## **Press Release**



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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2017

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# Thousands of Alameda County Students from 130 Schools to Participate in Bike to School Day on Thursday, May 11

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>, is proud to announce that 130 Alameda County schools will participate this year in <u>Bike to School Day</u>, 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 11.

"The number of schools and students participating in Bike to School Day this year is a testament to our Safe Routes to Schools program and the impact of our investments in bicycle and pedestrian projects," says Alameda CTC Chair Rebecca Kaplan, Oakland City Councilmember At-Large. "By prioritizing safer, smoother streets and healthy transportation choices, our local transportation funding helps keep kids active, safe and healthy. See you in the bike lane!"

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 11:

- LeConte Elementary in Berkeley will have a table set up at the Sports Basement Energizer Station at 7:30 a.m., where they will be decorating bike and helmets. At 7:50 a.m. they will ride as a large group/bike train to the school at 7:50 a.m. All children will be greeted with stickers upon arrival at school.
- Oakland Technical High School will have a SR2S coordinator/student-run energizer station in the morning before school as well as a BikeMobile visit and bike blender appearance during lunch time.
- Castro Valley High and Creekside Middle School will be hosting Energizer Stations in Castro Valley.
- Hesperian Elementary will be celebrating Bike to School Day with the San Lorenzo Unified Superintendent Dr. Fred Brill. Parents alongside Superintendent Brill will be welcoming students with lots of goodies as they arrive to school in the morning.

- Joe Michell K-8 in Livermore is gearing up for an extra special Bike to School Day. This is the school's first year participating in the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools program and their first time celebrating Bike to School Day. Before school they will be hosting a Mini-Energizer Station and giving out snacks, reflective stickers, bike lights, and testing students' knowledge with bike safety trivia. Joe Michell hopes to encourage more students to ride to school safely, and build bike riding momentum for years to come.
- At Pioneer Elementary School in Union City, Principal Cheri Benafield will be meeting students to bike to school together at 7:40 a.m. After school, students who bicycled to school will receive goodie bags at the bike racks.
- At Azevada Elementary in Fremont, parents will hand out treats to bicyclists as they arrive at the bike racks at 7:50 a.m. They will be joined by a special guest the City of Fremont's "Pete Walker Mascot" will encourage students to ride their bicycles, remind them to ride safely, and help spread the word about the City's Vision Zero program.

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 130 this year.

For information and resources for Bike to School Day visit <a href="http://alamedacountysr2s.org/plan-an-event/bike-to-school-day/https://bikeeastbay.org/b2sd\_2017">http://bikeeastbay.org/b2sd\_2017</a>

### 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 <a href="http://www.alamedactc.org">http://www.alamedactc.org</a>.

#### **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 <a href="https://www.alamedacountysr2s.org">www.alamedacountysr2s.org</a>.