

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

COAST
P.O. Box 2495
Santa Barbara, CA 93120
Phone: (805) 875-3562
info@coast-santabarbara.org
www.coast-santabarbara.org

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. We are in the process of moving them to a different day. 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 that are free and open to the public during the summer months. See you next summer!

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!

Mesa Architects Receive 2011 Barry Siegel Award



From left: Jeff King, Tom Morrison, John Kelley, Laurel Perez, David Van Hoy, Stuart Magee, Dennis Thomson, Tom Ochsner and Jim Bell. Not shown: Chris Cottrell, Derrick Eichelberger, Brook Jensen-Eiler. Photo credit: Nicole Fletcher

At COAST's annual Fall Gathering at the Inn of the Spanish Garden, Mesa Architects received the Barry Siegel Award 2011. They were chosen for their extraordinary success in organizing the neighborhood toward a progressive plan ("from good to great") and the recently concluded restriping of Cliff Drive between Meigs Road and City College. It was the outstanding achievement in transportation in 2011.

Check www.mesavillage.org for plans for a 'Mesa loop', ocean look-outs and the Cliff/Meigs intersection pedestrian scramble. Congratulations, Mesa Architects!

Fading Outlook for Federal Funding

By Lee Moldaver

Visiting Washington, D.C. just after Halloween, you could feel that we may be getting "tricked" this year, rather than treated. The outlook for new, or extended, federal funding for any "sustainable" projects is darkening.

Florida's Congressman Mica, chair of the House Transportation Committee, is "generally opposed" to future federal funding for many pedestrian, bike, rail, transit programs and projects. And he's getting Tea Party flak from his political right to be even tougher.

Senate Transportation's chair is our old friend Barbara Boxer. But even in the

traditionally more innovative Senate, the heavy weight of recession, urban/rural, red/blue political splits make it hard to keep the old TEA coalition together in a time of severe budget and deficit cutting pressure. Their pending bill looks pretty lackluster.

Some hurdles are pure politics. Others, old-fashioned self interest. A few are based on genuine principle. For instance, Oklahoma's Senator Coburn sincerely believes that there is NO federal funding role for LOCAL transportation projects unrelated to "interstate

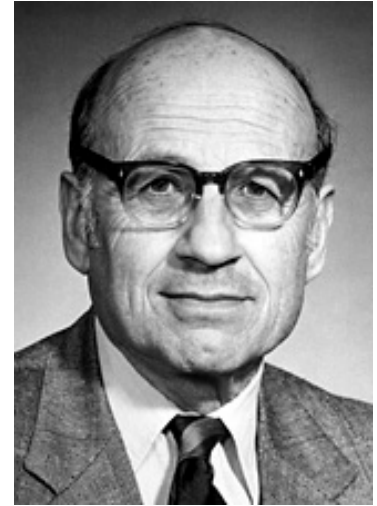
Please see FEDERAL FUNDING, p.2

Safe Routes to Goleta Valley Junior High Keeping Seniors Safe

By Greg Janee

on our Streets

By Eva Inbar



For students living just north of Goleta Valley Junior High, walking to school is a bridge too far: between them and their school lies Cathedral Oaks, a virtual river due to the width of the road and the amount and speed of the traffic it carries. Few residents attempt to cross the boulevard, which is five lanes wide at its intersection with Santa Marguerita, and those that do describe the experience as harrowing.

COAST has been aware of this situation for some time, and we made sure it was noted in the hazard assessment we performed for the school in 2009. It was hopefully not prophetic that, at the hazard assessment, with a contingent of a dozen law enforcement, government, and school personnel standing at the intersection, an accident almost occurred in front of us as drivers screeched to a halt for a student who happened to attempt the crossing.

Fortunately, change is afoot--- slow change, but change nonetheless. After

repeated requests by COAST, a 25mph speed limit sign (when children are present) was installed earlier this year, thus at least providing a legal basis for more aggressive law enforcement (the nominal speed limit is 40mph). However, the Sheriff cautioned that, because the road is divided east of Santa Marguerita, the reduced speed limit applies to only one side of the road at a time. Thus a driver is not obligated to slow down until the pedestrian crosses to their side of the road, which is little consolation for the poor pedestrian attempting to judge a safe crossing time.

More recently and most promising, the City of Goleta has reportedly completed engineering work on, and is now preparing a Measure A proposal for, the installation of pedestrian-activated flashing beacons.

We will continue to work toward the day when Cathedral Oaks Road is just that: a road, not a river.

Walter Kohn recently called COAST to say that unfortunately he could not make our Eastside forum, but he had an idea to keep pedestrians safe in streets which, like the one in the Riviera he lives on, have no sidewalks: posting signs alerting motorists to expect pedestrians in the roadway. Walter Kohn is a Professor Emeritus of physics at UCSB and won the 1998 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. At almost 89 years of age, he still takes the bus to his office in UCSB most every day, walking to the bus stop on Salinas from his house in the Riviera and then back uphill in the evening. Walter Kohn takes a keen interest in public transportation and has in the past attended MTD's Transit Talk meetings. He also produced a documentary about solar energy, "The Power of the Sun." You may learn more about this amazing man by reading his autobiography here:

http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/chemistry/laureates/1998/kohn-autobio.html

We will be taking Walter Kohn's idea to the City of Santa Barbara. Please let us know if you have ideas of your own how to keep pedestrians safe on curving roads in the Riviera with no sidewalks.

Today, people are living longer and staying active longer. COAST hopes to be working on a project next year with the County of Santa Barbara and the City of Goleta, assessing the needs of senior pedestrians. Stay tuned.

Federal Funding, continued from page 1

commerce," as the Constitution defines it. He doesn't "oppose" Safe Routes to School or MTD improvements. He just doesn't think they are eligible for any federal tax revenue, and should be entirely funded "locally ... where any actual program benefits reside."

In sparsely populated, mostly rural, very highway dependent Midwest, Rocky Mountain, and Big Sky states, neither party favors funding rail, SR2S, sidewalk, landscape, buses, IF it means a single dollar of road or bridge maintenance money is lost to their own states.

Many in this group represent one party, and many of the urban and coastal states are represented by another, so compromise going in to the 2012 elections is harder than usual. The temptation to just kick the can down the road for another year, and take whatever hits the failure of Con-

gress' Budget Super Committee requires is very strong right now.

Finally, there has been very little visible White House leadership on transportation issues. The administration had a visionary, innovative TEA renewal bill on its desk two years ago, when it still had huge congressional majorities. Yet they failed to act, and are still silent on what they favor, or are willing to fight to get.

There are many bright, caring people in Washington still fighting to improve transportation throughout America. Lois Capps remains strongly supportive of sustainable transportation, and Elton Gallegly is occasionally open to persuasion. But in these grim economic times, probably the most we can expect is some thrown-together highway repair/jobs bill contraption next year. And right now, even that is in doubt.

COAST hosts Eastside Community Forum

By Caitlin Carlson



More than 100 people packed the Franklin Center for our forum, with people standing along the back and the sides of the room. In the upper left is Sergio Romero's portrait. Seated are: Officer Mark Hunt, Derrick Bailey from the City of SB, Eva Inbar (COAST), Sebastian Aldana (MCA), Mark Alvarado (PUEBLO), Lupe and Armando Romero, Sergio's parents. Standing are Lili Munoz and Caitlin Carlson from COAST, taking notes in Spanish and English. There was food, child care and instant translation. Our thanks go to Ana Rico and her crew of moms, Lili Munoz and Caitlin Carlson who worked hard to make this forum a success. Photo by Alex Pujo.

On a Wednesday evening on November 16, **COAST**, **PUEBLO**, and the **Milpas Community Association** hosted a community forum to discuss pedestrian safety in the Eastside. Over 100 community members showed up to share their concerns about the unsafe walking conditions in their neighborhood. SBPD Traffic Investigation Officer **Mark Hunt** was there, as well as **Derrick Bailey** and **Pat Kelley** from the City of Santa Barbara showed up to present reports and answer questions.

The state of the Eastside, particularly the Milpas corridor, has taken on new urgency when 15-year-old **Sergio Romero** was hit by a car while crossing Milpas and Ortega, and was killed. Sergio's mother **Guadalupe Romero** attended the meeting and implored City officials to not let Sergio's death be in vain. Past investigations of the intersection Milpas and Ortega have not shown the necessity for a traffic signal, but that answer for many of those who attended was "not acceptable."

Aside from the dangerous intersection of Milpas and Or-

tega, which residents avoid because of the poor visibility and speeding cars, the issue of lighting and the speeding cars on Salinas St. came up. Many residents used this forum to talk about all of the near misses they've had with speeding cars, which don't get counted in traffic investigations. They also noted the lack of light in the neighborhood, many families are afraid to walk outside when it gets dark. Overall, residents gave passionate, constructive comments to implore City planners, the City Council, and the Police Department to act swiftly.

This meeting is just the beginning. COAST's Eastside Walks project will be working closely with local businesses, City officials, residents, and other local non-profits to ensure the proper measures are being taken. If you would like to support safer walking in the Eastside, please visit our website: <http://www.coast-santabarbara.org>, and follow the link to sign our online petition. Once you sign, a letter will be sent to the mayor to implore her to make the change. We can't do this alone, and we need your help!

Meet our new Intern: Lili Munoz, in her own words

I am honored to form part of COAST, and very pleased and enthusiastic to have been assigned an amazing project as community organizer in the Eastside of Santa Barbara. This opportunity has come at a perfect time as I moved back to Santa Barbara after finishing my B.A in Sociology. I lived in Mission district of San Francisco for a couple of years and becoming active in that neighborhood helped me realize that I enjoyed being a community organizer. I returned to Santa Barbara knowing that I wanted to be involved in community organizing in the Eastside. I am very enthusiastic because I have lived in the Eastside for 26 years and have a lot of special memories of the area and feel I have a commitment to the streets, children and adults of the Eastside. I look forward to taking this opportunity to offer my knowledge and experience while genuinely caring for the neighborhood that inspired me to "Think globally act locally".



COAST

COALITION FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

Coalition for Sustainable Transportation

P.O. Box 2495

Santa Barbara, CA 93120

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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.

Special Evening Walk in the Eastside

Please join us for a special evening walk in the Eastside on December 7 at 6 pm. Meet in the Franklin Center parking lot and experience first hand the lack of lighting and other hurdles that pedestrians in the Eastside are facing. This special night tour on foot is part of our Eastside Walks Project. Be aware: It will be dark.



Guests are having a good time at **COAST's Fall Gathering** on October 27 at the lovely **Inn of the Spanish Garden**. The delicious food was by **Omni Fresco**. Join us again next year!

Photo by Nicole Fletcher

Many thanks to our generous host, the **Inn of the Spanish Garden**, to our event sponsors, **MTD, Cottage Health Systems, CEC, Architectural Foundation of SB, Roger Horton and Martha Siegel**, and to our volunteers, **Cass Ensberg and Tom Jacobs**.

We thank our Individual Supporters

We thank these people who joined COAST or renewed their support during the past three months: **Cass Ensberg and Tom Jacobs, Vicky Blum and David Lebell, Barbara Lindemann, Art Ludwig, Patricia Gebhard**.

We warmly remember Patricia Gebhard, who passed away in October, 2011, but still renewed her membership with COAST in September. Patricia was the widow of David Gebhard after whom the meeting room at City Public Works is named.

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** and the **Goleta Valley Cycling Club** for supporting our major projects. Further thanks go to our business sponsors, **Deckers Outdoor Corp, Allen Associates, Blacksmith Endurance**.