Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thousands of Alameda County Students from 127 Schools to Participate in Bike to School Day on Thursday, May 12 Emphasis on safe and fun bicycling for kids

ALAMEDA COUNTY, Calif. The <u>Alameda County Transportation Commission</u> (Alameda CTC), through its <u>Safe Routes to Schools program</u> with partner <u>Bike East Bay</u>, is proud to announce that 127 Alameda County schools will participate this year in Bike to School Day, one of several major events throughout the school year to promote bicycling as a great way for kids to stay healthy and active.

Bike to School Day aims to motivate students to hop on a bike and pedal to school — although, rollerblading and scooting are also encouraged. It is one of many events around the Bay Area during Bike Month and coincides with Bike to Work Day on May 12.

"I'm thrilled that so many schools and students will participate in Bike to School Day this year. It is a real testament to the impact of our Safe Routes to Schools program and the priority that Alameda County voters have placed on bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Measures B and BB support important programs and infrastructure to keep our kids active, safe and healthy, as they try new transportation options," says Alameda CTC Chair Rebecca Kaplan, Oakland City Councilmember At-Large. "I'll see you in the bike lane on Thursday!"

Reporters and/or press photographers are invited to visit any of the following Alameda County schools that will host events celebrating Bike to School Day on May 12:

- LeConte Elementary in Berkeley will have a table set up at the Sports Basement Energizer Station at 7:15 a.m., and a group will ride from there to the school in a bike train at 7:50 a.m. There will also be a raffle for bike safety flags at the school, which has a start time of 8 a.m.
- Community United School in Oakland will celebrate starting at 7:45 a.m. with an Energizer Station and will partner with Futures Elementary to set up a welcome table to greet and welcome rollers to the campus.
- International Community School in Oakland will host the <u>BikeMobile</u> at 7:45 a.m. and will celebrate with a welcome table to greet rollers arriving at school.

- Dayton Elementary in San Lorenzo will celebrate with a welcome table for rollers arriving at school and School Board Member Penny Peck will attend the festivities that morning.
- Castro Valley High will host an Energizer Station.
- In Newark, Kennedy Elementary and Musick Elementary will set up tables to welcome rollers and will raffle bike safety flags and helmets.
- Parkmont Elementary in Fremont will host Vice President of the Fremont Unified School District Board of Education Ann Crosbie, who will join families to greet kids at the bike racks in the morning, as they roll into school.
- John Green Elementary in Dublin will host an Energizer Station for the second year in a row and will enter all students that roll to school into a drawing for a scooter.
- Alisal Elementary in Pleasanton will celebrate with a lunch-time event. Students will decorate their bikes and helmets and participate in a parade around the playground. Students will also get to spin the trivia wheel and answer bike and pedestrian safety questions for a prize.

Pedal parades, helmet fittings and bike decoration stations are just some of the kid-friendly activities at these schools prior to and during these events. Alameda CTC commissioners will participate in several activities throughout the county.

The Measure B-funded <u>Safe Routes to Schools program</u> delivers free walking, biking, carpooling and transit programs to help get more kids walking and biking safely to school. As the program has expanded, the number of schools participating in Bike to School Day in Alameda County has grown from fewer than 10 in 2011, to more than 100 in 2015 and 127 this year.

For information and resources for Bike to School Day visit <u>http://alamedacountysr2s.org/events/bike-to-school-day/.</u>

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. For more information, please visit the Alameda CTC website at http://www.alamedactc.org.

About Bike East Bay

Bike East Bay (formerly the East Bay Bicycle Coalition) serves more than 33 cities in Alameda County and Contra Costa County, supporting bicycling as an alternative source of transportation for everyday commuting and recreation. Visit <u>www.BikeEastBay.org</u> for more information.

About Safe Routes to Schools

The Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program, funded in part by Alameda CTC with Measure B sales tax dollars, works in schools across Alameda County to develop walk- and bike-to school programs that make sense for their communities. Safe Routes to Schools creates healthier, stronger communities. Learn more at www.alamedacountysr2s.org.