



February 7, 2023

Delivered via email

To: Mobility & Traffic Safety Commission, Encinitas

Cc: Deputy Mayor David Zito, City Manager Greg Wade, Solana Beach

Re: Safe Crossing from Harbaugh Trails to Seaside State Beach

Honorable Commissioners,

The Surfrider Foundation is a nonprofit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our world's ocean, waves, and beaches through a powerful network. The Beach Preservation Committee works to ensure equitable access to our county's beaches. BikeWalkSolana and EncinitasBikeWalk work to enhance the walking and biking environment throughout Solana Beach and Encinitas, with a shared vision for walking and biking to serve as a safe, convenient, healthy, and FUN mode of transportation.

Together we are writing to encourage the development of a safe pedestrian crossing from Harbaugh Trails in Solana Beach to Seaside State Beach in Cardiff:



Harbaugh Seaside Trails and the adjacent lagoon are very popular for pedestrians and hikers, and the addition of a pedestrian underpass under the railroad tracks has improved access to Harbaugh Trails to many residents of northwest Solana Beach. However, an unintended consequence of the opening of these trails is that many more pedestrians are now crossing Highway 101 from Harbaugh trails to access Seaside Beach. Currently they must run across 4 lanes of high speed traffic to do this. The frequency of this occurrence is demonstrated by the fact that Google Street View captured three people doing just this (Google Image capture from September 2022):



The only option for pedestrians to safely cross 101 from this location is to walk 0.3 miles south, cross at the light at Solana Vista Drive, and then walk back 0.3 miles north to Seaside Beach. Most people will not add a 10 minute, ½ mile detour just to cross the street.



There is clearly a public safety issue at hand here. We understand there have already been ongoing discussions between Encinitas and Solana Beach concerning a safe crossing at this location for several years. There is significant community support for addressing this issue as well. We urge the cities to work together to both improve beach access and prevent pedestrian injury and death by developing a safe crossing at this location as soon as possible.

We look forward to your response and commit to being an active and constructive partner in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Kristin Brinner & Jim Jaffee
Residents of Solana Beach
Co-Leads of the Beach Preservation Committee

Karl Rudnick
Resident of Solana Beach
BikeWalkSolana

Kristine Schindler
Resident of Encinitas
EncinitasBikeWalk

Mitch Silverstein
Policy Coordinator
San Diego County Chapter, Surfrider Foundation