

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Department Liaison:
San Mateo County Office of
Sustainability
455 County Center, 4th Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063
Phone: (888) 442-2666
www.smcsustainability.org

October 20, 2022

Sheriff-Elect Christina Corpus
San Mateo County Sheriff's Office
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

Dear Sheriff-Elect Christina Corpus:

On behalf of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) for the County of San Mateo, please accept our congratulations on your historic election as our Sheriff. The BPAC looks forward to working with you to enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety throughout the County, particularly with respect to the unincorporated areas that are the BPAC's focus.

Safety is a fundamental requirement for the sustainable transportation future that the County Plan calls for. Effective law enforcement is of course a prerequisite for safe, shared streets, since without it, unsafe driving puts pedestrians and cyclists at risk and discourages them from venturing onto our streets and sidewalks.

Our experience at the BPAC has led us to believe that the Sheriff's office can play a much more constructive role in pedestrian and bicycle safety than it has over the past several years. Limitations we have observed include:

- Lack of prioritization of bicycle and pedestrian safety, even with video evidence of criminal near misses
- Failure to follow up on numerous collisions and near misses between bicyclists and motorists in which deaths or injuries occurred or were nearly averted
- Lack of a consistent communications program with the various elements of the cycling community, which has led to an unnecessarily adversarial relationship. Because of correctly perceived lack of follow up, most cyclists will not report collisions, even when they require emergency medical care.
- Lack of adequate data recording and archiving on safety-related incidents, which has made it difficult to understand the magnitude of the problem and whether things are getting better or worse, and has impacts in reports and planning documents that make recommendations for safety improvements to our roadways. This includes complete lack of data collection on near misses, making it impossible to map dangerous locations.

Now that there will literally be a new Sheriff in town as of January 1, we are looking forward to a fresh start on these and other pedestrian and cycling related matters. To begin, we hope that you will consider naming a senior staff person in your office as the coordinator of pedestrian and bicycle issues,

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Fred Zyda, *Chair*
Elaine Salinger, *Vice Chair*
Susan Doherty
Bill Kelly
John Langbein

Cristina Aquino (Alternate)
Annie Tsai (Alternate)

An Advisory Committee to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors



and that this person will meet with the BPAC and with County staff to develop a more effective approach.

Specifically, we are asking for **community outreach** informing the public that the SMC Sheriff's department acknowledges the need for improvement on these issues in order to build trust:

- Going forward, will take bicycle and pedestrian safety seriously, and request cyclists submit near miss incident reports with video evidence
- Will follow up reports of three-foot violations, will send warning letters and track letters to watch for repeat offenders
- Will investigate reports of criminal near misses using video evidence and citizen reports, which by definition do not involve bodily injury or property damage
- Will inform the cyclist or pedestrian of progress in these cases
- Will provide publicly accessible collision, criminal near miss, and three-foot violation metrics reporting for all incidents reported by cyclists

In order to implement improved safety, we are asking for **officer and staff training** about bicycle and pedestrian safety. We would like to start a discussion about who would design and manage the training, and how many hours it would involve per year.

Once again, congratulations for taking on this important role. We want to help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Zyda". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and "Z".

Fred Zyda, Chair
San Mateo County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

cc: San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
Carolyn Bloede