

**Bicycling Monterey**  
**Local Partner of the California Bicycle Coalition**  
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January 17, 2024

To: Comm. Maria L. Mendoza  
Monterey County Superior Court  
Marina Courthouse, Dept. 20, Traffic Court

Re: Community service by [REDACTED] following bike-related citation

This is to advise the court that [REDACTED] contacted Bicycling Monterey on November 18, asking to do five hours of community service before January 31. Community service had been offered to [REDACTED] by the court as an alternative to paying a fine, after he was cited by law enforcement in Carmel-by-the-Sea.

When [REDACTED] was cited, he lacked some of the bicycle equipment required by California law, including that he was not wearing a bicycle helmet, required for minors; and the bicycle headlight, required for all ages, was not fully functioning. [REDACTED], as a sixteen-year-old, was also out after the city's curfew for minors.

I offered [REDACTED] a few options for community service. I pointed out that there are various factors that impact the safety of people on bicycles. Among these is knowing and abiding by bicycle laws; learning and consistently using smart riding skills; and advocating for improvements in transportation infrastructure—infra being a huge factor in making bicycling safer! [REDACTED] was interested in being introduced to the process for improving infrastructure, and how to get involved in that process in Monterey County.

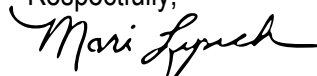
To that end, I asked that [REDACTED] first look over some of the vocabulary and acronyms used by transportation professionals, since most community members do not understand those. He reviewed a bilingual resource featured on Bicycling Monterey, i.e., a new glossary of transportation terms created in 2023 by the Department of Transportation for the City of Los Angeles (and relevant for Monterey County too).

Next, on January 10th [REDACTED] attended, via Zoom, a meeting of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). Agenda items included: (1) update by TAMC's principal engineer on Scenic Route 68 Monterey-Salinas Highway improvement project—and its proposed roundabouts especially caught [REDACTED] attention; (2) proposed changes to BPAC bylaws, including member responsibility for tracking and communicating needs of the city/communities they represent—and we introduced [REDACTED] to the AARP Bike Audit Tool Kit, co-created with League of American Bicyclists, which allows [REDACTED] and others to more easily and effectively identify and advocate for infrastructure improvements; and (3) proposed distribution plan for TAMC's 2023 Monterey County Bicycle Map, and a request by TAMC staff for volunteers to help with the distribution—and [REDACTED] volunteered.

In a public comments period of the meeting, [REDACTED] advised BPAC that he had learned from bikemonterey.org about the existence of the map, and he offered to help TAMC with distribution. He plans to distribute bike maps at Carmel High School. By sharing the maps with CHS students, [REDACTED] will be helping youth find the safest existing infrastructure for bicycling. He will also be introducing them to TAMC, where they can learn more about pending projects; and they and their families may choose to advocate for new and better infrastructure.

Finally, I also urged [REDACTED] to continue reviewing the bike law summaries, smart cycling videos, and some other educational materials shared on bikemonterey.org. I invited him to contact me with questions about bike-related topics anytime.

I sincerely appreciate the court's willingness to allow transforming a finable citation into education and community service.

Respectfully,  


Mari Lynch, Founder  
Bicycling Monterey