



The Ride Zone

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June 2017

From: Rob Williams

To: Caltrans District 10

Attention: Carl Baker, Austin Sos

Re: Rumble Strips Road Projects in District 10

I am submitting this letter on behalf of the Stockton Bike Club and the Motherlode Bike Coalition regarding Caltrans District 10 road projects to install rumble strips in Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties.

Members of the Stockton Bike Club and the Motherlode Bike Coalition recognize rumble strips as a ROR (run off the road) deterrent for motor vehicles; however, they often have a detrimental effect on cyclist safety, mobility, and comfort. Here are some things to consider:



District 10 is a very popular cycling area.

Over 1000 cyclists in regional and local bike clubs ride along District 10 rural roads. In addition, an estimated 250 individual cyclists or small groups of friends ride in the Central Motherlode and are not a member of a club. There are also annual 13 bike events that bring over 4,000 cyclists to the counties in District 10.

With such recreational use of these roads by cyclists, our input should be seriously considered as we have significant concerns.

Rumble strips are virtually impossible to ride a bicycle on or over – they are at best uncomfortable, even for a very short distance, and at worst can cause a cyclist to lose control of their bike and fall. They can damage a bicycle wheel, can cause a flat tire, and/or shake loose parts off a bicycle. Consequently, cyclists will avoid riding over them – and when rumble strips leave no room on a shoulder, the cyclist will have no other option than to ride in the travel lane.

While rumble strips do not deter car, truck or bus travel, they have a severe impact on bicycling travel, and have impacted popular Class III shared roads in District 10.

In Calaveras County, rumble strips have been installed on the following Class III proposed or existing shared roads designated in the 2017 Calaveras County Bike Plan: Highway 26 Valley Springs to Lime Creek, Highway 26 Poloma Road to Mokelumne Hill, Highway 49 in Calaveras County, Highway 12 Valley Springs to Wallace, SR 12 from Lockeford in SJ County to Valley Springs, Highway 26 at La Contenta to downtown Valley Springs.

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The Ride Zone is emailed to all members of the Stockton Bicycle Club. Printed copies are available at local bike shops in and near Stockton. A membership application is on the back page of the printed version. All submissions to The Ride Zone must reach the editor by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Email to brumbyroad@peoplepc.com or call Rich Freggiaro at (209) 931-9143.

Members: Please be sure our membership chair has your valid email address or is notified that you wish to receive the printed version.

Each "Shared Road" is now impossible to ride bikes safely and no longer can be considered a shared road for cyclists and vehicles.

Rumble strips should not be installed on popular bicycle routes, or anywhere with insufficient shoulder width. While there are safety benefits to rumble strips for drivers of motor vehicles, there are considerable drawbacks for cyclists, who are vulnerable next to high-speed traffic. In accordance with FHWA guidance, **rumble strips should be used on roads where bicyclists are prohibited or not expected.** On routes used by bicyclists, rumble strips should not be installed indiscriminately; a careful traffic safety study should be conducted to demonstrate a clear problem and a projected impact on safety. In the event that rumble strips are appropriate, Caltrans should follow bicycle-tolerable practices that provide maximum clear shoulder space for cyclists.

I appreciate your seeking input and am confident that Caltrans will take these serious safety problems into consideration.

Sincerely,

Rob Williams

Founder, Motherlode Bike Coalition

Member, Calaveras County Active Transportation Group

(Editor's note: Rob's letter was actually a lot longer and included specific guidelines for rumble strips from the California Bicycle Advisory Committee. One is "shoulder rumble strips should not be used right of direction of travel unless a minimum of 5 feet 0 inches of clear shoulder width for bicycle use is available between the rumble strip and the outer edge of the shoulder" . IF ONLY!)

RIDE SCHEDULE – June 2017

Helmets required.

Rain or 'serious' threat of rain cancels. Follow Stockton Bicycle Club Facebook page for updates on ride status.


Rides may be amended and additional rides may be scheduled via the Stockton Bicycle Club Yahoo! Group. (details below).

A ride: 20+ mph, paceline riding, few if any regroup. **B** ride: 16-20 mph, experienced rider, regroup at major intersections, turns.

C ride: 12-15mph, regroup, no drop ride. MPH is based on a flat ride

For questions or to list a ride of your choice, please call or email Roberta Hoffman at nikehoffman@comcast.net or 763-2807

New Riders Note: There is a rest/refuel break about the middle of the ride. Unless otherwise stated, all rides are recreational in nature and intended for the enjoyment of all. **Terrain:** F=flat, R=rolling, H=Hilly, VH=very hilly

Date	Time	Miles/ Terrain	Start Location	Description	Leader
Tue	8:00	35-45 R/H	Wallace S. Camanche & Wallace Lakes Dr.	Fixed Route: So Comanche Rd/ Burson Rd Olive Orchard to COMMON GROUNDS	
Wed A-ride	5:30 PM	25 F	Stockton Bear Creek HS	W.A.R. Route map is posted on www.Stocktonbikeclub.org 18-22 mph	Rafael Posadas
Wed B-ride	6:00 PM	20-25 F	Lodi Lower Sac and Turner Rd. (NE)	W.E.B. - Wednesday Evening B ride 16-20 mph, experienced riders **New**	Ken Meyers 747-5748
Thu	8:00	35-45 R/H	Wallace Tri-Lakes Church 8021 Wards Ave.	Show and go	
Sat 3	8:00	26/42 R/H	Wallace Tri-Lakes Church	26: Camanche, Campo, VS 40: Hogan, Silver Rapids, Hartvickson, Olive Orchard	
Sun 4	8:00	40-45 F	Woodbridge Meet Lower Sac and Augusta St.	Loop out to Clements Ridge– Acampo Rd, Dustin, Orchard, Elliott, Peltier, Collier – break at Clements Ridge – Atkins, Brandt	
Sat 10	7:45-B 8:00- A	47 miles R/H	ValleySprings Starbuck's Mar-Val Shopping Ctr	47:Pardee Dam, Stoney, BV, Jackson Valley to Ione-Break at Clark's-Stkn Rd., Curran, Camanche, Campo Seco, VS(2700')	
Sun 11	8:00	34/42 F/R	Linden Orlando's Market	34:FloodRd.,EscalonBellota,Shelton, Wimer,Hwy26,Shelton and back(726') 42: Milton Rd to Jenny Lind for pancake breakfast at Odd Fellows Hall	
Sat 17	7:45-B 8:00A	40/65 H/VH	Ione Howard Park	40: Plymouth (1600') 65: Fiddletown, Lockewood, Volcano, SC (4500')	
Sun 18	8:00	40-45 F	Woodbridge Meet Lower Sac and Augusta St.	Thornton, Walnut Grove	..
Sat 24	7:45-B 8:00- A	38/51 H	Starbucks (ValleySprings) Mar-Val Shopping Ctr	38: Pardee-Stoney- Jackson Break - out and back (3900') 51: Loop up Butte Mtn and down Clinton Rd.	
Sun 25	8:00	25/36 F	Stockton 8767 E Waterloo Rd.	Celebrate the Fruit Bowl's 70 th anniversary! Ride, Pie and Coffee on the Club,	

For changes/additions to the ride schedule, participate in online discussions or for other club news, join our Yahoo! Group at groups.yahoo.com/group/Stockton_Bicycle_Club or send an e mail to Stockton_Bicycle_Club_subscribe@yahoo.com. Also, see our Stockton Bicycle Club Facebook page for ride changes, and comments.