

San Francisco AEP and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

November 2011 Program

Bicycle Plans, Road Diets & CEQA

Bicycle Planning, one of the standard elements in transportation planning, has an unexpected foe: CEQA. Local agencies must spend scarce funding (in some cases, hundreds of thousands of dollars) on environmental clearance of bike projects, often exhausting resources before design and construction begin. The panel will discuss how much environmental scrutiny is necessary per CEQA law and whether recent the changes to CEQA have shifted the focus of environmental review from traffic flow to environmental preservation. Recent case studies will be presented to illustrate the application of CEQA law. The evening will conclude with an open discussion regarding the potential benefits of additional legislation for EIR streamlining and possible CEQA reforms for improved bicycle transportation.

Monday, November 28, 2011, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Auditorium

3331 N First St, Building A, San Jose

Carol Levine, Principal, Spokemore Consulting, is a transportation planner with more than 20 years of transportation planning experience focused on bicycle, pedestrian, and transit access issues. She recently founded Spokemore Consulting to pursue projects that advance the use of these non-motorized modes and to improve their connectivity to transit.



Ben Larson, PE, is a Senior Transportation Engineer at Fehr & Peers. Ben has worked on a wide variety of complicated and controversial transportation projects. With his expertise, he served on the Company's Impact Assessment Discipline Group, a group tasked with ensuring that the employees of the company remain educated on the latest developments in transportation impact assessment and CEQA/NEPA analyses.



Kristina Daniel Lawson, Manatt, Phelps and Phillips, has experience with all aspects of California land use and environmental law. Kristina's notable expertise ranges from local initiatives and referenda to state and federal policy. Kristina regularly appears before state and local agencies throughout the Bay Area and California.



Michelle DeRobertis, P.E. is a Senior Transportation Planner with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, where she is in charge of the VTA's bicycle and pedestrian programs. She is a Bicycle Planning & Design Instructor for UC Berkeley's Institute of Transportation Studies Technology Transfer Program. She authored Chapter 21 [Bicycle Facilities and Characteristics](#) of *Fundamentals of Traffic Engineering*, 16th Edition February 2007.



Lesley Lowe, AICP is a transportation and environmental planner at ESA with 14 years of experience evaluating a wide range of transportation modes, including pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and vehicle, for CEQA/NEPA environmental analysis and documentation. She managed the EIR for Oakland's Bicycle Master Plan Update, which addressed potential impacts to transportation and air quality directly associated with the creation of the proposed bicycle network.

This event is free, refreshments will be provided. Earn AICP credit for attending.

Donations to the AEP scholarship fund are strongly encouraged.

Register by Friday, November 25 by visiting www.sfbayaep.org.

Questions? Contact Kendall Webster at kw@kendallwebster.com