

City of Oceanside Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee BikeWalk Oceanside

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March 29, 2022

State of California
Department of Transportation
Chief, Office of Active Transportation & Special Programs
Division of Local Assistance
P.O. Box 942874, MS-1
Sacramento, CA 94274-001

Dear Office of Active Transportation & Special Programs:

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 in applying for a Caltrans Cycle 6 Active Transportation Grant for final design and construction to complete a critical portion of the Coastal Rail Trail. Bridging Loma Alta Creek will connect the northern and southern portions of the current trail improvements and provide a safe pedestrian and cycling route between these two areas of our community.

Completion of the Coastal Rail Trail in Oceanside is one of the top priorities in Oceanside's Bicycle Master Plan, and the Committee has been carefully reviewing and providing input on the development of this project for several years. In addition, completion of the Coastal Rail Trail is a key element of the San Diego Association of Government's Regional Bike Plan and Early Action Program and supports regional Climate Action Plan and Vision Zero efforts. Through funding from SANDAG, the City has already completed the preliminary design and environmental requirements for the project.

When this section of the Coastal Rail Trail is completed, it will provide a continuous Class 1 bike path between Oceanside Transit Center and the southern portion of Oceanside that can be used by bikers and walkers. Currently, cyclists must use either Coast Hwy or Pacific Street to travel north and south along the coast. Pacific Street is a narrow collector street with parallel parking on both sides and "Sharrows" and Coast Hwy is a major four lane arterial without bike lanes. Bridging Loma Alta Creek would create a safer and more pleasant option for cycling and pedestrian travel between North and South Oceanside.

Also, completion of the Loma Alta Creek section will provide a safe and viable cycling/walking link for elementary and middle schools in south Oceanside that draw students from the northern section of town, thus enhancing the City's safe-routes-to-schools efforts for those students.

Three commuter/intercity rail lines and one regional rail service terminate at the Oceanside Transit Center. The Metrolink Orange County Line services Orange and Los Angeles counties, Amtrak Pacific Surfliners operate the entire Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo corridor,

and North County Transit District's COASTER provides service from the north county coastal communities to Sorrento Valley, Old Town, and downtown San Diego. The SPRINTER rail line provides transit for the eastern communities between Oceanside and Escondido. Closing this gap in our Coastal Rail Trail with a terminus at the Transit Center will provide a key "first-mile/last-mile" link for area residents and employees to use cycling and walking alternatives to access these transportation modes.

We strongly support completing the Coastal Rail Trail by bridging the gap across Loma Alta Creek and urge Caltrans to award this grant.

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