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May 1, 2023

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

RE: Active Transportation Plan – MCA Support and Request for Bike Safety Improvements to SR 192, May 2, 2023

Chair Williams and members of the Board of Supervisors:

The Mission Canyon Association (MCA) is a community benefit organization organized to protect the interests of residents of and visitors to Mission Canyon.

MCA appreciates and supports the 2023 Active Transportation Plan (ATP) for its comprehensive assessment of policies and projects to provide a safe and effective active transportation network, including enhanced bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

The ATP notes at page 154 that only limited comments were received concerning Mission Canyon, and we regret that our community did not provide more robust comment. The one issue that was identified is a very important one, and we ask that the ATP be revised to include bicycle safety improvements to SR 192 between Mission Canyon Road and Alamar.

The stretch of Foothill Road (SR 192) between Mission Canyon Road and Alamar is hilly and has narrow to non-existent shoulders, particularly on the north side. While Foothill Road through this stretch has surfaced shoulders, there are several relatively short sections with no shoulder whatsoever that are particularly hazardous for bicyclists and pedestrians. These areas have weeds and eroding soils that extend to the edge of the roadway, preventing cyclists and pedestrians from getting out of the traffic lane. Bike safety could be improved substantially with minor work at just a few areas to provide off-pavement width outside the fog line.

We ask that these minor changes be included in the ATP, and Caltrans be encouraged to take swift action for immediate improvements. A bigger project along this stretch would remove the remaining encroachments and weeds, install retaining structures in a few places, and add pavement to create a class 2 lane from Mission Canyon Road to Alamar. The ideal would be a buffered bike lane.

Thank you for consideration of our concerns.

Jason Saltoun-Ebin

President, Mission Canyon Association