

This letter from the San Jose Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, addressed to the City Council, was censored by SJ DOT.

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November 20, 2006

Mayor & City Council  
City of San José  
200 E. Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor  
San José, CA 95113

Re: Pedestrian Access on Expressways in San José

Honorable Mayor & City Council:

The City of San José Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) formally requests that the City of San José repeal San Jose Municipal Code section 11.32.070. This ordinance allows the City to prohibit pedestrians on expressways in San José by placing signs along expressways. Under agenda item 6(b) of its regular public meeting on November 13, 2006, BPAC unanimously passed a motion to submit this request to City Council.

Several sections of expressways in San José currently prohibit pedestrians. These prohibitions create an undue burden for pedestrians who may have no reasonable alternative route to walking on expressways.

Rather than prohibit pedestrians, the City should work with the County to identify and implement cost-effective improvements that better accommodate pedestrians. People have legitimate needs to walk along expressways. The detours around the existing prohibitions are often very inconvenient and in effect discourage non-motorized transportation by dramatically increasing walking distance. There may be inexpensive options to provide safe access to pedestrians to walk along expressway shoulders and to guide pedestrians towards preferred, direct facilities.

Please repeal San Jose Municipal Code section 11.32.070 and direct staff to implement cost effective improvements accommodating pedestrians on expressways in San José. We request a report back to BPAC at your earliest convenience.

Regards,

Charles Payne  
Chair, Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
City of San José

Copy: Les White, City Manager  
Jim Helmer, Director, DOT  
Brian Doyle, City Attorney  
John Brazil, Bicycle Pedestrian Program, DOT