

From: pete van nuys <petevannuys@cox.net>
Subject: FYI: Update on Orange County Bicycle Coalition
To: president@bikeirvine.org
Date: Monday, March 29, 2010, 3:07 PM

Laurie, good afternoon.

It's been 9 months since OCBC Directors and I began revitalizing the Orange County Bicycle Coalition. I'm sending out this unsolicited email assuming that active cyclists in BCI would be interested in our progress and what that means for bicycling in our county. If you approve, we'd appreciate it if your Editor would post it on the BCI site.

* Outreach to the Cycling Community

With our new and expanding Web site we're reaching out to cyclists of all types, club riders, casual, commuters, moms, and kids. And we offer the cyclist perspective to city and county staff and elected officials as they learn to better provide for bicyclists across the county.

It is a goal of OCBC to have representation on every city-sponsored Bicycle Advisory Committee in the county and to encourage formation of ad hoc bicycle committees in cities where formal BACs have not been recognized.

* Santa Ana River Trail

Since June '09, board members have monitored and commented on both temporary and permanent realignment of the SART through Yorba Linda. Working with OCTA we have endorsed a plan for a superior Shared Use Trail that is both more attractive and safer for pedestrians and cyclists alike. Community outreach meetings are scheduled for April.

* Newport Beach

Involved from the second meeting of the city's first bicycle committee. One NB committee member is a graduate of the Irvine Street Smarts 101 class; one staff member is a cycling friend of an OCBC board member. Presented the "cyclists eye view" of primary Newport/ Costa Mesa streets; provided direction on retrofitting bike lanes and/or sharrows on Pacific Coast Highway. Seeking a permanent seat on either city-sponsored or ad hoc Bicycle Advisory Committee.

* Placentia

Beginning August '09, attended multiple City Council and General Plan meetings on behalf of OC cyclists at large. Worked with local residents to form an ad hoc bicycle committee; resident members since are included in Traffic Safety subcommittee meetings.

Asked to comment on the Circulation Element for the General Plan's current revision,

OCBC

integrated comments to reflect the construction of the Placentia Transportation Center at Westgate.

Developing signage and striping plans to mitigate the ill-conceived Bastanchury widening which

eliminated important bike lanes in OCTA's Commuter Bikeways Strategic Plan. These plans

can serve as a model for commuter routes to/from Westgate when it's completed this year.

Implementing a long term strategy to bring Complete Streets engineering to Placentia's planning.

What happens in Placentia is of vital importance to cyclists countywide, for the forces which

influenced traffic engineering there are at work throughout OC.

* Metrolink

Accommodation of bicycles on Metrolink concerns more than just commuters; multimodal facility extends all cyclists' reach to recreation, entertainment, and educational destinations in all 5 counties of "Greater L.A.." OCBC took the lead; working through contacts at Metrolink and OCTA, directors have won agreement to immediately increase onboard capacity 50%, from 2 to 3 bicycles per car.

Further near term modifications to the existing coaches will increase bicycle capacity to as much as 8 per car.

* Amtrak

Like Metrolink, policies and attitudes of train crews greatly influence how bicyclists are accommodated on Surfliner trains. OCBC is working with Amtrak customer relations in Oakland, Sacramento, and Washington DC to assure dependable accommodation of bicycles; We intend to affect change in both policy and physical facilities for the increasing number of cycling passengers. Changes in California funded service will influence Amtrak's service nationwide.

* OCTA

"The OC" includes 34 incorporated cities plus unincorporated neighborhoods and open space. We're working weekly with OCTA staff, leveraging changes in CEQA, other state and national transportation policies to gain more acceptance on the road and better shared use trail built to higher AASHTO standards.

* State of California

CABO and California Bicycle Coalition have both expressed their support of a more energized

advocacy group in Orange County, able to add the influence of thousands of county cyclists to statewide issues addressed in Sacramento.

* National Advocacy - the League of American Bicyclists

LAB relies on OCBC to carry out local education and organize county support for national efforts to advance bicycling in America. We have already conducted the first-- and sold out-- Seminar for new League Certified Instructors in OC history.

-- Regards,

Pete
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