlies Go Green, a two-year active transportation encouragement program at Pajaro Valley High in Watsonville. “PV High already has a culture of human-powered transportation, but car culture is also in full force,” says Green Ways’ director Tawn Kennedy. “We recently went around to almost all the classes on campus to see how students are getting to school, and there was a definite feeling that it was not cool to say you walked, biked, or skateboarded to school,” Kennedy says. Grizzlies Go Green is out to change those perceptions, and also get more people walking and riding to campus. “Kids regularly sit in traffic for 20 minutes to leave school; it takes less than 10 minutes to walk from campus to the other side of the bridge,” says Michael Santos, PV High art teacher and cyclist. Grizzlies Go Green is training a group of 30 freshmen and sophomores to host and promote monthly “Bike/Walk/Skate to School” encouragement events. Participants will also help with community rides and events throughout Watsonville and have numerous opportunities to go on field trips, gain safety skills, and hear from professional cyclists, skateboarders, and other experts in the field. ■

Bike Club Hits “Kidical” Mass—Volunteers Needed

Middle School Bike Club is up and running again, and we need your help! Bike Club is bigger than ever before, with around 45 students between our two clubs. In fall and spring, students from Mission Hill and Branciforte Middle Schools will go on bike-based field trips almost every week. Due to the unprecedented interest in Bike Club, we need more volunteers to help chaperone our rides. Bike Club meets every Wednesday from 1–3PM at both schools, for 10–12 weeks in the fall and spring. Please contact Tawn Kennedy for more info about volunteering at (831) 428-5109 or greenways@bikesantacruzcounty.org. ■



Participants at Mission Hill Middle School Bike Club ready to ride.

Rumble Strips Installed on Hwy 1

Advocates say changes needed

Back in 2012, local bike advocates opposed a Caltrans proposal to install rumble strips on Highway 1. Rumble strips are grooves in the pavement designed to alert inattentive drivers, through noise and vibration, when they veer off the road. While the intention may be to help keep road users safer, the unintended consequences present new risks to people on bikes. Hitting the rumble strips while trying to avoid debris in the road, for example, can lead to a catastrophic spill. The original Caltrans proposal called for strips to be placed along the center line, as well as in the middle of the shoulder, in the path of cyclists. The shoulder strips would have extended 10 miles north, from Santa Cruz to Swanton Road.

When Caltrans moved forward with the rumble strips project, a group from the RTC Bicycle Advisory Committee worked with Caltrans to craft a compromise. The rumble strips would be placed beneath the white edge line, rather than in middle of the shoulder. In addition, the strips would only be installed where there was a full 5 feet of shoulder and would only extend 4 miles north of Santa Cruz. Finally, the modified plan called for rumble strips that were narrower and less jarring than Caltrans’ standard design.

Since the new rumble strips were installed last month, the bike community has raised multiple objections. In several places, the strips were installed in sections with less than 5 feet of shoulder. In other locations, the hillside to the right of the edge of the road is crumbling into the path of cyclists. The white edge line was also painted incorrectly, *in the shoulder* rather than *on top of the rumble strips*.

The Bicycle Advisory Committee met with Caltrans staff at their October meeting and asked that the strips be removed wherever the shoulder is narrower than 5 feet, as well as in the stretch adjacent to the off-road parking area at Wilder Ranch, where it is often necessary to swerve to avoid cars pulling in or out. Committee members invited Caltrans staff and decision-makers to ride Highway 1 with them on a weekend to experience the conditions first hand—we don’t yet know if any of them have accepted.

Caltrans management will meet soon to discuss the Highway 1 rumble strips. We hope that these concerns will be addressed. **Meanwhile, be careful on the road and watch out for rumble strips, which can cause you to lose control of your bike if you hit them unawares.** ■



New rumble strips along the shoulder of Highway 1.

Capitola Green Lanes

continued from page 1

Huge thanks to County Public Works staff for moving this project forward and finding the funds, as well as to the Regional Transportation Commission’s Bicycle Advisory Committee and Bike Santa Cruz County members who wrote letters of support.

Do you want to see more campaigns like this? Bike Santa Cruz County depends on the support of our dues-paying members to be effective advocates for cycling. Become a member today at www.bikesantacruzcounty.org. ■

Support New Bike Lanes in Watsonville

Back in July, the Watsonville City Council reviewed a proposal for a “road diet” on two blocks of Main Street, between First and Beach. The plan included reducing the number of traffic lanes from four to two, and adding new bike lanes and pedestrian amenities like wider sidewalks, center medians with landscaping, bulb-outs at intersections, and public art. The goal of the project was not only to increase safety for people biking and walking, but to improve the downtown experience and encourage revitalization.

Citing concerns about traffic impacts, Council members requested a trial period for the changes. On October 21, City staff presented a revised plan, which includes the safety and beautification benefits of the original plan, but with less sidewalk widening. This means that if there is significant community objection to traffic impacts, the 2-lane configuration would be reversible (i.e. reverting to four traffic lanes and no bike lanes.)

On November 17, City Council members will vote on the revised plan. We urge everyone who lives, works or rides in Watsonville to write a letter of support for the project. If successful, the new configuration could be extended further down Main Street, creating an important new route for people riding bikes downtown.

To support the plan, go to the City of Watsonville’s website at cityofwatsonville.org/city-government/city-council and click on the “Contact City Council Members” link. ■

Santa Cruz Bike Party

2nd Friday of each month

Meets at 7PM at the Bike Church
(Spruce and Pacific in Santa Cruz)
It’s a party—on bikes—with a different
costume theme each month!

Riders of all ages and skill levels welcome.
More info at santacruzbikeparty.org or
on Facebook at Santa Cruz Bike Party

Obstacles to New Bike Lanes in Capitola

Capitola Council members and the public recently weighed in on a proposal for new bike lanes on Monterey Avenue, in front of New Brighton Middle School. The new lanes would go from Washburn to Kenedy, providing a safer route for kids in the neighborhood to get to school and for everyone on bikes to get across Capitola.

New bike lanes would, however, require parking removal on the coastal side of the street. Many neighbors opposed the plan, citing the challenges and safety issues of being forced to park farther from their homes.

Next steps for the project include a public forum and presentation of potential designs of the new bike lanes. If you live in Capitola and want to get involved with this campaign, contact Amelia at director@bikesantacruzcounty.org or 425-0665. ■

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, Nov 8, Dec 13, Jan 10 / 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, Nov 1 & 15, Dec 6 & 20, Jan 3 & 17

A space for those who have been marginalized or intimidated in bike shop settings to be supported in becoming knowledgeable and confident in cycling, mechanics and tool use. 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 at 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

Next Steps for the Santa Cruz Active Transportation Plan

In our last issue, we told you about the City of Santa Cruz Active Transportation Plan (ATP), which will guide the City's investment in biking and walking projects for years to come. Thanks to everyone who weighed in with their ideas for new bike projects! The City received over 500 comments with ideas for new projects and places that need improvement.

Read below for an update on the next steps for the ATP from Claire Fliesler, Transportation Planner for the City of Santa Cruz and manager of the Active Transportation Plan process.

“Now that the first round of public outreach is winding to a close, a draft project list will be prepared. This project list will include both new ideas generated through public outreach and stakeholder input as well as incorporate existing projects from past plans, including the 2008 Bike Plan. This draft list will be in matrix form, with projects evaluated based upon categories such as cost, safety, proximity to high use locations, connectivity with the existing network, and community input. We will go out for a second round of outreach in late January/early February (dates TBD) to review the project list and hear more about how the community feels projects should be prioritized. The draft project list will go to the Transportation and Public Works Commission in March for their review. These are all great opportunities to come out and speak about why this Plan is important and any projects, treatments, or programs that are important to include.”

Learn more and weigh in on the Active Transportation Plan at cityofsantacruz.com/activetransportation. ■

ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING SUMMARY

Thanks to more than 50 members who joined us for our member meeting on August 19. We heard updates on local bike projects including the City of Santa Cruz Active Transportation Plan, the newly-funded north coast rail trail segment, and new green lane treatments in Santa Cruz and Capitola. We also heard from this year's Climate Ride team (we're going back next year, see page 4), received an update on the name change from director Amelia Conlen, and heard from our Green Ways to School program director Tawn Kennedy on his latest work.

Thanks to Claire Fliesler (City of Santa Cruz) and Cory Caletti (Regional Transportation Commission) for their presentations, to the Crepe Place for hosting us, and to all of our members for a dynamic conversation. We will be hosting additional member meetings in 2016 and look forward to seeing you there! ■



Director Amelia Conlen addresses the crowd at the Crepe Place during the Bike Santa Cruz County member meeting.

CalBike News

It was a great year for bike-friendly legislation in Sacramento. Nearly all of the California Bicycle Coalition's sponsored and supported bills were approved by Governor Jerry Brown (see below for a complete list). Unfortunately, the issue of additional funding for the Active Transportation Program (ATP) was unresolved. The ATP is the main grant funding source for biking and walking projects and programs in California. There are many more applications statewide than there are funds available. (See front page of this newsletter for a list of ATP-funded projects in Santa Cruz County). A new funding proposal for transportation may be brought to the Legislature early next year, and CalBike continues to work for the allocation of more money for bicycling and walking.

APPROVED 2015 LEGISLATION

- **AB 8** – Creates a statewide alert system for hit-and-run incidents. This is important because people biking and walking are often the victims of hit-and-runs.
- **AB 28** – Requires that people biking at night use either a rear reflector or rear red light. Formerly, only reflectors met the legal requirement.
- **AB 40** – Prohibits collecting tolls from cyclists and pedestrians on state-owned bridges.
- **AB 902** – Allows people who get tickets while bicycling to participate in a one-time bicycle education class to reduce their fee.
- **AB 1096** – Defines three classes of electric bicycles, which allows for more nuanced local regulation. ■

Its Not a Party Without Valet Bicycle Parking

Did you know that Bike Santa Cruz County offers valet bicycle parking at local events? The service is paid for by event organizers and is always free for attendees. Valet bike parking can help encourage cycling, reduce automobile parking impacts, and keep bikes from covering every pole and tree at your event.

If you are hosting an event, or know of an event that would benefit from offering valet bike parking, contact Amelia at director@bikesantacruzcounty.org or 425-0665. ■



Land Trust Launches \$5M Campaign for Rail Trail

In early October, the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County launched its Great Land and Trail Campaign, which includes a \$5M fundraising goal for the Coastal Rail Trail. The campaign will provide matching funds for segments of the trail that are already funded, including the North Coast segment and the Walker Street segment in Watsonville. Additional funds raised will support grant applications for future segments of the rail trail, making Santa Cruz County more competitive for state and federal grants.

The four-pronged campaign includes fundraising for a Wildlife Crossing under Highway 17, farmland preservation in the Pajaro Valley, and the development of a 38-mile trail network in the San Vicente Redwoods property. These trails will include separate facilities for mountain biking and hiking, and the first trails are expected to open by 2017.

To learn more about the Great Land and Trail Campaign, and donate to the Coastal Rail Trail, visit landtrustsantacruz.org. ■



Santa Cruz Open Streets

The third Open Streets Santa Cruz event took place on Sunday, October 11, on West Cliff Drive. An estimated 11,000 participants took to the streets to walk, bike, scoot, and enjoy activities hosted by local organizations. Thanks to event organizers and the City of Santa Cruz for making this event possible! ■

(Right) Green Ways to School hosted bike-powered spin art and smoothies, and provided a helmet decorating activity at the Stockton Avenue intersection.

PHOTO: TAWN KENNEDY



(Below) Participants of all ages enjoyed car-free streets and a beautiful day on West Cliff Drive.

PHOTO: JEFF JENKINS



Thank you to IRONMAN Volunteers!

Thanks to the 20 Bike Santa Cruz County volunteers who kept the bike parking area secure and running smoothly at the first IRONMAN Santa Cruz event. These folks helped us earn \$400 in grants from the IRONMAN organization. Many thanks to other volunteers who worked to make this a successful day, and to IRONMAN for their generous grants program.



Get Ready for Climate Ride 2016!

Do you want to enjoy a fully supported ride through beautiful terrain and support local bike advocacy? Join the Bike Santa Cruz County 2016 Climate Ride team!



This year our intrepid, 3-person team raised \$13,000 for Bike Santa Cruz County. We are working to build a larger team for the 2016 Climate Ride, a 320-mile ride from Fortuna to San Francisco. We will provide training and fundraising support prior to the ride, which takes place May 22–26.

Contact Steering Committee member Steve Lustgarden at slustgarden@gmail.com for more information.

Inspiring News from Washington DC

Washington DC has started an exciting new four-week class designed to teach all second graders to ride bicycles. According to an article in *The Washington Post*, “The school system, with help from the District Department of Transportation and private donors, purchased 1,000 bikes that will rotate to every elementary school by the end of the school year. . . . The unit reflects efforts across the country to make physical education classes more accessible and useful, with less focus on competitive sports.

“This a lifelong skill,” said Miriam Kenyon, director of health and physical education for DC Public Schools. “It’s a way students can get to school and it’s also a way they can exercise with their family. It promotes independence, and it’s a good way to get around.”

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/qhho6on> to read the full article. ■

Spotlight on Palo Alto Safe Routes to Schools

— Amelia Conlen

Last year, at the Silicon Valley Bike Coalition Bike Summit, I heard an amazing statistic—30% of K–12 kids in Palo Alto bike or walk to school. Those numbers rise to 40% for high school students and 50% for middle school students. That’s 3,900 bike trips **every day!** Compared to the City of Santa Cruz, where only 13% of kids biked or walked to school in 2013, those numbers are incredible.

I was intrigued and spoke with Sylvia Star-Lack of Palo Alto’s Safe Routes to School program. Sylvia is one of three part-time staff who coordinate bike safety trainings for Palo Alto students. All K–6 students receive six safety trainings: pedestrian trainings in kindergarten through second grade, bike safety training with a bike rodeo in third grade, and classroom bike safety classes in fifth and sixth grades. The program is funded by the City, with lots of help from parent volunteers.

In the 1950’s, rates of biking and walking to school were much higher across the country. At that time, the Palo Alto Police Department taught bike skills to students. When school buses were eliminated in the ’90s, concerns grew about increased traffic around schools. Parents started a program teaching bike safety in local schools and the City hired the first paid staff to coordinate the trainings about 10 years ago.

Palo Alto’s comprehensive and highly successful bike education program makes me wonder how a similar program would do here. Local nonprofit Ecology Action does Safe Routes to School education throughout the county, but limited grant funding does not allow them to reach all students, and trainings are less frequent. Ecology Action’s Senior Transportation Specialist Jeanne LePage noted, “We know from our school surveys that more students would ride to school if they had proper safety training and parents knew that their children had been properly prepared. Palo Alto offers an appealing model that continues to inspire our work.” As the rail trail moves forward and as traffic keeps increasing throughout Santa Cruz County, Palo Alto’s example could lead us to traffic reductions and healthier, bike-savvy kids. ■



Kids and cars comfortably sharing the road in Palo Alto.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WILL ZHOU – [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/OYDGM DG](http://tinyurl.com/oydgmDG)

One-Way Pacific Avenue: Better for Bikes?

In recent months, an idea has been circulating through Santa Cruz City government to make Pacific Avenue a one-way street. The goal of the proposal, which is being spearheaded by Transportation and Public Works Commissioner Jesse Nickels, is to reduce the confusion of visitors downtown. Pacific Avenue would be rerouted with traffic flowing towards the beach, and adjacent sections of Walnut and Lincoln would also change direction.

The proposal came to City Council in late September, and Bike Santa Cruz County proposed studying the option for a contra-flow bike lane if the one-way proposal is approved. A contra-flow lane would allow people on bikes to travel in both directions on Pacific Avenue. Here’s why we think this is a great idea:

- A contra-flow lane would encourage bicycling by making it the easiest way to get around downtown.
- It would provide an easy link between downtown and the rail trail, which will end on lower Pacific near the Wharf.
- Wrong-way riding is currently a safety issue on Pacific Avenue. A contra-flow lane will eliminate this problem.

Next, the City’s Transportation and Public Works Commission will review the one-way proposal, and city staff is looking into the option of a contraflow lane. We need your help to move this campaign forward! To get involved, contact Amelia at **425-0665** or director@bikesantacruzcounty.org

As always, our campaigns are made possible by the support of our dues-paying members. To become a member or make a donation today, visit our website, [bikesantacruzcounty.org](http://www.bikesantacruzcounty.org). ■

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Superheroes on Bikes at Kids Bike Party

People using the San Lorenzo Riverwalk on Friday, September 18, may have thought they had stumbled into an action movie set, with dozens of tiny superheroes on bikes parading past. The theme of our first Kids Bike Party was Superheroes, and over 100 parents and kids came out dressed in their super-powered best. The event kicked off with activities like face painting, cape making, and bike decorating at the Museum of Art & History, and culminated with a ride on the Riverwalk.

Bike Santa Cruz County will be hosting more Kids Bike Parties in 2016. If you have a great idea for a costume theme, or want to get involved in planning or volunteering, contact Amelia at director@bikesantacruzcounty.org or **425-0665**. ■



(Right) Families gathered at the Museum for activities and photo ops before the ride.



(Above) These two superheroes had matching capes!

(Right) Riders take to the San Lorenzo Riverwalk to display their bike superpowers

PHOTOS: SOPHIE MCCALLUM-SPALARIS