



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Solano Safe Routes to School holds Walking Audits for Benicia**

**SUISUN CITY, CA** – Two walking audits of the routes students use to walk and bike to school will be hosted in Benicia by the Solano Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Program during the week of March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Safe Routes to School is a national, state and local program to increase walking and biking to school. Solano SR2S is a program of the Solano Transportation Authority (STA). Community members and parents are encouraged to participate in the Robert Semple Elementary and Benicia Middle School audits on March 21, 2012 and March 23, 2012 (only one audit per day). Participants will help identify the safest routes for children to walk and bike to school.

Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor, City of Benicia, said “Making it easier for students to walk and bike to school safely means being healthier and creating cleaner air by reducing car trips. Join Solano County’s Safe Routes to School Program in their efforts to create safer, less congested routes to school. Let your feet and wheels be a voice in your school community.”

At the walk audit event, each participant will receive a base map. For half an hour, participants will observe drop-off or pick up activities and walk (or bike) to identified locations of interest. Program personnel will document stakeholders’ concerns and ideas at a debriefing that follows the walk audit. This will also be an opportunity to confirm the accuracy of the base maps provided to each participant and to explain the types of information that will be used to develop the final Suggested Routes to School maps.

Walk audits help in identifying traffic issues/barriers, propose improvement plans and solutions around school Communities. Findings of the walking audit will be used to create suggested routes and a toolkit for all schools in Solano County. A benefit to students from Safe Routes to School is the regular physical activity they receive from safely walking or biking daily to and from school. Healthy children are more prepared to learn.

For more information about the Solano Safe Routes to School program or upcoming School Walking Audits, contact Danelle Carey, STA Program Coordinator at [dcarey@sta-snci.com](mailto:dcarey@sta-snci.com) or 707-399-3219, or go to the website: [www.SolanoSR2S.ca.gov](http://www.SolanoSR2S.ca.gov).

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