

October 2, 2024

To Mr. Brett Atencio Thomas and the Active Transportation Committee

Re: Santa Ana Ave. bike lanes in front of Kaiser Elementary School

I am unable to attend this meeting because, like so many Kaiser and Woodland parents, I am just not available at 5pm on a school night—I'll be coaching my 9-year-old daughter's soccer team. And even if we were available, the many hundreds of people that use the Santa Ana bike lane are not only likely unaware of this meeting, but unaware that the improvement is something they need to fight to preserve. Every parent that I've talked to, along with the crossing guards, have agreed that this closure in the bike lane gap was an obvious needed improvement. Since school started a few weeks ago, the bike cage is so full that it's difficult for the last kids that arrive to find an open spot. It wasn't like this last year.

Over the last several decades, our neighborhood—like so many across the country—went from one where kids roamed on bikes and knew to come home “when the street lights come on” to one where kids can hardly cross the street without adult supervision. Kids can't get to each other anymore, they can't get to soccer practice, they can't get to school. The cars have gotten larger, faster, more distracting, and more insulated. We drivers have become more entitled and careless. As a result, kids' radii of freedom have shrunk to the edge of their driveways.

Popular psychologist Jonathan Haidt has been helping parents raise healthy kids in an increasingly changing environment, and offers concrete advice to reverse the worrying trends of anxiety, dependency, and loneliness: keep the kids off phones and social media and *give them more independence, play, and responsibility in the real world*. How can we do this if even our neighborhood streets are prohibitively dangerous? You have the power to enable parents to raise healthier kids.

And it's not only little kids that benefit from this improvement (though they should be given special consideration). Students of Ensign and Newport Harbor use the bike lane, along with everyone making their way on bikes to the businesses on E. 17th St., to the Peninsula, and even north to the Fairgrounds. While drivers on the Eastside are given convenient access in every direction through a variety of possible routes, this is the sole north/south route provided for those on bikes (where they don't have to share space with 30+ mph vehicle traffic).

Our city is on its way to having something resembling a complete bike-able network—something that, if/when finished, will still pale in comparison to the extent of the drive-able network. We cannot allow the little that we have—especially here—to be taken away so that parking can remain convenient for the privileged few.

Thank you for your service on the committee and thank you for working to preserve this key neighborhood infrastructure.

Russell Toler



**TRAYLOR, MARIAN**

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**Subject:** Bike Lane

Dear Mr. Thomas and the Active Transportation Committee,

I am a Costa Mesa resident and a Kaiser Elementary and Ensign School parent. I am writing to say thank you for the updates the Public Works Department made to the stretch of Santa Ana Avenue in front of Kaiser.

I am grateful that the City removed curbside parking restrictions on the west side of Santa Ana, removed curbside parking on the east side, and added a southbound bike lane.

I am also writing to say that these improvements need to stay. We cannot go back to the "old" Santa Ana Avenue.

Extending the bike lane -- where one did not exist before -- was an obvious needed improvement. The City has made Santa Ana so much safer to bike along. More Kaiser students are now biking to school (certainly a lot more than in recent years), which is fantastic on so many levels.

But it's not just elementary school students who have benefitted from the changes -- students of all ages and people of all ages can now more easily and more safely bike down Santa Ana.

Bike lanes are transformative -- it's a solution that addresses safety issues, promotes health and environmental well-being, and builds community.

Furthermore, supporting bike lanes is an investment in the future of sustainable transportation. By adding and maintaining bike lanes, Costa Mesa is positioning itself as forward-thinking and environmentally responsible.

The loss of parking spots is a short-term inconvenience. But the long-term benefits of safety, health, and sustainability far, far, *far* outweigh any drawbacks.

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Sarah Hansen

**TRAYLOR, MARIAN**

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Megan Parole

**TRAYLOR, MARIAN**

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**Subject:**

Grateful for the Improved Stretch of Santa Ana Ave in Front of Kaiser

**To:** THOMAS, BRETT ATENCIO <[BRETTATENCIO.THOMAS@costamesaca.gov](mailto:BRETTATENCIO.THOMAS@costamesaca.gov)>

**Subject:** Grateful for the Improved Stretch of Santa Ana Ave in Front of Kaiser

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Sarah Middleton

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**TRAYLOR, MARIAN**

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**Subject:** Please stay committed to preserving our new community bike lane on Santa Ana Avenue



**To:** THOMAS, BRETT ATENCIO <[BRETTATENCIO.THOMAS@costamesaca.gov](mailto:BRETTATENCIO.THOMAS@costamesaca.gov)>  
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Sincerely,

Jessica Jamora



**TRAYLOR, MARIAN**

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**Subject:** Protect the Santa Ana Ave Bike Lane in Front of Kaiser

[REDACTED]

**To:** THOMAS, BRETT ATENCIO <[BRETTATENCIO.THOMAS@costamesaca.gov](mailto:BRETTATENCIO.THOMAS@costamesaca.gov)>

**Subject:** Protect the Santa Ana Ave Bike Lane in Front of Kaiser

Dear Mr. Thomas and the Active Transportation Committee,

I am a life long Costa Mesa resident and a Kaiser Elementary School parent. I am writing to say thank you for the updates the Public Works Department made to the stretch of Santa Ana Avenue in front of Kaiser.

I am grateful that the City removed curbside parking restrictions on the west side of Santa Ana, removed curbside parking on the east side, and added a southbound bike lane.

My daughter and I ride to school everyday and I wish you could have sat out and watched how dangerous it was before these new improvements. Not only during school hours but for us to ride to our friends' houses often as well. It's been amazing and we wish we could see the same all the way up and down Santa Ana Ave.

I am also writing to say that these improvements need to stay. We cannot go back to the "old" Santa Ana Avenue.

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Kellie Newcombe

[REDACTED]

**TRAYLOR, MARIAN**

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**Subject:** FW: Santa Ana Ave Bike Lane

[REDACTED]  
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But it's not just elementary school students who have benefitted from the changes -- students of all ages and people of all ages can now more easily and more safely bike down Santa Ana.

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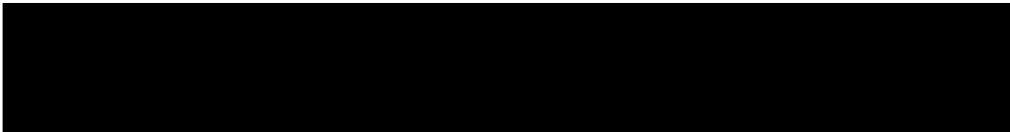
Allison Sanden  
[REDACTED]



**TRAYLOR, MARIAN**

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**Subject:** Santa Ana bike lane- thank you!



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Katie Crawford



**TRAYLOR, MARIAN**

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**Subject:**

FW: Santa Ana Bike Lanes - IN SUPPORT OF!

[REDACTED]

**To:** THOMAS, BRETT ATENCIO <[BRETTATENCIO.THOMAS@costamesaca.gov](mailto:BRETTATENCIO.THOMAS@costamesaca.gov)>

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Cryssa Andersen

[REDACTED]

**TRAYLOR, MARIAN**

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Chris Burns

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**TRAYLOR, MARIAN**

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Vanessa Siemsen

**TRAYLOR, MARIAN**

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**Subject:** Support in Keeping Santa Ana Avenue Bike Lanes!

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**Tiffany Slater** Director of Sales

**TRAYLOR, MARIAN**

---

**Subject:** Protect the Santa Ana Ave Bike Lane in Front of Kaiser



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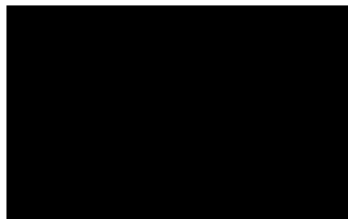
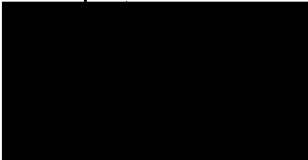
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Corey Gulbranson



**TRAYLOR, MARIAN**

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**Subject:** Santa Ana Bike Lanes - success!

[REDACTED]

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I am also writing to say that these improvements need to stay. We cannot go back to the "old" Santa Ana Avenue.

The loss of parking spots is a short-term inconvenience. The complaints of parking shortages are silly. The largest voice is complaining that they cannot park their business vehicles on the street. Residential parking is for residential use, not business use. Large commercial vans parked were obstructions to visibility and leading to the safety concerns of the children riding bikes...which now have successfully been removed!

Extending the bike lane -- where one did not exist before -- was an obvious needed improvement. The City has made Santa Ana so much safer to bike along. More Kaiser students are now biking to school (certainly a lot more than in recent years), which is fantastic on so many levels.

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Dave Procuik

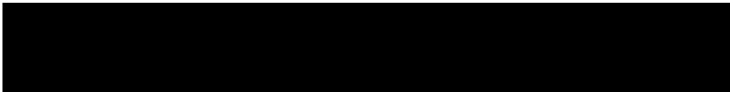
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**TRAYLOR, MARIAN**

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**Subject:** Santa Ana Bike Lanes



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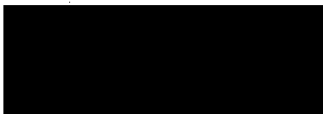
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Andrea Rich





## TRAYLOR, MARIAN

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**Subject:** FW: Santa Ana Ave Improvements

**From:** Sara Bert [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 2, 2024 12:32 PM  
**To:** THOMAS, BRETT ATENCIO <[BRETTATENCIO.THOMAS@costamesaca.gov](mailto:BRETTATENCIO.THOMAS@costamesaca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Santa Ana Ave Improvements

Dear Mr. Thomas and the Active Transportation Committee,

I hope this message finds you well. As a Costa Mesa resident and a parent at Kaiser Elementary School, I want to thank you for the recent improvements made by the Public Works Department to the stretch of Santa Ana Avenue in front of our school.

The crucial addition of a southbound bike lane, along with the removal of curbside parking restrictions on the west side and the elimination of parking on the east side, has made a significant positive impact.

The new bike lane has already encouraged more Kaiser students to bike to school, which is fantastic for our community. These improvements benefit everyone, making Santa Ana Ave safer for all ages.

Bike lanes address safety concerns, promote healthier lifestyles, and strengthen our community. Supporting them reflects Costa Mesa's commitment to sustainable transportation.

While losing some parking may be inconvenient, the long-term benefits of safety and sustainability far outweigh any drawbacks.

Thank you for your dedication to the committee and your efforts to maintain this important neighborhood infrastructure. Your work is appreciated by many.

Best regards,  
Sara Bert  
[REDACTED]

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## TRAYLOR, MARIAN

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**Subject:** FW: Santa Ana Ave Bike Lanes

-----Original Message-----

From: Kyle Ramer

Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 1:58 PM

To: THOMAS, BRETT ATENCIO <BRETTATENCIO.THOMAS@costamesaca.gov>

Subject: Santa Ana Ave Bike Lanes

I can't make the Active Transportation Committee meeting tonight but I wanted to share my thoughts on the new bike lanes on Santa Ana Ave. I think they are a great and wonderful addition to our city's bike lane network. My commute takes me across 22nd street and there are already substantially more kids riding to school than there used to be. I believe these kinds of network improvements are self reinforcing from a safety aspect as well. As drivers see more people using bikes on the streets they drive on they will be more defensive and slow down. I look forward to our bike network continuing to expand and a safer road network for everyone.

Kyle Ramer

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## TRAYLOR, MARIAN

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**Subject:** FW: Support for the New Santa Ana Avenue Bike Lane - Now is the Time for Action to Protect Children and Cyclists

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**From:** Devin Lucas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 2, 2024 2:54 PM  
**To:** THOMAS, BRETT ATENCIO <[BRETTATENCIO.THOMAS@costamesaca.gov](mailto:BRETTATENCIO.THOMAS@costamesaca.gov)>  
**Cc:** SETHURAMAN, RAJA <[RAJA.SETHURAMAN@costamesaca.gov](mailto:RAJA.SETHURAMAN@costamesaca.gov)>; YANG, SEUNG <[SEUNG.YANG@costamesaca.gov](mailto:SEUNG.YANG@costamesaca.gov)>; HARLAN, JEFFREY <[JEFFREY.HARLAN@costamesaca.gov](mailto:JEFFREY.HARLAN@costamesaca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Support for the New Santa Ana Avenue Bike Lane - Now is the Time for Action to Protect Children and Cyclists  
Dear Mr. Thomas and Members of the Active Transportation Committee,

With yet another tragic death of a cyclist just this week in nearby Huntington Beach (Daily Pilot, "Motorist arrested after cyclist killed in hit-and-run DUI in Huntington Beach", Oct. 1), now is the time to be taking MORE action to protect cyclists and our children biking to school, not less.

This is simply another incident that is a sobering reminder that we need to prioritize the safety of those who choose sustainable, healthy transportation options like biking. The recent improvements to Santa Ana Avenue are a step in the right direction, and I am writing to strongly urge the City to maintain these changes and even consider enhancing them further via a much needed physical barrier.

As a Costa Mesa resident and parent at both Kaiser and Woodland Elementary, I'm deeply concerned about cyclist safety, particularly in our residential areas. Over the summer, many of us voiced support for the installation of the bike lane on Santa Ana Avenue, and it's been wonderful to see how well it's been received by the community. More children (and parents!) are biking to school than ever before, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The once-empty bike rack at Kaiser is now nearly full every day, which is a testament to the success of this project.

However, apparently some anti-safety residents have voiced opposition and are actively working to reverse the project. I believe it is critical that we stand firm in support of this bike lane, and the many others needed, which has already made our streets safer and more accessible for cyclists of all ages. The changes, including the removal of curbside parking on the east side and the addition of a southbound bike lane, have created a safer biking environment for everyone.

In fact, in light of the recent tragedy, I believe we should go even further. The bike lane on Santa Ana Avenue needs a physical barrier to protect cyclists from vehicular traffic. As we've seen, bike lanes alone are not always enough to prevent accidents. A barrier would provide an additional layer of protection and make it clear that cyclist safety is a priority for Costa Mesa.

I urge you to preserve the improvements made to Santa Ana Avenue and to continue taking bold steps to protect cyclists across the city, enhancing the overall appeal and safety of the community. The benefits of these changes far outweigh the minor inconveniences of lost parking spaces. Supporting bike lanes is an investment in our community's safety, health, and future. We cannot afford to roll back these essential safety measures.

Thank you for your continued work on behalf of our community, and thank you for considering the safety of cyclists as a top priority.

Sincerely,  
Devin Lucas  
Costa Mesa resident, property owner, and father who loves biking his daughters to school