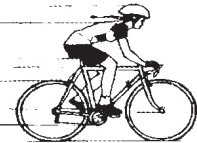


ChainGuard



Volume 19 No. 3

San Diego County Bicycle Coalition

June–July 2005

On guard for bicyclists throughout the San Diego region.

Via de la Valle Widening and Bike Lane Construction Begins



Signs and orange construction fences appeared on Via de la Valle recently, indicating the start of the long-stalled project to add bike lanes to a one-mile section of Via de la Valle between Del Mar and Rancho Santa Fe.

Just east of the I-5 freeway between San Andreas and El Camino Real, this section of Via de la Valle is a narrow, shoulderless two-lane road with lots of blind curves, potholes and constant traffic. East of El Camino Real, the road has a narrow but rideable shoulder. Once completed, the improvements will provide a continuous and vital east-west link for bicyclists starting from Pacific Coast Highway in Del Mar.

The widening/bike lane project will be built by City of San Diego through a \$1.6 million SANDAG grant.

Coalition Executive Director Kathy Keehan was told there will be 12-foot right lanes with 4-5 foot bike lanes for most of the project. There will be a short stretch that will be a bike route, rather than a bike lane, with a 14-foot shared lane and no



Via de la Valle 'before.'

shoulder. The Coalition had hoped for enough space for bike lanes the entire route.

"Realistically, I think we should be advocating for bike space wherever and whenever we can get it," said Keehan.

Board Elections June 29th

Got a yearning to make a difference for bicycling?

Come to our general membership meeting in June to learn more. See the Calendar section for date, time and location.

For a small commitment of just one evening a month, you can be a squeaky wheel for bicycling. Be the first to see plans for new bicycle facilities. Find out what laws affect bicyclists. Give something back to the bicycling community. Do all this by becoming a Coalition board member.

Continued next page

Each of our member clubs can pick a board representative and an at-large member. There are several club positions vacant, also we are accepting additional nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Nominations will be taken from the floor for all these positions at the June membership meeting, where members in attendance will elect the board. For questions beforehand on any of these positions, call Jim Baross at (619) 280-6908.

More Free Bike for Life Classes

The Coalition continues to offer free classes to the general public as listed below. For the latest additions, check the web site at <www.sdcbc.org>. Your employer or service group may also arrange classes by calling (858) 487-6063 or email <execdir@sdcbc.org>. The website has registration forms.

The July Road I class meets July 16th, 23rd, 30th; The August Road I* class meets August 13th, 20th, 27th.

Road I courses cover basics of bicycle riding, interacting with traffic, basic maintenance, and other topics during nine hours of instruction, half in the classroom and half on the bike. Bicycles and helmets required.

Coalition expenses for the Bike for Life Program are reimbursed by the City of San Diego through a SANDAG grant. The trainers are League of American Bicyclists Certified Instructors. Sign up now—it's free for a limited time only!



Sorrento Valley Road Bike Route Closed

Without prior notice the closed-to-cars section of Sorrento Valley Road (between Carmel Valley Road and Carmel Mountain Road) was recently closed as well to all non-motorized travel. A San Diego City Engineering Dept. spokesperson told the Coalition this closure could last up to six months. Our request to keep the site open during non-construction periods was denied.

They at least have signs up now ... and apparently got one up the day it closed.

It seems that there should be assurances that planned future disruptions to public routes, even those that do not serve motorists, will have to get a traffic management review and plan that considers the effects on those who travel by bike and foot, similar to plans concerning the effect on motorists. If not done, then this situation forces people back into their cars, or into using longer, less convenient and certainly less safe routes.

SDCBC Board

San Diego County Bicycle Coalition's Officers

Chair: Brian Parent
Vice Chair: Stephan Vance
Treasurer: Kerry Kunsman
Secretary: Jim Baross

SDCBC Board Members

Suzanne Behrendt – SD Wheelmen
 Carol Carr – N. County Cycle Club
 Philip Erdelsky – Rainbow Cyclists
 Chuck Gilbert – SD Cyclovets
 Ken King – Knickerbikers
 Tony Pietsch – SD Tandem Club
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 Kerry Kunsman
 Andrew Lee
 Bill Matella
 Brian Parent
 Judith Talner
 Stephan Vance

Executive Director – Kathy Keenan
 Board meetings are held on Wednesdays once a month at 6:30 PM. Dates and locations noted in Calendar Section.

ChainGuard editor is Carol Carr; layout by Fulton Martin

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 www.sdcbc.org

Two Locals Become Heroes at State Level, Learn to Lobby

Two San Diego bicycling advocates and Coalition board members have agreed to help the California Bicycle Coalition (CBC), the Sacramento-based advocacy group, until a new

next page...

Executive Director is found to fill the recent vacancy.

Our former Coalition Chair K.C. Butler is serving as the CBC's interim Executive Director, handling administrative matters, while the current Coalition Vice Chair Stephan Vance is handling legislative matters.

K.C. also coordinates the statewide Bike-to-Work Day program.

On April 28, both traveled to Sacramento for a day of lobbying, where they joined bicycling industry representatives in meeting with key legislators. Their message, according to Stephan, was "bicycling is good business for California." Let's hope those legislators were listening!

And thanks to you both for stepping up to the plate for bicycling!

The CBC, our voice in state government, needs your help too; contact them at <www.calbike.org> to learn more.

Rose Creek Watershed Group to Consider Bikepath Improvements

The Coalition has been invited to participate in the Rose Creek Watershed Group. This group is looking at issues relating to Rose Creek, including Rose Canyon, Marian Bear Park, and the southern end of the creek in Mission



Bay. About a dozen organizations were invited to join.

"I think it is important for the Coalition to participate because there are several bicycle access issues," said Kathy Keehan, Executive Director. These include the Rose Creek bike and pedestrian bridge, the path along Rose Creek, and the proposed alignment of the Coastal Rail Trail through Rose Canyon.

The City of San Diego has a grant to remove invasive species, but the group plans to set broader objectives.

Want to be part of the process? We need volunteers to get involved in any way they can in designing improvements to this important bike path. Contact Kathy Keehan for details at (858) 487-6063.

Project Free Ride: A Student Bike Project in the Making

Students at McPhatter Junior High and High School (in the Juvenile Court School System) in downtown San Diego have started a bike project to benefit underprivileged youth around San Diego and Tijuana.

"We are in the process of cleaning, fixing up and rebuilding old, broken, incomplete and even trashed bikes in order to provide working, free forms of transportation to youth who need them," says Suze Bono, project organizer. "Bikes are useful, economical, non-polluting and of course, beautiful!" she continued.

next page



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- Lost Wages: *Have your doctor verify your non-ability to work in the form of a temporary disability slip which acts as proof.*
- Lifestyle Change: *Document how the injury has affected life, family, and recreation and how it will do so in the future. Photos, training logs etc.*
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Do you know how to work on bikes? Do you have an old bike or even bike parts sitting around in your garage or backyard? Do you have an interest in working with high-risk/high-potential youth in the court school system on a great project? If so, contact Project Free Ride.

They are in dire need of more bikes, more parts, tools, and of course, your time and energy if you know how to mechanic bikes.

The Coalition supports Project Free Ride, and will accept tax-deductible donations on their behalf of any kind. (The Coalition will send you a tax receipt for your donation upon request.)

You can reach Suze at <suzeb@riseup.net>, or by phone at (619) 233-4284.

Donations Pour In

Well, not exactly pour, but the Coalition gratefully acknowledges Sony Corporation's donation of a state-of-the-art Powerpoint projector to help us make our presentations more effective. It slices, it dices, it makes julienne fries! Ok, well, it doesn't do all of that, but it does allow us to make some pretty impressive "Bike for Life" presentations. If you have a group or business where people would like to learn more about bicycling, give us a call and we can come to you. Thank you, Sony, for this generous donation!

Also, we would like to thank the insurance company that donated \$1,000 in honor of a bicyclist who was injured recently in a "door zone"

accident in Chula Vista. After investigating the accident, the insurance company wanted to help further our work to promote bicycling safety and education.

(You'll find an article elsewhere in this newsletter about door zone dangers.)

Again, thanks to both of our donors!

Bike Shorts!

Jim Baross



Parking Meter Bike "Racks"

Have you seen something blue and bearing a bicycle logo attached to a parking meter? These new additions are Bicycle Parking Rings for securing your bike to a parking meter in areas that do not have the sidewalk width to accommodate ADA and regular bike racks. They make it harder for a thief to lift the bike over the meter. City of San Diego Bicycle Coordinator/Traffic Engineer, Joel Rizzo, said it took some convincing to get Parking Enforcement staff to

agree to the installation, but with the help of the Transportation Department's Cruz Gonzales it worked. Several hundred racks and rings will be installed around the City. If you want rings installed on meters near you in the City of San Diego, call Joel at (619) 533-3110 or fax (619) 533-3131.

Complete Streets? Not this time.

Sadly, the Safe and Complete Streets Amendment to the Federal Transportation Bill came up short in a Senate vote. This was the first vote ever on the concept that new and upgraded streets should be built to accommodate bicycling and walking, with sidewalks and enough road lane space for side by side sharing. The bill would have required states and large metropolitan planning groups to adopt policies to build 'complete streets' that accommodate all users. During floor debate Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) argued that this measure would encourage bicycling and walking for improved health and reduced congestion and pollution.

So What Are the Traffic Laws for Bicycling?

I was asked for a source of info about traffic laws for bicycling. Here are some



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sources. Note that a bicyclist “has all the rights and is subject to all the provisions applicable to the driver of a vehicle...”

Calif Vehicle Code sections relating specifically to bicycling, Sections 21200-21212. <<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=veh&group=21001-22000&file=21200-21212>>

Some of the most asked about Vehicle Codes and a short discussion about them are at the Coalition web site at <<http://www.sdcbc.org/BikeLaws.html>>.

Balance your Checkbook

A spokesperson for the Balance Bar Food Company has a community grant program. The grants, which can be as large as \$25,000, will go to groups whose projects provide their organizational and community members opportunities to lead healthy, active lifestyles. Bike clubs, parks and recreation departments, youth athletic clubs, and similar non-profits

SDCBC Calendar	
<p>Wednesday, June 29th – SDCBC General Membership Meeting and Board elections. 6:30–8:30 PM, Standley Recreation Center, 3585 Governor Drive, San Diego. All Coalition members are encouraged to attend.</p> <p>Wednesday, July 13th – Volunteer night. 6:30–8:30 PM, Location TBD. Envelope stuffing, pizza eating and story sharing. Please join us!</p> <p>Saturdays, July 16th, 23rd, 30th – Bike for Life “Road 1” Class, 9:00 AM –noon. Contact Kathy Keehan <execdir@sdcbc.org>.</p>	<p>Wednesday, July 27th – SDCBC Board Meeting. 6:30–8:30 PM, Standley Recreation Center, 3585 Governor Drive, San Diego. Open to everyone.</p> <p>Wednesday, August 10th – Volunteer night. 6:30–8:30 PM, Location TBD. Newsletter folding, pizza eating and story sharing. Everyone welcome!</p> <p>Saturdays, August 13th, 20th, 27th – Bike for Life “Road 1” Classes</p> <p>Wednesday, August 24th – SDCBC Board Meeting. 6:30–8:30 PM, Standley Recreation Center, 3585 Governor Drive, San Diego. Open to everyone.</p>

are encouraged to apply by submitting a 500-word essay and proposed budget before August 31. Look here to scope out the nitty gritty: <<http://www.balance.com/grants/default.aspx>>.

Earth Fair Bike Parking

Bike parking for the annual Earth Fair in Balboa Park in April went very well thanks to volunteers including Kerry Kunsman, Frank Paiano, Brian

Parent, Stephan Vance, Philip Erdelsky, and David Kievit and his wife Dot. They parked about 250 bikes. Coalition Executive Director Kathy Keehan said, “It was less than our usual busy rush, but not bad since last year we were one bike short at the end of the day, this year we had one extra, so I figure our bike parking karma is now equalized.” (Don’t worry—the extra bike made it back to its owner.)

Renew!	
<p>Regular individual annual membership is only \$25.00 to help support SDCBC and to bring you the <i>ChainGuard</i> for a year. Or join for “A Buck A Week” (\$52 per year) and receive a SDCBC bumper sticker and a copy of “Street Smarts”. Join for \$100 a year and get a special SDCBC T-shirt to show your “Velorevolutionary” spirit!</p> <p>Other levels of membership, tax-deductible donations, and bicycle club member discounted memberships are available. Call (858) 487-6063, email to <execdir@sdcbc.org>, or visit our web site at <www.sdcbc.org> for more information and registration.</p> <p>Or just send your (large) check and this registration form to: SDCBC, P.O. Box 34544, San Diego CA 92163</p>	
Membership Registration Form	
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City, State, Zip _____	
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[] add my e-mail address to the SDCBC email list-server.	
[] please do not share my name with other organizations.	
Membership Level/Donation \$ _____	

Road Safety: Coalition Adopts Policy for Door Zone Bike Lanes

Riding in the door zone should scare bicyclists. A car door quickly opened in your path would bring the ride to a painful and abrupt end. We train bicyclists to avoid riding up next to parked vehicles, yet many cities have bike lanes striped to encourage bicycling into danger—too close to parked cars.

The Coalition is acting to change local, state and national design standards so that bike lanes don't encourage riding in the door zone. Here's the new policy statement to be added to SDCBC policy (look for our policies online at www.sdcbc.org/whatwestandfor.html):

"The area next to parked vehicles where a car door when opened extends into the roadway is called by bicyclists the Door Zone. Bicycling in a door zone is

potentially hazardous to bicyclists due to the danger of collision presented to the bicyclist by an unexpectedly opened door.

"Bike lane marking should not encourage bicycling in the door zone. When a bike lane is to be provided adjacent to where motor vehicles may be parked, adequate space in the bike lane must be provided for the bicyclist to travel in the bike lane while able to avoid being in the area next to parked vehicles—the door zone. In addition to the bike lane marking, use of an edge stripe marking the outside edge of a door zone would assist bicyclists to be aware of and avoid the door zone.

"No bike lane should be established when there is inadequate pavement space for marking of a wide enough bike lane next to

parked vehicles for safe passage outside the door zone. Alternatives to providing an inadequately wide bike lane include:

- 1) providing more space by removing on-street motor vehicle parking, narrowing existing travel lanes, or adding pavement width.
- 2) not installing a bike lane stripe at all. Leave the outside lane as a shared lane, perhaps with the installation of pavement markings to remind and encourage bicyclists to ride farther away from parked vehicles—the 'sharrow'."

Until our bike lane standards are improved, remember to keep a safe distance when approaching and passing parked vehicles. Allow enough room for a door to open without hitting you. Sometimes this means riding further out into the roadway than the bike lane indicates. You must be the judge for where it is safest to ride.

*Has your SDCBC membership expired?
Check your address label!*

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