Complete agenda packets are on display at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County office and at these public libraries: Carmel, Monterey, Salinas Steinbeck Branch, Seaside, Prunedale, and King City. Any person who has a question concerning an item on this agenda may call the Transportation Agency office to make an inquiry concerning the nature of the item described on the agenda. Please recycle this agenda.

1. **ROLL CALL:** Call to order and self-introductions. Committee bylaws specify that a quorum shall consist of a majority (7) of the number of voting memberships actually filled at that time (13); the existence of any vacancies shall not be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum. *If you are unable to attend, please contact the Transportation Agency. Your courtesy to the other Committee members to assure a quorum is appreciated.*

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Any member of the public may address the Committee on any item not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Committee. Each member of the public is allotted with three minutes to address any concerns. Comments on items on today’s agenda may be given when that agenda item is discussed.

**BEGINNING OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Approve the staff recommendations for items 3.1 to 3.2 below by majority vote with one motion. Any member may pull an item off the Consent Agenda to be moved to the end of the **CONSENT AGENDA** for discussion and action.

3.1 **APPROVE** minutes of Committee meeting of March 4, 2015. – Montiel

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**
4. **RECEIVE** report from Fred Watson and Scott Waltz on the Fort Ord Recreation Trail and Greenway proposal – Watson/Waltz  *Pages 9 - 10*

The Fort Ord Recreation Trail and Greenway proposes two connected regional loop trails totaling 28 miles in the former Fort Ord area. These trails will provide better opportunities for recreation and access to open space.

5. **Bicycle Secure Program Applications** - Leonard

1. **RECEIVE** report on Bicycle Secure Program applications; and
2. **RECOMMEND** rack, locker, and repair station locations for Transportation Agency Board approval  *Pages 11 - 14*

On January 28, 2015, the Transportation Agency released the 2015 Bicycle Secure program guidelines and applications. The Agency received eleven applications requesting a total of 40 bicycle racks, 5 bicycle shelters, 1 bicycle repair station and 8 skateboards racks.

6. **RECEIVE** update on the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Wayfinding Plan Project. – Murillo  *Pages 15 - 16*

The Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Wayfinding Plan will provide standard guidelines for bicycle and pedestrian wayfinding signage throughout Monterey County. The Plan will include wayfinding sign design guidelines, identification and branding of regional bicycle and pedestrian routes and sign locations, along with an implementation strategy. The Wayfinding Plan Advisory Committee has met three times to establish Plan goals and identify regional bicycle and pedestrian routes.

7. **RECEIVE** update on Bike Month 2015 – Green  *No Enclosure*

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** and/or **COMMENTS** from Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee members on bicycle and pedestrian related items that are not on the agenda.  *No Enclosure*

9. **ADJOURN**
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Committee meeting:

Wednesday May 6, 2015

Transportation Agency for Monterey County Conference Room
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, California 93901

Light refreshments will be provided

If you have any items for the next agenda, please submit them to:
Ariana Green, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator

By Thursday, April 23, 2015
ariana@tamcmonterey.org

Documents relating to an item on the open session that are distributed to the Committee less than 72 hours prior to the meeting shall be available for public inspection at the office of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA. Documents distributed to the Committee at the meeting by staff will be available at the meeting; documents distributed to the Committee by members of the public shall be made available after the meeting.

Transportation Agency for Monterey County
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA 93901-2902

Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
TEL: 831-775-0903
FAX: 831-775-0897

The Committee Agenda will be prepared by Agency staff and will close at noon Thursday, April 23, 2015 nine (9) working days before the regular meeting. Any member may request in writing an item to appear on the agenda. The request shall be made by the agenda deadline and any supporting papers must be furnished by that time or be readily available.

If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals requesting a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may contact Transportation Agency at 831-775-0903. Auxiliary aids or services include wheelchair accessible facilities, sign language interpreters, Spanish Language interpreters and printed materials, and printed materials in large print, Braille or on disk. These requests may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting, and should be made at least 72 hours before the meeting. All reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate the request.
Correspondence
None this month.

Reports, Meetings, Announcements and Publications
None this month.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Media Clippings</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M1 - 17</td>
<td>We Could Car Less (March 9, 2015)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M2 – 18- 19</td>
<td>Salinas teen honored by national cycling group</td>
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<tr>
<td>M3 20 - 22</td>
<td>CSU Monterey Bay grads cycle coast-to-coast for the homeless</td>
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<tr>
<td>M4 23 - 25</td>
<td>M-Dear Jon_ Why are those bike lanes green_ _ Local News - Central Coast News KION</td>
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## Agenda item: 3.1

### TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee**

**Draft Minutes of March 4, 2015**

Held at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA

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<th>AUG 14</th>
<th>SEP 14</th>
<th>OCT 14</th>
<th>NOV 14</th>
<th>JAN 15</th>
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<td>AMBAG – Cody Meyer <em>(Sasha Tepedelenova)</em></td>
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</table>
1. Chair Eric Petersen called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. A quorum was established and self-introductions were made.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mari Lynch announced that there will be a Bicycle Swap Meet on Sunday, March 29th.

3. **BEGINNING OF CONSENT AGENDA**

   M/S/C Prock/ Valencia /unanimous
   Abstain: Wriedt

3.1 Approved minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee meeting of February 4, 2015 with correction to Linda Peterson’s name.

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

4. **FORD ORD TRAILS SYMPOSIUM**

The Committee received a report on the Ford Ord Trails Symposium held on January 22, 2015.

Jonathan Garcia, Associate Transportation Planner, reported that the Ford Ord Symposium was a public event held on January 22, 2015 at the CSUMB University Center. He noted that the event brought in experts from across the country to share their knowledge of regional trail planning and development, economic benefits associated with trails, transit-oriented development, and achieving livability through design. He noted that the purpose of the event was to educate and inspire community leaders, the business and development community, local agency staff and other stakeholders to make progress toward Post-Reassessment. In conclusion he noted that in addition to educational sessions, the Trail Symposium included “Local Officials Roundtables” where elected officials, stakeholders and community members discussed potential partnerships and collaborations. He noted that the event was filmed and videos will be posted on the Ford Ord Reuse Authority website: [http://www.fora.org/index.html](http://www.fora.org/index.html).

Committee member Tim Meehan inquired about the Fort Ord Recreation Trail and Greenway proposal and if it would affect existing trails in the former Fort Ord area. Associate Transportation Planner Ariana Green replied that the Fort Ord Recreation Trail and Greenway proposes paved loop trails that will improve access to existing mountain biking and hiking trails, and offered to provide a full presentation at the April Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee meeting.
5. **BICYCLE SECURE APPLICATIONS**

The Committee received an update on Bicycle Secure applications.

Grant Leonard, Assistant Transportation Planner reported that the Transportation Agency approved the 2015 Bicycle Secure Program and released a call for applications at its January 28, 2015 Board meeting. Under the program, businesses, non-profits, schools, and other public agencies may apply for bicycle racks, lockers, and repair stations, as well as skateboard racks, and financial assistance for artistic bicycle rack designs. He noted that the Agency provides the equipment free of charge, while applicants are responsible for installation and maintenance. Applicants seeking to have equipment installed in the public right of way are subject to local encroachment permit processes. In conclusion Mr. Leonard noted that the Agency has received 10 applications and noted that they are due March 5th. He noted that the Transportation Agency staff will bring back the item for discussion in April.

6. **BIKE MONTH SUBCOMMITTEE**

The Committee received a report from Bike Month Subcommittee on recommendations for Bike Month in 2015.

Ariana Green, Associate Transportation Planner reported that the Bike Month Subcommittee met last month after the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee. She noted that the focus of Bike Month outreach efforts be dedicated to supporting schools and employers interested in starting a bike to school event or program. She noted that the Agency will provide those interested with packets that include detailed instructions as to how to organize and put on a bike to school or bike to work event or program incentives (stickers, prizes, healthy snacks).

Chair Petersen reported that he is working on the following:

- Working with City of Salinas on the City Council Ride,
- Working with the Salinas Police Department on hosting two bike rodeos
- Working on Salinas Criterium Race
- Considering a “Fun Ride”

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS**

Committee member D. L. Johnson noted that he wanted to remind the Committee that the purpose of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee is not only for bicyclist but also pedestrians. He noted that in the City of Cupertino a little girl was killed by a garbage truck while biking to school. He mentioned that the now in that City the waste management is not allowed to pick up garbage during the starting and ending of school hours. In conclusion he noted that this is a good policy to acquire in Monterey County.

Mari Lynch announced that Ecology Action is looking for volunteers to assist on bike rodeos in a few Schools please contact Mari Lynch or look at her website page for information. She also announced a Bike Polo match at Natividad Creek on March 14 & 15 and a bike swap meet both on the Bicycling Monterey events calendar. Lastly, she wanted to clarify that Salinas Police did not pull over Frank Henderson when he was riding in the rain (could have been the Sheriff department) and that Salinas Police is very bicycle-friendly.
Chair Petersen mentioned that a Salinas High School junior was honored Saturday with the “Extraordinary Courage Award” by the National Interscholastic Cycling Association. Committee member Jeff Lindenthal noted that Mr. Fontes has been a member of the school’s Cowboy Mountain Bike Racing Team for the past three years.

Ariana Green announced the kick-off of the Pacific Grove State Route 68 Corridor study which will identify projects to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety along Highway 68 through Pacific Grove.

Committee member Tim Meehan noted that the signage along the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail in the City of Pacific Grove is confusing and mentioned the City should remove them. Committee member Tony Prock replied that the City has had a few meetings and trying to come up with a solution.

Committee member D. L. Johnson suggested a Wayfinding update to be agendized for a future meeting date.

Rick Riedl requested bike lanes on Pine Avenue in Pacific Grove.

Committee member Jeff Wriedt suggested a Salinas River Bridge update to be agendized for a future meeting date.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Petersen adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm
Memorandum

To: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee

From: Ariana Green, Associate Transportation Planner

Meeting Date: April 1, 2015

Subject: Fort Ord Recreation Trail and Greenway (FORTAG)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
RECEIVE report from Fred Watson and Scott Waltz on the Fort Ord Recreation Trail and Greenway proposal.

SUMMARY:
The Fort Ord Recreation Trail and Greenway proposes two connected regional loop trails totaling 28 miles in the former Fort Ord area. These trails will provide better opportunities for recreation and access to open space.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
A cost estimate for the project has not yet been developed; however, a planning level cost estimate will be calculated as part of the 2016 TAMC Sales Tax expenditure plan development.

DISCUSSION:
The Fort Ord Recreation Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) proposes two connected trail loops with an open-space buffer on either side of a 12’ wide trail. The trail will be paved providing access to users of all ages and abilities and connect urban areas to recreational opportunities such as parks, hiking/mountain biking trails, and the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail.

The northern loop is a 13 mile route that encircles Marina and includes 3 miles of the existing “Coastal Rec Trail”. The southern loop encircles Seaside and bisects Del Rey Oaks, following a 15 mile route that includes 4 miles of the existing coastal trail system. The Trail includes spurs connecting with existing bike/pedestrian infrastructure and plans, including the Marina-Salinas Multimodal Corridor. Several sections of the paved trail will...
be accompanied by nearby unpaved trails running loosely parallel to the main paved trail. Many of these unpaved trails already exist.

FORTAG’s intended purposes include: connecting people to open-space from their homes, workplaces, and hospitality bases, connecting together core habitat areas, facilitating social interaction between Fort Ord, Monterey Peninsula, and the Salinas Valley, and serve as an artery from which to launch numerous other recreational activities. The paved trail is intended to be a pleasant and visually obvious route that invites safe use by families with young children on bikes, and that can be jointly used by walkers, joggers, children in strollers, wheelchairs (in key segments), commuter cyclists, and recreational cyclists (including those with narrow tires). Substantial portions of the greenway are intended to support unpaved paths used by hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, and naturalists. FORTAG will involve approximately three underpasses and one overpass for pedestrians and bikes.

The proposal was developed through a grass-roots effort as a response to Fort Ord’s designation as a National Monument in 2012 and the desire to improve access from the surrounding urban areas. The FORTAG is being presented to local agencies and is gaining traction. In November 2014, the Marina City Council adopted a motion to support the proposal and a process to further the concept. The FORTAG has not yet been presented to the Transportation Agency Board, however, the proposal is consistent with the goals and policies in the Regional Transportation Plan and Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan.

Before the trails can be constructed, a plan must be adopted by all underlying jurisdictions and environmental review, engineering/design and right-of-way acquisition must be completed. TAMC staff will continue to assist in identifying potential funding sources for the project including the California Active Transportation Program and 2016 TAMC Sales Tax.

For more information on the Fort Ord Recreation Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) proposal visit: http://www.fortag.org/

Approved by: 
Debra L. Hale, Executive Director

Date signed: 3/8/15

Regular Agenda

Counsel Approval: N/A
Admin/Finance Approval: N/A
Memorandum

To: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee

From: Grant Leonard, Assistant Transportation Planner

Meeting Date: April 1, 2015

Subject: Bicycle Secure Program Applications

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

RECEIVE report on Bicycle Secure Program applications; and
RECOMMEND rack, locker, and repair station locations for Transportation Agency Board approval.

SUMMARY:

On January 28, 2015, the Transportation Agency released the 2015 Bicycle Secure program guidelines and applications. The Agency received eleven applications requesting a total of 40 bicycle racks, 5 bicycle shelters, 1 bicycle repair station, and 8 skateboard racks.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The Agency has budgeted $30,000 in Regional Surface Transportation Program funds to the Bicycle Secure Program annually for the purchase of racks, lockers, and repair stations over the three year period beginning July 1, 2014.

DISCUSSION:

The Transportation Agency administered the Bicycle Protection Program until 2012 with grant funds secured by the Agency from the Air District. As part of the program, the Agency worked with several vendors to offer a limited selection of bicycle racks and lockers, which were purchased and distributed based on applications submitted to the Agency and the amount of grant funding available. The Agency reinstated the program in January 2015 with the new name “Bicycle Secure Program.” In addition to the name change, the program is now funded through Regional Surface Transportation Program, and has been expanded to include bicycle repair stations, skateboard racks, and funding for artistic bicycle racks.

The Agency received a total of eleven applications during the 2015 application period, from January 28 to March 5, 2015. The Agency received applications from across Monterey County, including King City, Greenfield, Salinas, CSUMB, and Monterey. Of the applications, there is one request for a bicycle repair station, one request for bicycle lockers, and one request for funding assistance for an artistic bicycle rack. The remaining eight applications are requesting
either bicycle or skateboard racks or a combination of both. Combined, the applied for bicycle parking facilities can accommodate approximately 150 bicycles and the skateboard facilities can accommodate approximately 90 skateboards. The full list of applicants and items requested is included as Attachment 1.

All the applicants have demonstrated a strong need for bicycle or skateboard parking facilities at their locations. Each applicant demonstrated a need for additional parking, as well as the potential for usage at the applicants’ locations. As such, each applicant has demonstrated that they meet the goals and criteria of the program.

Although each application meets the program goals and criteria, there is not enough funding to provide all the requested racks, lockers, and repair station. The total cost of approving each application in its entirety, once shipping and handling charges are included, is more than the program budget. Although the total cost of racks, lockers, and repair stations can be readily calculated, the cost of shipping and handling can vary significantly. Staff estimates the available $30,000 can fully fund each application, including shipping and handling charges, except for CSUMB’s application. CSUMB submitted the largest and most costly application, requesting 33 Varsity Bicycle Docks for seven different locations across the CSUMB campus. Staff estimates the available funding can purchase approximately 26 of the 33 racks CSUMB requested, depending on the cost of shipping and handling. Given these considerations, staff recommends approving each application, with a partial allocation of CSUMB’s application and the ability to adjust it as funding allows.

Staff is requesting the committee recommend applications for approval by the Transportation Agency Board of Directors at its April 22 meeting. Once the applications have been approved by the Board of Directors, staff will purchase the racks, lockers, and repair station, and oversee the installation process. All racks, lockers, and the repair station are to be installed within one month of the applicant receiving them, unless other arrangements have been made with Agency staff.

Approved by: Debra L. Hale, Executive Director

Date signed: 3/18/15

Counsel Review: NA

Finance/Admin Review: Yes

Attachments:

Bicycle Secure Program Application Summaries
## Attachment 1 Bicycle Secure Program Application Summaries

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<td>1 repair station</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Middle School</td>
<td>Salinas</td>
<td>2 skateboard racks, double sided</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartnell College</td>
<td>Salinas and King City</td>
<td>5 bike lockers</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>141</strong></td>
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Memorandum

To: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee
From: Virginia Murillo, Assistant Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: April 1, 2015
Subject: Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Wayfinding Plan Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION

RECEIVE update on the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Wayfinding Plan project.

SUMMARY

The Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Wayfinding Plan will provide standard guidelines for bicycle and pedestrian wayfinding signage throughout Monterey County. The Plan will include wayfinding sign design guidelines, identification and branding of regional bicycle and pedestrian routes and sign locations, along with an implementation strategy. The Wayfinding Plan Advisory Committee has met three times to establish Plan goals and identify regional bicycle and pedestrian routes.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Staff is developing the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Wayfinding Plan in-house. This activity was approved in this year’s budget as part of Work Element 6140 (Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning, Education and Improvements). In addition to staff expenses, a graphic design consultant will be hired to design the wayfinding signs. The Transportation Agency has budgeted $30,000 of Regional Surface Transportation Funds in Work Element 6550 (Complete Streets Implementation) for the design, manufacture, and installation of wayfinding signage.

DISCUSSION

The Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Wayfinding Plan will provide standard guidelines for bicycle and pedestrian wayfinding signage throughout Monterey County, including sign design, sign locations and implementation strategies. The goal of the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Wayfinding Plan is to improve access to regional destinations, and provide consistent wayfinding signage for regional connections.
The Wayfinding Plan Advisory Committee is an ad-hoc committee of the Transportation Agency. It is comprised of project stakeholders including representatives from the Transportation Agency’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee, the County of Monterey, local cities, the Monterey County Health Department, Building Healthy Communities, Fort Ord Re-use Authority, the Velo Club, Green Pedal Couriers, Fort Ord Recreation Trails Friends, Pebble Beach, and Monterey-Salinas Transit. Members of the public may also participate. On February 10th and February 26th, the Wayfinding Plan Advisory Committee provided input on Wayfinding Plan goals, established criteria for wayfinding signage, and provided input on the criteria for regional bicycle and pedestrian routes and destinations. On March 19th, the Wayfinding Plan Advisory Committee members identified regional bicycle and pedestrian routes using bicycle facilities maps from the Transportation Agency’s 2011 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

The Transportation Agency released a Request for Proposals for the design of bicycle and pedestrian wayfinding signage and the design of an updated bicycle map layout. The Transportation Agency received seven proposals. Staff established a proposal review committee that included two members from the Wayfinding Plan Advisory Committee. The proposal review committee reviewed and ranked the proposals based on the criteria listed in the Request for Proposals. Alta Planning + Design earned the highest ranking, and the proposal review committee was impressed by their extensive urban and rural wayfinding sign and mapping experience. In addition, Alta Planning + Design offered to prepare cost estimates and placement scenarios for the wayfinding signage, additional deliverables that will assist staff with plan implementation. Staff is currently in the process of negotiating a contract with Alta Planning + Design. Staff expects the consultant to begin working on the project in late April.

The Wayfinding Plan Advisory Committee’s next step is to refine the list of regional bicycle and pedestrian routes and destinations. The Wayfinding Plan Advisory Committee will continue to meet from April to June. In the upcoming months, the Committee will continue to help shape the content of Plan, will provide input on the wayfinding sign design and will assist in developing implementation strategies for the Plan.

Approved by: Debra L. Hale, Executive Director
Date signed: 3/18/15

Regular Agenda

Counsel Approval: N/A
Finance Approval: N/A
Imagine it: West Alisal Street in downtown Salinas with only two lanes of traffic (one in each direction) between Lincoln Avenue and Blanco Road, reduced from the four lanes they are now, and with a protected lane for bicycles. This plan will be discussed at 7 p.m. Thursday at a meeting of the Salinas Traffic Commission, City Hall Rotunda, 200 Lincoln Ave.

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) will present the Marina-Salinas Multi-modal Corridor plan at the meeting. The public is welcome; now is the time to ask questions.

The multimodal corridor plan works together with the Salinas Downtown Vibrancy Plan to create complete streets. What is a complete street? It is a street for everyone — designed to make bicycling and walking safer, bus travel more frequent and automobile traffic less congested.

Electric cars: In the March 3 commentary in The Californian, Bjorn Lomborg states that benefits of electric cars are just myths. When the electricity used to power electric cars comes from coal, Lomborg says, there is little or no environmental benefit. Coal is, indeed, a dirty source of electrical power. All use of electricity is damaging if the electrical power is generated by a polluting source of energy. When we drink a cooled beverage in a heated room, or a heated beverage in a cooled room, we are using electricity. The pollution created by electricity production could be addressed by increasing cleaner energy sources or (gasp) reducing our consumption. Blaming the electric car is not helpful.

The electric car needs just as many highway lanes and parking places as a gas burner, and it consumes a lot of power (clean or dirty) to move a single person around. If we get out of our cars and get on the bus or train we can reduce both pollution and traffic congestion.

Dear Goya: I need to go to the the Bay Area next week and I dread the traffic. Can I get there by train?

— Frazzled on 101

Dear frazzled: Yes, you can get to San Francisco by train on a weekday or to Oakland and East Bay cities any day. Caltrain is a weekday commuter train from Gilroy and San Jose to San Francisco and all the cities in between. Although it does not run a regular weekend schedule, Caltrain will run special trains for athletic events such as the San Francisco Giants games. The Amtrak Capitol Corridor from San Jose goes to all East Bay cities continuing to Sacramento. To get to the San Jose (Oridon) train station there are Amtrak thruway buses from Salinas and MST buses from Prunedale. From south county you can catch MST 81 bus from Salinas to the San Jose Train station. When you go to the Bay area, leave your car at home. No traffic, no accidents, and (hooray) no parking problems.

South county residents, did you know that MST Line 81 goes to the San Jose Airport (as well as train station) from Gonzales and Soledad? Online visit www.mst.org or call 888-MST-BUS1.

Ride on the raceway: Bicyclists of all skill levels are invited to the Laguna Seca Raceway Twilight Ride, 5:30 to 7:30p.m. Wednesday. Bring your bikes, helmets and $10 per rider. Bicyclists of all ages can pedal the 11-turn raceway. Online: http://www.mazdaraceway.com/twilight-cycling Phone: 831-242-8201.

Aquarium tickets: If you a) take the train or b) go bicycling at Laguna Seca or c) attend Thursday's meeting of the Salinas city Traffic Commission, you are eligible to win two tickets to the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Send me, "Dear Goya", an email describing one of the three options above. The first entry for two of the categories will win free tickets. (Two categories because the Twilight Ride and the Traffic Commission are on separate dates; you do have a good chance of winning.) Thanks to Barbara Meister and the Aquarium for the donation.

Be safe.

MacGregor "Goya" Eddy is a longtime Salinas resident and alternative mode traveler. Her "We Could Car Less" column is published and posted online on Monday. Contact her by email at wecouldcarless@gmail.com (mailto:wecouldcarless@gmail.com) or mail to: We Could Car Less, in care of The Salinas Californian, 123 W. Alisal St., Salinas 93901.

Read or Share this story: http://bit.ly/1BXuM0F
Salinas teen honored by national cycling group

Perhaps K.C. should assume the initials I.C. — as in inspiration and courage.

K.C. Fontes, a Salinas High School junior was honored Saturday with the "Extraordinary Courage Award" by the National Interscholastic Cycling Association.

Fontes, 16, has been a member of the school's Cowboy Mountain Bike Racing Team for the past three years.

That is not so extraordinary. What is, however, is that he rides the grueling mountain bike courses with one artificial leg.

"K.C. is really deserving of this national award for courage and perseverance," said Cowboy Mountain Bike Team Head Coach Jeff Lindenthal.

"He is an amazing kid," said his mother Corinne Fontes. "All he wants to do is ride his bike." Fontes lost his right leg during a bout with cancer. In middle school he only rode "off and on, depending on the cancer treatments," he said.

The NICA Extraordinary Courage award was presented in a ceremony Saturday night in Emeryville. Earlier that day, he and his father, Dave Fontes, participated in a benefit mountain bike ride hosted by the NICA in Emeryville. The organization also handed out awards to 13 other cyclists in 11 categories. Fontes is only the second recipient of the courage award.

"It is hard to imagine a student-athlete better qualified for the ... award in the category of Extraordinary Courage than K.C. Fontes of Salinas," said Mari Lynch, of Bicycling Monterey.

"That award goes to one who has persevered through challenging circumstances and overcome adversity to develop and excel as an individual and role model to other students," she said.

As for his plans after high school, "I hope to go to Cal Poly and learn how to make prosthetic knees," Fontes said. "I hear they have a good program in biomedical engineering,"
Dear Goya:
I have been reading your articles. Why do you believe in the bullet train? How is it going to help us? All the cost overruns, etc.? Building the rail in the valley is a joke. No population in the valley to support train. You and I know that our taxes in CA will go up for the train to nowhere.

— Walt Gilmore

Dear Mr. Gilmore:
I support bullet train because it has been used successfully in Europe and Asia. A train is more sustainable than roads and airports. You are correct that the project will be expensive. Constructing and expanding highways and airports would be also expensive.

According to Andy Kunz, president of the The High Speed Rail Association, the first segment will be built in the San Joaquin Valley because initial funding came from the 2008 Economic Stimulus package and the Central Valley had the most depressed economy. The Central Valley is also one of the fastest growing areas of California and has some of the worst air pollution. The next two segments to be built will be "bookends" — the segment from San Francisco to San Jose and the segment near Los Angeles. The Northern California high speed rail will run on and beside the existing Caltrain tracks. Local Amtrak rail (regular speed) rail projects, such as extending the San Jose / Sacramento Capitol Corridor to Salinas and Watsonville, and extending the Pacific Surfliner from San Luis Obispo to King City, will help Monterey county before the high speed rail is completed.

Thank you for your interest in transit issues, Mr. Gilmore, and your question is important. You and the public, are invited to attend the Transportation Agency of Monterey County Board meeting at 9 a.m. Wednesday at 1148 Abbott St, Salinas. The MST bus line 23 from the downtown transit center goes to the meeting. On the agenda (online at www.tammonterey.org) is the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Wayfinding plan which will provide signs between county areas. The Bicycle Secure program will offer grant applications for free bicycle racks for county institutions and businesses. The transportation awards ceremony will honor local people for civic efforts, and will take place about 9:30 am.

Taking high road: Two Monterey County elected officials have committed to not use a car one day, June 18, National Dump the Pump Day. Congratulations to Tony Barrera, District 2 Salinas City Councilman, and Victoria Beach, vice mayor of Carmel. Their constituents are respectively among of the poorest and wealthiest of our county’s residents. Who will be next to make the pledge?

Be safe.

MacGregor "Goya" Eddy is a longtime Salinas resident and alternative mode traveler. Her "We Could Car Less" column is published and posted online on Monday. Contact her by email at wecouldcarless@gmail.com or mail to: We Could Car Less, in care of The Salinas Californian, 123 W. Alisal St., Salinas 93901.

Read or Share this story: http://bit.ly/1JK36fD
Troia, 29, of Monterey, and Young, 26, of Murrieta, made the 3,000-mile trip in 71 days, pedaling from Portland to New York City over steep mountain passes, past endless cornfields and through inner-city ghettos, enduring rain, hail, snow and what turned out to be an almost unrelenting headwind.

They lived on about $15 per day, fixed 15 flat tires, saw exotic bears, eagles, a wolf and a snapping turtle. They shared a campsite with Churchill Clark, the fifth great-grandson of Merriweather Clark of Lewis and Clark fame.

They did it for themselves, of course, but also to raise money for Dorothy’s Place, a center providing essentials for poor and homeless people in Salinas.

Troia and Young chronicled the entire trip on their cellphones and GoPro recording devices and have edited the footage into a 90-minute documentary that will premiere Tuesday, March 24, in the 700-seat auditorium at Pacific Grove Middle School. The event, which begins at 6:30 p.m., is free to the public.

“The fact that these two young guys rode all the way across the country is remarkable in itself,” said Jill Allen, executive director of Dorothy’s Place. “But it was tremendously rewarding that they thought enough about the people we serve here at Dorothy’s Place — poor, homeless men and women living in squalid encampments — to dedicate their effort to the cause. That was huge for us.”

Allen said figures from the fundraiser are still being tabulated, but for Troia and Young, the life-changing trip became its own reward.

“You realize that everything else in the world can wait when, for example, you don’t have water,” said Young, who earned is degree in environmental science and aspires to become a firefighter and search-and-rescue specialist. “You really get it boiled down to what your actual needs are: water, shelter, food ... that’s about it.”

Neither had done anything like it before. They bought their bikes shortly before they left, and the first time they carried 50 pounds of gear on their backs was the day they pedaled out of Portland.
“Our packs stuck out — we weren’t aerodynamic at all,” said Troia, who, after graduate school, hopes to teach biology and anatomy at Pacific Grove High. “We were riding through Portland on the first day and I was yelling, ‘Oh, my god — I can’t control this thing at all!’”

Troia had never camped outdoors, either, a complication that became a source of amusement on their first night in the wilderness.

As Young recounts it: “I get my tent set up, and I’m just sitting there reading, and I hear, ‘Hey, Luke ... can you come over here and take a look at this? I think my tent is inside-out.’ I see that he’s got his poles all set up, and he’s trying to drape his rain cover over the top. All I could do is shake my head and say, ‘Uh, that’s your tent, over there.’”

The mountain passes were challenging from the beginning, but became more formidable as they rolled into Montana and the Rockies.

“Montana was all about mountains and rain,” Troia said. “It rained 13 of the 17 days, and we also got caught in a couple of hailstorms.”

Turns out they also were ill-equipped for the weather. In late June, the Californians found themselves riding up Beartooth Pass in Yellowstone National Park — elevation 11,000 feet — rated among America’s five most difficult climbs. Temperatures were in the low 30s, a foot of snow was on the ground, and neither rider had winter gear. “We’d done 30 miles that day before we even started up Beartooth,” Troia said. “Then we literally had 6 1/2 hours of climbing.”

After descending the mountain, Troia and Young endured three consecutive days of 99-degree heat.

“In that part of Montana there were long stretches of absolutely nothing — no trees, no shade, no gas stations. There was supposed to be an old town with a gas station at one spot, but there was nothing there,” Troia said. “We hadn’t planned on that, and we were so low on water that we couldn’t cool off.”

If the physical challenges were daunting, the mental aspect of the trip often seemed worse. Hundreds of miles of flat, barren terrain in the Midwest proved mind-numbing, they said. Plus, the west-to-east tailwind that normally pushes cyclists was reversed because of the El Nino weather pattern, producing a sturdy headwind much of the way.

“It was head down, keep your mind occupied, keep moving,” said Young. “There was no point in complaining. I feel like if either one of us had started down that path, it only would have escalated.”

Throughout their trip, they found kindness and generosity. A stranger in North Dakota and her sister-in-law in Minnesota put them up for the night. People in Montana provided food, lodging and bike parts when Young’s tire got shredded 90 miles from the nearest bike shop. An Indiana cop let them camp illegally on the town baseball field.

“On the last day, we rode into New Jersey feeling wrecked, but energized,” Troia said. “We got to Liberty Park, where we could see the Statue of Liberty and the New York skyline, and just took everything in. Then we dipped our tires into the Hudson River, held our bikes over our heads and took a picture.”

Both say the trip changed their lives. Young said he enjoyed being mostly disconnected from text messaging and television and the hustle of life.
“We have more free time as a society than we’ve ever had before, but we’re always stressed,” he said. “I think it’s because we’re constantly bombarded with 1,000 choices in 100 different colors. I’ve discovered that I kind of like being disconnected.”

Dennis Taylor can be reached at 726-4371.

About the Author

Dennis Taylor is a general-assignment reporter, specializing in seniors coverage and off-beat feature stories. Reach the author at dtaylor@montereyherald.com or follow Dennis on Twitter: @MCHDennisTaylor.

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The number one rule in bike safety is: be visible

Jon K. Brent, Anchor, jonkbrent@kionrightnow.com

POSTED: 07:37 PM PDT Mar 18, 2015
UPDATED: 08:07 PM PDT Mar 18, 2015

Green bike lanes are popping up on the Central Coast...but why green?
Dear Jon: Why are those bike lanes green? | Local News - Central Coast News KION

Ariana Green is the bicycle and pedestrian coordinator for the Transportation Agency for Monterey County

Dear Jon: Who fixes that busted traffic signal?

Dear Jon: Lighthouse Avenue Monterey still a head scratcher

I was told by the Transportation Agency for Monterey County that neon yellow bike lanes will not be making an appearance. The simple answer is that green is for the safety of the bicyclists.

You may have seen the green bike lanes on Davis Road in Salinas and Imjin Parkway in Marina. Ariana Green with the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, says everything they're doing for bicyclist and pedestrians is about safety, “The first rule in bike safety is be visible and the green paint really makes the bike lanes pop and makes the bicyclist in the bike lane really visible.”

Green says, the green colored bike lanes help drivers know where bicyclists should be on the road and for motorists to be on the lookout as they cross the green bike lane.

“One of the most common collisions between bicyclists and drivers are when drivers are turning right and don't think to look for the cyclist that's right there and may be in their blind spot,” says Green.

As to neon yellow in these bike lanes? No going to happen according to Green, “They tried blue lanes, they tried red lanes and the general consensus was to use green because there aren't any other roadway treatments that use that color. So bicyclists have claimed green.”

So look for more green bike lanes on the Central Coast as the Transportation Agency works on a bike and bus corridor from Salinas to Marina.

“So in the future you can expect to see more green bike lanes on Imgin parkway in Marina, West Alisal Street and Lincoln Street in Salinas,” says Green.

These green bicycle lanes are all over the country now and Green says there are federal and state standards for the use of green for bike lanes that they now follow.

So what drives you crazy!!??
We're starting a new feature and we need your help. Send me your traffic concerns on the Central Coast that drives you crazy as you commute. It can be roads, bridges, signals, intersections, back-ups, whatever and I'll see what solutions I can find for you. Send them to me know at DearJon@KionRightNow.com.

And keep sending me Dear Jon questions on any topic at the same email. Thank you!

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