

WOOD STREETS GREEN TEAM / ADVOCACY POSITION DRAFT

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

PROPOSED GREEN TEAM ACTIONS:

- provide information on bus, train, and bicycle transportation options at Green Team workshops
- provide carpooling information on Green Team website
- promote “carless Fridays” (or some other day) to encourage residents not to use a car one day a week
- create a clearinghouse for existing walking and bicycling routes developed by business, government, or other entities
- assist in promotion and distribution of maps showing neighborhood walking and bicycling routes
- provide information on existing events and programs that promote walking and bicycling to work or school
- promote and expand existing ride share programs
- increase education and awareness of health benefits of walking and bicycling

PROPOSED CITY of RIVERSIDE ACTIONS:

- provide safe pedestrian and bicycle access to shopping centers and businesses contiguous to the Wood Streets neighborhood, including Riverside Plaza and Magnolia Center
- increase number of bicycle racks at shopping centers and public buildings such as City Hall, public libraries, county administration buildings, etc.
- develop continuous walking routes through the Wood Streets neighborhood by connecting sidewalks that are currently disconnected (such as the east side of Brockton from Bandini to the Raincross Medical Plaza) which would facilitate use and increase safety, especially for residents in wheelchairs
- ensure that ongoing plans to expand bicycle lanes throughout the City as part of Riverside’s Master Bicycle Plan connect people to their workplaces, especially downtown and at the universities
- re-time traffic lights so that pedestrians can more easily cross major streets, even in rush hour, and also ensure that residents in wheelchairs or with limited mobility can safely cross streets; currently, lights are timed to advantage speedy progress via automobile, thus impeding and discouraging non-car modes of transportation
- designate one major through-street as a bicycle/pedestrian-friendly street – possibly Brockton – and divert traffic to other arteries by reducing the number of lanes, thus also reducing noise and air pollution in the Wood Streets neighborhood
- create a City Alternative Transportation Commission to complement the existing Parking Commission
- dedicate a percentage (10%) of City funds that would otherwise be allocated to building and maintaining parking facilities in the Wood Streets neighborhood to building and promoting alternative transportation infrastructure
- develop creative strategies to promote and facilitate use of alternative transportation, such as an award competition (the “Emerald Awards”) to honor alternative transportation accomplishments, maps showing walking and bicycling routes, walking clubs to help Riverside residents get more fit, rebate offers for residents who do not use their cars, and an array of specific strategies to help businesses encourage their employees not to drive to work, etc.
- hire an alternative transportation consultant to help develop an Alternative Transportation Master Plan for the City (or possibly work with a graduate student from UCLA’s program in transportation public policy or UCR’s Center for Sustainable Development who would help develop an Alternative Transportation Master Plan as partial fulfillment of a master’s degree)