

From: Ethan Jacobs
To: info@planbayarea.org
Subject: Feedback to draft plan
Date: Friday, May 5, 2017 10:10:17 AM

Hello,

The draft plan does not consider how cycling will become safer, easier and how that will increase public interest in cycling across the Bay Bridge for commuting and leisure. Please make a bike lane on the western span of the Bay Bridge a higher priority because of two important developments:

Cycling will be safer thanks to an agreement between the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and all the major automakers to install automatic emergency braking systems in nearly all U.S. vehicles by September 2022. It includes systems designed to prevent crashes in which drivers do not apply the brakes or fail to apply enough braking power to avoid a collision.

<http://www.nbcnews.com/business/business-news/automakers-govt-agree-automatic-braking-will-be-standard-2022-n540656>

As more and more vehicles on the roads have that technology, people who today think cycling is too dangerous will reconsider and ride bikes for transportation.

The second factor is battery-assisted bicycles have gotten less expensive, and are expected to continue dropping in price as batteries get cheaper to manufacture. Today California allows Type 3 e-bikes to assist riders in reaching up to 28 mph. Given how slow commute traffic on the bridge is today, a bike lane physically divided from pedestrians and designed for up to 28 mph will be a competitive alternative to driving.

Since bikes need only a fraction of the space as cars, a well-utilized lane for bike commuters will allow as many people to cross the bay as two or more lanes of cars. By 2040 the battery and safety improvements will be widespread and many more cyclists will be ready to use a bike lane between Oakland and SF. I urge you to make such a lane a higher priority to facilitate this demand.

Sincerely,

Ethan Jacobs
Albany, CA