

TAKING STEPS TO MAKE MOTHERLODE ROADS SAFE FOR CYCLISTS

Recently, while riding bikes with local Calaveras County cyclists I talked about the Calaveras County Regional Transportation presentations held on January 31, and February 2, sponsored by the Calaveras Council of Government. I shared that most road improvements in County were scheduled for 2025. My cycling friends praised me for my good intentions to make cycling safe in the Motherlode and they noted that most road improvements would not occur in their lifetime. The ten year pavement needs for Calaveras County 771 miles of road are over \$375 million. And, road improvement money partly is generated from gas tax revenues which have been on a steady decline. For additional information, updates and a county transportation survey about the 2017 Regional Transportation Plan, go to: <http://calaverasrtp.com>

What occurred to me is that we can take steps to make cycling safe without waiting 8 years!

These are my eight ideas to accomplish as a Bike Coalition

- Notify highway patrol and county sheriff to crack down on close / aggressive vehicle passing. If a motorist passes a bike at a distance of (just under 3 feet) we expect highway patrol and the sheriff to contact driver for a warning or citation.
- Post monthly ride events and club group rides on Facebook bulletin boards and local newspapers.
- Highlight popular cyclists roads in county on Facebook and on bulletin boards.
- Feature road blind spots and ask motorists to be cautious, beware of cyclists.
- Designate and promote Highway 4, Ebbett's Pass as cyclist friendly highway, from Camp Connell to Bear Valley.
- Post School Bike Paths and Times School Begins and Ends
- Write and publish how cyclists protect themselves using head mirror and rear view radar
- Solicit Share the Road cycling video posted on new Cal Trans news flash video

That's my list and each can be accomplished now.

You got an idea? Send me an email, rob@thecolevideo.com