

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

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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.

California's Revolutionary Climate Change Laws: How You Can Help Make Them Work

By Mark Bradley

The rest of the country is looking toward California to see how its landmark bills to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions will play out, anticipating that they may be called on to implement similar laws of their own.

Yes for AB 32 – Vote NO on Proposition 23

AB 32 is a law aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the state to a level at least 20% below 1990 levels. It addresses all sectors, including industry, electricity, and transportation, but transportation is the sector that produces the most CO2 emissions.

Now, two Texas oil companies operating in California, Valero and Tesoro, have funded a ballot proposition that you will be asked to vote on this November. Called the "California Jobs Proposition", Proposition 23 would suspend AB 32 until such time as the state reaches full employment (which rarely happens, even in a good economy). Ironically, Prop 23 would actually kill thousands of new California jobs, although it might save a few jobs for Texas oil companies. Alternative energy production is one of the state's fastest growing economic sectors, even during the recession; suspending AB 32

Please see *Climate Change*, p. 2

Courtney Dietz is named COAST Executive Director

Courtney Dietz is a graduate of UCSB's Bren School and joined COAST's staff in the spring of 2008 as project director of *Santa Barbara Walks*. She quickly became the voice of pedestrians in Santa Barbara. In the spring of 2010, after two years of distinguished service, Courtney became COAST's Executive Director. She will be in charge of *Santa Barbara Walks* as well and will continue to lead her popular Walking Wednesdays.



SBWalkSafe



Report walking hazards, close calls and accidents here.

COAST has launched a new online tool to keep track of hazards, trouble spots, near misses and accidents for pedestrians. Missing sidewalk? Report it on SBWalkSafe! Intersection with poor visibility for crossing? Report it on SBWalkSafe! Had a near miss walking to the store? Report it on SBWalkSafe! This will be a way for us to help focus our efforts as well have a record of issues and trouble spots. Click on the SBWalkSafe image (pictured here) on the Santa Barbara Walks tab of the COAST website. Help us improve walking by sharing your experiences!

Climate Change

Continued from p.1

Meet Matt Dobberteen

By Lee Moldaver

would slow that economic growth. In polls taken so far, most Californians are saying NO to Prop 23. To find out more about Prop 23, please go to <http://www.stopdirtyenergyprop.com/get-the-facts.php>.

SB 375 – Should Santa Barbara County Do Its Fair Share?

SB 375 is a bill designed to help reach the goals of AB 32 by requiring transportation planning organizations to take land use planning and other means of reducing GHG emissions into account when preparing their long-range regional transportation plans (RTP). The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is now in the process of setting emissions reduction targets for each region of the state, and has asked each regional planning agency to perform analyses to help set those targets. In Santa Barbara County, our regional planning agency is SBCAG, and the SBCAG Board is historically distrustful of State mandates of any kind. SBCAG staff performed analyses that (they claim) show that it is not feasible for the

County to reduce per capita GHG emissions in the next 25 years. COAST joined CEC and a dozen other local environmental groups to criticize SBCAG's lack of vision and leadership on this issue, and to request CARB to set emission reduction targets for Santa Barbara that are in line with the rest of the state's regions.

Unfortunately, while CARB has set targets for other regions that require significant reductions in GHG emissions in the coming years, Santa Barbara is one of only two regions in the state where the targets allow significant **increases** in emissions over the next 25 years. For a region that calls itself the "birthplace of the environmental movement", this situation is unacceptable. It is now up to the SBCAG Board to step up and show some conscience and leadership. If you feel the same way, please contact your local SBCAG Board representative and tell him or her what you think. To find contact information for your local representative, please go to <http://sbcag.org/bod.html>.



Music aficionado, athlete, community volunteer extraordinaire, practical idealist, career public servant, great communicator, innovator and booster of all forms of sustainable transportation – this is Matt Dobberteen.

Born in Boston and raised in Norman, Oklahoma, he came to UCSB as a pre-law major and expanded to environmental studies. Already a leader during his student years, he was elected to the board of the Isla Vista Department of Recreation & Parks right out of school. He also joined the County Planning Department.

Soon Matt was named County Redevelopment Officer, working on projects in Old Town Goleta, Orcutt, and Isla Vista. In 2003, he accepted his current position as Alternative Transportation Manager of the County Public Works Department. He counts updating the Bicycle Master Plan, as well as implementing North County transit and the Isla Vista shuttle among his major achievements. Matt enjoys his work and is grateful to his boss Dace Morgan and Public Works Director Scott McGolpin for supporting him in every way.

Ever since college, Matt Dobberteen experimented with going car free. He currently bikes from his house in the Eastside to his job at the County, or, when it rains, he takes the bus.

Matt Dobberteen exemplifies public sector leadership at its best. Don't be surprised when you see him fitting helmets on kids or tending the bar at a COAST party.

We are proud to have Matt on our advisory board.

Intern Spotlight

By Courtney Dietz

COAST has been lucky to have the help of intern Rachel Alonso for the past several weeks. Rachel, a Santa Barbara native who just completed her undergraduate at UCLA, came to COAST seeking an internship to expand her planning and transportation background and expand her non-profit experience. Most recently, Rachel worked with the City of Los Angeles Planning Department and has helped with a project that targeted the revitalization of LA's downtown, including mapping future transit stops, developing a vision for growth and aiding with workshops geared towards "Livable Boulevards", an effort to increase walkability and pedestrian corridors on LA's Westside.

Rachel's ideals and expertise fit well with COAST's mission. As Rachel noted, "It's important to make all



transportation options equitable and available, so more people can take advantage of them". Her experience and personal commitment have been a great addition to COAST, and we are grateful for her work. Rachel is headed to pursue her Master in City Planning degree at MIT this fall.

Would YOU like to be featured in our next Intern Spotlight? Contact Courtney for more information about available internships!

What's New on the Coastal Rail Corridor

By Dennis Story

The passage of Measure A in November 2008, which includes \$25 million for improving passenger/commuter rail, was an important step in expanding the options available to commuters between Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. SBCAG is currently pursuing several efforts to improve regional rail service, including participating in the LOSSAN effort to better integrate commuter and intercity passenger rail services in the corridor, discussing with Caltrans and Amtrak the modeling results for adjusting the #798 & #799 Pacific Surfliner trains to serve peak hour commuters, and identifying and obtaining additional discretionary funding for rail infrastructure improvements to improve rail capacity between Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

Currently one northbound Surfliner train arrives in Santa Barbara at 10:12AM (Surfliner #799) and one southbound

train departs at 4:31PM (Surfliner #798). The current schedule does not serve a standard workday, and needs to be modified to better serve the commuter market. As CoastalRailNow found with their outreach, commuters in Ventura County anxiously await the availability of peak hour rail service to Goleta.....so they can leave their cars at home.

Beyond adjusting current service, expansion of peak hour service will require increasing the capacity of the corridor. To facilitate this, the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) includes \$19 million to construct rail sidings in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, and although the state budget crisis has postponed most STIP funding, the Ortega siding, and a potential siding at Seacliff in Ventura County, are the primary candidates when this rail capacity improvement funding becomes available. CRN will continue to give voice to regional rail needs.

Downtown Living in SB

By Eva Inbar

When Brittany Odermann and her husband, Jim, were looking for a house, they knew they wanted to buy in downtown SB. They wanted to be able to walk and bike around town, and be close



to Jim's job with the County, their business, and all the attractions that our downtown has to offer. They found the perfect house on Figueroa Street – a Victorian house more than 100 years old. This location allows them to walk or bike for most of their trips: The Toyota that they share is sitting in the driveway so much that they invested in a cover for it. Brittany rides her fabulous cargo bike to work at SBCAG and does most of their shopping by bike as well: at the Farmers Market, the downtown Ralphs and at Trader Joe's on De la Vina. It must be a special pleasure

not having to brave Trader Joe's parking lot! SBCAG rewards those that do not drive alone with extra vacation days, with good results: About one third of the employees use either the bus or they carpool or they bike to work.

In the neighborhood, Brittany and Jim are known as the "biking couple." On weekends, they tend to their business, SB Pedicab. It's a popular way of getting around: This year, they already ferried about ten wedding parties from the Courthouse to their party location, enough for them to invest in a "Just Married" sign. Both Jim and Brittany can be seen on weekends on the streets of Santa Barbara driving their pedicabs. Look for them next time you are there!

Urban Hiking

By Brian Fahnstock



One of the things I like best about COAST is the advocacy for pedestrian travel. I love to walk - not with headphones and music in my ears - just walk in and experience the city, whatever city I am in. It's like urban hiking. It's educational, entertaining and it's the easiest form of exercise. When I travel for work which is pretty often, I select my hotel by its urban location. If it's dense, I'm in. If it's suburban, I look elsewhere. There is nothing worse than staying in a hotel where everything you want to do involves a car.

I usually take my urban hikes early in the morning before the business day begins. I figure even the worst neighborhood in the city center is safe at 6am. And at sunrise, you get a great feel for a city's historic architecture and its historic culture. Some city centers are vibrant with mixed housing, commercial and retail - Sacramento, Vancouver and San Diego are great examples. Some are just commercial centers where there are only offices and hotels and the locals go home at night - Los Angeles and Atlanta. Some city centers are nearly abandoned - Fresno. I walk and enjoy them all.

At meetings afterward I mention the things about the city I learned on my morning walk. I almost always know more than the residents themselves about their city. It is rare that people walk in their own city center except maybe to lunch. No one knows how long it takes to walk anywhere.

This summer when Yosemite and the Grand Canyon are overrun, there are still plenty of urban hikes just waiting.



Coalition for Sustainable Transportation
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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.

Walking Wednesday on the Mesa By Alex Pujo

Walking Wednesdays continues to attract the interest of local residents. The July tour was lead by Architects Dennis Thompson and John Kelley, both Mesa residents. The tour started at Mesa Park and crossed the pedestrian bridge into Edgewater, where the pace is slow and neighbors open up their front yards as a welcoming gesture to walking traffic.

We visited what is now an uninspiring street termination that could become a "look-out platform" for ocean views. We

continued up Mesa Lane to busy Cliff Drive, where the conversation quickly turned to ways to tame traffic and improve cross-walks. Information about neighbors' efforts to improve the Mesa is available at www.mesavillage.org

Walking Wednesdays' is organized by Santa Barbara Walks, a project of COAST. Tours are free and open to the public, and take place on the 4th Wednesday of the month, 5:30 to 6:45 pm. Visit our website for information on our next walk!



COAST's Solstice Party was, as always, a splendid affair. Here are, from left, revelers Matt Dobberteen, Kate Bechtel, and Courtney Dietz. We thank **Business First Bank**, a prime location on the parade route, for making their beautiful lobby with reserved curbside seating available to us. We are also grateful to **Omni Fresco Catering, Trader Joe's** and **Pacific Beverage** for their contributions.

We thank our Individual Supporters

We thank these people who joined COAST or renewed their support during the past three months:

Corey and Jill Anderson, Dick and Joyce Axilrod, Mark and Katherine Bradley, Sam and Darlene Chirman, Adrienne Davis, Roger and Eileen Horton, Ivor John, Paul and Joanne Nay, John Sonquist, Gary Gray, Matt Dobberteen, Ralph Fertig, Deborah Winant, Katie O'Reilly Rogers, Susan and James Shields.

We thank our Major Supporters

We thank the **McCune Foundation**, the **Green Park Foundation**, the **J.S. Bower Foundation**, the **Santa Barbara Foundation** and the **Orfalea Foundation** for supporting our major projects.