

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 3, 2016

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Thousands of Students to take a Healthy Route to School

More than 140 Alameda County schools to participate in International Walk and Roll to School Day on Wednesday, October 5

ALAMEDA COUNTY, Calif. Thousands of Alameda County students will reap the benefits of taking a healthy route to school – walking, riding, scooting or sharing their ride this Wednesday, October 5, [International Walk and Roll to School Day](#). [Alameda County's Safe Routes to Schools Program](#) supports this annual event at schools throughout the county to promote active and shared commutes to school.

“International Walk and Roll to School Day aims to inspire long-term healthy routines of walking, cycling, scooting and/or taking transit to school,” says Alameda CTC Chair Rebecca Kaplan, Oakland City Councilmember At-Large. “We know that students do better in school when they are more physically active, and walking and rolling to school has the added benefit of reducing congestion and improving air quality. We hope that by trying out a new way to school on Wednesday, families might make it a habit - even just once a week.”

Those families who live far from school are encouraged to try transit or to park a few blocks away from school and walk there together. “In addition to reducing unsafe congestion around schools, the fresh air and added exercise are a great way to start the day,” says Alameda CTC Executive Director Arthur Dao. “And surprisingly, it can often be faster than sitting in traffic closer to school.” Alameda CTC administers the county’s Safe Routes to Schools Program and provides the majority of its funding through the voter approved transportation sales taxes Measure B and Measure BB.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES - WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5

- Supervisor and Alameda CTC Commissioner Nate Miley will attend activities at Colonial Acres Elementary in Hayward at 7:30 a.m.
- Supervisor and Alameda CTC Commissioner Richard Valle will attend activities at Searles Elementary School in Union City from 7:40-8:00 a.m.
- Bridges Academy Oakland is hosting a large event with many community partners and the [BikeMobile](#), a walking school bus and bike blender.
- Assemblymember Rob Bonta will join students and parent champions at Otis Elementary School in Alameda from 7:50-8:20 a.m.

International Walk and Roll to School Day is October 5, 2016

- **Hayward's Cherryland Elementary** students and their parents will meet up with Safe Kids at Sunset Park (at the corner of Sunset and Western in Hayward) at 7:45 a.m. There will be several activities for students to enjoy before the group starts walking to school at 8 a.m.
- School principal and teachers are leading several walking groups to **Brier Elementary in Fremont** between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m.
- At **Kennedy Elementary in Newark**, **Mayor Alan Nagy** will be in attendance welcoming groups of walkers and rollers as they arrive at school between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m.
- At **Mohr Elementary in Pleasanton** a large number of students are expected to walk and roll from 8:30-9:15 a.m. with help from the Boy Scouts who will be passing out incentives. The City of Pleasanton has partnered with SR2S to provide snacks and reflective zipper pulls.
- A Walking School Bus will meet at Emerald Glen Park at 8:00 a.m. to walk to **Dougherty Elementary in Dublin** with the Principals. Walkers and rollers will be greeted and given incentives and additional snacks provided by the City of Dublin. At Dougherty there is also a classroom competition to see who has the most students arriving by active or shared transportation.

The [BikeMobile](#), a mobile bicycle repair clinic that is part of the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools program, will be at many schools this week, repairing bikes for free and providing free bike safety and repair training. See the [BikeMobile's calendar here](#). Up to 50 percent of Alameda County's students do not ride their bikes due to minor issues, such as a flat tire or worn out brakes. The BikeMobile addresses this problem by bringing mechanics to them.

About the Alameda County Transportation Commission

Alameda CTC coordinates countywide transportation planning and delivers essential, voter-supported transportation improvements in every city throughout Alameda County. Funding sources for Alameda CTC's expenditure plans include Measure B, approved by 81.5 percent of county voters in 2000, and Measure BB, approved by more than 70 percent of voters in 2014. Visit www.alamedactc.org to learn more, and follow Alameda CTC on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools

Safe Routes to Schools is a comprehensive, proven approach to getting more kids walking and biking safely to school. It provides kids and their parents with skills, encouragement and inspiration through a range of activities, events and lessons, while also addressing local pedestrian, bicycle and personal safety concerns. Operating since 2006, the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program is funded in part by Alameda CTC with Alameda County's local Measure B and Measure BB sales taxes, and regional, state and federal funds, and serves more than 140 schools throughout the county.

Visit www.alamedacountysr2s.org to learn more.

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