

de la Guerra, Sheila **Public Comment**

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#7

From: Lizzy Schattle <schattle@ucsb.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 3:33 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Trisalyn Nelson; Friedlander, Mark K.
Subject: Support Letter for Active Transportation Plan
Attachments: ATPlan_ItemD7_Support_UCSB.pdf

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Hi SBCOB,

Attached is a support letter from UCSB Geography chair Dr. Trisalyn Nelson for the County Active Transportation Plan item #D7 tomorrow.

Thanks,
Lizzy

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Lizzy Schattle
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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)

I am writing to express my strong support for the adoption of the County's first Active Transportation Plan for the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara. As a professor of Geography and director of the Spatial Analysis Lab at the University of California, Santa Barbara, I have conducted research on transportation issues, including active transportation and its relationship to safety and collisions involving pedestrians and cyclists.

It is well-known that improving infrastructure is critical to improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as reducing the number of collisions involving these vulnerable road users. The adoption of an Active Transportation Plan is an important step towards creating safer and more sustainable communities in the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara.

I would also like to highlight the potential of WalkRollMaps.org and BikeMaps.org as valuable resources in supporting the implementation of the Active Transportation Plan and Action 1-4, which calls for the County to "create a system for monitoring bicyclist- and pedestrian-related safety metrics such as collisions and near misses and implement countermeasures and design where applicable" (ATP, p. 11).

These tools provide a platform for community members to report incidents, hazards, and positive experiences related to walking and cycling. By using these tools to collect data, the County can gain valuable insights into the needs and experiences of active transportation users in the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara. This information can then be used to inform the development and implementation of infrastructure improvements, such as new bike lanes or crosswalks, that can enhance the safety and comfort of walking and cycling in the area.

Overall, I believe that the adoption of the County's first Active Transportation Plan is an important step towards creating a safer and more sustainable transportation system in the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara. I urge the Board of Supervisors to take action and support the adoption of this plan.

Sincerely,

Trisalyn Nelson, PhD
Professor of Geography and Director of the Spatial Analysis Lab
University of California, Santa Barbara