Bike Commuting Tip Sheet

• **Bikes and the Law:** Bikes are vehicles - obey all traffic laws! When bike lanes are absent, you may take the lane if travelling at the speed of traffic. If you're riding slower than traffic, ride as far to the right "as is safe and practicable".

• **Be Predictable:** Ride a straight course, don’t weave in and out of parked cars.

• **Be Visible:** Front and back lights, light-colored clothing and reflectors help you stay safe on the road.

• **Tracks:** Cross all railroad and streetcar tracks at a 90-degree angle.

• **Choosing a Route:** Use a Santa Cruz County Bike map to choose a low-traffic route. Pre-ride it to find your favorite.

• **Leave Early:** Riding at a moderate pace will leave you sweat-free when you get to work. Store a change of clothes and baby wipes at work to freshen up.

• **Be Aware:** Pay attention to drivers around you and be on the lookout for unpredictable actions. Watch parked cars for drivers about to open their doors.

• **Carrying Stuff:** A sturdy rack and panniers keep weight off your back and can carry laptops, a change of clothes, groceries and more. Talk to your local bike shop about the best options for you.

• **Hand Signals:** Alert drivers before you turn or change lanes. Check before changing lanes to make sure the lane is clear.