



P. O. Box 974
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August 2, 2003, 2003

To: The Mayor of Medford and City Council Members
From: President, Siskiyou Velo Bicycle Club
Subject: McAndrews – Crater Lake Intersection and Bike Lanes

It is my understanding that the most recent plan calls for a multi-use path meaning that a bicyclist would have to use the crosswalk to enter the path. Co-mingling bicycle commuters with in-line skaters, baby strollers, pedestrians, dog walkers, etc. is dangerous to all parties. Bicyclists who commute will not get on and off the cross walk or multi-use path to leave or join the flow of traffic on the street. They will stay in the traffic lane! A multi-use path will also create negative perceptions of bicycle riders by motorist. Although a cyclist would be legally allowed to use part of the 13' travel lane, automobile drivers will believe that the bicyclist should be on the multi-use path and not the roadway. Drivers may become angry, thinking that they are unnecessarily sharing the street with a bicyclist.

For the record, the Siskiyou Velo Bicycle Club strongly urges the city to add bicycle lanes on both sides of Crater Lake Avenue, especially at the intersection with McAndrews. Many of our club members travel on this route on a regular basis as means of commuting to and from work. Also, many of us enjoy using this route conducting business in that area of town. Although we realize that this is a heavily used traffic zone, it should not preclude bicyclist from using this route in a safe manner. Bicycle lanes will provide a safer opportunity for those commuters using transportation other than motorized vehicles. Encouraging the use of non motorized transportation within the City of Medford should be a primary goal of the city. Especially when trying to improve the air quality standards of the Rogue Valley.

The Siskiyou Velo bicycle club, a strong supporter of bicycling both as transportation and as recreation, comprises about 250 members in the Rogue Valley. About 44% live in and around Ashland, 31% in and around Medford and the most of the others at Gold Hill, Rogue River, Eagle Point, Talent, Phoenix and Central Point. Even though this is where are membership has their homes, they all use the streets of Medford on occasion. In addition to advocating safe bicycle transportation routes in our cities, we are especially proud of our significant financial contributions to the Bear Creek Greenway and bicycle safety classes for the youth of the Rogue Valley.

We thank you for considering our transportation needs and for your efforts towards improving bicycle transportation in the City of Medford.

Sincerely,

Robert Korfhage
President, Siskiyou Velo