

I. INTRODUCTION

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors has recognized that the favorable quality of life we currently enjoy may be further enhanced by increased use of the bicycle as a mode of transportation. Bicycle riding does this by improving air quality, reducing traffic, parking congestion and noise levels, and contributing to the mental and physical health of those who ride.

As a result, San Luis Obispo County has prepared this Bikeways Plan in order to identify needed bikeway routes, accessory facilities such as bike parking, coordination with other modes of transportation, promotional and educational programs, and potential funding sources for these facilities and programs. The Plan was originally prepared by the County Public Works Department and the Bicycle Advisory Committee in 1995.

Background

On October 13, 1992, the Board of Supervisors adopted a Resolution establishing the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), and adopting bylaws for the committee. Ten members were selected by the Supervisors, and the BAC held its first meeting February 9, 1993. The BAC has held regular meetings since that period with new members being appointed as vacancies have appeared. Additionally, the Committee is supported by staff from not only the Public Works Department, but also the Department of Planning and Building, the Department of General Services - Parks Division, the Air Pollution Control District and the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments.

The BAC has operated under the requirements of the Brown Act. Most of the meetings were held in San Luis Obispo. However, the BAC has traveled to the northern, coastal and southern areas of the County, in preparation of the 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2002 updates in order to facilitate greater public input into the process.

This Bikeways Plan shares many of the goals of the County's General Plan - Circulation Element, the Air Pollution Control District's Clean Air Plan, the Council of Governments' Regional Transportation Plan, the local Cities Bikeways Plan's as well as the unincorporated communities Circulation and Planning Studies. As such, these documents formed an important resource as the base condition for bicycle transportation planning in San Luis Obispo County.

Legal Requirements

This County Bikeways Plan is intended to conform with the requirements of the State legislation regarding local bikeways plans. In September, 1993, the Governor of California signed into law new legislation affecting the requirements for bicycle transportation plans prepared by local agencies. The California Bicycle Transportation

Act, Division 1, Chapter 8 of the Streets and Highways Code, replaced the previous legislation which was referenced in the County Bikeways Plan. Section 891.2 specifies elements required to be contained in bicycle transportation plans prepared by local agencies, as follows:

A city or county may prepare a bicycle transportation plan, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following elements:

- (a) The estimated number of existing bicycle commuters in the plan area and the estimated increase in the number of bicycle commuters resulting from implementation of the plan.
- (b) A map and description of existing and proposed land use and settlement patterns which shall include, but not be limited to, locations of residential neighborhoods, schools, shopping centers, public buildings and major employment centers.
- (c) A map and description of existing and proposed bikeways.
- (d) A map and description of existing and proposed end-of-trip bicycle parking facilities. These shall include, but not be limited to, parking at schools, shopping centers, public buildings and major employment centers.
- (e) A map and description of existing and proposed bicycle transport and parking facilities for connections with and use of other transportation modes. These shall include, but not be limited to, parking facilities at transit stops, rail and transit terminals, ferry docks and landings, park and ride lots, and provisions for transporting bicyclists and bicycles on transit vehicles or ferry vessels.
- (f) A map and description of existing and proposed facilities for changing and storing clothes and equipment. These shall include, but not be limited to, locker, restroom and shower facilities near bicycle parking facilities.
- (g) A description of bicycle safety and education programs conducted in the area included within the plan, efforts by the law enforcement agency having primary traffic law enforcement responsibility in the area to enforce provisions of the Vehicle Code pertaining to bicycle operation and the resulting effect on accidents involving bicyclists.
- (h) A description of the extent of citizen and community involvement in development of the plan, including, but not limited to, letters of support.
- (i) A description of how the bicycle transportation plan has been coordinated and is consistent with other local or regional transportation, air quality, or energy conservation plans, including, but not limited to, programs that provide incentives for bicycle commuting.
- (j) A description of the projects proposed in the plan and a listing of their priorities for implementation.
- (k) A description of past expenditures for bicycle facilities and future financial needs for projects that improve safety and convenience for bicycle commuters in the plan area.

This County Bikeways Plan contains the following chapters which address these requirements:

- Chapter II, Existing Conditions, describes the County's Bikeways Ordinance, bicycle-related accident statistics, land use patterns which indicate locations of bicycling demand and regional cities' bicycling plans and programs.
- Chapter III, Bikeways, gives the definitions of the four proposed classes of bikeway facilities, describes the route selection planning and evaluation process, recommends needed facility improvements, and establishes priorities among the recommendations.
- Chapter IV, Bicycling - Part of The Transportation System, discusses bicycle parking, rest facilities, coordination with public transit, the relationship with land use planning, and the potential for unpaved, recreational "multi-use" trails.
- Chapter V, Promoting Bicycle Transportation, describes recommended activities to promote increased use of bicycles, to educate bicyclists to ride more safely and to educate motorists to interact with bicyclists more safely.
- Chapter VI, Costs and Funding, provides planning-level cost estimates for the recommended facilities and programs, and describes potential funding sources.
- Chapter VII, Conclusion, discusses the future of bicycle transportation planning in San Luis Obispo County, with special emphasis on the ongoing role of the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Updates

The County Bikeways Plan is intended to be a "living" document. It will be subject to ongoing review and periodic updates by the County Public Works Department and the Bicycle Advisory Committee. Changes in existing conditions or proposed land uses may result in future modifications to the recommendations contained in this Plan.