SCCRTC
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
1523 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060-3911 • (831) 460-3200 FAX (831) 460-3215 EMAIL info@sccrtc.org

March 8, 2012

Rich Krumholz, District Director
Caltrans District 5
50 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-5415

Re: Rumble Strips on Highway 1 in Santa Cruz County

Dear Mr. Krumholz:

I understand that Caltrans has initiated a project to install centerline and shoulder rumble strips on Highway 1 from the Mission Street/Shaffer Road intersection to Swanton Road after a recent analysis of collision data. As you know, the Regional Transportation Commission and staff have concerns regarding how this project is scoped and the potential impacts to all road users.

Highway 1 is heavily trafficked by tourists, local residents, bicyclists, surfers, equestrians, as well as agricultural and refuse trucks. Highway 1 is also recognized as the Pacific Coast Bicycle Route and due to its spectacular scenery, draws many recreational bicycle riders, mountain bikers accessing Wilder Ranch, charity ride participants, weekly traning group riders, organic farm bike delivery operations, as well as triathlon and bicycle road races, most notably the Amgen Tour of California. Rumble strips with their deep depressions in the asphalt that alert inattentive drivers to when they are veering out of the travel lane are an unsuitable riding surface for bicyclists and can potentially cause a loss of control when riden over.

While I understand that rumble strips would not be placed where the shoulder is less than 5 feet wide, I urge the project team to consider the effective and usable width of the shoulder since many drain grates, debris, failing asphalt, tracked dirt, overgrown landscaping and other obstructions limit the usability of the shoulder. Additionally, in order to maintain continuity throughout the region only centerline striping should be considered since immediately to the north and south of the Santa Cruz County line (in San Mateo and Monterey County) no rumble strips are installed in the shoulder. Please notify Cory Caletti, RTC Senior Transportation Planner/Bicycle Coordinator, of any project team meetings where these issues may be addressed.

Finally, since this topic is generating community, state and even national interest, please consider providing a report to the RTC covering the project scope, budget, time frame, and the crash data used to determine this project's necessity.

If you have additional questions, please contact Cory Caletti at ccaletti@sccrtc.org or (831) 460-3201.

Sincerely,

George Dondero
Executive Director

cc Regional Transportation Commission
Regional Transportation Commission's Bicycle Advisory Committee

\\Rtcserv2\shared\Bike\Rumble Strips\ltr_GD_to_CT.docx