

City of Oceanside Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

BikeWalk Oceanside

Phone: 619-200-6133 • E-Mail: tlichterman@cox.net

January 26, 2023

Howard LaGrange
Active Transportation and Micromobility Coordinator
City of Oceanside
300 North Coast Hwy
Oceanside, CA 92054

Dear Mr. LaGrange:

The Oceanside Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee is a citizen's advisory committee whose role is to advise the City on programs, projects, and policies which improve bicycling and walking in the community. The Committee's membership includes over 90 Oceanside residents who are concerned about bicycling and walking infrastructure and opportunities. Our goals are to promote bicycling and walking in the community for health, recreation, and transportation, to promote bicycle and pedestrian safety, and to improve and increase bicycling and pedestrian facilities.

The Committee is pleased to provide a letter of support for the City of Oceanside's application for funding in response to the Senate Bill 1 Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant program. With this requested funding, Oceanside will prepare a Project Study Report to evaluate completing the long-planned Inland Rail Trail along the NCTD Sprinter right-of-way in Oceanside. The Inland Rail Trail is a planned continuous Class 1 route that, once complete, will provide a dedicated bike facility from the City of Escondido through San Marcos, County Unincorporated area, Vista and the City of Oceanside to the Coastal Rail Trail. The portion from Escondido to the city limits of Oceanside has been completed or is currently in development. Funding from this grant will allow the City of Oceanside to conduct a study to complete the "missing link" in this trail from Melrose Blvd. to Coast Highway.

Completion of the Inland Rail Trail has been an adopted goal of the north county communities it travels through since the mid-1990's, through a Memorandum of Understanding (copy attached). In that MOU, the corridor agencies adopted the following vision 27 years ago:

NCTD and the sponsor agencies desire to create a multi-modal transportation facility which will help these communities achieve a higher quality of life by promoting alternative transportation opportunities, reducing automobile trips, improving air quality, reducing congestion, providing recreational opportunities, and increasing access to desired North County destinations.

The planned bikeway will provide a continuous Class I Bicycle facility between the Oceanside Transit Center and the Escondido Transit Center, and will span the Cities of Oceanside, Vista, San Marcos, and Escondido, including a portion of unincorporated San Diego County. (Escondido to Oceanside Rail/Trail Bikeway Project MOU, February, 1995)

This trail has also been identified as a priority project in the SANDAG Ride to 2050 Plan and is crucial to promoting bike commuting in the region. The only nearby alternative to completing this trail in Oceanside is to ride on Oceanside Blvd., which is very challenging for cyclists given its narrow bike lane widths, complete disappearance of the bike lane at major intersections, and high traffic speeds.

This study is urgently needed due to regional plans to eventually double-track more of the Sprinter line. SANDAG and NCTD are considering options for improved Sprinter service, and the double-track segments those options would require. Identifying the needed right-of-way for the completion of the Inland Rail Trail now will enable those needs to be considered during future Sprinter line planning and expansion and avoid foreclosing options that we have today.

A successful Inland Rail Trail Project Study Report will:

- Evaluate right-of-way widths on the NCTD Sprinter line that would accommodate a recreational and commuter trail
- Determine the additional right-of-way that would be required
- Determine if any environmental issues exist
- Provide additional route alternatives where NCTD right-of-way is not available
- Provide an estimated cost of the project

The Oceanside Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee urges Caltrans to approve this important grant application request so that a long-sought-after goal of a continuous bicycle trail from Escondido to Oceanside can move closer to reality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Lichterman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Lichterman
Chairman, City of Oceanside Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

cc: City of Oceanside Council Members and City Manager

ATTACHMENT



NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA ITEM A-8

February 16, 1995

TO: North San Diego County Transit Development Board Members
FROM: Executive Director
SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

STAFF'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cities of San Marcos, Escondido, Oceanside, Vista, and the County of San Diego to establish a framework for a partnership to provide a bikeway adjacent to the Escondido Subdivision Railroad Spur line.

BACKGROUND DATA:

A Memorandum of Understanding has been formulated by the City of San Marcos to establish a partnership between the North San Diego County Transit Development Board (NSDCTDB) and the Cities of San Marcos, Escondido, Oceanside, Vista, and the County of San Diego (sponsor agencies) to provide a bikeway adjacent to the Escondido Subdivision Railroad Spur line in conjunction with the development of NSDCTDB's Oceanside - Escondido passenger rail project. The proposed bikeway will provide a continuous Class I bicycle facility between the Oceanside Transit Center and the Escondido Transit Center traversing the Cities of Oceanside, Vista, San Marcos, and Escondido, and a portion of unincorporated San Diego County.

SANDAG's FY94 Regional Transportation Improvement Plan designated the City of San Marcos as the lead agency and Project Administrator for the development of the bikeway portion of the Oceanside - Escondido passenger rail project. The sponsor agencies have obtained federal and state funding for design and construction of the bikeway which they will share with NSDCTDB to complete the Environmental Assessment and design for the joint project. Since the bikeway and the passenger rail projects are being combined, the City of San Marcos will reimburse NSDCTDB a corresponding portion of the consultant contract fee associated with the Environmental Assessment and design.

The bikeway and passenger rail project will continue to be considered a joint project until the construction stage. NSDCTDB and all sponsor agencies will review and approve all plans before construction is permitted. Furthermore, NSDCTDB and the sponsor agencies will adopt a formal agreement which specifies access rights, responsibilities, and duties with regards to the construction, maintenance, and liabilities associated with the bikeway at a point in time before the bikeway construction plans are signed by NSDCTDB.

Attachment

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between the
North San Diego County Transit Development Board
and the
City of San Marcos
City of Escondido
City of Oceanside
City of Vista
San Diego County

ESCONDIDO TO OCEANSIDE RAIL/TRAIL BIKEWAY PROJECT

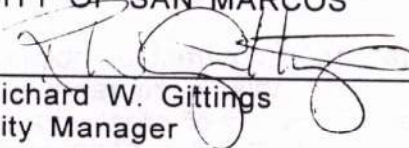
-RECITALS-

- A. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish the framework for a partnership between the North County Transit District (NCTD) and the Cities of San Marcos, Escondido, Oceanside, Vista, and the County of San Diego (Sponsor Agencies), to provide a bikeway adjacent to the Escondido Subdivision Railroad Spur line.
- B. NCTD and the sponsor agencies desire to create a multi-modal transportation facility which will help these communities achieve a higher quality of life by promoting alternative transportation opportunities, reducing automobile trips, improving air quality, reducing congestion, providing recreational opportunities, and increasing access to desired North County destinations.
- C. The planned bikeway will provide a continuous Class I Bicycle facility between the Oceanside Transit Center and the Escondido Transit Center, and will span the Cities of Oceanside, Vista, San Marcos, and Escondido, including a portion of unincorporated San Diego County.
- D. The sponsor agencies have designated San Marcos as the Project Administrator in coordinating project development in partnership with NCTD, and have formalized this relationship by making this designation part of the Regional Transportation Improvement Plan, adopted by the SANDAG Board of Directors on June 25, 1993.
- E. The sponsor agencies have obtained funding grants from Federal and State sources for the design and construction of the bikeway portion of the project. The agencies will utilize these funds in assisting NCTD to complete the Environmental Assessment and design of the project.
- F. NCTD owns rights-of-way within which it maintains and operates the rail line, and within which it will be developing and operating passenger railroad service.
- G. This memorandum of understanding does not establish a contract or obligation between any of the participating agencies nor shall this memorandum be construed to be an agreement for the joint exercise of powers or creating a joint powers agency under the provisions of Government Code Section 6500 et seq. Each participating agency shall retain full regulatory authority with respect to the subject matter of this memorandum of understanding and full discretionary authority with respect to the provisions of the facilities within their respective jurisdictions.

-BASIC AGREEMENT TERMS-

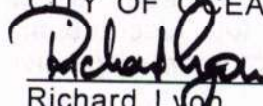
1. The bikeway will occupy railroad right-of-way except where infeasible due to conflicts with necessary railroad facilities, highway facilities, physical limitations, or conflicts with environmentally sensitive areas.
2. The agencies within which the bikeway exists will be granted rights by NCTD to place and maintain the bikeway facility.
3. NCTD will retain all rights to utilize the bikeway as their primary access for railroad maintenance activities.
4. NCTD will manage a consultant contract which will satisfy the preliminary design and environmental assessment requirements for a project which combines the development of both the passenger railroad service and the bikeway into an integrated transportation facility.
5. NCTD will follow the requirements of the CalTrans Local Programs Manual in managing the consultant contract.
6. San Marcos, as Project Administrator acting for the sponsor agencies, will assist NCTD in managing the consultant contract, supporting NCTD and the consultant in producing project design and environmental assessment necessary to gain authorization from oversight agencies to proceed with preparation of construction plans for the projects.
7. With the grant funding available, the sponsor agencies will share in the expenses associated with the preliminary design and environmental assessment consultant contract, making available to NCTD funds which will reimburse NCTD for an appropriate portion of the consultant contract fee.
8. After the projects have achieved environmental oversight clearance, San Marcos, as Project Administrator acting for the sponsor agencies, will prepare plans, specifications, and estimates for the construction of the bikeway portion of the project. NCTD, and all sponsor agencies, will review and approve these plans before construction is permitted.
9. NCTD, as well as the sponsor agencies, will adopt a formal agreement which specifies access rights, responsibilities, and duties with regard to the construction, maintenance, and liabilities associated with the bikeway at a point in time before the bikeway construction plans are signed by NCTD.

CITY OF SAN MARCOS


Richard W. Gittings
City Manager

Date: 12/1/94

CITY OF OCEANSIDE


Richard Lyon
Mayor

Date: 10-21-94

CITY OF VISTA

Morris Vance

Morris Vance
City Manager

Date: 11/30/94

CITY OF ESCONDIDO

Doug Clark

Doug Clark
City Manager

Date: 9-14-94

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Thomas J. Pastuszka

Thomas J. Pastuszka
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Date: 10/14/94

NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Richard Fifer
Executive Director

Date: _____

William D. Smith
11/14/94

Approved and/or authorized by the Board
of Supervisors of the County of San Diego

Date: 11/1/94 Minute Order No. 28

THOMAS J. PASTUSZKA
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By *A. Gomez*
Deputy Clerk

H:\USERS\ALMM\OU2.MEM

B-6.L.

RESOLUTION NO. 94-327

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY CLERK TO ADOPT AND EXECUTE, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF ESCONDIDO, CITY OF SAN MARCOS, CITY OF OCEANSIDE, CITY OF VISTA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AND NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

WHEREAS, the cities of San Marcos, Escondido, Oceanside and Vista, and the County of San Diego desire to establish a Class I Bikeway along the SR 78 Rail Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Marcos has been designated as the project administrator of the Escondido to Oceanside Bikeway project by the SANDAG Regional Transportation Improvement Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Marcos is preparing to complete an Environmental Assessment and to design the bikeway facilities throughout the SR-78 corridor; and

WHEREAS the North San Diego County Transit Development Board is preparing to complete an Environmental Assessment and to design the passenger railway facilities throughout the SR-78 corridor; and

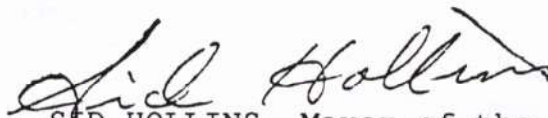
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Escondido, California, as follows:

1. That the above recitations are true.
2. That the City Manager and City Clerk are authorized on behalf of the City, to execute a Memorandum of Understanding in substantially the form as submitted on Exhibit "1" with other cities and the North San Diego County Transit Development Board for the development of the Escondido to Oceanside Railway and Bikeway.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Escondido at a regular meeting thereof this 7th day of September, 1994, by the following vote to wit:

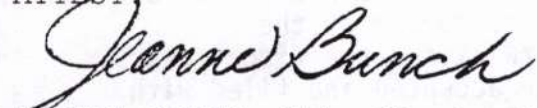
AYES : Councilmembers: CAMERON, FOSTER, HARMON, HOLLINS,
PFEILER
NOES : Councilmembers: NONE
ABSENT : Councilmembers: NONE

APPROVED:



SID HOLLINS, Mayor of the
City of Escondido, California

ATTEST:



JEANNE BUNCH, City Clerk of the
City of Escondido, California