

## VII. CONCLUSION

The County Bikeways Plan is designed to meet the needs of bicycle transportation in San Luis Obispo County as it continues to grow and become a vital part of the total transportation system. It evaluates the existing conditions for bicycling in this County, and recommends facilities and programs to improve those conditions. The Plan also recommends a variety of promotional activities designed to "get the word out" about bicycling as a transportation option, and to educate people to ride safely.

### Public Support

The County Bikeways Plan was developed with a great deal of public involvement, the primary feature of which was the participation of the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC). The Plan describes the public participation process which was implemented through the BAC. Two of the original BAC members continue to serve as members of the BAC.

Interested individuals and community organizations were also invited to correspond with the County Engineering Department, to share their thoughts on the development of the Plan and on its recommendations. These letters are included in the Appendix H.

### What Lies Ahead

The 2001 Regional Transportation Plan includes a "Vision of Transportation in the San Luis Obispo Region" for a time 20 years in the future. It describes a transportation system which includes passenger rail serving the entire state, expanded bus service throughout the County, air travel to and from the two regional airports, and increases bicycle use, which "Promote development of a coordinated, connected, efficient, and safe regional bikeway system." The County Bikeways Plan is just one element necessary to achieve the bicycling goals, but it is an important step.

Funding will continue to be the driving force behind most transportation decisions. In this Plan recommended bikeway facility improvements amount to over \$60,000,000. This amount is far greater than currently-known funding sources for many years to come. The Plan attempts to address this by establishing priorities among the proposed projects. It will be important to continue to lobby State, Federal and local legislators to identify additional funding sources in order to achieve the maximum potential of the proposed programs.

### The Ongoing Role of the Bicycle Advisory Committee

One key role for the County's Bicycle Advisory Committee will be to act as an advocate for bicycling issues as they develop. This may include funding issues, as discussed above, or may take many other forms. This Plan recommends the following roles for the continued activity of the BAC:

- Evaluate the progress of the implementation of this Plan

- Lobbying State, Federal and local legislators for bikeways funding
- Review of proposed major developments for necessary bikeway facilities
- Identification of additional needs for the bikeway system
- Identification of needed locations for bicycle parking
- Identification of locations of needed repairs or maintenance of minimum shoulders on existing Class II and Class III bikeways
- Participation in promotional and safety education programs
- Periodic update of this County Bikeways Plan and insure that its priorities promote the best available alternative for bicyclists.
- Interfacing with bicycle organizations within the County
- Provide County Staff with insight as new options and funding become available

The County Public Works Department wishes to express its gratitude to those who have served on the Bicycle Advisory Committee. Staff sees an important ongoing role for the Committee. It is recommended that the Committee continue to meet on a quarterly basis, or as needed (more or less often), to address the topics listed above.