

Dear Mayor Don Lane and Council Members,

We are writing to express our feedback on the 2016-18 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and share our support for a number of programs that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our community. The City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Plan and Master Transportation Study both state the City's commitment to increasing bicycling and walking as methods for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and we have identified ways in which the CIP can better support these goals.

In accordance with Sierra Club Transportation Policy and the two plans mentioned above, we oppose the proposed funding for the State Route 1 Bridge Replacement project. The ineffectiveness of highway widening on increasing traffic capacity has been documented in a compilation of 132 pertinent transportation studies, reports, and articles put together by the Victoria Transport Policy Institute, of Victoria, B.C., titled "Generated Traffic and Induced Travel." Rather than provide sustainable congestion relief, widening provides a short-term solution that ultimately does not reduce traffic congestion. It is our understanding that this bridge replacement has not been deemed a priority by Caltrans, so we ask that this project be postponed until such time as its replacement is deemed necessary.

We request that the funding for this project be reallocated to projects that would support more bicycling and walking, rather than more car driving. There are number of projects in the CIP that do support sustainable transportation, and in particular, we support full funding for the projects listed below:

- Branciforte Creek Bike/Pedestrian Bridge: We support the completion of the Levee Pathway system as a separated bicycle and pedestrian facility that allows for safer and more efficient travel without interactions with car traffic.
- Green Lane Projects: We are appreciative of the new green lanes that have been implemented in Santa Cruz, and we support the expansion of this treatment throughout the city as a way to create safer, more visible travel lanes for people on bikes.
- Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST), Segment 7: We are looking forward to the building of this separated bicycle and pedestrian facility in our community and support full funding for this project.

Thank you for supporting efforts to stop climate disruption through increased bicycling and walking in Santa Cruz.

Yours Sincerely,

Greg McPheeters
Chair, Executive Committee
Sierra Club, Santa Cruz