

City of Oceanside Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee BikeWalk Oceanside

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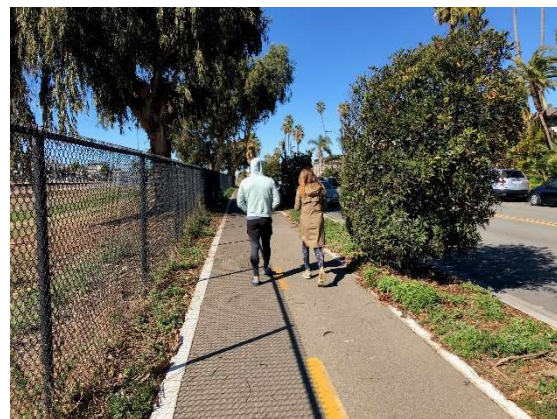
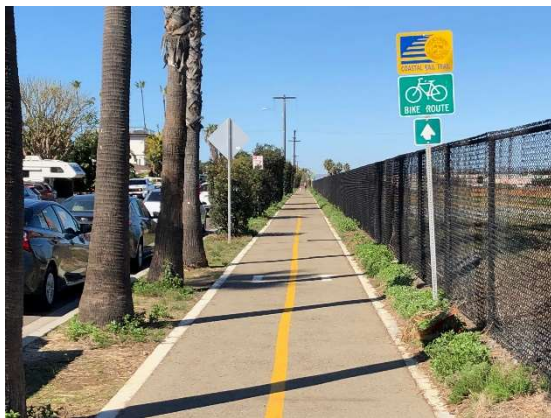
Ms. Barbara Valentine
Caltrans District 11
4050 Taylor Street
Mail Station 240
San Diego, CA 92110

RE: Requested Funding for a Coastal Rail Trail Morse-Vista Way Improvement Study

Dear Ms. Valentine:

The Oceanside Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee's purpose is to promote bicycling and walking in the community for health, recreation, and transportation, to promote bicycle and pedestrian safety, and to improve 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 options for increasing the capacity of the current narrow Coastal Rail Trail segment between Morse and Vista Way that was constructed with SANDAG funds in 2002. This trail was the first segment of the Coastal Rail Trail constructed in the county. The existing width of 7 ft of asphalt with 6" concrete curbs/borders on each side is far below current standards, insufficient to accommodate a mix of cycling and walking trail users. The photos below illustrate how narrow the trail is in this area, with two people walking side-by-side effectively taking up the entire trail. The narrow width will also present issues as other portions are constructed to modern standards.



The City additionally needs to evaluate the best options for connecting the trail from Vista Way to the Oceanside/Carlsbad Coastal Trail on Coast Hwy. Assuming the City will be successful in obtaining funding to bridge Loma Alta Creek, increasing the capacity and connectivity of the southern portion of the trail will be critical. The Coastal Rail Trail has been identified as a priority project in the SANDAG *Ride to 2050* Regional Bicycle Network and is key in promoting bike commuting in the region.

A successful Coastal Rail Trail Morse-Vista Way Improvement Study Report will:

- Evaluate options to widen the existing trail to meet current SANDAG design standards, from Morse Street to Vista Way.
- Determine the additional right-of-way that would be required.
- Identify and study options to extend the trail from its current terminus at Broadway Street and Vista Way, to a connection with the Oceanside/Carlsbad Coastal Trail on Coast Hwy. The Buena Vista Audubon Society has indicated an interest in supporting extension of the existing trail south along Broadway street and through the open area to the south, to meet up with the current trail on Coast Highway.
- Determine if any environmental issues exist.
- Provide an order-of-magnitude estimated cost of the project.

The Oceanside Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee urges Caltrans to approve this important grant application request so that the region can continue to make progress toward a completed county-wide Coastal Rail Trail.

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
Howard LaGrange, Oceanside Active Transportation and Micromobility Coordinator
Oceanside Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Membership