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#7

de la Guerra, Sheila **Public Comment**

From: Dare Holdren <dholdren@sbunified.org>
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 4:34 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Letter of Support for Traffic Improvements near San Marcos High School
Attachments: Letter of Support for traffic improvements.pdf

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Please find attached a letter of support for traffic improvements near San Marcos High.

I appreciate your consideration of the proposals.

Thanks,
Dare



Dare Holdren
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San Marcos High School
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Santa Barbara Unified School District - "Every child, every chance, every day."



SAN MARCOS HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE ROYALS

May 1, 2023

Chair Williams
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

RE: County Active Transportation (Item #D7)

As the Principal of San Marcos High School, I am writing to express my support for the adoption of the County Active Transportation Plan, which includes crucial improvements to the transportation infrastructure in front of our school.

San Marcos High School is a hub of activity, with many students arriving on foot, bike, or bus each day. The school has had several near accidents, and at least two actual accidents this year, on Hollister Avenue involving students on bikes and cars either speeding or blocking the bike lane. One of our students who bikes to school everyday organized a Traffic Assessment meeting with me and staff from the County and MOVE Santa Barbara County to discuss the proposed improvements in the Active Transportation Plan, and we strongly support the proposed upgrades.

One key element of the proposed improvements is the addition of a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon at Hollister Avenue and Magna Vista. A functioning crosswalk will ensure the safety not only of our students, but also our staff. Many of our staff live in the neighborhood and ride their bicycles to work each day. This is a critical improvement that will help minimize conflict points for our students who need to cross the busy Hollister Avenue to get to school. Additionally, upgrading the existing Class II bike lanes with flex posts for added separation and other safety improvements around pick-up and drop-off in front of the school will also improve the safety of our students and other community members.

San Marcos High School supports what is shown in the County Active Transportation Plan for Hollister Avenue (South Coast North Project 6) and encourage funding for other safe routes to schools improvements around other area schools identified in the plan. By adopting this plan, the Board of Supervisors will be taking an important step towards creating a safer and more sustainable transportation system in our community, which will benefit not only San Marcos High School but all schools and residents in the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this critical issue.

Yours truly,
Dare Holdren

Dare Holdren
Principal

Alex Sheldon
Assistant Principal

Dr. Analese Alvarez
Assistant Principal

Paige Dupont
Assistant Principal

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