

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

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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. Just e-mail us and we'll add you.

COAST General Meeting

Our General Meetings discuss transportation issues affecting the Santa Barbara region. Meetings are open to the public. Location: 11 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 March thru October that are free and open to the public. 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!

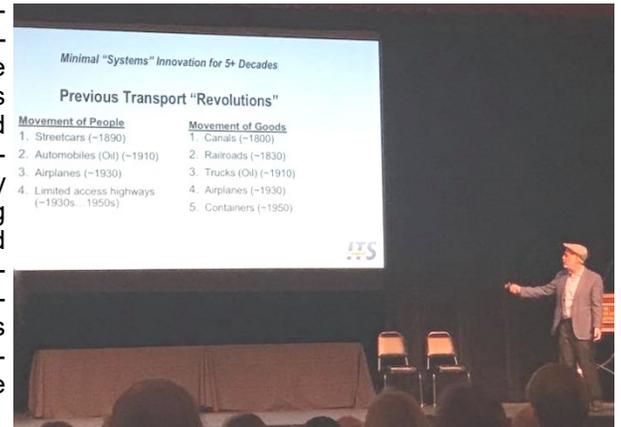
Imagine the Future

By Joanna Kaufman

Imagine a world where car ownership is in the minority because self-driving cars are available a phone app away. As far fetched as this may seem, renowned author and Director of the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Davis, Daniel Sperling claims change is in the here and now. Before a crowd at the Marjorie Luke Theater on April 5th, Sperling explained how policy choices made now could have major positive or negative implications on the way new transportation technologies impact our community.

In his new book, "Three Revolutions: Steering Automated, Shared, and Electric Vehicles to a Better Future", Sperling along with other transportation experts outline the critical decisions government can make now to help prevent a "transportation hell" scenario from occurring. Sperling asserts without proper regulations in place, new technologies such as autonomous vehicles (AV) could exacerbate existing problems of traffic congestion, urban sprawl, and the litany of associated externalities. Emissions would increase at a higher rate from gas engine AV doing "ghost trips." Low-income and mobility impaired communities would be affected by reduced transit service. Conversely, when the three revolutions of transportation are implemented together, autonomous, electrified and shared vehicles can greatly improve quality of life for all. This would result in reduced transportation costs, reduced emissions, and roadways freed up for more robust pedestrian and bicycle networks. This is the "transportation heaven" scenario.

Out of the three revolutions Sperling stressed pooling as the key to addressing current transportation issues. By pooling, the price per mile of travel drops, improving transportation access for disadvantaged communities. Past efforts such as the creation of high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes has largely failed at getting people to share rides according to Sper-



Daniel Sperling in Santa Barbara

ling. Placing a premium on driving alone is what might cause driver behavior to shift towards sharing a ride with other people. With autonomous vehicle technology, the interior of a vehicle can be totally redesigned to provide a better experience for vehicle pooling, for example improving privacy from other riders. He concluded his talk by stressing that his preferred mode of transportation is biking, and that regardless of new transportation technologies, walking and biking should still come first.

During the Q&A the importance of public-private partnerships in this era of transportation innovation was highlighted. This was a great segue into a panel discussion including cutting-edge transportation start-ups from the Los Angeles Clean Technology Incubator. Companies included EV Match (peer-to-peer electric vehicle charging), Envoy (private development car sharing), and Xtelligent (innovative traffic management systems optimized for AVs) each representing a different aspect of the three revolutions of transportation. All of the companies were in agreement that local government could do more to support innovation, whether it be providing letters of support for funding or eliminating regulatory barriers.

This event was co-sponsored by the Community Environmental Council, the Los Angeles Clean Technology Incubator, SBBIKE, and of course COAST.

The Train is on a Roll

By Barry Remis and Eva Inbar

COAST joined a host of local dignitaries at the Goleta Amtrak station for the official ribbon cutting ceremony of the re-timed Pacific Surfliner train on April 6, 2018. State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson who led the push in Sacramento to garner funding for the train, proudly cut the red ribbon with her big golden scissors as the train pulled in behind them all. Several happy passengers, including County Supervisor Das Williams himself, boarded the train for its on-time departure to Santa Barbara and parts south. It was a wonderful celebration of the beginning of a new chapter in smart, sustainable commuting for Ventura County residents who work in S.B. County...a long and successful chapter, we hope!



Local dignitaries at the ribbon cutting for the re-timed Amtrak Surfliner train

Since its inauguration on April 2nd, on-time performance of the new commuter train has improved and weekly ridership

has ranged between 94 and 146.

Barely a month later, California's State Transportation Agency awarded Santa Barbara a major grant to add two more trains to the Pacific Surfliner along with extended sidings and double tracks, again thanks to the efforts of Hannah-Beth Jackson. This will reduce local greenhouse gas emissions by

an estimated 1.16 million tons of carbon dioxide. In addition, the City of Goleta received money to build an 8,000 square foot station at the current Amtrak depot, creating an area that will be safe and hospitable - a great gateway to the City and its booming high-tech business center. Hannah-Beth Jackson said she was thrilled to see "everything come together so beautifully for a real future for inter-city rail." So are we, Hannah-Beth, and we thank you and all the others who made it possible.

COAST's Family Train Day a Big Success

By Eva Inbar

A big crowd of young families rode the train to Carpinteria on Saturday, May 12th and had a picnic on the beach during COAST's Family Train Day. Kids and parents and sometimes grandparents all had a great time, and Amtrak graciously accommodated us all. We thank Santa Barbara Car Free for helping make this event possible.



At left:

Our group arriving in Carpinteria

At right:

Event organizer Joanna Kaufman in her train engineer's outfit at our picnic site at Carpinteria State Beach.



Walking Wednesdays are in Full Swing

By Eva Inbar

COAST's Walking Wednesday program is in full swing. Every month during the spring and summer, we discover a new corner of Santa Barbara together, led by a knowledgeable docent.

Our first walk this year was led by Anthony Grumbine, architect and member of the Historic Landmarks Commission. He walked up and around State Street with us and explained how the architecture of the past could inspire the architecture of the future on State Street. Buildings in the past, before the 1925 earthquake, were actually taller than they are now. Anthony's broad knowledge and enthusiasm is always inspiring.



Anthony Grumbine at his walk on State Street in March

The next walk took place in Carpinteria.

Gerri French of Sansum Clinic led us through the Carpinteria Salt Marsh and the Community Garden. It's a beautiful gathering space.

The third walk took us back to State Street with Hal Conklin taking us on a behind-the-scenes tour through the heart of the Arts District, the Granada and the Arlington theatres. Fascinating! In June, we will explore the Hope Ranch Annex neighborhood, led by landscape contractor Autumn Brook. This walk will take participants along the horsepaths/bikepaths beside Cieneguitas Creek, a couple of blocks of County arterials, and down the meandering neighborhood streets of Arboleda Acres. We will explore the following themes: Faults, Watersheds, Wetlands and Springs; Chumash Village; Spanish Catholic Chapel and

Burial Grounds; Agriculture and Horses; Railroads and Crossroads; Pearl Chase's Urban Homesteads. It's a special place worth exploring. I know because I live there! Autumn has a wealth of knowledge of the history of the area and will surely entertain you. So come join us at Vieja Valley School on Wednesday, June 27th at 5:30 pm.

Future walks will feature Dave Davis and the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation. Visit the COAST website, www.coast-santabarbara.org for the latest information. The walks are free through generous sponsorships by Healthy People Healthy Trails, Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara Sabado & Domingo Walking Tours, Allen Construction, Harrison Design, and Stephen Murdoch.



From left: Ed France, Nancy Eckert, Lauren Jacobsen, Lynneal Williams, Christine Bourgeois.
Photo by Daniel Girard

Nancy Eckert Honored with VeloWings Award

By Barry Remis

COAST is thrilled that our very own Safe Routes to School Educator Nancy Eckert was honored on May 12th as one of three recipients of this year's CycleMAYnia Velo Wings Awards! For the seventh year, the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition (SBBIKE) recognizes the outstanding achievements of inspirational local women who make cycling safer and more accessible to everyone in our community. An avid mountain biker and road cyclists for years, Nancy has turned her love for bicycling into the gift of bike safety education that she gives to area school children on a daily basis. Along with her girls softball coaching and mentoring career, Nancy leverages her background as a P.E. teacher to empower and enrich the lives of young girls and boys alike by sharing her passion for the freedom and independence of cycling with our area youth. Nancy's enthusiasm is evident every day as she guides young riders to be safe riders and to appreciate the sustainable and healthy benefits of people-powered transportation while having fun on two wheels. We congratulate Nancy for her most well-deserved Velo Wings Award, and are proud to have her on our team!



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It's easy. Just go to Smile.Amazon.com, then to Your Account and select Coalition for Sustainable Transportation as your preferred charity. A portion of your purchase will go to COAST at no cost to you. Thank you!

You are invited to our Annual Solstice Party

When: June 23, 11:30 am to 2 pm

Where: Pacific Premier Bank, 1035 State Street.

We will be watching the parade with front row seats. Lunch and drinks will be served. Watch your e-mail for more news!



Earth Day 2018

COAST again enjoyed a perfect Earth Day Festival. Our booth was colorfully decorated with children's art and was quite busy the whole time. The photo shows our Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Kim Stanley, and Instructor Jody Nelson in the background and a young artist in the foreground. We thank our staff, above all organizer Joanna Kaufman, for their hard work, and our many volunteers for making this event a success. See you next year!

We thank our Individual Supporters

We thank these people who joined COAST or renewed their support during the past five months: **Michael Becker, Eva Inbar, Bob Lilley, Edith Ogella, Ken Radtkey, Kyle Richards, Connie Styrwoll, Bob Burnham, Vijaya Jammalamadaka, Joan McKay, June Sochel, Cynthia Stahl, Mary Bucholtz.**

We thank our Institutional Supporters

We thank the **McCune Foundation, Sansum Clinic, the Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara Sabado & Domingo Walking Tours and SB MTD** for supporting our major projects. Further thanks go to our business sponsors, **Allen Construction and Harrison Design Associates.**