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From: Lee Blackwell

To: adventurerlee@yahoo.com ; Bill Adamson ; Ron Allred ; Margie Chamberlain-Kosnik ; John Cloninger ; Mary Dahl ; Mike and Mary Fay ; Victor Gabilondo ; David Grounds ; Michael Ley ; Tom Manzi ; Andy Martin ; Rani Olson ; Bruce Pheneger ; Don and Linda Pixley ; Val Simms ; Rosie Simpson ; Maggie and Colin Steffen ; Joan VanDenbos ; Richard Williams

Sent: Monday, December 18, 2006 9:10 PM

Subject: Santa Cruz County pedestrian and bicycle improvements

Hello All,

You are participating in the inauguration of a new e-mail list and are getting this e-mail because at some point you expressed an interest in being informed about pedestrian and bicycle improvements to the roads in Santa Cruz County. If you would prefer not to be on the list please send me an e-mail and request to be removed. As a member of the Santa Cruz Bicycle Advocates Committee I've been working to get awareness increased among the residents of Santa Cruz County

Last Friday, Bill Adamson of the Santa Cruz Bicycle Advocates Committee and I went to a meeting of the State Transportation Board in Tucson. At the meeting a PowerPoint presentation was given by the district engineer which showed statistics of the future growth of southern Arizona among other things. In the presentation it was notable to me that Santa Cruz County was not featured in the presentation in the statistics for growth. It seemed that the statistics for growth in other counties eclipse the projected growth in Santa Cruz County.

I did have a chance to speak to the board at the call to public. I made known our need to improve the roads in Santa Cruz County for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. I also pointed out that the statistics were leaving out Santa Cruz and I wondered out loud if the statistics gathering takes into account traffic from Mexico on I-19

Dennis Alvarez our Santa Cruz County Engineer was at the meeting also. He spoke to the Board about the frontage roads along I-19 also. He was allowed 5 minutes to explain some of the issues in our county. Hopefully these efforts of our public officials and private will begin to draw some attention to our needs.

Bill Adamson also spoke on behalf of Santa Cruz and Pima Counties. I am the representative of the Santa Cruz Bicycle Advocate Committee for Santa Cruz County. Bill technically represents Pima County since he is not a resident of Santa Cruz, but since he got me into this committee in the first place and since the bike club from Green Valley rides to Tubac he always advocates for Santa Cruz County. Our group has a great website. www.scvbac.org

Last week my wife Joan observed a public notice in the Nogales International informing us of a public meeting in Rio Rico. At the meeting we were pleased to find that a Transportation Enhancement Grant has been awarded to build a 1 mile paved trail from Rio Rico Community Center on Coatimundi to Pendleton to Rio Rico Drive. The meeting was attended by Victor Gabilondo of Santa Cruz Public works and our Supervisor John Maynard. There were many others including the consulting engineers, ADOT people, some who had come from Phoenix for

the meeting. Much discussion ensued and a comment sheet was passed. It seems that the money is there but is always in jeopardy even at the last minute. Fortunately all 4 members of the public who were present were supportive of the trail.

What can you do to help?

First, I'd like to ask if anyone on our list knows of a way which statistics of projected growth get reported to the Dept. of Transportation. I thought we were underreported in the presentation. Maybe the reason is that we are truly eclipsed by Pima and Pinal counties, and the numbers are just not there but MAYBE we are just not being counted .

I could use more help with going to meetings and interpreting what to do with info learned at meetings. Calling all great minds for help please!

Spread the word. A lot of this involves uniting and gathering momentum for these improvements. If people really want it, the changes will eventually happen. The procedures in government are there and our government people are working hard but consistent effort over a long period of time is required.

I'm also working on better Mountain Bike and Equestrian and Hiking trails. This would mean trails and routes not close to highways and frontage roads. Saturday went to Coronado National Forest travel management meeting. Very interesting, informative and really important to the future of our enjoyment of places away from the highways. That however, is another story. Anyone interested in specifically in that area please let me know. I think there is the potential to create a trail from Tubac, west under I-19 to the Coronado Forest and looping back to Tumacacori. There are also opportunities on the East side of Tubac.

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