



# Railroad Safety Trail



# Railroad Safety Trail

**Adopted  
June 2001**

Recompiled  
August 2008

## **Project Description**

***Prepared For:***

City of San Luis Obispo

***Prepared By:***

RRM Design Group  
3701 S. Higuera Street  
San Luis Obispo, California  
(805) 543-1794

***In Association With:***

Alta Consulting  
56 Manor Road  
Fairfax, CA 94930  
415/258-0468

Rincon Consultants, Inc.  
790 East Santa Clara Street  
Ventura, CA 93001  
805/641-1000

Taylor & Syfan  
2231 Bayview Heights Drive  
Los Osos, CA 93402  
805/528-2951

# Railroad Safety Trail

## Acknowledgements

### Acknowledgements

#### City of San Luis Obispo

The Railroad Safety Trail Preliminary Alignment Plans involved the participation of numerous City departments and advisory bodies, each of which provided input and assistance on the preparation of the alignment plans. The following City council, staff, commissions, and committees provided essential input and helpful suggestions.

#### *City Council*

Allen Settle  
Christine Mulholland  
Jan Howell Marx  
John Ewan  
Ken Schwartz

#### *Public Works Department*

Mike McCluskey, *Director of Public Works*  
Terry Sanville, *Principal Transportation Planner*  
Wayne Peterson, *Engineer*  
Alice Carter, *GIS Manager*

#### *Administration Department*

Neil Havlik, Ph.d, *Natural Resources Manager*  
Mike Clark, *Biologist*

#### *Utilities Department*

John Moss, *Utilities Director*  
David Pierce, *Water Projects Manager*

#### *Parks and Recreation Commission*

Debbie Black  
Bonnie Marzio  
Gary Clay  
James Neville  
Peter Dunan  
Teresa Larson  
William Pyper

#### *Architectural Review Commission*

Chuck Stevenson  
Jim Lopes  
Mark Rawson  
Michael Boudreau  
Rob Schultz  
Zeljka Howard  
Hana Novak

#### *Bicycle Advisory Committee*

Bruce Collier  
Jean Anderson  
Keith Miller  
Mark Grayson  
Mary Lou Johnson  
Tim Valentine  
Wes Conner

# Railroad Safety Trail

## Acknowledgements

### Acknowledgements

#### Public Agencies and Interest Groups

A core group of individuals, representing a broad cross section of agencies and interest groups within the City of San Luis Obispo and points beyond, participated in the development and review of the Railroad Safety Trail Preliminary Alignment Plans. This diverse group gave their time and provided immeasurable insight to the planning process.

#### California Transportation Department, District 5

Bob Carr, *Engineer*

#### Union Pacific Railroad

Cheryl Kinkel

Less Sack

Richard Gonzales

#### Questa Engineering Corporation

Wes Lauer, *Engineer*

#### San Luis Obispo Bicycle Club Members

Bruce Collier, *Past President*

Participating Members

#### Trail Planning Workshop Participants

# Railroad Safety Trail

## Table of Contents

### SECTION 1 – PROJECT OVERVIEW

1.1 Executive Summary .....	1-1
1.2 Project Background.....	1-2

### SECTION 2 – RAILROAD SAFETY TRAIL

2.1 Introduction and Project Setting.....	2-1
Project Study Area.....	2-1
Planning Process .....	2-2
2.2 Project Goals.....	2-3
2.3 Existing Conditions / Opportunities and Constraints .....	2-4
Segment 1 – San Luis Obispo Train Depot to Marsh Street .....	2-5
Segment 2 – Marsh Street to Foothill Boulevard.....	2-7
2.4 Trail Alignment and Design Objectives .....	2-11
Trail Alignment Objectives.....	2-11
Trail Design Objectives.....	2-11
2.5 Preliminary Trail Alignment .....	2-12
Preliminary Alignment Overview.....	2-14
Preliminary Alignment Plans .....	2-14
2.6 Trail Design Standards .....	2-23
Trail Relation to Railroad Setback .....	2-23
Typical Bike Trail Construction .....	2-23
Signing and Marking .....	2-23
Staging and Rest Areas .....	2-24
Trail Fencing.....	2-25
Trail Bridges and Pile Supported Decks .....	2-26
Trail Lighting .....	2-27
Historic and Educational Themes.....	2-27
2.7 Implementation .....	2-28
Securing Approvals and ROW .....	2-28
Trail Construction .....	2-28
Cost Analysis.....	2-29

### SECTION 3 -- APPENDICES

Appendix A: Railroad Safety Trail Opinion of Probable Construction Cost	
Appendix B: Railroad Safety Trail Preliminary Alignment Plans Updated July, 2004 per UPRR Requirements	
Appendix C: Railroad Safety Trail Project Initial Study	
Appendix D: Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form	
Appendix E: Resolution of the Council of the City of San Luis Obispo	

# Railroad Safety Trail

## Table of Contents

### RAILROAD SAFETY TRAIL LIST OF FIGURES

Figure #	Description	Page #
1	Railroad Safety Trail Project Study Area .....	2-1
2	Railroad Depot from Jennifer Street Bridge .....	2-1
3	Railroad Corridor Tour with Design Team .....	2-2
4	Presenting Preliminary Alignment Plans at the Public Workshop.....	2-2
5	Public Workshop Notice .....	2-2
6	Railroad Safety Trail Segment Map .....	2-4
7	Opportunities and Constraints Analysis, Segment 1 .....	2-6
8	Opportunities and Constraints Analysis, Segment 2A .....	2-9
9	Opportunities and Constraints Analysis, Segment 2B.....	2-9
10	Railroad Safety Trail Alternatives Elevation Matrix.....	2-13
11	Preliminary Alignment Overview Map.....	2-14
12	Preliminary Alignment Plans, Sheet 1.....	2-15
13	Preliminary Alignment Plans, Sheet 2.....	2-16
14	Preliminary Alignment Plans, Sheet 3.....	2-17
15	Preliminary Alignment Plans, Sheet 4.....	2-18
16	Preliminary Alignment Plans, Sheet 5.....	2-19
17	Preliminary Alignment Plans, Sheet 6.....	2-20
18	Preliminary Alignment Plans, Sheet 7.....	2-21
19	Preliminary Alignment Plans, Sheet 8.....	2-22
20	Typical and Minimum Trail Setbacks from Railroad Tracks .....	2-23
21	Example of Directional Signage .....	2-23
22	Potential Crosswalk and Intersection Realignment at Marsh and Pepper Streets .....	2-24
23	Staging Area at Railroad Depot .....	2-24
24	Pepper Street Trailside Rest Area.....	2-25
25	Railroad Safety Fencing Between Trail and Tracks .....	2-25
26	Typical Split Rail Fencing .....	2-25
27	Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Over Johnson Avenue .....	2-26
28	Pile Supported Deck Near Railroad Depot .....	2-27
29	Trailside Interpretive Exhibit.....	2-27
30	Staging Area Informational / Interpretive Kiosk .....	2-27
31	Railroad Safety Trail Opinion of Probable Construction Cost Summary.....	2-29