

# Press Release



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## 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 Carpools 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.

Cocoa for Carpools, December 2, 2015

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](http://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](http://www.alamedactc.org) to learn more, and follow Alameda CTC on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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