

Efforts stepped up to encourage nonmotorized transit

By DAVE SCHWAB

Pacific Beach is moving to create marked pathways directing bicyclist and other nonmotorized transportation throughout the beach community.

PB Pathways is an interlocking network of marked bike/skate/pedestrian routes throughout the community to encourage nonmotorized travel. Street murals mark the starting point of each pathway at each Pacific Beach school.

The project's first phase would be to install directional signage and road markers on selected routes in PB's core area.

Architect and Pacific Beachy resident Ambrose Wong, a board member of beautifulPB, a group of residents, merchants and property owners collaborating to improve the community's environment, gave a presentation on PB Pathways during the Pacific Beach Planning Group's (PBPG) Traffic and Parking Subcommit-

tee's Oct. 16 meeting.

"The past few months, we've been circulating proposed bicycle-pedestrian pathways through PB," said Wong. "We have an opportunity to get some monies from [City Council] District 2 to spend on this effort."

Noting "sharrows," or markings indicating shared bicycle-car use, and other iconic logos will be used to identify and promote the

SEE **TRANSIT**, Page 13

TRANSIT >>

CONT. FROM PG. 4

pathways, Wong said, adding, "We plan to use bike-route signs along the street as well as adding sharrows in the street pointing to where the routes go."

PB Pathway's goals:

- To guide people along designated routes with pavement markings and street signs near parks, schools and beaches.
- To provide safer connections with improved crossings at streets, especially main streets. Install curb ramps making it easier and safer for walkers, strollers and those in wheelchairs.
- Reduce car cut-through in neighbor-

hoods utilizing traffic-calming measures.

- Encourage nonmotorized travel, making for a safer, healthier and friendlier community.
- Promote sustainable living and green infrastructure including trees, public art and rain and urban gardens.

PB Pathways are a cornerstone of the community's eco-district concept being promoted by the PBPG, the community advisory group making land-use recommendations to the city.

An eco-district is a long-range plan incorporating methods — traffic calming, urban gardens, greenways, bike paths and the like — aimed at making the area more environmentally sustainable and economically viable.

In 2013, several members of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) visited the Pacific Beach and Mission Beach areas to collaborate with local residents to develop some concepts for making their communities more economically viable and environmentally sustainable.

Pacific Beach community planner Chris Olson noted the idea is to put greenways and bike pathways in on specific routes along main streets like Cass, Fanuel, Law and Diamond to make those thoroughfares more bike- and pedestrian-friendly.

For more information, visit www.beautiful-pb.com.