

The bike lanes from 18th to 32nd streets on Willamette are also included as a key project in a draft new bicycle and pedestrian plan now under development. Cyclists have been calling for the safety improvement for decades and the lanes received the most support in hundreds of public comments on the plan. Willamette has the third highest number of bike accidents in Eugene, according to a recent city study.

The city has resisted adding bike lanes to paving projects in the past. In response to suggestions that the city include bike lanes with a repaving project on Hilyard near Roosevelt Middle School, city

transportation planner David Roth told the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee last month, "it's way too late." Roth said, "we have to be a year in advance to even get striping changes."

That's a much less flexible process than in Portland. Mia Birk, Portland's bike coordinator from 1993 to 1999, came to Eugene in January and told of how she quickly re-striped a four-lane road for planned bike lanes with the help of the city's traffic engineer and a painting crew. They did it over a weekend.

— Alan Pittman

(A version of this story first appeared at [EugeneCycles.com](http://EugeneCycles.com))

## WRITER MOURNS, CHRONICLES LOSS OF OCEAN

Once thought of as a limitless source of food, the oceans are being depleted at an exponential rate, according to ocean conservation advocate and activist Carl Safina. Safina has been writing books advocating against the rapid destruction of our oceans and coastal communities and documenting issues like non-target catch

— fish killed in the course of fishing for more profitable or consumable species — accounting for 25 percent of the total catch, coral reefs quickly being reduced into seaweed gardens, and small islands being drowned by rising water levels. Safina's March 5 keynote address focused on this ocean exploitation at the Public Interest in Environmental Law Conference.

"It is OK to use nature," Safina said. "It is not OK to use it up."

Safina highlighted many separate issues facing the marine ecosystem, focusing on a few specific animals and environments. Long-line fishing methods are a threat to albatrosses that swoop in to catch the bait.



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