FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Nine Area High Schools Promote Carpooling with Cocoa in December
Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools supports carpooling events

Alameda County — California. High schools in the Tri-Valley, Albany, Castro Valley, Fremont, Oakland and San Lorenzo are promoting carpooling to school this month, participating in the annual Safe Routes to Schools Cocoa for Carpools event that encourages a new generation of drivers and their parents to fill up their cars, not the roads.

The Measure B-funded Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools program, Cocoa for Carpools provides hot chocolate and encouragement for carpooling students and families when they arrive at school. The successful program is receiving the Tri-Valley Air Quality Impact Award from the Tri-Valley Spare the Air Resource Team and will be recognized at the January 14, 2016 meeting of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

"Students that carpool learn early-on of its benefits,” says Alameda CTC Chair Supervisor Scott Haggerty, “saving time, money and the environment, reducing traffic congestion, getting a prime parking spot, and in this program, a hot cup of Cocoa for Carpools before class on these chilly mornings. Hopefully this experience will lead to future carpool practices to take advantage of the carpool and express lane network planned throughout Alameda County for I-580, I-680, I-880, and I-80 highways."

2015 Cocoa for Carpool events:
December 2: Foothill High
December 8: Irvington High
December 9: Albany High
December 10: Oakland Tech
December 15: Granada High and Castro Valley High
December 16: San Lorenzo High and American High
December 18: Dublin High

As sponsor of the I-580 Express Lanes and Safe Routes to Schools, Alameda CTC is encouraging all Tri-Valley Cocoa for Carpool participants to get a FasTrak® Flex toll tag now to be ready to take advantage of the I-580 Express Lanes, which require carpoolers to have a FasTrak Flex toll tag to use the lanes for fee. The express lanes will open in early 2016 and will operate Monday through Friday, 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., so those carpooling to and from school will need a FasTrak Flex toll tag.

The project will provide the first westbound carpool/express lane in the heavily congested Tri-Valley corridor between Livermore and Dublin, and add one new carpool/express lane in the eastbound direction. All I-580 Express Lane users are required to have a FasTrak toll tag to use the lanes, and carpoolers are required to have a FasTrak Flex tag to use the lanes for free. It only takes two to carpool on the I-580.
These lanes will improve travel time reliability for corridor users and are complemented by a number of new carpool matching programs, which provide support, matching assistance and incentives for vanpooling and carpooling. Learn more at www.rideshare.511.org.

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.

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