

September 20, 2019

Ingrid McRoberts  
Project Manager  
Active Transportation Plan  
Caltrans – District 5  
50 Higuera St  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

**SUBJECT: Comments for Consideration regarding Caltrans District 5 Active Transportation Plan**

Dear Ms. McRoberts:

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) established the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee to act at its direction and discretion in response to state and federal requirements for citizens' participation. The Committee offers the following comments for Caltrans consideration regarding bicycle and pedestrian facility needs that should be addressed in District 5's Active Transportation Plan:

1. **Highway 1-Ocean Avenue Crossing at Carmel High School** – It is estimated that up to 200 students are crossing this intersection both in the morning and afternoon. Pedestrians waiting to cross are only a few feet from vehicles traveling at highway speeds. Vehicle drivers running red lights is a common occurrence at this location. The afternoon crossing is more impacted given that students are all leaving school at the same time. One potential short-term recommendation is to implement crosswalk warning lights that activate after the crosswalk buttons have been pressed.
2. **"Share the Road" Signs and Green Pavement Markings** –
  - a. Highway 1 South of Rio Road intersection. Cycling to Big Sur is a popular route and Highway 1 has limited shoulder widths and many conflict points where vehicles exit and enter the roadway.
  - b. Highway 1 Carpenter Street intersection to Hwy 68 (Holman Highway). Cyclists traveling from Carmel and other points south exit Hwy 1 at the Hwy 68 off-ramp to reach the bicycle path that parallels Hwy 1 from Hwy 68 to Soledad Drive in Monterey. Pavement surfaces, signage and striping need improvement for safety and enhanced access.
  - c. Highway 68 South Main Street Salinas. Existing bicycle facilities on South Main Street are intermittent. Improvements to signage and striping are needed to improve route continuity for cyclists.

3. **Highway 183 North Main Street-Union Pacific Railroad Undercrossing in Salinas** – There are no bicycle facilities on this route, one of the few options traveling to north Salinas. High speed motor vehicle traffic, higher than normal curbs and narrow sidewalks are detrimental to safe and comfortable bicycling and walking on this important route. Improvements to signage and striping are needed to improve route continuity and safety for cyclists.
4. **Highway 183 Merritt Street Castroville** – Existing bicycle facilities on Merritt Street are intermittent. Improvements to signage and striping are needed to improve route continuity for cyclists. There are significant gaps lacking sidewalks along Merritt Street and facilities for pedestrian crossings are deficient.
5. **General Comment:** Shoulder maintenance including sweeping, painting, and restoration/repair for all state highways needs to be proactive and on-going in order to maintain safety and accessible for bicycles.

Thank you for the consideration of the Committee's comments. If you have any questions, please follow-up with the Committee's staff liaison, Madilyn Jacobsen, at [madilyn@tamcmonterey.org](mailto:madilyn@tamcmonterey.org) or via phone at (831) 775-4402.

Sincerely,

Chris Flescher  
Chair, TAMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee