

Bike riding on Sausalito Sidewalks 8 July, 2014

[Dr Edward Fotsch](#) from [Hurricane Gulch](#)

Good day neighbors. I chair the Sausalito Pedestrian and Bike Committee which is looking at the issue of bike riders on the sidewalks in Sausalito; particularly on the south end of town where the street and sidewalks are narrow and steep. We are hoping to get input from interested neighbors.

A recent survey of Sausalito citizens and merchants identified bikes being ridden on the sidewalks as a major concern. Several CA municipalities including San Jose and San Francisco have ordinances prohibiting bike riding on sidewalks in specified areas. Some folks however note that it may be optimal to allow children to ride bikes on the sidewalks away from motor vehicles. And sidewalks north of town are actually designated as bike/peds mixed use.

The current discussion is focused on asking bicyclists, irrespective of age, to walk their bikes if they are on the sidewalk along Alexander Avenue to Richardson (from the south end of town to the Golden Gate Market.) If you have thoughts, concerns, comments please post them or send them to me directly.

Thanks and best regards, ef

Edward Fotsch, MD

Shared with [Hurricane Gulch](#) only in [Crime & Safety](#)

 [Caroline Van Alst](#), Hurricane Gulch

I prefer that the City converts the middle lane down Bridgeway, from Richardson to Princess, to two bike lanes on either side of the road. These bike lanes would help protect both pedestrians on the sidewalks and adults/children bicycling on the road. This may be accompanied by new yellow curb areas for vendors to unload deliveries, who now use the middle lane.

 [Susan Antonelli](#), Hurricane Gulch

It is very dangerous to pedestrians, dogs, and their humans when cyclists sneak up from behind on the sidewalk. If Jeff Sears at Blazing Saddles warned his customers that they would be ticketed if riding on the sidewalk, it would be very helpful. And violators should be cited...forget sales tax, this revenue would be smart!

 [Valerie Shore](#), Hurricane Gulch

Think how much revenue sausalito could enjoy if we had a strolling citation officer for riding illegally and endangering pedestrians. That should get some brains working.

 [Howard Goldberg](#), Hurricane Gulch

I agree that riding on the sidewalks, including and especially on Bridgeway, should be prohibited. I've also always felt that the current signs, which state "Walk Bikes on Sidewalk," are not as clear as they should be to riders, who may fleetingly interpret the signs as instructing that the bikes not be on the road. The signs should say instead "DO NOT RIDE BIKES ON SIDEWALK."

 Bartly Dzivi, Hurricane Gulch

The existing signs on Bridgeway requiring that bikes be walked if on the sidewalk are widely ignored by the rental riders. Perhaps the city should give brochures to the rental agencies, to give to their customers, warning that riders will be ticketed if they ride on the sidewalk. And then twice a year, actually have a blanket enforcement period.

 Bonnie Johnson, Hurricane Gulch

Hello All, I live at 210 Second St. I have been hit 3 times in the last years and my dog was hit 1 time. Yes, I grabbed the bike and screamed at the rider. I just put up a white picket fence to stop riders from falling into my yard. This has become very very bad. The speed guys fly up onto the sidewalk when traffic stops. The riders that can hardly stay on their bikes like to fall off in front of my house and the huge groups think my driveway is a meeting place. It would be nice if we all said,

We have had it! Get those bikes off our sidewalks where we all walk with our dogs and children. Please Dr. Edward there are many towns that do not let bikes ride on the sidewalk, any bike. This could be city law.

 Reynolds Woo, Hurricane Gulch

My families vote is for NOONE to be allowed to ride their bike on the sidewalk. It is dangerous for the pedestrians and should not be allowed. The focus should remain on asking bicyclists, irrespective of age, to walk their bikes if they are on the sidewalk along Alexander Avenue to Richardson (from the south end of town to the Golden Gate Market.) We ALSO vote for the focus to continue on Bridgeway and not stopping at Richardson (GG Mart). Bikes should NOT be allowed to ride on Bridgeway sidewalks. Thank you for taking feedback on this important safety matter.

 Helen Haskell, Hurricane Gulch

Thank you for the work you are doing to address this serious issue. I support legislation that requires all bikes be walked on all sidewalks at all times. Pedestrians are already having to dodge bicyclists riding their bikes on the sidewalks. It is even more dangerous when one is walking a small dog on a leash and the bikes just come straight ahead, full speed, ringing their bell to signal the pedestrian to get out of the way. It is hard to maneuver both a dog and oneself out of harm's way quickly, especially on a narrow sidewalk. I have had to step off the sidewalk and into the traffic lane to avoid being run over by a bicyclist on the sidewalk! This is a problem not only on Alexander, South and Second Streets but also on the main promenade sidewalk by the Bay on Bridgeway. Let's get this not only legislated but have some enforcement as well.

1.



Alex Kinas, Hurricane Gulch

I agree with you to the danger of riding bikes on all the streets leading into town. I don't think it is unacceptable to ask the riders to walk their bikes on the sidewalks. I live on South St and see many bikers that should be walking their bikes, especially little kids and bikers with babies in the back carrier. What really bothers me even more is the bikers that ride their bikes on Bridgeway. I feel like the sidewalk police as I always ask them to walk their bikes on the sidewalk. Most are respectful but some totally ignore me and just keep on riding. This is dangerous as their are many pedestrian walking along the sidewalk. Not sure what can be done about those inconsiderate riders.



Lloyd A Silverman, Hurricane Gulch

Dr. Fotsch, as one who lives on the beach at the precise location you've identified i can testify we have more than one problem. 1. tourists and families find it hard to maneuver the steep incline and manage local automotive traffic which will cause a severe injury sooner or later. 2. the spandex bikers with the greg laMonde complex are exhilarated by the curves and speed (oftentimes up to 30 mph++) of the incline and ride the center of the street usurping any leeway for pedestrians or automotive traffic as they carry with them an obvious disdain for anyone in their way not on a bike....curious as they get off their bikes and get back in the car...regardless, there must be a biforcated solution to an issue that in this man's opinion WILL undoubtedly cause serious injury or worse...now or later.

Thanks for the work you are doing to alleviate this public concern.



Valerie Shore, Hurricane Gulch

They nearly ran me and my pups over the other day. It's against the law elsewhere. Walking on the sidewalk is a different thing. Riding dodging pedestrians should not be allowed. Duh.



Ron Lussier, Hurricane Gulch

I also agree with Caroline that we should have separate bike lanes, and in addition, these lanes should be curbed to separate them from the auto lanes.



Ron Lussier, Hurricane Gulch

Could we get better signage and repair of the bike path on the water side of Bridgeway from Johnson to Litho? I think that a lot of bicyclists don't know that the Bike Path through town becomes its own dedicated lane through that area, and the pavement is severely buckled on the bike path.



Ron Lussier, Hurricane Gulch

Bicyclists should be required to walk their bicycles on sidewalks throughout Sausalito. I can't imagine why this shouldn't be a city-wide ordinance.



Sue Dunlap, Hurricane Gulch

Dear Dr.,

Since the present City Council (minus Linda) thinks that more bikes is better for the City &

furthermore believes that "there is no problem" concerning more bikes, I am in strong opposition to those beliefs.

As cyclists undeterred & unbridled, ride break neck speed down the hill, on the sidewalk outside of the Côte d'Azur (where I live) I have witnessed many a near disaster. They are a danger to children, dogs, 70-90 year old residents (not to mention to themselves) by riding on the sidewalks. There is no room (& in some cases, no time) to get out of their way!

Help! Rules MUST be made & enforced!

--Sue Dunlap, a long time resident

[Dr Edward Fotsch](#) from [Hurricane Gulch](#) 23m ago

Thanks Sue Dunlap. References to the city council members aside- should I interpret your missive as indicating that you in favor of mandating that bikers walk their bikes on the sidewalks on the south end of town?

 Elinore Alaria, Hurricane Gulch

I totally agree. The speed riders are out of hand.

 David McGrane, Hurricane Gulch

Thank you for your considered response Dr. As a parent, part of what I feel should continue to be considered is how my 5 year old can ride her bike from Hurricane Gulch to downtown. The traffic lanes are too dangerous. She is not very fast or very dangerous on the sidewalk, and should not logically be lumped in with the spandex warriors or even adult tourists.

I realize this is just one perspective but appreciate that all perspectives need to be considered.

 Cristina Woolrich, Hurricane Gulch

It's a problem, love to support an ordinance prohibiting bike riding on the sidewalks in Sausalito. Too many people, dogs at risk to let bikes up on the sidewalk. The major problem is the tourist population that ignores the signs they see. We need help from the bike rental company (a brochure, a warning, some sort of slap on the wrist if someone who has rented a bike from them is cited, etc.) some real incentive to get bicyclists off the sidewalk.

 Jann Johnson, Hurricane Gulch

Bikes on the the southern Sausalito side walk are dangerous to pedestrians. My apologies to the children, but they should be riding with their parents on the street or walking their bikes on the sidewalk. I have seen many pedestrians having to dodge bikes on the side walk with near misses or impacts and the bicyclists do not yield to pedestrians.

 Joan Werner, Hurricane Gulch

I totally agree. I am a senior on South Street and have numerous encounters with this situation. It is out of control!

 Dan La Russo, Hurricane Gulch

Agree w/ the vast majority of responses here and this is indeed a very important issue for our town. I live on Richardson and Bridgeway and the entrance to my home is via the sidewalk. I'm suprised there are no additional signs along the sidewalk on Richardson from 2nd to Bridgeway (from the Market to the water, down

the steep hill). There have been numerous close calls along that sidewalk coming down the hill...not to mention the confrontations that occur after those close calls (yelling, profanity, etc.).

I also echo David McGrane's thoughts on young riders. I have a 6 year old who wants to learn to ride a bike...and its not going to happen in the road. before I get beaten up here, yes we'll go to designated/safe areas (the park up the hill), etc. etc. but there are times early in the morning or during the week when very few people are around and it is easily managed. Common sense will lead here and we won't be out during peak hours or when people are around (or unsupervised), but I get the concern of parents and their kids riding around with no real option without packing up the car to go somewhere.