



Press Release

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Winner Announced in Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools' Golden Sneaker Contest for Students

Contest recognizing school-aged students who chose active transportation, carpooling and supportive mobility devices included over 15,500 students and over 88 schools this year.

ALAMEDA COUNTY, Calif. – The [Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools \(SR2S\) Program](#) is celebrating the success of one of its signature countywide events: the Golden Sneaker Contest. At the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) meeting on April 23rd, Commission Chair and Alameda County District Supervisor David Haubert awarded the Platinum Sneaker to Christensen Middle School, which is in Livermore and part of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD). Chair Haubert and his fellow commissioners also expressed congratulations to each school's winning classroom, commended school staff throughout Alameda County for strong participation, and recognized the SR2S Program for delivering one of its core initiatives for school-aged youth.

The Golden Sneaker Contest is a popular annual tradition administered by Alameda CTC's SR2S Program. The program is a comprehensive and proven approach to increase safe walking and biking to and from school with the goals of reducing congestion and harmful pollutants around schools and increasing the safety and physical activity of students. This year, over 88 schools registered for the event and participated between March 2nd and March 13th. The contest mobilized over 15,500 students throughout Alameda County into active travel or transit for the trip to school.

During the contest, Alameda County students, classrooms, and schools competed to see who could use active and shared transportation the most, receiving points every time they walked, rolled, bicycled, rode a scooter or skateboard, took transit, or used a supportive mobility device such as a wheelchair. Teachers polled their classrooms and tallied the number of students who used active and shared modes during the two-week event. Students from the classroom at each school with the highest participation earn their school's Golden Sneaker Trophy. The school with the highest average classroom participation in all of Alameda County received the Platinum Sneaker Award.

"The Golden Sneaker Contest highlights how Alameda CTC's investments are helping make it safer and easier for students to walk, bike and roll to school," said Tony Tavares, Executive Director of Alameda CTC. "With

support from Measure BB, the Safe Routes to Schools Program promotes sustainable travel choices, reduces congestion near schools, and creates safer streets for Alameda County communities."

An average of 75% of Platinum Sneaker-winning Christensen Middle School students took an active or shared transportation option to school during the contest. This included 27 classrooms and approximately 684 students. The winning classroom was Core Teacher Hien Ngo's class, with 76% participation. Alameda CTC extends a special thank you to the Christensen Middle School staff and Principal Brian Scharmann, who leads the school's SR2S activities, for their leadership in bringing the SR2S Program to their campus and for supporting g award-winning participation.

About the Alameda County Transportation Commission

The mission of the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) is to plan, fund and deliver transportation programs and projects that expand access and improve mobility to foster a vibrant and livable Alameda County. Governed by a 22-member Commission, Alameda CTC manages the county's one-cent transportation sales tax and serves as the county's congestion management agency. In Fiscal Year 2023-24, the agency carried out \$405 million in transportation improvements that create jobs, enhance mobility, and enrich communities. Learn about current transportation projects and programs and learn about Measure BB, which voters passed in November 2014. Visit Alameda CTC's website to learn more, and follow Alameda CTC on Facebook and X.

About Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools

Safe Routes to Schools is a comprehensive and effective approach to getting more kids biking, rolling, and walking 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 a program of the Alameda County Transportation Commission and is funded in part by Alameda CTC with Alameda County's local Measure BB sales tax, and regional, state, and federal funds, serving more than 300 schools throughout the county. Visit the Safe Routes to Schools website to learn more, and follow Safe Routes to Schools on Facebook, Instagram, and X.