

Walk-Bike-Bus-Rail

COAST provides advocacy, education and outreach to improve transportation options in the Santa Barbara and Ventura regions, 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. They are held the second Wednesday of each month, 12 noon to 1:15 pm. Please check our website for updates.

Walking Wednesdays

COAST organizes monthly walking tours on the fourth Wednesday of each month that are free and open to the public. We are now pausing for the winter and will resume in March, 2016. Check our website for schedule.

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. Thank you!

COAST NEWS

COALITION FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

WINTER 2015

WWW.COAST-SANTABARBARA.ORG

COAST goes to Washington

By Erisy Watt

The National Walking Summit, co-hosted by America Walks and Everybody Walk!, brought together leaders, organizers, and advocates from around the nation with one common goal: to make America a great place to walk. The Summit was designed to inspire, inform, empower and engage its participants, and with its three days worth of walking workshops, riveting speakers, and networking opportunities, it did just that.

On the first day of the Summit, I participated in "Walk the Hill Day" to deliver the message to Congress that we need safe, accessible communities so that everyone can walk. Along with eight other Californians, we met with California congressional offices to discuss issues related to the walking movement and asked that they oppose any amendment to eliminate or reduce funding for TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program). We expressed how TAP helps communities create safe walking conditions by sharing our local stories and testimonies and by citing the US Surgeon General's recent Call to Action on Walking and Walkable Communities. We were so fortunate to hear the US Surgeon General's advice firsthand, as he was a keynote speaker during the Summit. In his Call to Action, he urges everyone to promote walking and walkable built environments as the most effective means to healthy, active lifestyles.

I also had the privilege to present COAST's Safe Routes for Seniors Project during a panel titled "The Transformational Power of Safe Routes for



Seniors" on the last day of the Summit. During the presentation, AARP expert Jana Lynott discussed transportation and mobility issues for aging adults and how to use the new AARP Livability Index. We then took a deeper dive into three California organizations (COAST being one of them) that are working on Safe Routes for Seniors programs, making walking conditions safer for older adults through our campaigns.



Over the three days, we addressed topics like vision zero, equity and equal access for all, engaging aging adults and diverse communities, advocacy, and how to conduct walking audits. I had the opportunity to hear from creative, passionate, diverse, and dedicated leaders who are improving walkability in their communities. In all, the Summit instilled within me an immense excitement and motivation to engage with our local Santa Barbara community upon my return home!

Erisy with Lois Capps and her staff

Dick and Mickey Flacks

By Eva Inbar

Congratulations to Dick and Mickey Flacks, winners of the 2015 Barry Siegel Award for their outstanding achievements in transportation.

Born and raised in New York City, they both retain a decidedly urban outlook on life. They grew up living in apartment buildings and rode the bus or subway from an early age. Activism for social justice has been central to their lives: Dick is a retired sociology professor at UCSB, and Mickey is a lifelong advocate for affordable housing. Anyone fighting for social equity will eventually be confronted with transportation issues.

For Mickey, this moment came when, as a member of the County Housing Commission, she was considering why we were not producing enough housing. One of the reasons was the huge amount of space that was devoted to cars, both for driving and for parking them. This was space that could not be used for people – for houses, parks, or playgrounds. Thus Mickey became an early proponent of Smart Growth. At both the City and County level, Mickey has been a staunch advocate of policies to create more housing near where people work. In 2002, she and Dick formed the Santa Barbara County Action Network (SBCAN), and condensed these ideas into the HOT (Housing, Open Space, Transportation) principles. For Dick, the moment came in 2008, when UCSB unveiled its Long Range Development Plan (LRDP). Envisioning an additional 5,000 stu-



dents with a commensurate increase in faculty and staff, The Plan included five new parking structures to replace surface lots at a cost of 25 million each. At that moment, Dick said, we cannot just assume that car use will keep increasing at current rates. We need a new direction! As a leading member of SBCAN, he assembled the SUN (Sustainable University Now) Coalition of which COAST was a partner. SUN applied Smart Growth principles to the University's Plan, arguing that we needed to reduce the number of car trips to campus by reducing parking capacity. After much negotiation, the University agreed to these principles and signed a settlement with SUN. Subsequently, the California Coastal Commission even strengthened them. The change is nothing short of revolutionary, and the results can already be seen in the new housing going up in the West

Campus area and the new bus line connecting the houses with the campus and the Camino Real Shopping Center.

For Dick and Mickey, coming to Santa Barbara in 1969, after having lived in New York and Chicago, was a culture shock. But after 46 years in Santa Barbara, this is home. They are comfortably settled in a beautiful house that is urban, Santa Barbara style – right above Alice Keck Park. They have made their mark on Santa Barbara, and this town would be poorer without them.

Meet Larry Bickford

We welcome Larry Bickford as our newest board member. He is a local optometrist who has lived in Santa Barbara for 39 years. Here he is, in his own words.

I believe COAST can create and facilitate change that will make Santa Barbara safer for our children and everyone whose feet or wheels are getting them places. COAST is making this happen through community work and government advocacy with results that are real, tangible and absolutely necessary. Who doesn't want a safer, healthier and happier community?

I grew up on Long Island, where walking or riding a bike to school was the norm. The train station was a bike ride away with easy transportation to anywhere anytime you wanted. Every neighborhood had sidewalks. Even the freeway had a dedicated bike/pedestrian path safely away from the flow of vehicles. As an adult, my activism has focused on environmental and social justice issues and I've been involved with a number of organizations with those agendas. Some years ago, when my daughter was attending elementary school, my focus shifted. I often bicycled to my office (still do!) and enjoyed walking and biking to school with my daughter, as I did when I was her age. And so I got involved

with Safe Routes To School. We organized bicycle instruction, safety assemblies, tried getting kids and adults to walk to school and work, and lobbied local government to take actions to make our neighborhoods safer. It seemed like a great way to make an immediate difference.

Now it's my turn, again, to help COAST realize the mission. No one should ever be hurt trying to cross the street or riding their bike.



Vieja Valley Family Bike Night

By Kim Stanley

Bikes, kids and parents just kept coming! That's how it felt as COAST and SBBIKE were registering families participating in the recent Family Bike Night at Vieja Valley School. When it was all said and done, we counted 130 people in the auditorium, lots of helmets purchased, 30 kids participated in a road ride, six different bike courses were taught and many many bikes tuned up! WOW. It was a lot of fun, and a lot of work!

The event was a great success because a lot of key groups were invested. Vieja Valley School and Hope School District administrators wanted to respond to the bike/car crash that left two Vieja Valley students shaken up with minor injuries. COAST and SBBike offered to organize a Family Bike Night. The school PTA stepped right up with Pizza for participants. The school promoted the event. The County of Santa Barbara provided support. COAST brought beautiful helmets that kids actually want to wear. SBBIKE did tune-ups on a seemingly never-ending stream of incoming bikes!

Six bike courses were offered including new riders on scooter bikes, little kids learning how to start in power pedal position and kids riding in COAST's Safetyville course complete with stop signs and cars backing out of driveways. Older kids improved their bike handling skills which included scanning, signaling, turning, quick stop and having eye contact with drivers.

Once the fun of the blacktop skills courses wrapped up, kids and parents gathered for perhaps the key learning opportunity of the night: the group bike ride! Led by several certified bike instructors, the ride took families, teachers and the Principal himself on a strategically-planned



Learning hand signals

route to emphasize safe bicycling practices and the rules of the road. Despite only a couple flat tires, everyone had a blast on their bikes...a reminder that riding to school can be both fun and safe!

The end result: kids feeling more confident about their bikes skills, parents knowing their children's bike riding capability, educators feeling good about responding to an emergency, and non-profit organizations jumping in to make it *all* happen. Another very rewarding event for all.

How big is a Pound of Carbon Dioxide?

By Greg Janee

This is the kind of question we ponder at COAST when we think about the environmental impact of automobile use. We all know, on some abstract level, that automobiles have a large impact on the environment, but that impact is virtually invisible to our direct senses. The refinement of the automobile over a century of development has hidden so much from us. Whereas an early car might have roared and snorted, the engine of a



new car purrs quietly, even at highway speeds--- and if it's a hybrid it might not purr at all. The ride is smooth and quiet and insulates us from the physical reality of traveling 95 feet per second on the freeway. Despite the speed, the car handles well, making it feel like an extension of ourselves--- where else in our experience do we control thousands of pounds with the slightest nudge of a finger? Is there any impact of using this wonderful melding of man and machine? We put a little gasoline in, perhaps once a week (an easily affordable amount at that), and nothing appears to come out. If there are impacts, they're not obvious.

And if the environmental impact is difficult for us adults to envision, then imagine how difficult it is to communicate to a child. Which is why

COAST, in its school programs, tries to relate environmental impacts to concepts and quantities that fit within our cognitive abilities. Back to that carbon dioxide, it turns out that the average car produces about 1 pound of CO₂ for each mile driven. Drive a mile, poop out another pound. We intuitively understand what a mile is, and a pound is a quantity we can all relate to, but how big is a pound of a gaseous substance? It's impossible

to make even a rough guess since we ordinarily don't account for air having any weight at all. But a little calculation shows that it's the size of one of the large bubbles in the adjacent photo. So drive a mile, produce another a bubble; repeat over 13,000 times a year for the average car. All those bubbles of CO₂ add up. In the United States, we emit enough CO₂ in aggregate to blanket the entire country with 1 foot of CO₂ every year. And "blanket" is indeed the right word here. As a greenhouse gas, CO₂ acts as a blanket on the Earth, so we are effectively increasing the thickness of that blanket each year.

This is just one way of visualizing the impact of automobile use; there are surely other and better ways. If you have ideas, please share them!



P.O. Box 2495
Santa Barbara, CA 93120

COAST Board of Directors

Greg Janee, President
Eva Inbar, Vice President
Kate Deutsch-Burgner, Secretary
Mark Bradley, Treasurer
Larry Bickford, Director

Advisory Board

Matt Dobberteen
Kent Epperson
Brian Fahnestock
Ed France
Grant House
Steve Maas
Alex Pujo
Helene Schneider
Rich Untermann

Staff

Erisy Watt (Project Director)
Kim Stanley (SR2S staff)
Nancy Eckert (SR2S staff)
Barry Remis (SR2S staff)
Ana Rico (Organizer)
Aaron Strockis (Intern)

Raise Money for COAST when you shop at Amazon!

It's easy. Just go to
Smile.Amazon.com, then to
Your Account and select Co-
alition for Sustainable Trans-
portation as your preferred
charity. A portion of your pur-
chase will go to COAST at
no cost to you. Thank you!

Please join us for a festive
Holiday Happy Hour

Thursday, December 3, 5-7 P.M.

at El Paseo Restaurant, 813 Anacapa Street.

Fall Gathering 2015

Our Fall Gathering 2015 at the lovely Spanish Garden Inn was a wonderful festive affair. The food, company and ambience were all perfect. We even had live music by Michael Sallstrom. We honored Dick and Mickey Flacks with the Barry Siegel award. Please see the article inside. In addition, we introduced the new COAST Program

award. This year's award went to Kathy Stassforth, teacher and parent at Foothill School, for her extraordinary effort in running her school's Walk & Roll Program. Here she is (right), receiving her award from Kim Stanley, our Safe Routes to School Coordinator. Congratulations, Kathy! Photo by Winter Creative Company.



We thank our Individual Supporters

We thank these people who joined COAST or renewed their support during the past three months: **Gerri French, David Landecker, Donn Longstreet, Ashleigh Brilliant, Martha Siegel, Janice Keller, Meredith McMin, Linda Hill.**

We thank our Major Supporters

McCune Foundation, Cottage Health, Goleta Valley Cycling Club and Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers are supporting our major projects. Further thanks go to our business sponsors, **Allen Construction, Harrison Design Associates, Deckers Outdoor Corporation, Sansum Clinic, Cox Cable.**