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**NEWS**

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## **Environmental Rules Twisted in Attempt to Slow Bicycle Improvements**

*SF* — Supporters of environmentally sustainable transportation responded today to the San Francisco Superior Court's ruling of a preliminary injunction against a portion of the City's bicycle improvement plans. The case deals with a procedural question about the environmental review of the City's official Bike Plan, which was approved last year with unanimous support from Mayor Newsom and the Board of Supervisors.

"It is ironic that in the midst of Spare the Air season when the Bay Area has made a public commitment to encouraging sustainable forms of transportation for the benefit of the environment, a few individuals are using the state's environmental regulations in an attempt to discourage the most environmentally friendly form of transportation," says Leah Shahum, Executive Director of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition (SFBC), a 5,800-member nonprofit organization. "This ruling represents a bump in the bike path raised merely by questions on a procedural matter. The City will work through this, and we are confident that the City's leaders and the general public remain committed to making San Francisco a top-tier biking City for the benefit of our environmental and public health."

An overwhelming majority of San Franciscans support greater bike safety: 71% of S.F. voters agreed that "the City should create more bicycle lanes on City streets" in the most recent poll in 1997 conducted by David Binder Research. More than 35,000 people – or nearly 4% of San Francisco's adult population – already bike regularly for transportation, according to the same poll. (It is expected that the number has increased since then.)

"There is no doubt that the City's past improvements to make bicycle commuting safer and more mainstream have resulted in more people choosing to bicycle for transportation, which benefits all of us through cleaner air, safer streets, and a healthier population," says Shahum. "Because San Franciscans value the city's environmental and public health, we look forward to continuing our work to reach the goal of 10% of trips by bike by 2010."

The SFBC recently released the first Report Card of Bicycling for San Francisco. It can be viewed at <http://www.sfbike.org/reportcard>.

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