



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### WALKING/BIKING INSTALLATION PLANNED FOR PORTOLA DRIVE

To improve safety and encourage alternative transportation, the County of Santa Cruz is installing temporary pedestrian improvements and separated bikeways on Portola Drive between 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

The installation will be in place June 25<sup>th</sup>–July 21<sup>st</sup>, with a launch celebration including free pizza, giveaways, and speakers planned for June 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. in the lot next to Back in Shape Chiropractic. Speakers include First District Supervisor Manu Koenig, Carin Hanna of Save Pleasure Point, and Portola Drive business owners.

The installation allows residents to test recommendations included in the Santa Cruz County Active Transportation Plan and give feedback on a possible permanent project. The public is encouraged to try walking and biking through the installation.

Pedestrians, drivers, and cyclists are encouraged to provide feedback by taking an anonymous survey at <https://ecoact.org/poweredbyme/>.

The Portola Drive installation is based on the concepts of the 2018 Portola Drive Streetscape Study, with a few changes. The pop-up installation is testing a different design for bicycle facilities and includes separated bikeways, which are separated from the motor vehicle lane by parked cars, planters, curbs, or other barriers. Separated bikeways have been shown to reduce collisions and increase bike ridership. One of the goals of the temporary installation is to get feedback from the community on whether they would like to see separated bikeways included in any permanent project for Portola Drive. To create space for bike and pedestrian improvements, the installation includes a temporary road reconfiguration to one lane in each direction with a center turn lane.

The temporary installation does not supersede the Portola Drive Streetscape Study, which is still planned for the corridor. Feedback from the installation will be used to make decisions on the design of any future permanent project.

The Active Transportation Plan is a partnership between the County of Santa Cruz Public Works Department, County Public Health, Ecology Action, and Bike Santa Cruz County. The project is funded through a Caltrans Sustainable Communities Transportation Planning Grant as well as local matching funds. Following the installation projects, the planning team will develop the draft plan, which will be completed in early 2022.