PRESS RELEASE

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR COUNTY-WIDE SLOW STREETS PROGRAM

The County of Santa Cruz has opened an application process for a countywide Slow Streets program.

Slow Streets programs have been instituted in cities across the world to provide additional space and increased safety by allowing certain streets to be designated as shared spaces for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The purpose of the Slow Streets initiative in Santa Cruz County is to slow vehicular traffic in residential areas in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With more residents staying home and walking or riding bicycles in their neighborhoods, it can be difficult for pedestrians and cyclists to maintain six feet of distancing without using roadways.

"Slow Streets make neighborhoods safer," said Supervisor John Leopold, who recommended the program. "I encourage neighbors interested in the program to begin the application process."

Designated Slow Streets are not closed to vehicles. Rather, signage will be strategically placed to encourage drivers to slow down or select alternative routes when feasible in order to maximize the safety and comfort of pedestrians and cyclists using these streets. Residents may view the procedures for street selection and apply for their street to become a designated Slow Street at bikesantacruzcounty.org/slow-streets.

The Santa Cruz County Slow Streets program is a partnership between the County of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, and Bike Santa Cruz County, a local nonprofit organization focused on bicycling and pedestrian safety and advocacy. Bike Santa Cruz County will provide materials and staffing through a Regional Transportation Commission grant.

For more information please contact slowstreets@bikesantacruzcounty.org.

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