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The group People Power wants to make Pacific Avenue a bicycling and pedestrian mall one day a week.

# No-way one day?

Pacific Avenue

11-2-11

Bicycling group wants pedestrian mall on Pacific once a week

By J.M. BROWN

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SANTA CRUZ — A bicycling advocacy group will urge city commissioners at a special meeting Thursday to consider making downtown's main corridor a pedestrian and bicycling mall one day a week.

Members of the Downtown Commission and Public Works and Transportation Commission will hold the joint session at 7 p.m. to consider a proposal from downtown merchants and restaurants to convert a portion of Pacific Avenue to two-way vehicle traffic before the holiday shopping season to see if it increases sales.

People Power, which urges improved access and safety for bicyclists, is not opposed to the two-way plan but will ask commission members also to consider shutting down a section of the avenue — a block or two — to vehicles every Sunday. The group argues that Santa Cruz, like its fellow college town and tourism destination, Boulder



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Cyclists cross Pacific Avenue in downtown Santa Cruz. The group People Power is making a push to ban cars from Pacific Avenue on Sundays, leaving downtown Santa Cruz's main traffic artery to just cyclists and pedestrians.

Colorado, where a part of historic Pearl Street is partially closed to vehicles, could support the change.

"Ultimately, we would like to have it be a pedestrian mall 24-7," said director Micah Posner. "However, we feel it has to work for commerce, and the businesses aren't confident that a pedestrian mall would be good (for business.)"

## IF YOU GO

TWO-WAY PACIFIC PROPOSAL

**WHAT:** Joint special meeting of the Downtown Commission and Public Works and Transportation Commission

**WHEN:** 7 p.m. Thursday

**WHERE:** City Council chamber, 809 Center St.

SEE PACIFIC ON B3