



**Santa Barbara
Bicycle Coalition**
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May 15, 2014

Honorable Mayor Schneider and City Councilmembers
City of Santa Barbara, City Hall
P.O. Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990

**Subject: Request for Financial Assistance from the City of Santa
Barbara**

Dear Mayor Schneider and Councilmembers,

I am writing you to request one-time City of Santa Barbara financial support for facility acquisition of a permanent *Community Cycling Center*, Bici Centro. A \$50,000 cash contribution is requested to help us complete the purchase of a \$1.2 million property. As of today, we have secured from members of the community, \$850,000 in low interest loans and \$70,000 in cash donations. With the City's assistance the purchase of this building will become a reality. Purchase of this property will prevent unsustainable rent increases and allow for continuity of our classes, programs and educational outreach in the local schools.

In the City of Santa Barbara, reliance on bicycles for daily transportation is more common than reliance on public transportation (US Census Data). As much as half of the bicycle commuting population is low-income and without adequate resources or knowledge for needed bike repairs, safety education, and essentials such as lights and helmets. During our seven years of operation, over 4,000 individuals have received instruction on how to repair their own bicycles at Bici Centro. K-12 age educational offerings from the center have doubled every year for the last three years. In just the last 18 months over 1,000 students have received in-depth bicycle safety education.

We believe that our low cost community resource offerings are essential to increase bicycling safety and improving accessibility to safe and reliable bicycles for those who need it most. Securing our current facility is essential to continuing these efforts. Please consider contributing alongside other community members and foundations to *Secure our Future*, to create a permanent non-profit, bi-lingual Community Cycling Center for Santa Barbara.

Ed France
Executive Director
Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition

Cc: Jim Armstrong, City Administrator