COAST
COALITION FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

Walk-Bike-Bus-Rail

COAST provides advocacy, education and outreach to improve transportation options in Santa Barbara County, promoting rail, bus, bike, and pedestrian access.

How to reach us

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E-mail discussion list

Participate in discussions of local and regional transportation issues; receive notices of meetings and events. Subscribing is free and easy. Just visit:

http://groups.google.com/group/coastsb

COAST Happy Hour

Please join us the second Thursday of each month from 5-7 PM at the El Paseo Restaurant in Santa Barbara.

COAST General Meeting

Our General Meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month from 12-1:15 PM at the Faulkner Gallery West Wing.

Support COAST

COAST depends on you to create better transportation options in Santa Barbara and beyond. Support COAST by making a donation. Just use the enclosed envelope, or you can go to the COAST website. Thank you!

COAST NEWS

COALITION FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

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A Promise Betrayed

Council abandons Chapala Improvements, and more. *By Alex Pujo*

.On January 25th, at the end of a long and bitter evening, Santa Barbara council members **Francisco, Self, Hotchkiss** and **Rowse** — the new conservative block — voted to remove the requirement for curb extensions on lower Chapala Street between Carrillo and the freeway. Transportation advocates were stunned.

This radical change in policy took place because of the composition of the new Council. While Francisco, Self and Hotchkiss have been unabashed in their opposition to pedestrian improvements, traffic circles and anything that may slow cars down, **Randy Rowse** (the newly appointed member) was the swing vote that in a few hours managed to undo years of public process and planning.

Please see P. 2,Chapala

The intersection at Chapala and Ortega, seen from Paseo Nuevo

Changes at COAST: Welcome Caitlin Carlson

After three years with COAST, our Executive Director, **Courtney Dietz,** will be moving on. We thank her for her outstanding service and wish her well for her future. At the same time, we welcome our new Project Director and Administrator, **Caitlin Carlson**. Caitlin grew up in Moorpark and attended UCSB, majoring in Global Studies and living car free in Isla Vista. She spent ten months abroad, studying in Ireland. After graduating, she worked as a membership coordinator for the Levantine Cultural Center in Los Angeles. However, she wanted to come back to Santa Barbara, and the Project Director position at COAST was an ideal fit. " I am eager to help make Santa Barbara a model for sustainable transportation," she wrote.

Caitlin will start her job on March 1st. Come meet her at one of our General Meetings or a Happy Hour!

Chapala, continued from p.1

Transforming pavement into planters with canopy trees increases soil permeability, provides shade and encourages people to walk -thus reducing automobile use. Sidewalk enhancements are supported by those who live, work or do business on Chapala. On January 25, 11 out of 16 individuals spoke in support of the curb extensions; so did the Chamber of Commerce. COAST Executive Director Courtney Dietz went door to door and presented shopkeepers' quotes to Council: curb extensions are no big deal to drivers; they do not hinder cyclists; they help pedestrians; they add landscaping, and they look nicer. So… Why all the whining?

Council member Francisco repeatedly said that there is no data to support *activists'* claims that bulb outs make streets safer. Project by project and meeting by meeting this new Council is working to turn the clock back on pedestrian facilities based on the political calculus that, with enough assistance from the daily paper, this wedge issue is an election winner. A year ago, before Randy Rowse was appointed to Council, we were successful in keeping an approved crosswalk upgrade at Milpas/De La Guerra with the help of local businesses, PTA Safety Committee, principals and families from the nearby Junior High and High School. This time we did not succeed and a de facto City-wide moratorium on curb extensions is now in place. Next time you run into your favorite councilmember on the street let him/her know how you feel about this.

Background:

In 2003-04 the Santa Barbara Redevelopment Agency developed a master plan to improve business vitality along the Chapala corridor. At the time this area was transitioning from a run-down arterial with parking lots and car dealerships into a mixed-use corridor with businesses, stores, restaurants and residences. There was much interest in wider sidewalks, canopy trees and other pedestrian amenities. Proposals to remove traffic lanes or to add a landscaped median were nixed by the fire department's demand to keep Chapala as a main emergency route. Removal of curbside parking was unpopular and rejected. After much discussion curb extensions were added to improve crosswalks and to provide room for canopy trees in a corridor that sorely lacked them.

This master plan was implemented with development fees. The intersection at De La Guerra was paid by Paseo Chapala; Chapala One paid for Gutierrez; Ortega was part of a Redevelopment project to improve access from the Westside to downtown. Three intersections (Canon Perdido, Cota and Haley) have yet to be improved. Leaving a multi-million dollar public works project half finished is going to be messy.

Local philosopher, COAST member and avid walker **Ashleigh Brilliant** was hit by a car while walking near his home at the Pedregosa/Olive/Laguna intersection. The driver was an 18-year-old student driving to Santa Barbara High School. Ashleigh suffered a shattered leg and internal injuries. Our thoughts are with him and his wife, Dorothy. We wish Ashleigh a full recovery.

There have been too many pedestrians hit by cars lately. In 2010, Santa Barbara had five traffic deaths and four of them were pedestrians. This is unacceptable! Meanwhile, we have a majority on the City Council that has made it its mission to undo the progress the City has been making in pedestrian safety. When will these people consider the consequences of their actions?

Amy Aguilera

Our Organizer in Ventura

My name is **Amy Aguilera** and I am currently attending Ventura College and looking to major in Political Science. I went to Oxnard High School and it was then that I began to get involved with social justice groups in my community. I first got involved with Arts for Action doing video production, making short films concerning transportation issues. Later I learned of their sister organization CAUSE and became a youth leader.

At the end of last year I was hired to work for ASERT as their transit organizer. These few months have been a great experience, just being able to talk to bus riders off and on the bus. I have been able to turn out bus riders to Ventura city council meetings to comment on our concerns and struggles with public transit. With the help of local organizations and my efforts we plan to build a strong rider base to hold monthly rider meetings in either Oxnard or Ventura. There is more work to be done in order to improve public transit in our county and I look forward to working with all of you to make this happen.

Healthy Habits - Winning Kids

By Courtney Dietz

On one recent Wednesday, shortly after the morning bell rang at Cleveland Elementary School, hundreds of students surrounded principal **Michael Vail** as he announced the winner of the first Walk to School Day Challenge. Cheers erupted as students heard that the winning class (with 65% of the students participating) would receive smoothies later that day (picture). Each of the 3rd and 4th graders in the winning class received a **Blenders in the Grass** smoothie (donated!!) for being the class with the most participation for Walk to School Day (picture).

Since COAST's Safe Routes to School project launched the Cleveland program in the middle of November, Cleveland has experienced a steady increase in students walking to school. At the beginning of the project COAST spent hours talking with parents about how they got to school, what they liked about the route and what would make it better. Increasing the number of students walking to school is a goal as is making it safer and more appealing for families as many of them use the highly trafficked Salinas and cross at Clifton (with the help of crossing guard Miss Hazel).

Students that walk have been "caught" saying such things as, "I love racing my friends up the hill to school", "Walking warms me up in the morning", "My mom didn't want to walk but I made her come with me" and "I feel better when I walk to school" - all great reinforcement that the children, and families, are appreciating the benefits that a simple walk to school can provide.

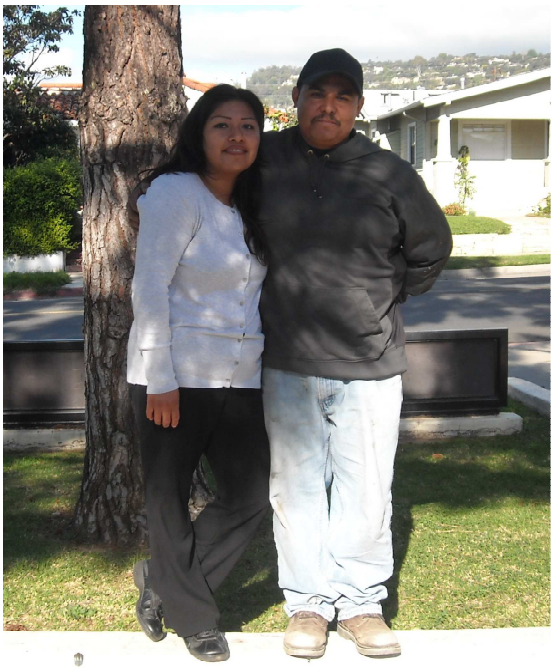
We thank the **Orfalea Foundation** for making our work at Cleveland possible.

The Eastside Walks!

By Eva Inbar

The Santa Barbara Eastside is a lovely neighborhood where many people walk to the store, to school, to the homes of friends and neighbors, or to the bus stop. But walkers face many challenges with speeding traffic, drivers that are not yielding to pedestrians and streets that are just pitch dark at night. Last month, a child was hit on Mason Street, in front of Franklin School, as he was crossing the street in the school crosswalk. The car threw him through the air, and he was extremely lucky that he was not seriously injured.

Thanks to a generous grant by the **McCune Foundation**, COAST is now working with Eastside residents to identify problems, gather public support and approach decision makers with the people's concerns. We hired a duo of dynamic organizers, **Israel and Ana Rico.** They both grew up in the Eastside, attended local schools and are now sending their own two young children to Adelante Charter School. Together, we named our project **Eastside Walks**, or **El Eastside Camina.**



Ana and Israel Rico

Currently, we are getting the word out about our project. Our flyers can be found all over the Eastside. We addressed parents' meetings at Franklin and Adelante Schools. Ana could even be heard on Spanish language Radio Bronco. She will be on again on March 18 at 8 am, speaking about our project. Please tune in! at 107.7 FM. If you have any suggestions or would like to help, please call Ana at 331.9235.

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Coalition for Sustainable Transportation

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Raise Money for COAST when you shop online!

It's free! Just click on the "Shop to support COAST" button on the COAST website and you will find almost 700 stores, including Home Depot, Amazon.com, Target, Best Buy, E-Bay, Nordstrom's and many more. When you go through the i-give portal, these stores will donate a percentage of your purchase to COAST.

All Aboard for National Train Day May 7

Come celebrate and experience trains on Saturday, May 7. Festivities start at 9 AM at the Santa Barbara Train Station. Ride the train to Carpinteria at 9:20 AM, returning at 10:15 AM.

There will be fun activities for the whole family at 10:30 AM at the Santa Barbara train station. Don't miss this popular event!

Walking Wednesdays will be back

Our very popular Walking Wednesdays will be starting again.

They take place on the fourth Wednesday of each month during the summer. Our next walk will be on April 27.

Please check our website for details.

We thank our Individual Supporters

We thank these people who joined COAST or renewed their support during the past three months: Cecilia Brown, Joyce and Roland Bryan, John Kirk, Robert Magnusson, Detty Peikert, Wilson Hubbell, Mary Byrd and John Fisher, Kalon Kelley, Michael Bennett, Robert Bernstein, Marty Blum, Suzanne Elledge, Victoria Greene and Dan Gira, Sarah Kass, John Kelley, Don Lubach, Lorna Moore, Joan and Bill Murdoch, Priscilla Ortiz, Jessica Scheeter, Kim Stanley, Bruce Tiffney, Tracey Singh, Kirsten Zecher, John and Betty Gerig, Jennifer Cushnie and Dennis Allen, Timothy Harding, Douglas Phelps, Dolores Pollock, Forrest Wilde, Jean Holmes, George Amoon, Kim Favors, Larry and Jamie Bickford, David and Christine Bourgeois, Michael Brown, Marc Chytilo and Nancy Weiss, Margaret and Joe Connell, Roger and Eileen Horton, Anton and Rachel Johansen, Meredith McMinn, Robert Rainwater and Brigitta van der Raay, George Relles, David Stone, Hyla Fetler and Tracy Fernandez, Brad Fiedel and Ann Dusenberry, Jason LoCicero, Steve Morris, Leland Walmsley, Tom Evans, Allyn Fleming and Phil Schilling, Jan Atkins.

We thank our Major Supporters

We thank the **McCune Foundation**, the **Social Justice Fund of Ventura**, the **Santa Barbara Foundation** and the **Orfalea Foundation** for supporting our major projects. Further thanks go to our business sponsors, **Deckers Outdoor Corp**. and **Allen Associates,** as well as **Blenders in the Grass.**