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# PEOPLE POWER!

Join **People Power** and make Santa Cruz a better place to ride and walk. Membership includes: subscription to our quarterly newsletter, use of the HUB library, and volunteer opportunities.

- \$200 Business Member**  
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*People Power! UPDATE* is published by People Power. Our goal is to educate people and politicians about the advantages of a transportation system less dependent on the automobile. A special thanks to all our volunteers.

# PEOPLE POWER! UPDATE

SANTA CRUZ CYCLING NEWS

ISSUE 54

SPRING / SUMMER 2007

## Defending the Sacred Path at Holy Cross

Because every pathway is sacred to People Power, we are currently engaged in a struggle to help save the path behind the Santa Cruz Mission at Holy Cross Church.

Several months ago, neighbors of the Holy Cross Church on Mission Plaza discovered that an out-of-town landlord, John Mahoney, had acquired the rights to the historic pathway behind the Mission from Holy Cross Church, in order to close it down and subsume it into his property, which is adjacent to the pathway.

On Sunday, April 29th, People Power held a bake sale and historic walk to protect the path. Local historian Ross Gibson led the walk with over 35 participants, as we learned about the area surrounding the Mission and the role it has played in Santa Cruz history. Ross pointed out that much of the community spirit of Santa Cruz comes from the fact that the town was laid out for pedestrian interactions with horses and buggies used mainly for travel into and out of town. It is this historic community network of trails that is under attack from landlords seeking more and more control over the areas near their properties.

In the past couple years, People Power has fought against the closure of three pathways. We kept a path open that was threatened by the Oceanview Condominium Association; struggled to open a gate to the river levee at Kennan Street (so far, to little avail), and now



Rae Ellen Leonard and her service dog, Neil, are now blocked from using the pathway that they have enjoyed for over 20 years.

*continued on page 7*

## SATURDAY, MAY 12TH IS RAIL & TRAIL DAY!

For the third year in a row, People Power, Bike to Work, Friends of the Rail Trail, and the SC County Cycling Club are teaming up for our **Annual Rail & Trail Day**, celebrating train and bike travel.

Starting with a Roaring Camp train ride (with bikes on board) from Depot Park in Santa Cruz to Felton, hundreds of us will join together for a group ride down Highway 9 with CHP escort, back to Santa Cruz. **Make sure your bike is in good mechanical condition. We will have a CHP escort but the left lane will not be closed to traffic.** All riders must ride in the right hand travel lane and obey all traffic signals.

For the bike ride, all kids 7 and under must be in a kid's seat, trailer, or attached seat/wheel and assisted by their parents. Kids 8 and older must be able to keep up with the group or they will be asked to sit in the support bike trailer. **Helmets required.** ■

### GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY!

As in previous years, we expect to sell out.  
Call 425-0665 to purchase tickets.

**ADULTS: \$6/each way KIDS (12 & UNDER): \$3/each way**

(RETURN TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE TO RIDE THE TRAIN BACK TO DEPOT PARK, FOR THOSE WHO PREFER NOT TO BIKE.)

Meet at Depot Park in Santa Cruz at 10 a.m.  
Ride should conclude around 1:30.

\*\*\* Bring lunch or snacks! \*\*\*

For more information or to volunteer, call 425-0665 or go to: [www.bike2work.com](http://www.bike2work.com)

## Bridging the Highway at Mar Vista Drive

The prospect for a bike and pedestrian bridge across Highway 1 at Mar Vista Drive in Aptos took a small step forward on April 5th, when the Regional Transportation Commission voted to include a \$7.5 million funding request in their bid for state transportation monies. If approved by the California Transportation Commission, the bridge would reconnect the Aptos neighborhood that is currently divided by Highway 1. An important transportation link, the bridge would allow pedestrians and bicyclists to get from neighborhoods south of the freeway to the commercial districts and schools to the north. In particular, the bridge would allow hundreds of school children to get to Mar Vista School and create a valuable connection to Cabrillo College from a future trail and train on the rail corridor.

People Power volunteers gathered hundreds of signed post-cards in support of the bridge from parents of Mar Vista Elementary School students (including one from the school's principal), and other Aptos neighbors. Thanks to those who volunteered to collect signatures, as well as to Supervisor Ellen Pirie, who led the vote at the SCCRTC for the bridge. We look forward to working with Supervisor Pirie and the SCCRTC on projects like this bridge that have broad community support, unlike their highway widening projects which have been met with serious opposition at every turn. ■

### Bookkeeper Needed!

For the past year or so we've been very fortunate to have Eric Child volunteering his time and expertise to get our bookkeeping in order. Unfortunately for us, he's moving on to other projects and we are now in need of someone who has good bookkeeping skills, to pick up where Eric is leaving off. The work involved should take about 2-4 hours a week and can be done on your schedule.

Eric has graciously offered to help train the new person and familiarize him/her with our procedures. We are hoping to have someone in place by the end of May.

Thanks again to Eric for his work and truly admirable efforts (and patience) in helping us get more organized and efficient in running this aspect of the organization. We're in better shape now than we've ever been.

**Please call Micah at 425-0665 if you are interested.**

## NEW IN THE OFFICE

We're Happy to introduce our new staff and interns, without whom we couldn't be nearly as effective as we are. This semester's high school interns are Alejandro Philips, a junior at Santa Cruz High, and Samantha Sharpe, a senior at SC High at. We also have our first UCSC intern, Dominc Lucchesi, a Community Studies major, who is with us for about eight weeks before heading north for a longer internship with the San Francisco Bike Coalition.

In addition to our interns, we are also pleased to welcome Charlie Zimmerman as our new membership coordinator. Charlie will be in the office for about three hours a week, keeping the member database current and handling all matters related to membership.

Thanks to all of you for your time and dedication! ■

## GLOBAL WARMING / LOCAL COOLING EVENT

On **Monday, May 14th**, Bike to Work will host an event on global warming and local cooling **at the Loudon Nelson Center at 6PM**. A discussion afterwards will give the public a chance to ask tough questions about our county's transportation policy and its relationship to global warming. Valet bike parking provided by People Power. ■

## News from Sacramento

The California Bicycle Coalition (CBC) and the Train Riders Association of California (TRAC) are both busy representing the interests of People Power at the state level.

The CBC is sponsoring several pieces of important legislation including **AB 1358-Complete the Streets**. AB 1358 requires the legislative body of a city or county, upon revision of the circulation element of their general plan, to identify how the jurisdiction will provide for the routine accommodation of all users of the roadway including motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, individuals with disabilities, seniors, and users of public transportation.

They are also working on **AB 534**, which would double the amount of money available to the Bicycle Transportation Fund. This fund was recently cut by the governor.

They could use our help writing letters of support for both of these piece of legislation. Find out more at: [www.calbike.org](http://www.calbike.org) or [www.trainriders.org](http://www.trainriders.org) or call (916) 446-7558 or (916) 557-1667.

TRAC members are angry with the Governor's latest budget proposal, which slashes transit funds by \$1.1 billion, which, coincidentally, is the amount generated by Prop 1B. It was because of this money that TRAC and other progressives stayed quiet about 1B, which largely went to highway projects. People Power lobbied TRAC, the Sierra Club, and others to oppose 1B. *Could the county try the same thing if we pass a sales tax measure that is mostly for highway projects?* Hmmm. ■

## Holy Cross Pathway

*continued from page 1*

have joined with neighbors of Mission Plaza to preserve this longstanding route behind the Mission. We are fighting for each of these pathways in order to protect community access by foot and bicycle.

The tasty part of this particular action came from the dozens of baked goods that neighbors brought to the Bake Sale table, staffed by People Power interns, Dominic, Sammy, and Alejandro. The \$164 that we raised from passers-by and members of Holy Cross Church headed into and out of services will go towards legal fees to keep the path open.

Our goal is to challenge the path closure under the rules of prescriptive rights. Laws around prescriptive rights are intended to protect pathways that have been in the public use for 10 years or more. The closure of the path can only be challenged in court, which means that we will need a lawyer to secure enforcement of these rights.

At the end of Sunday's walk, 25 people between the ages of 1 and 51 crossed over the "No Trespassing" postings at both ends of the walkway, exercising our right to use the path. As the landlord did not enforce his easement, this further helps our eventual case in court.

Ultimately this path should be owned by the city and held in the public trust. The city attorney has been asked by Mayor Emily Reilly to look into how this could best be accomplished. To keep up with this issue contact activist/neighbor **Joan Hoglund** at **466-9014**. ■

### New Leaf Envirotoken Balloting People Power Needs Your Vote!

It's May again, which means it's time for New Leaf Markets' "election" to decide which organizations will receive funds from their Envirotokens program. People Power is on the ballot again and we need your vote.

Please vote once at each New Leaf store during May for your favorite six organizations—and get your friends to vote too. This is a major source of ongoing funds for People Power—up to \$300/month, which is enough to cover our rent.

We also REALLY need volunteers to table in front of the Santa Cruz stores during the voting period. Part of the reason we keep getting selected is that we make a concerted effort each year to talk to people and let them know what we do. If you have a few hours to volunteer, please call Micah at **425-0665**.



ABOVE:  
The pathway behind the Mission, now blocked off by the landlord.



RIGHT:  
Activists challenge the barricade of the pathway.

### from our mail box

Feb 12, 2007

...This weekend I made two bike trips I wouldn't have normally made because the Soquel Bike Lane is now installed. It is wonderful.

I used to avoid Soquel after 8AM, but now that's all changed. Mid-day on Saturday, I loaded my trailer and took a load of clothes to Goodwill on Frederick Street. On Sunday I rode downtown to go the bank.

I wanted to thank you and everyone else involved in making this project happen.

— Corinne Hyland, MPH  
SC County Health Services Agency

## Transportation Funding Task Force—Will “Plan C” Get Traction?

Of the five proposals submitted to the Transportation Funding Task Force (TFTF) for consideration at May 1 meeting, “Plan C,” submitted by the Campaign for Sensible Transportation, is the only one that does not propose more lanes on Highway 1.

Plan C, is the only proposal that focuses on “Community Needs, Choice, Corridor Mobility and Climate Protection.” We believe Plan C may be the only kind of proposal that might be approved by voters in the November ’08 election. There is likely to be strong opposition—enough to prevent the needed 2/3 approval—to any measure that includes, as a major component, funds for widening Highway 1 from Santa Cruz to Watsonville.

Here is the current summary of Plan C. Numbers are estimated and may change in future versions.

PROJECT	ALLOCATION
<b>Local road maintenance</b>	
Road maintenance and repairs	70
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>70.0</b>
<b>Highway 1 projects</b>	
Ramp metering and ramp bypass lanes	50
Origin/destination study	0.2
TSM/TDM efficiency programs	14
Pedestrian/bicycle bridges	10
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>74.2</b>
<b>Rail-related projects</b>	
Pajaro Station	8
Rail line upgrades & starter passenger rail service	50
Rail trail network	16
PRT feasibility study	0.5
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>74.5</b>
<b>Bus system projects</b>	
Metro bus service expansion	40
School buses	28
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>68.0</b>
<b>Specialized transportation modes</b>	
Mobility management center for elderly & disabled	15
Safe routes to schools (75% infrastructure)	40
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>55.0</b>
<b>Special programs</b>	
Transportation/Land use cooperative program	2
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>343.7</b>
<b>Years at \$17 million per year:</b>	<b>20.2</b>

The intent of this Plan is to work toward a transportation system for Santa Cruz County that includes both private and public transportation modes serving all segments of our community, with the goal of increasing mobility throughout the county and

beyond. The system is designed to reduce the need for and use of the single-occupant vehicle as the primary transportation mode. The total cost for Plan C is approximately \$340 million and could be funded by a 1/2¢ sales tax lasting 20 years. Other funding mechanisms, such as a 10¢/gallon gas tax or an increase in vehicle license fees could also be considered.

Any project that would add lanes to Highway 1 between Santa Cruz and Watsonville has proven too costly for the resources of our county. To devote the bulk of our transportation resources to the widening of Highway 1 means that other projects, such as those described in this Plan, will, in the end lose out. Construction costs for proposed Highway 1 widening projects will increase with time, owing to the increasing costs of the energy required to produce and deliver the asphalt and concrete needed for construction. A significant result of adding lanes (and thereby increasing Highway capacity) will be to increase both the number of vehicles on local streets and the need for additional parking spaces. This will be especially true at the north and south ends of the widened highway.

Our recommendations vis a vis the Highway involve making changes (such as ramp metering with bypass lanes for emergency vehicles, buses and carpoolers) that would facilitate the flow of traffic on Highway 1. We also recommend that detailed origin/destination studies be undertaken to allow particular bottlenecks and problems to be defined. Our Plan also recommends Transportation Demand Management (TDM) and Transportation Systems Management (TSM) programs. Such programs might include rideshare and van pool incentives, car-share programs, parking cashout and telecommuting.

Providing \$74 million for train transportation should allow us to begin actually rolling trains within the decade. Service will link up destinations within the county and connect to Amtrak and CalTrain. The bus system would also be expanded to link to train service.

Students will be served by more school buses and safe routes to schools connected to the coastal rail trail and the San Lorenzo Valley rail trail network.

Finally, each project undertaken should include an analysis of greenhouse gas emissions and impacts on global climate change. Such analyses will become increasingly mandated in California and throughout the country. The City of Santa Cruz already requires CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) analysis of global warming impacts.

**For more information on the progress of the Task Force or on Plan C, visit [sensibletransportation.org](http://sensibletransportation.org), or contact Micah at 425-0665. ■**

## CONGREGATIONS GETTING COOL

by Batya Kagan, Coordinator, LSGP's Congregation Program

Local Solutions to Global Problems (LSGP), a subgroup of People Power, is up to some powerful projects. Our latest efforts involve reaching out to churches, synagogues, and other places of worship to organize events on Global Warming. Through our group, congregations can arrange for a speaker or panel to visit and discuss how city, county, and state policy decisions, as well as personal choices, can make a big difference in reducing greenhouse gasses. We hope to help make connections between caring for the environment and honoring a spiritual commitment to the sanctity of all life. This work also represents a social action commitment, as many people are already suffering from the effects of global warming—especially poor people and people of color.

We already have contact and an agreement to host events at the Quaker Center, the Center for Conscious Living, Chadeish Yameinu (Jewish renewal), and are talking to the First Congregational Church and the Unitarian Church. Though dates have not been set for all of these venues, our first event is scheduled for June 13th as a joint venture between the Center for Conscious Living and Chadeish Yameinu.

Our hope is that these efforts will culminate in a platform and/or set of pledges that will lead to a significant commitment and influence on local policies that have an impact on global warming. This is truly a grassroots effort with the platform or pledge being informed by the congregations that participate in these programs. To quote Rabbi Zalman Shachter-Sholomi (the leader of the Jewish renewal movement), “the only way for us to get it together is together,” meaning we all need to work together to make this happen.

If you or someone you know is involved in a church or religious institution and wants to help us get these programs up and running in their congregations, please feel contact **Batya Kagan at 419-6574** or send email to: [Ichaim@jps.net](mailto:Ichaim@jps.net).

If you are interested in getting involved with any of LSGP's other projects, you can also contact Batya. In addition to our outreach to local congregations, we also are working with the City of Santa Cruz to help shape the General Plan (see article on page 5 of this issue.)

Since the group began last summer, we have also hosted several film screenings and other presentations. Our upcoming event, “Dam Nation” is a book release celebration and workshop by Laura Allen and Cleo Woelfle-Erskin who will be discussing water use and cycles and how water policy relates to local and global issues. The event will be held on May 24th, from 7-9pm at the Loudon Nelson Community Center. ■

**\*\* REMINDER \*\***  
**Get your tickets for Rail & Trail Day, Sat, May 12th**  
**Call 425-0665**



*Loading bikes onto the train at last year's Rail & Trail Day.*

**Call for Volunteers!**  
**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO KEEP**  
**PEOPLE POWER MOVING**

If you haven't ever volunteered, we encourage you to get involved. You'll meet new people, support the movement, and feel good for having done your share. If there's anything we can do to help make volunteering easier, feel free to call us at **425-0665** with your suggestions.

- **Help get the Envirotoken Vote for People Power at New Leaf**  
 Call 425-0665 to arrange dates / 4-7pm
- **Rail & Trail Day**  
 Saturday, May 12th  
 In Santa Cruz and on the ride from Felton
- **Tabling on Bike to Work Day**  
 Thursday, May 17th  
 At Santa Cruz breakfast sites / 6:30 - 9:30AM
- **Valet Bike Parking**  
**BMX Fest**  
 Sunday, May 20th / 11:30-3:30 / In Santa Cruz  
**Global Warming & Local Cooling Event**  
 Monday, May 14th / 5:30-9:00PM / In Santa Cruz  
**Japan Fair**  
 Saturday, June 23rd / 10-6:30 In Santa Cruz

**PEOPLE OF POWER!**  
 703 Pacific Ave. Santa Cruz / 426-7338

## Bike Week 2007: May 12th–20th



This month, Santa Cruz County is celebrating its 20th annual Bike Week. Each year this week-long celebration brings the entire bicycling community together—from long-time commuters and recreational riders to novice bike commuters, young and old.

This year's schedule continues our tradition of fun, informative and inclusive events, including: the Cycle-Logical Bike Parade (May 19th), Rail & Trail Day (May 12th), a scavenger hunt at UCSF and more!

**Bike to Work/School Day is Thursday, May 17th.** This year we are trying to recruit more schools, as biking to school is as important as ever in fighting childhood obesity, making our streets safer, and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

If you are a People Power member receiving your *Update* by regular mail, you will find a Bike Week program enclosed. Others can go to [www.bike2work.com](http://www.bike2work.com) for a complete listing of events.

Bike Week continues its success with the support of volunteers, donations from local businesses and public agencies. Some of our biggest sponsors include the City of Santa Cruz, SCCRTC, and The Bicycle Trip. For more information contact:

PHONE: (831) 423-9569 x128 EMAIL: [staff@bike2work.com](mailto:staff@bike2work.com)  
WEB: [www.bike2work.com](http://www.bike2work.com) ■


## Riding Off the Battery Grid by Bruce Van Allen

Not owning a car for 22 years has saved me thousands of dollars, reduced my energy and resource consumption, and kept me healthy. All good! Unfortunately, the everyday details of human-powered transport still have a few downsides: unsafe roads, glass and debris in the bike lanes, inadequate bicycle parking. What's worst? I'd say battery-powered lights.

For riding at night, I like a very bright light, and for years have used lights with heavy rechargeable batteries strapped to my bike. But rechargeables require constant awareness to keep charged, and are still short-lived, soon becoming toxic droplets raining into the waste/recycling stream. Beyond that, a good rechargeable battery is tempting to thieves, and the connectors quickly crap out if I repeatedly unhook my battery to take it with me.

A few years ago when yet another pricey rechargeable light "system" failed, I poked around and discovered hub dynamo generators. The best reference I found on this subject was the website of Peter White Cycles in New Hampshire.

Unlike the semi-reliable generators that rub against the tire, a hub dynamo is built into the wheel, sealed against weather and dirt, has no parts to adjust, and is always ready to go. Newer models minimize noise and resistance. The remaining problem is



**Join Santa Cruz's Cycle-Logical Pedal Art Parade during Bike to Work/School Week**

Celebrate 2-wheeled transportation, get creative, and win prizes. Decorate your bike, wear a costume, and join the parade on

**Saturday, May 19th, 10:30 AM on Pacific Avenue, next to the Metro Station**

The celebration continues from 11-1pm at the north end of Pacific Avenue, with live music, games, prizes, and cycle art.

Pre-parade bike decoration workshop at the Bike Church (703 Pacific Avenue) Sunday, May 13, 3PM – 7PM

**FOR MORE DETAILS, CALL MIA AT 457-2565.**

cost. Each frustrating moment with batteries motivated me to save up, and last month I finally made my purchase. (You need a wheel built around the hub and lights that match the hub's power output. If you're buying a new bike, get the hub dynamo wheel then.) I chose the Schmidt SON28, with a black anodized hub to resist the ocean air, sized for a standard 26" wheel. I ordered Busch & Miller LED front and rear lights, which give good illumination even below 5MPH, and don't burn out quickly like halogen bulbs. These come with built-in "stand-lights" powered by a capacitor that charges while I'm moving so when stopped I'm still visible to cars and can see the road and read a map.

For the past few weeks I've been cruising battery-free. What a difference! No heavy batteries to charge and carry, no annoying connectors to fiddle with, less theft worry. I estimate that, in a year, the calories I burn with the dynamo on is equal to a Chocolate Madness dessert at the Saturn Cafe, so the energy for a well-lit ride is effectively free. The primary gain for me is non-monetary: removing the annoyance, unreliability, and toxicity of batteries. To me this is well worth the investment. ■

*People Power member and former Santa Cruz Mayor Bruce Van Allen develops multi-user software & advises progressive political campaigns.*

## Local Solutions to Global Problems Group and the Santa Cruz General Plan — by Michael Levy

People Power's Peak Oil and Climate Change committee, known as Local Solutions to Global Problems (LSGP), is having an impact on the Santa Cruz upcoming General Plan.

The City is getting ready to put out a new 15-year General Plan, a thick document that will guide policies, programs and ordinances and set much of the direction for the City. People Power members had a significant influence over the last General Plan revision in 1994, and we are again part of the process, this time with an eye not just to transportation policies, but to all the policies related to our society's fossil fuel addiction.

Although the City Council has the final say about what goes into the General Plan, for the most part they accept the recommendations of a volunteer committee called the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC). The GPAC has been meeting for two years, first selecting overall goals, then defining more specific policies for the General Plan. Our work was made easier by the fact that there are some forward-thinking members on the GPAC, including some who are People Power members.

Policies adopted by the GPAC for Mobility (transportation) include:

- Promote and encourage rail transit projects in local and regional transportation plans.
- Encourage neighborhood and activity center development that reduces automobile dependence.
- Provide leadership on sustainable regional mobility.
- Assure that right-of-way acquisition and street design will support pedestrian and bike improvements and transit.

Obviously, these policies, although good, are pretty vague. The General Plan will contain more specific prescriptions, called Programs, under each of these policies. We will need to get involved as the Planning Department designs the Programs, to make sure that these policies become more than just nice-sounding language in the General Plan.

LSGP has also been particularly concerned with the "Natural Resources and Conservation" section of the General Plan. The GPAC has decided to include these commendable goals:

- Conservation and stewardship of resources.
- Effective leadership and action in reducing and responding to global warming.
- An enhanced and sustainable urban forest.
- Significant local production and use of renewable energy.

The GPAC will discuss the policies for these goals at their May 10th meeting. Some of the policies we are recommending are:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 3% a year, average, resulting in a reduction of 30% below 2007 levels by 2020.

- Foster community-based solutions to support citizens in the transition to a post-fossil-fuel economy. (This is an important part of a Peak Oil preparedness plan currently in place in Portland, Oregon.)
- Encourage the use of greywater systems for irrigation and landscape use. (NOTE: generating electricity to pump water is a significant cause of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The proposed desalinization plant in Santa Cruz will produce high levels of CO<sub>2</sub>.)
- Fully fund and implement the City's participation in the Cities for Climate Protection program.
- Advocate for state and federal policies that support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Promote the regional and small-scale development of solar, wind, and other renewable energy sources, with the goal of transitioning to 25% renewable energy sources by 2025.

We have discovered that not many citizens are providing input to the General Plan. We can have an impact if we keep showing up. The City Council is scheduled to review all the GPAC's recommendations at their May 15th meeting. Stay tuned for further updates on the process and how you can get involved. ■

## Wilder Ranch Bike Path Access

For all who have ridden the Wilder Bike Path, this gate (just south of the park), has been an annoying obstacle to getting from the path to the old Coast Road. Until recently, bicyclists had to get off their bikes and squeeze between the gate and fence, over the cattle grate.



Earlier this spring, the State Park upgraded the access point after People Power joined with the Santa Cruz Bicycle Industry Coalition and the County's Bicycle Committee in asking for improvements to the gateway. We also had support from Friends of the State Parks.

The new and improved access allows cyclists to easily ride through the gate and along the road to the north end of Wilder Ranch. **Please USE and enjoy this path when you ride along the coast.** We also want to thank the family of Robert Grey, who asked us to try to improve bicycle access along the corridor in honor of Robert, who died nearby, after being hit by a car while trying to cross Highway 1.