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Previously broadcast on [KUSP](#), 20 Nov 2013
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Bikes are taking to the streets— and it's not where you might expect

For people seeking the full array of cultures and landscapes, Monterey County roads don't all lead to Peninsula cities and Big Sur.

Against a backdrop of the Gabilan Mountains, range of Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, *East of Eden*, *The Red Pony*—there's a vibrant new urban scene in the Monterey County seat, its largest city. Discover there, as Steinbeck did, pleasures found in diverse neighborhoods of Salinas.

Many people are unaware Salinas has 95 miles of connected bikeways, from the Alisal to Creekbridge to Oldtown to Santa Rita, and more. [Biking Salinas](#) grows in popularity because of many flat, wide streets, often in low-traffic areas.

That was a welcome discovery for many October 6th, launch date of that fresh urban scene, [Ciclovía Salinas](#)—Monterey County's first Open Streets and one of only a dozen locations statewide. On 1.6 car-free miles of Alisal Street, people walked, biked, skateboarded, danced, and otherwise moved in celebration.

If you're looking for Steinbeck, don't stop with Monterey's Cannery Row. Know the heart of Steinbeck Country, Salinas—the National Steinbeck Center and its ag museum; Steinbeck House, his birthplace and boyhood home. And now, thanks to this youth-led initiative—unanimously supported by Salinas City Council, including work of transportation planners, engineers, police, and public works—you can easily move out of the novels, and into the streets, of Steinbeck's hometown.