



September 20, 2019

Hon. Catherine Blakespear, Mayor
City of Encinitas
505 S. Vulcan Avenue
Encinitas CA, 92024

Dear Mayor Blakespear

The San Diego County Bicycle Coalition enthusiastically supports your efforts to encourage more people to ride bikes in the City of Encinitas. We know that a significant mode shift is most likely to occur when we create a cycling environment that is attractive to a wider portion of the public. The new section of the Coastal Rail Trail in Cardiff and the future Leucadia streetscape enhancements are great examples of this work. Extending the Coastal Rail Trail south from Cardiff to Solana Beach is also a welcome addition. We appreciate the challenges this new section presents and want to support this effort and offer our suggestions for how to make this connection work best for the many people who will use it.

As you know, Highway 101 already is a heavily used corridor by people on bikes. In fact, it is the busiest bike corridor in the San Diego region. Adding a Class IV bikeway south of Chesterfield Drive should attract even more riders of all ages and abilities, which raises a concern about the mix of riders in the Class IV cycle track. A good number of the current bike riders in the corridor are highly skilled, even including some professional riders. Riding in the cycle track with people young and old, and people relatively new to cycling will create a mix of skills and speeds that could defeat the objective of creating a comfortable riding environment. At worst, the differential in speed and skill could create an unsafe condition.

We believe the best solution to this potential problem is to encourage the faster, more skilled riders to continue riding in the street instead of using the cycle track. There are a number of steps that can be taken to accomplish this. Signs could be installed at the beginning of the cycle track that request faster riders to use the road, and shared lane markings or sharrows can be placed in the right lane in each direction. Narrowing or eliminating the painted median may create enough space to make the outside lane wide enough to be shared. Where that is not possible, the Bicycles May Use Full Lane sign should be used. An educational program may also be necessary to inform the public, both people on bikes and people driving cars, about why this is being done.

We also know that people walk and run along this stretch of the road. A Class IV bikeway is for the exclusive use of people riding bikes, but we can expect to see people on foot in them unless countermeasures are taken. The project should preserve any existing space for pedestrians, and add space for walking where possible.

We realize that the current proposed project is designed to be feasible to implement in the near term, but we also want to encourage the City of Encinitas continue thinking about what the ultimate facility in this important corridor should be. Adequate space for all users, and more crossings to facilitate access to the beach from the northbound side of the road are worth pursuing. In addition, as the city is creating Class IV facilities here and elsewhere in the city, it will need equipment and a maintenance program to ensure they are kept free of debris.

Thank you again for your continued efforts to create a safer, healthier and more sustainable environment in Encinitas. The Bike Coalition stands ready to help you in any way that we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andy Hanshaw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

ANDY HANSHAW
Executive Director