



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Paavo Ogren, Director

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**TO:** Nikki Schmidt, Administrative Analyst

**FROM:** Dave Flynn, Deputy Director of Public Works *DF*

**VIA:** Paavo Ogren, Director of Public Works *PO*

**DATE:** April 9, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Response to Grand Jury Report on "Great Paths but Galling Gaps: Bicycle Riding in SLO County"

As stated on page 12 of the final Grand Jury Report, the Department of Public Works is required to respond to recommendation C1. The following summarizes our response.

**Recommendation C1**

The County should review and revise its *Bikeways Plan*, with the goal of setting priorities that will lead the *completion* of one or more safe Class I and II bikeways that commuters can travel from their home neighborhoods to work (or school) and back. This would be a shift from the present practice of building one piece of a Class I bikeway here and another segment of another Class II there, so that neither is particularly useful to commuters.

**Reply**

The Public Works Department is implementing and will continue to implement this recommendation in conjunction with the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC). The BAC revises the County bikeway project rankings yearly. All future Class I and II bicycle facilities receive a "score" based on multiple criteria. The rankings are used to determine grant and funding priorities. In September 2008, the BAC adopted a new ranking procedure which includes a specific criterion for closing "gaps" in existing facilities. The BAC may want to place a higher weight on the gap criterion in future updates.

Approximately \$7 million dollars is available statewide under the Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA). The Public Works Department was successful in the 1990's in receiving BTA grants for construction of Class II bike lanes; however, no funds have been received in the past few years. In 2008, BTA applications were submitted for Vineyard Drive and Theater Drive. The Vineyard Drive project would close the gap in Class II facilities between Vineyard Elementary School and Main Street. The Theater Drive project would close the gap in Class II facilities between Templeton and the Paso Robles City limit, except for the Main Street Bridge over 101 which would be included in a much larger interchange project. We have also

been seeking to complete connections in the communities of Nipomo and Los Osos such that bicycling is a viable alternative mode of transportation. This would include improving signage and markings and potentially providing maps for users.

Revenue for constructing bike lanes and paths are derived from tax on gasoline and revenues have not increased to fund facilities. In May 2007, to undertake a more comprehensive program of bike lane construction, the BAC sought support for a proposed a bicycle facilities fee to the local advisory councils. No response or support of a fee was received.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (805) 781-5252.

c: Pete Jenny, Deputy Director Parks  
Ron DeCarli, Executive Director SLOCOG  
San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury (PO Box 4910, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403)

File: CF 270.190.01 Grand Jury  
CF 800.10.01 Bikeways - General

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