

To: The South Bay Cycling Community

Subject: *Pilot* Bicycle Diversion Program

Starting on January 1, 2018, the South Bay Superior Traffic Court in Torrance and all the Police Departments within this court's jurisdiction are introducing a *Pilot* Bicycle Diversion Program.



- **What is a Bicycle Diversion Program?**

- If a South Bay bicyclist receives a traffic citation he/she will have a NEW option, to take a class and have the ticket dismissed
- This is the same option that motorists have had for decades.
- The program does not change California Vehicle Code laws pertaining to bicyclists or motorists.
- Instead, the new Diversion Program gives bicyclists **Option "C"** noted below:
 - A. *Plead guilty, pay a fine and court costs*
 - B. *Plead not guilty, post bail and set a trial date*
 - C. ***Complete a court-approved Bicycle Safety Class - NEW***

Note: When a bicyclist chooses Option C and completes a Bicycle Safety Class within the court-approved time, the Court will dismiss the case.

- **How does this program benefit cyclists?**

- It corrects the imbalance between motorists' rights and bicyclists' rights. (We know that "driving" a bicycle requires expertise just like driving a motorized vehicle, yet there are few education opportunities for bicyclists.)
- It gives bicyclists an option that saves money and improves their cycling skills.
- It has the potential to make our streets safer for bicyclists, motorists and pedestrians.

- **Law enforcement:**

- If you violate the law while driving a automobile or a bicycle and get stopped by a Police Officer, you will most likely receive a citation and you may be encouraged to take advantage of a Bicycle Diversion Education Program.

We believe your safety is paramount and that this Bicycle Diversion Program is a step in that direction. We hope you will support this program and help us create a safer environment on the roadways with fewer conflicts, crashes and injuries.

Regards,

Jim Hannon, a fellow cyclist