

Date of Hearing: June 17, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Lori D. Wilson, Chair

ACR 203 (Hart) – As Introduced May 16, 2024

SUBJECT: Bob Raleigh Memorial Bike Path

SUMMARY: Designates the bike path located along a specified portion of State Route 246 in the County of Santa Barbara as the Bob Raleigh Memorial Bike Path. The measure would also request that the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs.

EXISTING LAW: Assigns Caltrans the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways. This includes the installation and maintenance of highway signs.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown, but the measure requests that Caltrans determine the cost of appropriate signage consistent with requirements for the state highway system, and only erect the appropriate signage upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the cost.

COMMENTS: Bob Raleigh, a resident of the Santa Ynez Valley since 1958, was a beloved music teacher, among other roles, at Solvang Elementary School for thirty five years. Raleigh served other roles in the community, including as a Gold Cup member of the Vikings of Solvang, a chairman of Danish Days, the president of the Solvang Business Association, and a founding member of the team that brought the Solvang Theaterfest to Solvang.

Raleigh lived along State Route 246 in Jenin Acres for 65 years across from the entrance to the Santa Ynez Valley Oaks neighborhood, and it drove him crazy that bicycle riders had to ride on the shoulder of this busy section of highway. In the 1970s, Bob Raleigh advocated to have a bike path built along that section of State Route 246 that stretches from Santa Ynez High School to Nielsen's Market.

Although Bob was not an avid bicyclist, he bought two Raleigh brand cruisers with Brooks saddles in honor of the building of the bike path for himself and his wife Ann. While Bob may have only rode his bike once down that bike path to the school where he worked, it certainly pleased him that others used the bike path and, when he saw people on it as he drove by on State Route 246, he often commented on his role in getting the bike path built.

Bob's family, including his wife Ann and two children, Dan and Susy, are hopeful that naming the bike path in honor of him will draw more attention to the bike path so that it will get more use and help create momentum towards building the long sought after Santa Ynez Valley Regional Trail System.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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