

COASTSIDE BICYCLE COALITION *Serving San Mateo County Bicyclists*

Saturday, March 24, 2012

President Adrienne Tissier and Members of the Board
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
455 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

Re: San Mateo County Midcoast Highway 1 Safety and Mobility Study — Phase 2

Dear President Tissier and Members of the Board,

The Coastside Bicycle Coalition appreciates the years of planning that went into the unincorporated Midcoast Highway 1 Safety and Mobility studies.

The Coastside Bicycle Coalition supports reducing auto travel and improving bicycle and pedestrian safety. We are pleased that the Parallel Trail is highlighted in both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 studies and we wholeheartedly support prioritizing this project. The Parallel Trail is eligible for Measure A funding and we encourage the County to prepare engineering plans in advance of the next funding deadline.

The 2011 Phase 2 report prepared by the Local Government Commission includes a range of solutions intended to improve safety and mobility for pedestrians and bicyclists in Moss Beach and Montara. We have the following comments regarding the Phase 2 study.

For over 20 years, Coastside parents, residents, trail groups, and the Midcoast Community Council have requested safe pedestrian and bicycle crossings on Highway 1. It appears that the Phase 2 study does not propose a near-term Highway 1 crossing solution in Moss Beach or Montara. Various long-term options are presented however short-term solutions are not specified.

Stop signals and crosswalks are nonexistent in Moss Beach and Montara. The community is split in half by a dangerous segment of Highway 1. For most residents it's not possible to get the mail, walk to the beach, or access Moss Beach Park (a children's playground) without crossing Highway 1. Pedestrians, bicyclists, and parents with children run in fear when crossing two lanes of high-speed traffic on Highway 1. For these reasons we strongly encourage the County to work with Caltrans to prioritize safety and provide safe crossings in Moss Beach and Montara.

The following three accidents serve as devastating reminders of the bicycle and pedestrian collisions that have occurred on Highway 1 in Moss Beach.

On Dec. 3, 2009 twelve-year-old Julian Ruiz was struck by an SUV near the Moss Beach Sheriff's sub-station while crossing Highway 1 on his bike. KTVU channel 2 ran a news story and published a [video](#) about the dangers of Highway 1 and interviewed Julian after his right foot was amputated.

On Dec. 9, 2011 Sheriff's Deputy Mark Garcia was flagged down by a group of people who found Cathy Silva lying on the shoulder on Highway 1 in front of the El Gran Amigo Taqueria restaurant near the Moss Beach Sheriff's sub-station. The California Highway Patrol confirmed that a car on Highway 1 hit the Moss Beach resident. She was airlifted to Stanford Hospital for "major internal injuries," according to CHP spokesman Art Montiel.

On Jan. 10, 2012 a teenage girl was hit by motorcycle while crossing Highway 1. The crash occurred near the Moss Beach Sheriff's sub-station. According to a report from the California State Highway Patrol, a 15-year-old girl was walking eastbound across the highway on her way to school in the early morning hours. An oncoming motorcycle struck the teenager.

In 1999, the average hospital stay for a pedestrian accident was two days and the cost was more than \$25,000. The average hospital medical charge for a typical pedestrian accident is undoubtedly much higher today. The Stanford Life Flight helicopter, staffed by a specially trained crew that includes two flight nurses and a pilot, serves critically injured Coastside collision victims.

Please encourage Caltrans to implement a near-term safe crossing solution and prevent further accidents from occurring in front of the Moss Beach Sheriff's sub-station.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Brennan

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cc:

Adrienne Tissier, President, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

Senator Leland Yee, PhD, Senate District 8

Assemblymember Jerry Hill, 19th Assembly District

Bijan Sartipi, Caltrans Director District 4

Helena "Lenka" Culik-Caro, Caltrans Deputy District 4 Director, Design

Skip Sowko, Caltrans Division Chief District 4

Richard Napier, City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) Executive Director

Tom Madalena, (C/CAG) Bikeway and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Steve Monowitz, Deputy Planning Director, San Mateo County