



**NEWS EVENT**  
**July 21, 2008**

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## **BUSINESS, HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS PROTEST ANOTHER BIKE PLAN DELAY**

**City Admits Work to Free Bike Plan Off Track Again**

- WHO:** San Francisco Bicycle Coalition members will be joined by Business, Health, Environmental and Neighborhood Leaders
- WHAT:** Rally for Mayor to Take Action on Stalled Bike Plan
- WHEN:** Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 12:30pm
- WHERE:** City Hall, Polk Street Steps

(SAN FRANCISCO) — Leaders from business, health, environmental and neighborhood-based communities will rally on the steps of City Hall at 12:30pm on Monday to demand action from the City to lift the current freeze on bicycle safety improvements. The 1pm Board of Supervisors' Land Use Committee will reveal that work on the environmental impact report (EIR) of the City's official Bike Plan is significantly behind schedule again, meaning it could be more than a year until new bike lanes, bike racks, or safety signage can again be installed. (click here for timeline of delays see: [http://www.sfbike.org/?bikeplan\\_lawsuit](http://www.sfbike.org/?bikeplan_lawsuit))

"This delay in advancing sustainable transportation should be unacceptable for a City that calls itself a green leader," says Leah Shahum, Executive Director of the 9,000-member San Francisco Bicycle Coalition. "The injunction is a major environmental injustice for San Francisco. Hundreds of thousands of people are suffering as the City fails to act."

The rally and public hearing come two years after an injunction stopped the City's Bike Plan in its tracks. The Bike plan was approved unanimously in mid-2005 by Mayor Newsom and the Board of Supervisors, then challenged in 2006 when a lawsuit found it required additional environmental review. Monday afternoon's hearing will examine why the City has fallen behind schedule again, a reoccurring problem. Back in December, the City's leadership publicly committed to completing a draft EIR by Fall 2008 and a final EIR by Spring/Summer 2009, which would allow the injunction to be lifted.

"San Francisco is striving to be a green city, yet a Republican judge has frozen implementation of the City's Bike Plan, preventing safety improvements for a major form of green transportation," says John Rizzo, of the SF Sierra Club's Executive Committee. "The City needs to take urgent action to get the Bike Plan back on track."

Groups from across the city and the nation are expressing shock that San Francisco would allow an environmentally beneficial program such as bicycle improvements to be on hold for so long, particularly as interest in bike commuting is surging locally and nationally.

“We’re not seeing this type of backward momentum anywhere else in the country,” says Amandeep Jawa, President, League of Conservation Voters. “With gas prices exceeding \$4 per gallon and 50% of carbon emissions coming from vehicles, most big cities are recognizing the financial and environmental benefits of prioritizing sustainable transportation.”

Speakers at the rally will include representatives from the Sierra Club, local businesses, the health field, and local community-based groups. They will be urging the Mayor to take all necessary action to prioritize the City’s work on the Bike Plan, to restore the current schedule, and to take all necessary actions to free the City of the injunction.

“We are asking for the Mayor’s public commitment for action now. For this thing to linger on one day longer than it already has will be a travesty and embarrassment to our city,” says Leah Shahum. “We are confident that Mayor Newsom can get the Bike Plan back on track, but will he do so? “A lot of people want to know.”

For more information see <http://www.sfbike.org>