

Sandra Belson

From: Scott G [mailto:sgamron@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, April 01, 2012 8:42 PM

To: Sandra Belson

Subject: Florence TSP

Hello Sandra,

Thanks so very much for all the work you (and everyone involved) have put into making Florence a better community for all types of transportation, from walking, biking & motor vehicles. It is very much appreciated.

Let me introduce myself - my name is Scott Gamron and I'm an avid bicycle rider and General Contractor here in town. I'd like to paint a picture for you concerning bicyclist's safety.

Imagine riding a bicycle southbound on 101 and you cross 9th street. Up ahead across from Safeway is a crosswalk that juts out into the road making it very narrow for two lanes. Now picture two toy-haulers heading to the dunes side-by-side (a common occurrence) and you, on a bicycle, approaching the pedestrian crosswalk. It is nearly too narrow for the toy-haulers, let alone a bicycle. If the bicyclist is overtaken by the toy haulers, it is very possible that there will be an accident, with the bicyclist seriously injured or worse. It is very dangerous, this jutting out crosswalk. I've encountered many vehicles that have not given me the right of way at this junction and I've had to stop or be run over - all because the crosswalk juts out into the road. And I cannot jump on top of it because it's got rocks on it.

Now what about the thousands of cyclists from all over the world riding down the Oregon Coast? I took a bicycle ride down the coast last September, so I've experienced other towns and their unique "feel" from a cyclist's perspective. How will all the other cyclists remember Florence?

I'm sending you this email and "picture" if you will, because this one seemingly small thing has a huge impact on bicyclists, and will continue for years to come. Don't get me wrong - I know the crosswalks are important and necessary. If any more crosswalks are built, is there any way to NOT put the "jutting out into the road" part? Every bicyclist will appreciate it.

Thanks for reading all of this. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

Scott Gamron
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