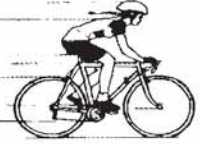


ChainGuard



Volume 18 No. 5

San Diego County Bicycle Coalition

September–October 2004

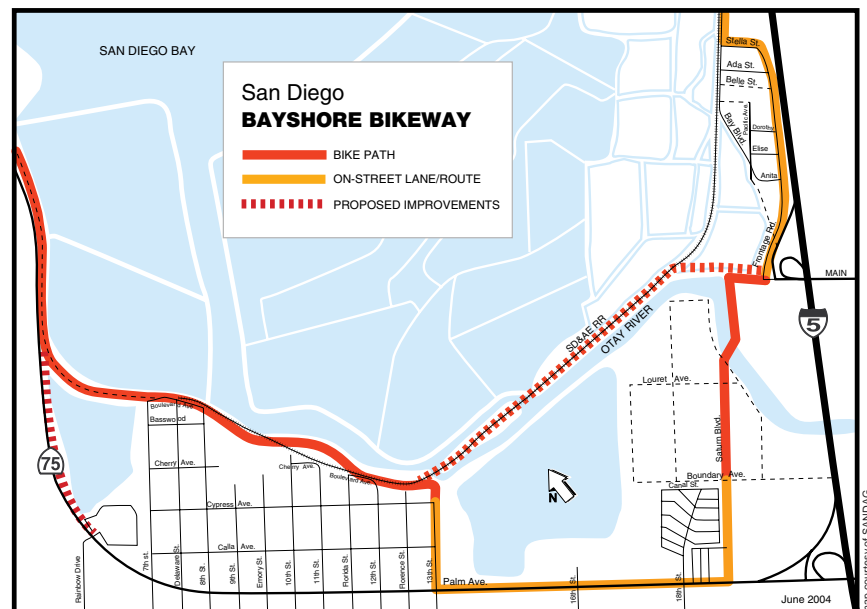
On guard for bicyclists throughout the San Diego region.

We Won! City Council Votes in Favor of Bayshore Bikeway

On September 7, the San Diego City Council acted to move forward with building a critical link in the Bayshore Bikeway between Chula Vista and Imperial Beach.

As reported in the July-August issue of the *Chain Guard*, the Council was asked to make way for construction of a 1½ mile piece of the bikeway along an old rail alignment, giving bicyclists a safer, more scenic ride through the south bay than the current stretch of traffic-choked Palm Avenue in Imperial Beach. However, the City's Historical Resources Board recently designated this piece of the Coronado Branch Rail Line as a historical resource, confounding efforts to construct the bikeway along the rail line.

Dozens of bicyclists showed up at the Council meeting September 7 in support of the bikeway, as did an equally large crowd of supporters for the historical designation. Speakers in favor of overturning the historical designation included County Supervisor Greg Cox and other elected officials; Kathy Keehan, the Coalition's Executive Direc-



tor; K.C. Butler, Past Coalition Chair; long-time activist Gordy Shields, and others from the Coalition and bicycling community.

In the end the Council vote was almost unanimous in overturning the historical designation, allowing the bikeway to proceed.

"Thanks to all of the bicyclists who came and stayed for the very long council hearing—you made a difference!" said Keehan. "Also thanks to all the elected officials who came to support the bike path—Mayor Diane Rose from Imperial Beach,

Supervisor Greg Cox, and Coronado Councilmember Phil Monroe, who have been the bike path's champions from the beginning, and without whom this would never have happened."

It is hoped that construction of this important piece of the bikeway will begin in September 2005 with completion by March 2006. Funds for the construction have been set aside in a grant from SANDAG. The Bayshore Bikeway will someday be a continuous bike path all the way around San Diego Bay.

map courtesy of SANDAG

City Offers Contract for Bike Education Program, Coalition to Bid

The Coalition has bid on a contract offered by the City of San Diego for a bike education program funded through a \$150,000 SANDAG grant.

The program will target four groups of bike riders: elementary school students, mid-level and high school students, seniors, and commuter and recreational riders. If successful in their bid, the Coalition would train the last two of these groups.

Completion of the program is targeted for May 2005, in time for Bike-to-Work Day. The classes, to include classroom time and riding, will be offered through community recreation centers, senior centers, bike shops and employer-sponsored seminars.

For the seniors, the Coalition proposes to include both biking skills and driver issues aimed at raising awareness for sharing the road with bicyclists and pedestrians. "This is an opportunity to talk to seniors directly about how to interact with bicyclists on the road," said Kathy Keehan, Executive Director.

Similar bike education programs have been successful in other California cities such as San Luis Obispo and Palo Alto.

Coalition Chair Brian Parent said, "Education not only has the benefit of training cyclists

to deal more appropriately with poorly designed facilities, it also ensures that facilities are designed properly in the first place, and laws are enforced correctly."

Coalition Vice Chair Available as Speaker

Stephan Vance, the Coalition's Vice Chair and a member of the Board of Directors of the California Bike Coalition (CBC), has offered to speak at local bike club meetings about the activities of both the Coalition and the CBC. Please contact Stephan at stephanvance@cox.net to learn more.

Coalition Concerned with CHP Law Enforcement Affecting Bicyclists

On May 8, 2004 a local bicyclist, Hans Wichary, was stuck and killed by a motorist trying to overtake another car on a narrow stretch of Route 78 near Santa Isabel. Many bicyclists were upset by the California Highway Patrol's lack of a thorough investigation at the scene and the resulting lack of enforcement of laws meant to enhance bicyclists' safety.

The Coalition has sent a letter, in conjunction with Jo Wichary, mother of the cyclist killed, to ask the District Attorney to pursue prosecution of the driver of the truck.

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

Myles Pomeroy – Sierra Club Bike Section
Carol Carr – N. County Cycle Club
Philip Erdelsky - Rainbow Cyclists
Chuck Gilbert – SD Cyclovets
Ken King – Knickerbikers
Bob Richardson – SD Bicycle Club
Tony Pietsch – SD Tandem Club
Greg Zackowski – Triathlon Club of SD
Jim Baross
Roman Beck
K.C. Butler
Kerry Kunsman
Bill Matella
Brian Parent
Judith Talner
Stephan Vance

Executive Director – Kathy Keehan
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

ChainGuard published bi-monthly by

San Diego County Bicycle Coalition
P.O. Box 34544
San Diego, CA 92163
(858) 487-6063
www.sdcbc.org

Copies of the letter were sent to local newspapers and the Director of the California Highway Patrol. Anyone interested in contributing their own comments on the investigation may address their letter to:

Deputy District Attorneys
Carlos Armour and Dave Berry,
250 Main Street, Suite 506, El Cajon, CA 92020.

Change in Coalition Board Meetings

The Coalition Board meetings will be held the 4th Wednesday of the month beginning in October. For November and December, the Board will meet the 3rd Wednesday to avoid the holiday dates, then resume the 4th Wednesday schedule in January.

The Coalition's Volunteer Night, when we fold newsletters, mailers, and help with other paperwork tasks, will move to the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

See the Calendar section elsewhere in this newsletter for exact dates for the next three months.

City Revises Plans for I-15 Bikeway

The City of San Diego has revised its plans for a bikeway parallel to the I-15 freeway in the Kensington-Normal Heights area of San Diego, revisions that should result in a better design for bicyclists.

The bikeway, a result of efforts by community leaders, the Coalition, and Assemblymember Christine Kehoe, will provide an important non-motorized link in an urban area still struggling from being split by the I-15 freeway. Plans call for slightly modifying surface streets parallel to the freeway from Park de la Cruz near Landis St. and along Central Ave. to Adams Ave., where the

bikeway will descend into Mission Valley on the east side of the I-15 freeway, ending at Camino del Rio South.

The route will be a mix of Class I, II, and III bicycle facilities, becoming a Class I (a separated two-way path shared with pedestrians) where it drops into Mission Valley.

At their September 2004 meeting, the Coalition learned of the revisions from Paul Jacob, representing the City of San Diego's Engineering and Capital Projects staff.

A year ago, the Coalition was alarmed when a similar presentation revealed sharp switchbacks in a zigzag path downhill from Adams Ave. After the Coalition pointed out the dangers, and with additional review and input, the City removed the turns in favor of using the freeway shoulder separated by a concrete barrier. This will result in 7% grades in places. A minimum 12-foot width will separate slow-moving uphill bicyclists from faster downhill bicyclists.

Warning signs, buffer zones, and strategically placed bushes are planned for safety, also a small plaza with benches and interpretive signs at the northern end.

The Board expressed serious concern with the current designs because the means for bicyclists to connect to surface streets along the route have not yet been addressed. In particular, access for entering and exiting Camino del Rio South, and for connecting to Adams Avenue, are vital.

"The facility will not be much good to us if we can't get to and from the bikepath," said Coalition Spokesperson Jim Baross.

The Coalition will review the plans again when they are more complete.



Have you been *INJURED* in an accident? I can help. I've been representing athletes since 1983!

**LAW FIRM of
RICHARD DUQUETTE
800.464.4123**

As an experienced cyclist and triathlon competitor, including two Ironman triathlons and former sponsor of the **TRIATHLON and Mountain Bike Team**, Mr. Duquette understands how an injury affects *your* active lifestyle.



ACCIDENT TIPS

- **Request a Police Report**
- **Seek Immediate Medical Attention**
- **Document All Witnesses**
- **Take Photographs: (Car, Bike, Clothes, Signage & Injuries)**
- **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.***
- **Insurance Adjusters: *When an insurance adjuster calls you, tell him/her to contact your lawyer. Do not give a statement or sign records releases.***

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Bike Shorts!

Jim Baross



Chula Vista Bike Lanes Disappearing

There have been several recent instances where the City of Chula Vista is removing or planning to remove bike lanes on some of their streets. If we are going to protect our facilities in Chula Vista, we need some advocacy help from bicyclists in South County! We must stake out our street space now. If you are a bicyclist from Chula Vista or surrounding communities, and can attend some meetings, please email Kathy Keehan, Executive Director of the Coalition, at execdir@sdcbc.org.

The issue came up as the City of Chula Vista prepares to widen Telegraph Canyon Road at the I-805 interchange. The westbound side of TCR will be widened to provide two right-turn-only lanes and two straight through lanes. The Coalition would like to see a bike lane to the left of the two right-turn-only lanes, because it will encourage cyclists to be in the right location and get them out of the right-hook zone.

Bayshore Bikeway Frontage Road Opened

Frontage Rd. just north of Main St. has been reopened. This part of Frontage Rd. is part of the Bayshore Bikeway around San Diego Bay. For many months it was closed to automobile use, although a single bike lane separated by concrete barriers was left open for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Gordy Shields Bridge Open Weekends Only

According to official signs, the Gordy Shields Bridge on the Bayshore Bikeway in National City may be closed during weekdays, from 6 AM to 4 PM when construction crews are working, until September 30. They are installing a fence on the concrete barrier at the south end of the path. According to Caltrans, it will be open on weekends and during the week before and after work hours.

New Fencing On Rose Creek Bike Path

The fencing between the Rose Creek Bike Path and the athletic fields south of Grand Ave. was finally replaced. Although the route is still too narrow, at least the fence won't be brushing our shoulders. There are optimistic plans for the Rose Creek area including a bike / pedestrian bridge near the bay to span the creek and make for a more continuous off-street route. We expect that significant work on this will lag until the De Anza Cove development issues get resolved.

El Capitan Bike Path

The long-planned El Capitan Bike Path in Lakeside is finally under construction. When completed the path will begin at or near the intersection of Highway 67 and Mapleview St., run under Highway 67 on the south side of the San Diego River, and end on Ashwood St. just south of the entrance to Cactus County Park. Some of the pavement was already in place as of May.

Bicycle Swap Meets

There are two bicycle swap meets coming up. The Velodrome Swap Meet, a popular semiannual event with lots of new and used merchandise, will be held at the Velodrome in Balboa Park on Sunday, November 7. See their website for more information: www.sdvelodrome.com.

Hi-Tech Bikes, 6162 Mission Gorge Rd., will have their own bicycle swap meet in their parking lot on Sunday, October 31 starting at 8:00 AM.

Old Otay Mesa Rd Still Closed

Old Otay Mesa Road is closed until January 2005, leaving bicyclists and pedestrians with no reasonable alternate route between San Ysidro and Otay Mesa (Thomas 1350 H2-J2). The only alternate route for bicyclists and pedestrians is via Main Street and Heritage Road, nearly two miles to the north. The connection between Ocean View Hills Parkway and Highway 905 (Thomas 1351 A2) is still under construction.

Karl Strauss Brewery offers Biketoberfest—and Beer

On Saturday, October 2 Karl Strauss Brewing Company will host a one-day festival featuring a bike ride similar to their “Beach to Brewery Ride” on May 2, 2004. As before, the 6-mile ride will kick off at 11 AM at P.B. Bar and Grill and wind through Pacific Beach finishing at the Karl Strauss Brewery on Santa Fe Street, where food, fun and beer will be available. A shuttle will take participants back to P.B. Bar and Grill after the ride. Come out and ride, or volunteer to help at the start.

Are Bus Drivers Bugging You?

Most bus drivers are courteous and careful when they pass bicyclists. But sometimes not, and those monster buses can really scare the heck out of you when the bus driver honks or comes too

SDCBC Calendar

<p>Wednesday, October 13th – Volunteer night. 6:30–8:30 PM, Location TBD. Envelope stuffing, pizza eating and story sharing. Please join us!</p> <p>Wednesday, October 27th – SDCBC Board Meeting. 6:30–8:30 PM, Standley Recreation Center, 3585 Governor Drive, San Diego. All Coalition members are encouraged to attend.</p>	<p>Wednesday, November 17th – SDCBC Board Meeting. 6:30–8:30 PM, Standley Recreation Center, 3585 Governor Drive, San Diego. Open to everyone.</p> <p>Wednesday, December 1st – Volunteer night. 6:30–8:30 PM, Location TBD. Newsletter stuffing, pizza eating and story sharing. Please join us!</p> <p>Wednesday, December 15th – SDCBC Board Meeting & Christmas Party. Location TBD.</p>
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close as he/she passes.

Wanna report the driver?

As a first step, remember what street you were on, the time of day and the line number of the bus.

If you’re in the City of San Diego, it was probably a San Diego Transit Corp. (SDTC) bus. Call their main number, (619) 238-0100, press 0 for operator and ask for someone in Customer Service. Be nice and stick to the facts.

If you’re in North County, it was probably a North County Transit District (NCTD) bus. Try the NCTD Customer Service Office at (760) 967-2828. If you don’t get satisfaction, try Pete Aadland, the head of Marketing and Communications at (760) 967-2822. He’s been known to support bicyclists.

When all else fails, a good option is to call or email one of the elected officials on the SDTC or NCTD Board and complain. Nothing makes staff sit up and take notice more than their Board bosses.

Spare change?

Has your membership expired? Check your address form on this newsletter. If your membership has expired, or is set to expire soon, why not take a moment to renew?

Regular individual annual membership is only \$25.00 to help support SDCBC and to bring you the *ChainGuard* 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!

Other levels of membership, tax-deductible donations, and bicycle club member discounted memberships are available. Call (858) 487-6063, e-mail to execdir@sdcbc.org, or visit our web site at www.sdcbc.org for more information and registration.

Or just send your (large) check and this registration form to: SDCBC, P.O. Box 34544, San Diego CA 92163

Membership Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone () _____ Email _____

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 Q and A

Your Bike Buddy

answers your questions:

JD asks: A motorist almost hit me when she backed out of her driveway into the road. I banged on her trunk to alert her to the close call. Instead of stopping and apologizing, she chased me down the bike lane. I'm still shaking from the incident. What should I have done?

A: Ouch! You found out the hard way about the "don't touch the car" rule. Banging on someone's car is going to elicit an aggressive response from most motorists, not an apology. Don't do it unless you are prepared for a fight or you are sure you can get away safely.

When behind the wheel of a motor vehicle, most people seem to bluster at any real or implied

invasion of their role as "captain of the road." When we shout criticism, slap their vehicle or show an in-your-face hand-gesture, motorists are likely to be enraged in return.

It may feel good to try to punish them but it won't result in a productive encounter! It's much safer in the short run to silently ride on with another traffic-learning experience under your belt. But, you can sometimes productively communicate to the motorist the error of their ways without a fight. Do this by showing them your own feelings of fright, frustration, inconvenience, etc. rather than making a statement about their mental capacity or ancestry.

More often than not, showing the motorist that they frightened you will elicit a more proper feeling of guilt. Try frightened

looks and exclamations of "Eek! You scared the pants off me!"— Or words to that effect. It's best to rehearse your response beforehand. An approach that draws on their conscience rather than elevating a conflict is more likely to result in changing things for the better.

For flagrant lawbreakers, record and report information about the incident—license number, vehicle description, time, date, location, witnesses, etc. Do this from a safe place, maybe out of the sight of the motorist. Report the incident to an appropriate authority—the local police, the DMV (must be in writing), or the employer of the driver. To send a complaint to the DMV about a motorist the address is: Driver Safety Office, DMV, 9174 Sky Park Court, San Diego, CA, 92123.

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

Address service requested

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