

APPENDIX C

LOS RIOS TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS

***Bicycle access and usage issues
at Sacramento City College***

by

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Background

Sacramento City College, which was established in 1906, was not originally designed to function as a “car-commuter” campus. However, as the Sacramento area has grown and developed, and as California’s automobile culture and freeway system has expanded, more students have depended on cars as their primary mode of transportation to and from the campus. Because the campus isn’t designed to handle a large number of cars, we have needed to explore and develop alternative forms of transportation that are reliable and realistic for students to use on a regular basis. In the last several years, some of our transportation problems have been ameliorated by the new parking structure and by the light rail station on campus. However, few large-scale efforts have been made to promote bicycling as an option, capitalizing on the weather, flat terrain, and close residential proximity of many of our students, faculty, and staff.

Prior to the genesis of the WALKS Sacramento partnership with the Los Rios Community College District, most of the bicycling efforts at Sacramento City College had taken place within the Campus Development Committee and as a result of individual faculty grass-roots efforts. In 2003, the Campus Development Committee amended our Facilities Master Plan to incorporate issues pertinent to cyclists, so that bicycle access and safety would be considered whenever improvements are made to our campus facilities. As a result of that process, the Bicycling Subcommittee was formed as a volunteer interest group that works to promote bicycling on campus. This Bicycling Subcommittee, among other things, has taken on the responsibility for organizing our yearly “Bike to Work/School” events, which had previously been organized by one or two faculty members. The Bicycling Subcommittee has also been responsible for providing feedback to the Campus Development Committee regarding bicycling issues.

The goal of this project was two-fold. First, there has been a need to conduct more systematic research pertaining to bicycling issues. Most of the information we had regarding bicycling issues was anecdotal in nature and came from a small group of faculty and staff on campus. To address this goal, research needed to be conducted through several mechanisms: (1) facilitating a focus group in order to identify general issues pertaining to bicycling, which could be used to develop a more specific survey; (2) a broad-based survey involving students, faculty, administrators, and staff in order to get a more thorough understanding of the range and severity of bicycling issues; and (3) traffic/transportation studies that can give a more spatial understanding of problems and issues pertaining to cycling. Second, the data obtained from the various research activities could be used to identify and implement ways of improving bicycling access to Sacramento City College.

Method and Results

A formal focus group was not held due to scheduling limitations of faculty, staff, and students. Therefore, a more informal e-mail process was utilized in order to generate a list of issues and concerns regarding bicycling to and from campus. Six faculty and staff

members and one student provided their input. Through an informal content analysis, major themes were identified from the list that was generated. These themes included the following areas:

- Getting information about riding:
 - Include more extensive information on the campus website.
 - Create bicycle maps that show routes to and from campus.
- Reasons for riding:
 - Saving money on gas
 - Avoid parking difficulties
 - Good for the environment
 - Good exercise
 - Don't have a car
- Reasons for not riding:
 - The weather
 - Need to pick up/drop off children
 - Teach/go to meetings/take classes at multiple locations
 - Live too far away
 - Don't feel safe
 - Don't know how to ride a bike
 - Don't want bike to get stolen
 - Have papers, books, etc. that are too heavy to carry on a bike
 - Have somewhere else to go when leaving campus
- Frequency of riding
- Security issues on campus
 - Poor security around bike racks
 - Lack of knowledge about bike lockers
 - Concerns about cost to rent bike lockers
- Safety issues off-campus
 - Safety riding along Freeport Boulevard
 - Safety riding along Sutterville Boulevard
 - Safety riding early in the morning or at night
 - Safety for women
- Availability of amenities
 - Showers
 - Storage space for adjunct faculty and students (such as lockers)

The purpose of conducting the e-mail discussion was to generate a list of issues related to bicycling. The themes that emerged were then used to develop a survey to be administered to students, faculty, staff, and administrators. A web-based survey was administered that was accessible to faculty, staff, administrators, and students with an SCC e-mail account. To access a higher number of student participants, paper surveys were made available during Earth Day events on campus and on Bike to Work/School day. Students in the Environmental Awareness Club and in the Associated Student Government assisted in encouraging students to complete the surveys. A copy of this survey can be viewed at <http://file.scc.losrios.edu/survey/Bike/bike.asp>.

The web-based and paper surveys were administered during the Spring 2007 semester, and data was to be analyzed by the Sacramento City College research analyst. To date, the data analysis is incomplete, due to the unexpected retirement of the research analyst. It is anticipated that the data analysis of the surveys¹ will be completed during the Spring 2008 semester.

A walkability study was conducted by Dan Burden during the Fall 2006 semester, which included an assessment of issues related to bicycling. This study involved walking a group of students, faculty, staff, and community members through and around the campus and identifying areas in need of improvement. Data collection involved taking photographs and taking measurements around the perimeter of the campus and within the campus itself. In addition, Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA) conducted a more extensive study of bicycle access to and from each campus. This study can be found at www.sacbike.org.

Results of the walkability study and the SABA report were consistent with the themes that emerged from the e-mail discussion group. While the SABA report was more extensive and detailed than the themes that were identified in this report, there were consistencies in the following recommendations:

- Replace bike racks with racks that are more secure.
- Improve information available on the campus website.
- Make improvements along Freeport Boulevard to improve safety.
- Make improvements along Sutterville Boulevard to improve safety.
- Create some form of access between the campus and the Curtis Park neighborhood.
- Make improvements along 12th Avenue (west of campus) to improve safety.

Most of the SABA recommendations involved collaborations with the City of Sacramento, while the recommendations made by the e-mail discussion group centered around personal barriers to bicycling and changes the college could potentially make.

Conclusion

Although this study is incomplete due to the lack of survey data, preliminary results indicate that a number of improvements need to be made in order to make Sacramento City College a truly bicycle-friendly campus. The geography of the area creates the potential for the college to be very bicycle-friendly, with its mild seasonal changes, flat terrain, and tree-lined streets that provide shade.

¹ For the survey results, contact Gayle Pitman, Professor of Psychology, Sacramento City College at [PitmanG@scc.losrios.edu](mailto: PitmanG@scc.losrios.edu)

SCC Bicycling Survey
Spring 2007

1. How often do you bike to SCC?	<input type="radio"/> Never <input type="radio"/> 1-3 times per week <input type="radio"/> 4-5 times per week <input type="radio"/> 1-3 times per month <input type="radio"/> 1-3 times per semester
2. What sometimes or always prevents you from riding your bike to SCC (check all that apply)	
a. The weather.	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. I need to pick up/drop off children.	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. I teach/go to meetings at multiple locations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. I live too far away	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. I don't feel safe.	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. I don't know how to ride a bike.	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. I don't want my bike to get stolen.	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. I have papers, books, etc. that I can't carry on a bike.	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. I don't have a way to get cleaned up after riding my bike.	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. I have somewhere else to go after work.	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Other, please explain:	<input type="text"/>
3. What would need to change in order for you to consider riding your bike to the college more often?	<input type="text"/>
4. What is the distance from your house to the college?	<input type="text" value="Choose One"/> Miles
5. Why do you now or would you in the future ride your bike to SCC? (Check all that apply)	
a. I don't have to look for parking.	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. I save money on gas.	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. It's good for the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. It's good exercise.	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. I don't know how to drive	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. I don't have access to a car.	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Other, please explain:	<input type="text"/>
6. Please tell us your job classification at SCC:	<input type="radio"/> Student <input type="radio"/> Full-time Faculty <input type="radio"/> Part-time Faculty <input type="radio"/> Classified <input type="radio"/> Administration
Note: If you do <u>not</u> currently ride your bike to SCC, please go to the end of the survey to include any comments you may have and click the submit button. Otherwise, please continue.	
7. Where do you usually park your bike?	<input type="radio"/> Rack <input type="radio"/> Bike Lockers <input type="radio"/> Office

Other, please explain below

8. What kind of lock do you usually use on your bike?

- U lock
- Cables
- Chain
- Multiple locks at one time
- No lock

9. Has your bike ever been stolen from the SCC campus?

- Never
- 1 time
- 2 times
- 3 or more times

10. What is the quality of your bike?

- Low
- Medium
- High

11. How satisfied are you with your bicycle commuting experience?

- Very Satisfied
- Satisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very Dissatisfied

12. What could be done at SCC to improve your bicycling experience? (Check all that apply)

a. Parking location.

b. Bike rack style.

c. Security

d. Locker room facility.

e. Other, please explain:

Please use this space to comment on your responses. If you are responding to a specific question, please indicate the question number.

Submit