



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Bike to Work on May 15th & The Team Bike Challenge

ALAMEDA COUNTY – California. On Thursday, May 15, 2008 thousands of Alameda County residents will mount their bicycles and pedal to work in honor of Bike-to-Work Day. Promoting a healthy option for routine commuting, Bike-to-Work Day seeks to raise awareness about bicycling as a viable preference to reduce our dependence on cars and the effects of carbon fuel emissions.

According to the American Automobile Association (AAA) the cost to own and operate a vehicle has increased 1.9 cents since 2007, averaging 54.1 cents per mile. In the Bay Area, greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles account for approximately half of all emissions. These statistics coupled with escalating gasoline prices and increases in obesity, make bicycling an attractive alternative. The Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) supports Bike-to-Work Day, as well as all modes of transportation.

Alameda County's half-cent transportation sales tax supports \$5 million each year for bicycle and pedestrian safety projects and programs. ACTIA is working with the East Bay Bicycle Coalition (EBBC) supporting Bike-to-Work Day. EBBC is coordinating a number of events to support riders and get them excited about the benefits of cycling, including a greener environment and improved health.

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One such event is the Team Bike Challenge where teams of two to five people are formed and they pedal everywhere during the month of May to earn points and win prizes. Teams score points whenever one of their members rides. Points can be earned for riding to school, work, to run errands, or just for fun. Team members need not ride together in order to score points and the team with the most points at the end of May wins the grand prize. It's all part of the National Bike Month celebration during May.

ACTIA supports Bike Month through funding and practicing what it preaches. ACTIA has formed two teams to compete in this year's challenge. Both ACTIA's Executive Director, Christine Monsen, and Deputy Director, Art Dao, have taken to the pedals and are cycling to work or to transit to get to work. Christine Monsen rides from her home to the Downtown Berkeley BART station where she leaves her bike in the staffed bike station, noting, "It's safe for me to leave my bike there and easy to get to work – it's a lot of fun and gets me out and about!" In all, ACTIA has two teams (ten people, including staff and consultants) who have taken the challenge to support and celebrate bicycling in May.

ACTIA has worked closely with EBBC on portions of Bike-to-Work Day, as well as funded a grant to EBBC to provide bicycling safety courses. The EBBC works with cities, counties, and other government agencies to promote cycling as an everyday means of transportation. Some of EBBC's accomplishments in this regard include, bikes on BART, all Bay Area ferry services, and all East Bay bus systems, as well as bicycle safety courses. For information about the Team Bike Challenge and other National Bike Month events, go to <http://www.511.org> and select your event by county. For EBBC's safety classes, visit www.ebbc.org.

Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) is the agency that administers the Measure B, half-cent transportation sales tax funds in Alameda County. The East Bay Bicycle Coalition (EBBC) is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting bicycling as an everyday means of transportation and recreation. The EBBC safeguards the interests of bicyclists in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. For more information: <http://www.511.org>.

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