

## **Bicyclists will be put at risk in Indian Wells**

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Motorists might think widening Highway 111 in Indian Wells is a good thing, but they do not realize that safety will be compromised. The plan will eliminate the white line “de facto” bike lanes. With gated areas on both sides, Highway 111 is the only route for cyclists between Palm Desert and La Quinta. The fact is that cyclists will continue to use Highway 111 in Indian Wells after the lanes are removed.

A cyclist to the right of the white line defines space and presents an image of predictability so that motorists feel comfortable proceeding straight ahead and maintaining speed. Without a white line, motorists approaching a cyclist tend to slow down and encroach into the lane to the left, resulting in a possible collision with another car.

The Complete Streets Act, a new state law in the process of being implemented, calls for making new construction and reworked roadways safe for all users. Indian Wells City Council members are within their rights to go forward with this project, but they are totally ignoring the spirit and intent of this new law to make roadways safe for all roadway users.

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Gary Lueders Rancho Mirage