

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 General Meeting

Our General Meetings discuss transportation issues affecting the Santa Barbara region. Meetings are open to the public. Location: 15 E. Carrillo Street, Santa Barbara. They are held the second Wednesday of each month, 12 noon to 1:15 pm. Please check our website for updates.

### COAST Happy Hour

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

### Walking Wednesdays

COAST organizes monthly walking tours on the Fourth Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm that are free and open to the public. Starting this month!

### 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!

## Ribbon Cutting in Montecito

By Eva Inbar



On January 11, 2012, I attended a very special ribbon cutting. It was for the footpath on San Ysidro Road leading to Montecito Union School that COAST helped bring about. MUS Superintendent Tammy Murphy and Supervisor Salud Carbajal led the ceremony, together with all the students of the school. The kids actually cut the ribbon. They had placed thank-you notes on all the mailboxes on San Ysidro Road and left a sunflower at each one. Large groups of up to 50 children walked the new path to school. When the kids were in school, dog walkers and joggers enjoyed it too. We thank Supervisor Carbajal who rolled up his sleeves and got things done. We thank our wonderful County staff who always stayed positive, and we thank the terrific MUS parents who never gave up. Most of all, we *Please see SYR PATH, p.2*

## Welcome Deborah Schwartz



In January, 2012, Deborah Schwartz joined the COAST Board of Directors. She grew up in Santa Barbara, and is currently a planning commissioner with the City of Santa Barbara where she actively supports projects that align with COAST's mission. Deborah is a principal of a local consulting firm, *Mesa Consulting*, which provides clients with strategic planning, organizational and other support. Deborah is a UCSB graduate - her fields of emphasis were Political Science, English, and Linguistics. She also holds a Certificate of Executive Development in Marketing Management from Columbia University. Welcome, Deborah!

# Postcard from Lima

By Greg Janee

My family and I just returned from vacationing in Peru; here are our observations on transportation in Lima...

The first impression flying into Lima is brown dryness: the whole city is covered with a thin layer of dust, and driving along busy streets you see the dust in the air and feel its bite in your throat as it gets roiled up by passing traffic. Lima sits in a desert, but the term "desert" feels wrong because we're so used to conflating dryness with heat. In Lima, it is never hot, nor cold for that matter, and only rarely sunny; rather, Lima is constantly and consistently mild and overcast. It simply never rains. One tour guide said, "We paint our houses bright colors to avoid getting depressed."

The second impression of Lima is the transportation chaos. If there is any public transportation, we did not see evidence of it. Instead, the roads are choked with all manner of vehicles, with the vast majority of those vehicles being taxis and minibuses in various states of disrepair. Comically, minibuses seem to come in only three varieties: the almost full, the completely full, and the beyond full. Also comical are the various kinds of jerry-rigged vehicles, such as a flatbed attached to a motorcycle.

There are two traffic rules that seem to be universally followed. First, traffic lights are obeyed. Second, cars never, ever stop for pedestrians. Beyond that, all signage and markings are taken as broad suggestions only. Question: How many cars can approach an intersection, and from what directions? Answer: in as many ways as physically possible. Four cars side by side, all making left turns onto a one-lane street? No problem. And the transportation chaos is augmented by the constant honking of horns (the "no honking" signs are of course ignored). Horns seem to



Lima's ubiquitous micro-buses or "combis." The doorman hangs out yelling where the bus is headed or holds up a sign, and people hop on and off almost without it stopping

be aural "feelers," used for announcing one's presence and registering the slightest indignation on the part of the honker.

If cars don't stop for pedestrians, they don't stop for other cars, either. Instead, a car crosses an uncontrolled intersection by continually edging farther out, playing "chicken" with cross traffic until it finally "wins." There are a few saving graces for pedestrians. First, there are lots of pedestrians, which helps. Second, the streets tend to be narrow; they're either one-way or, if two-way, have wide, planted medians, and traffic is so heavy that it tends to move relatively slowly. (On larger streets, there are speed bumps at regular intervals. Imagine speed bumps on Hollister or Cathedral Oaks!) And third, the fact that cars never stop for pedestrians makes for a kind of clarity in determining when it's safe to cross—namely, when you can get across before the next car comes by.

## The San Ysidro Road Path, then and now

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thank Stephen Murdoch for getting the ball rolling and for his generosity to COAST. He is still in London and so could not be with us on this special day, but his parents, Joan and Bill Murdoch, were present. Exactly five years ago, in January of 2007, Stephen and I first had coffee at Pierre Lafond's in the Upper Village to talk about a path because he had no safe place to walk to school with his two young daughters. Afterward, we walked along San Ysidro Road together, clambering over rocks and tree roots. Now the path we imagined has become a reality. I hope that one day, Stephen will be back and will walk to school on this path with his daughters.



Left: MUS parents and students pack the path in January, 2012.

Right: This is how we imagined the path in 2007. The photo-shopped image by Kate Bechtel, our ED at the time, is complete with little butterflies.

For more photos, please visit our website.



# All Aboard - COAST's Spring Membership Drive By Debbie Castanha

As the parent of a kindergartener, I'll never forget how horrified I was to see my neighbor's kids driven two blocks to school in a massive SUV! I marched unhappily to our school's principal to complain about how all the cars made my child's walk to school dangerous. How do you think she replied? "I'm so glad you brought that up! We've been looking for someone to help with our Safe Routes to School Program!" *That* was how my journey to COAST began.



newsletter. ...and right now, our mission is to EXPAND!

- Do you have a friend who shares your commitment to sustainable transportation that you could introduce to COAST? If you introduce a new member to COAST, we'll enter your name into a raffle for a beautiful walking stick, donated by one of our board members.
- Would you consider making a "monthly sustainer commitment" to COAST of \$10 or more a month? Please go to our website and click on "Donate." Or call us at 875-3562, and we'll help you set it up.

Now, years later, I am a COAST Board member and remain excited about our mission to preserve the paradise we call home by envisioning a transportation network which allows for a sustainable future. Thank you for your part in the many successes, some of which are showcased in this

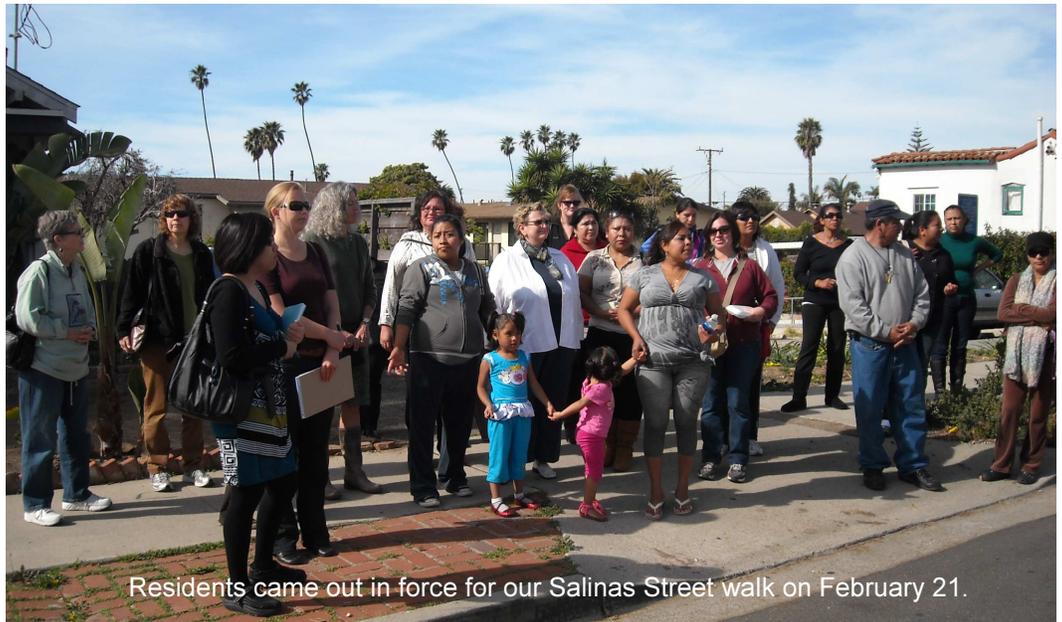
Whether your interest lies in reminding kids to "stop and smell the roses" on the way to school or improving the reach and availability of mass transit, we thank you for helping us grow so that we can do even more improve transportation options in Santa Barbara. Are you onboard?

## "Eastside Walks" Gaining Momentum By Caitlin Carlson

Over the winter months, COAST's Eastside Walks project has gained steam with city-wide recognition. COAST has teamed up with the Milpas Community Association and PUEBLO to work with the City to make lasting improvements to the Eastside.

Following our community forum in November regarding safety on Milpas, City engineers have presented a number of options to improve the Milpas corridor. The City is now looking for community input on which ways to best improve Milpas Street, with options ranging from eliminating crosswalks and bus stops to implementing a road diet, adding median refuges and flashing beacons. COAST is working with the City to make sure that the Eastside community's voice is heard as these new long-range development plans are being formed. Please visit our website to find out how you can participate in this discussion.

Eastside Walks is now setting its sights on Salinas street, the most complained about street in the Eastside. With speeding cars, poor visibility and lighting, many residents have expressed that they do not feel safe walking their kids to school. On February 21, we held a walk along Salinas to highlight some of the trouble spots. We thank Council-



Residents came out in force for our Salinas Street walk on February 21.

woman Cathy Murillo and Planning Commissioner Deborah Schwartz for joining us.

Additionally, we're working with Public Works to install new street lights throughout the neighborhood. Lighting is among the top complaints for Eastsiders, so we're happy to announce that Public Works will be installing additional lighting throughout the Eastside. We'd like to thank our intern, Lili Munoz, for being so diligent getting the necessary signatures to make that happen.

We can't wait to share with you what new things we've accomplished in the next newsletter!



Coalition for Sustainable Transportation

P.O. Box 2495

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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.

## Walking Wednesdays are back!

Our first walk of the season will be March 28th with Anthony Grumbine of Harrison Design Associates. We'll start at the Santa Barbara Courthouse at 5:30 pm for a lovely downtown tour of Santa Barbara's unique architectural landscape.

Walking Wednesdays is a monthly walking tour during the Daylight Savings Time months with a different theme and speaker each month. They are the fourth Wednesday of every month, and will run until August. We meet at 5:30 pm each month and the walks typically last an hour and a half. Last year we had walks ranging from sustainable green building to bird watching, and this season we have an even better lineup for you. Check our website for the latest walk! Program sponsor: Allen Associates.

## New COAST Committees

We now have a development committee, a communications committee and a Safe Routes to School Committee. Call 875-3562 to participate.

## We thank our (many) Individual Supporters

We thank these people who joined COAST or renewed their support during the past three months: Lisa Burns, Marianne Henry, Dick&Mickey Flacks, Dolores Pollock, John Sonquist, Paul&Cheryl Weakliem, Martin&Velma Stevenson, Gina Sunseri, Ivor John, Neil&Suzanne Ablitt, Marty Blum, John and Betty Gerig, Timothy Harding, Jean Schuyler, Susan&James Shields, James&Beverly Shipley, Deborah Winant, Dick&Joyce Axilrod, Jean Holmes, Kalon Kelley, Steve Morris, Tom Evans, Robert Bernstein, Susan Horne, Beebe Longstreet, Allyn Fleming&Phil Schilling, Roger&Eileen Horton, Fred&Roxana Anson, Rick Cole, David Landecker, Jean Thomson, Michael Towbes, Robert Else, Cass Ensberg&Tom Jacobs, Ralph Fertig, David&Christine Bourgeois, Michael Brown, Marc Chytilo&Nancy Weiss, Meredith McMinn, Deborah Branch, San and Darlene Chirman, John Mealy, Edith Ogella, George Relles, Leslie Siemon, Maida Smith, David Stone, Bruce Tiffney, Bicky Townsend, Larry Bickford, Bill &Carol Palladini, Deborah Schwartz, Rich Untermann, Connie Styrwoll.

## We thank our Major Supporters

We thank the **McCune Foundation**, the **Social Justice Fund of Ventura**, the **Santa Barbara Foundation**, the **Fund for Santa Barbara**, the **Orfalea Foundation**, the **Southern California Gas Company** and the **Goleta Valley Cycling Club** for supporting our major projects. Further thanks go to our business sponsors, **Deckers Outdoor Corp**, **Allen Associates** and **Blacksmith Endurance**.