



SVBC is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization with the mission of promoting the bicycle for everyday use.

November 18, 2008

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*Susan Wheeler
Management Analyst
Engineering & Construction Division
Community Development Department
City of Redwood City
1017 Middlefield Road
Redwood City, CA 94063*

Dear Ms. Wheeler,

As you may know, C/CAG is planning to set aside up to \$200,000 of this year's TDA-Article 3 funds for bike route signage. Signage for the North-South Bikeway was included as the #1 project in the San Mateo County Comprehensive Bicycle Route Plan (CBRP, 2000), but to date, few cities have installed the signs needed to identify this important bike route. In the CBRP, the project is described as follows:

"This 37.4 mile project will provide the greatest immediate benefit to bicyclists in San Mateo County by providing directional signage and intersection improvements (signal detectors) for north-south travel from San Francisco to the Palo Alto border. Currently, bicyclists must either use major arterials such as El Camino Real or find their way through a maze of secondary streets. The signing program will identify the preferred commuter route aimed at the bicyclist of moderate abilities and experience. The program will also help promote bicycling by its high visibility, improve confidence that a 'system' does exist, and help advise motorists to expect bicyclists on this route." [CBRP, p. 52]

The Peninsula Committee of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition has been working to improve the North-South Bikeway through San Mateo County, and is very supportive of the signage project. We are writing to you now to request that you take advantage of C/CAG's interest in funding signage projects by submitting an application for the upcoming TDA-Article 3 cycle. Signage for this route will only be effective if ALL of the cities along the route complete their sections, and therefore, we urge you to do your part in implementing this important, and relatively inexpensive, project.

In implementing the project, we request that you adhere to the following guidelines which were developed through discussions with local cyclists and review of Caltrans Standards and the CBRP:

- 1. A uniform sign should identify the North-South Bikeway. Caltrans sign SG-45 (pictured to the right) is included in the CBRP; the top portion can be customized for each city and the bottom portion should include a unique route identifier.*
- 2. A unique route identifier is needed to distinguish the North-South Bikeway from other local bike routes with similar signage. We suggest labeling it Route 101 to indicate that the route generally parallels Highway 101. (Our members felt that the name "North-South Bikeway" was not specific enough as there are other North-South routes along the coast, bay, and ridge, and others may be developed in the future).*
- 3. In addition to the main SG-45 route signs, the Caltrans D1 and M7 series of signs should be used to clarify the route turns, define distances to destinations (e.g., Downtown Redwood City – 2 miles), and point to destinations off the route (e.g., Caltrain stations, shopping centers, connecting bike routes).*
- 4. As specified in the CBRP, the North-South Bikeway Signing Program will consist of approximately 200 signs posted along the entire route, at least every 800 meters (about ½ mile) or where the route changes directions.*

In addition to signage, traffic signals along the North-South Bikeway should be evaluated to ensure that they detect bicycles. Pavement markings identifying where cyclists should position their bicycles for detection are also helpful. Additional safety improvements, such as bike lanes, sharrows, or signs advising motorists that bicyclists are allowed full use of the lane and that motorists should change lanes to pass might also be considered along this important route. If such additional improvements cannot be included for this year's TDA funding, we urge you to consider them for a future application.

As stated in the CBRP, safety concerns are the main reason people in San Mateo County do not bicycle more often. We need to build the infrastructure that encourages cycling as a safe and convenient mode of transportation.

If you have any questions or would like us to provide you with a letter of support for your application, please do not hesitate to contact Caryl Gay, Chair of SVBC's Peninsula Committee at carylgay@comcast.net.

Sincerely,

*Corinne Winter
Executive Director*

*Cc: Redwood City Bike/Ped Working Group, rbikeped@yahoogleroups.com
Caryl Gay, Chair of Peninsula Committee, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition*