

## 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 September 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!

## Dennis Story receives the Barry Siegel Award

By Alex Pujo



Dennis Story, third from right, with local dignitaries at COAST's Fall Gathering

Dennis Story was born in 1945 in Portland, Oregon and studied architecture at Kansas State University before moving to southern California in 1969. Dennis took classes in City and Regional Planning at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo but it was his experience growing up with transit in Portland that sparked his interest in trains and transportation in general. In the 1950s Portland had trains, trolleys and electric buses, which were later removed and replaced with diesel buses just as told in the classic "Who killed Roger Rabbit?"

While studying in Kansas City, Dennis learned about efforts to bring back rail within existing right-of-ways and he visited some of these corridors. The plan failed but Dennis was hooked. At the college law library he read documents of the 1948 federal case against the consortium (Standard Oil, General Motors, etc.) detailing a conspiracy to undermine public transit.

Dennis came to Santa Barbara in 1990 and soon became interested in the work that Barry Siegel and others ("Grassroots 101") were doing to promote alternatives to the widening of Highway 101. Dennis joined COAST in 2002 to advocate for commuter rail, and partnered with

Jonathan Maguire to create "CoastalRailNow" as a brand name for commuter rail between Oxnard and Goleta.

When the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) placed a measure on the ballot to renew the County's ½ cent sales tax to fund transportation, Dennis worked diligently to assure that commuter rail was part of the funding plan. With assistance from then County Supervisor Salud Carbajal, \$25 million were committed to commuter rail.

Success has a thousand parents, and many individuals can rightfully claim their share in making commuter rail a reality. It is appropriate to recognize several former Santa Barbara City and County officials for this achievement, California Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson in particular, but the credit starts with Dennis Story, the recipient of COAST's 2018 Barry Siegel Award.

Editor's note:

*For background on the award, and a list of previous recipients, please visit the blog on our website.*

# Italy Creates Historic Centers Friendly to Walkers, Bikers

By Sally Cahill Tannenbaum

Fed up with air pollution, congestion, and noise, cities across Italy are transforming their historic centers into car-free pedestrian-friendly centers. Called Zona Traffico Limitados (ZTL's) or Limited Traffic Zones, some of Italy's most popular urban centers have restricted the use of automobiles and transformed their urban centers into bustling, vibrant walkable-bikeable districts.

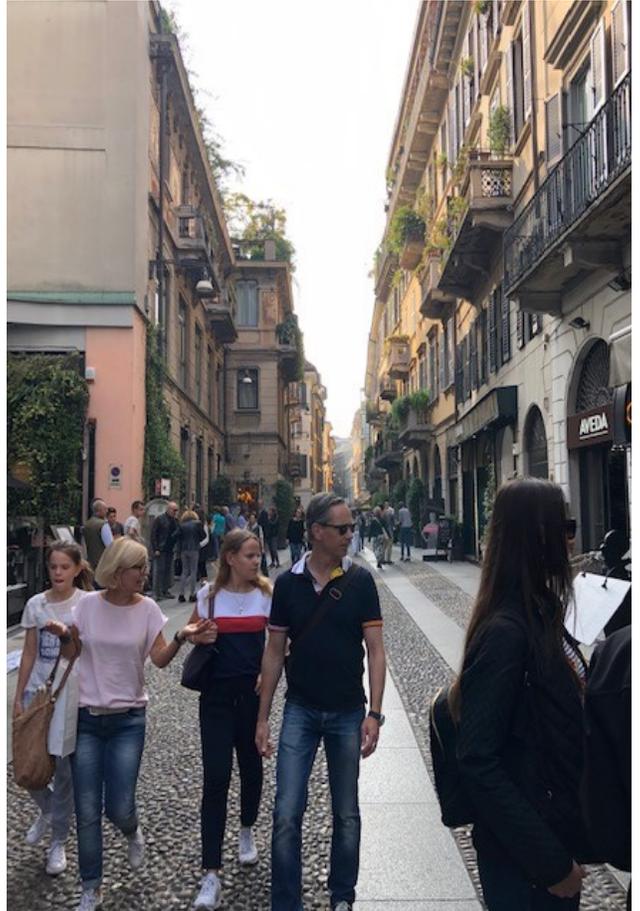
Venice, Rome, Pisa, Siena, Florence, Milan and Bologna are just a few of the cities that have changed their downtowns into car free zones. Banishing vehicles has encouraged tourists and residents alike to explore and savor these culturally rich centers. As a result, one is likely to see street musicians performing and local artisans displaying their wares in previously traffic-congested intersections. Another benefit, increased foot traffic helps retail shops thrive and sidewalk cafes flourish.

In most cases, delivery trucks and local residents are required to use permits to enter the restrictive neighborhoods and roads are designed to discourage car use.

The elimination of traffic has lowered noise and air pollution and slowed the structural decay of historic buildings. And, perhaps more than anything, zone restrictions have served to revitalize the cultural hearts of these cities and created cities that are more livable.

Certainly Italians are not alone. Progressive centers around Europe are setting up car-free zones in their historic downtowns. From Oslo to Madrid, London to Hamburg, Paris to Athens, urban districts are reducing traffic congestion and encouraging walking and bike use.

The cities also serve as an inspiration to those of us in Santa Barbara who would like to create a vibrant, car-free zone on State Street, in the heart of our cherished Pueblo Viejo.



Pedestrian Zone in Milan

## The Pacific Surfliner Train

By Eva Inbar

Have you ever taken the Pacific Surfliner train to Los Angeles or San Diego? If not, you are missing out! When I travelled to San Diego recently, taking the train was a no-brainer. Why would I ever sweat it out on those hellish Los Angeles freeways when I had an alternative that was so much more pleasant? I departed from SB at 9:30 am and enjoyed leaning back in my seat, taking in the views, nibbling on the provisions I had brought along and reading the New Yorker. That's what I call travelling in style! There were plenty of people on the train, and by the time we reached Union Station, every seat was taken. Between Los Angeles and San Diego

it was standing room only. Now I could see why the Surfliner is the second busiest corridor in the nation, right after the Northeast Corridor.

There are five Surfliner trains daily between Santa Barbara and San Diego. Two of these run all the way up to San Luis Obispo. An additional nine trains run between Union Station and San Diego. And yet, if every seat on the train is taken, we need more trains.

SB1, a State law passed in 2017 to increase the gas tax and vehicle fees, provides funding to double track the route in more places and modernize the signaling and other infrastructure.

This will allow us to have more frequent and reliable service. The North Los Angeles (LOSSAN) corridor stands to receive \$127 million dollars, and the Santa Barbara region alone will receive another \$22 million for double tracks, signal system improvements, the Goleta Amtrak depot and an additional train to San Luis Obispo. This is an enormous shot in the arm that will set us on a course to finally bring our rail system into the twenty-first century. In defeating Proposition 6 by a wide margin, voters showed they have the good sense to appreciate the benefits of SB1, including more trains on the Surfliner route.

# Sponsor Spotlight: Hazard's Cyclesport and Bicycle Bob's

By Kim Stanley



Left: Staffers Max and Ryan at Hazard's Cyclesport. Center: Owner Bruce Davis. Right: Bob Zaratian of Bicycle Bob's flanked by employees Rob and Bree at his store in Goleta. Both owners are in their stores every day. Photos: Eva Inbar

Relationships with some community partners make Santa Barbara still feel to me like we have a "home town." Meet **Bruce Davis**, of **Hazard's Cyclesport** and **Bob Zaratian**, of **Bicycle Bob's**. Bruce and Bob for the last couple of years have tuned up COAST's loaner bikes to get us ready

for the educational events of the upcoming year. COAST's Safe Routes to School program provides these loaner bikes for students who do not have a bike, or who can not get their bicycle to school so they can participate in on-bike safety classes. Bruce and Bob generously agreed to get our bikes in

good shape for the rigors of the coming year. Kids are happily pedaling those well-tuned vehicles! Thank you Bruce and Bob for supporting COAST in this way, and for contributing to the small town feel of our city.

## Walk&Roll

By Kim Stanley

What do reflective shoelaces, 4,000 kids, CHP, bike trains, cottage hospital, a superintendent crossing guard, \$1 per student donation, reduced traffic, bike fairies and student council kids all have in common? Yep: International Walk to School Day 2018!

We floated more ideas to the school volunteers this year and they ran with it! Isla Vista and Foothill schools organized bike trains (think: school bus picking up kids along the route to school, only the kids are on bikes). Mountain View bike riders were visited by the "Bike Fairy" and found safety lights magically attached to their bikes at the end of the day. Several schools had their student council kids greeting arriving peers. At another school a local company donated \$1 per student AND parent who walk or bike to school on Wednesdays in "Walktober"! Many schools used the event to launch their "Walk & Roll" campaign- encouraging families to walk and bike to school more regularly- once a week or once a month.

Besides parent volunteers, other community partners also made this a special event. SBPD, Sheriff and CHP increased their patrols around schools on this day. The Superintendent of Carpinteria Unified School District was the crossing guard at Canalino School. The mayor of Goleta and City Council members in Santa Barbara and Goleta talked with their constituents in a casual atmosphere. Many kinder and first grade teachers received a Clifford book about pedestrian safety to read to their classes. Cottage Hospital Trauma Services gave COAST a grant to purchase fun incentives and promotional banners this year. Every participating student received either reflective shoelaces, a flashing safety light, a bike bell, or spoke lights- fun yet useful items to increase the ability of drivers to see or hear a pedestrian or cyclist.

We hope what families experienced on this day will inspire them to walk and



Walk&Roll group at Peabody School

bike to school more regularly, realizing the many benefits: exercise, fresh air, slowing down, saying hello to neighbors, fun, reduced traffic, increased safety, reducing our carbon footprint and enjoying quality family and friend time. What could be a better start to every day!?



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*You are invited to our Holiday Happy Hour 2018*  
**When:** Wednesday, December 12th, 5 to 7 pm  
**Where:** El Paseo Restaurant, 813 Anacapa Street  
Help us celebrate the season and our many successes this year!



**Our Fall Gathering 2018** was again a lovely event. We appreciated the beautiful courtyard of the **Spanish Garden Inn** and enjoyed the food, drinks and each other's company. We honored Dennis Story (see front page). In the photo, Joanna Kaufman talks about our many achievements

of the past year. Our advocacy is stronger than it has ever been. We highlighted some of our achievements for you in our appeal letter that you should have received by now. Please be generous and support our work! None of it would be possible without the support of our members. Thank you all!

**We thank our Individual Supporters**

We thank these people who joined COAST or renewed their support during the past three months: Marc McGinnes, Carol Spungen, Muriel Zimmerman, Robert Adams and Nancy Caponi, Michael Bennett, Margaret and Joe Connell, Ken Hough, David Landecker, Bob Lilley, Joan and Bill Murdoch, Sally Tannenbaum, Paul and Cheryl Weakliem, Deborah Winant, John Cinatl, Leslie and David Cornyn, Thomas Craveiro, Rosie Dyste, Cass Ensberg, Eva Inbar, Arthur Kennedy, Lori LaRiva, Jessica Metzger, Steve Morris, Alex and June Pujo, Aliza and Fred Shima, Mary Bucholtz, Martha Siegel.

**We thank our Institutional Supporters**

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