



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***** MEDIA ADVISORY *** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

Solano Safe Routes to School holds Walking Audit for Benicia

SUISUN CITY, CA – A walking audit of the routes students use to walk and bike to school will be hosted in Benicia at Matthew Turner Elementary School by the Benicia Safe Routes to School Community Task Force and the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) on April 23, 2012.

Safe Routes to School is a national, state and local program designed to increase walking and biking to school. The Solano SR2S is a program coordinated by Solano Transportation Authority (STA) in partnership with local school districts and each of Solano's seven cities. Community members and parents are encouraged to participate in the Matthew Turner Elementary School audit on April 23, 2012. Participants will help identify the safest routes for children to walk and bike to school.

Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor, City of Benicia, commented "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 Matthew Turner Elementary 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. SR2S walk audits help in identifying traffic issues/barriers, propose improvement plans and solutions around school Communities. Program staff will document stakeholders' concerns and ideas at a debriefing that follows the walk audit. This will also be an opportunity to explain the types of information that will be used to develop the final suggested routes and discuss school maps for Matthew Turner Elementary School.

Similar walking audits are being conducted at schools throughout Solano County and will provide the prioritization for future SR2S funding.

For more information about the Solano Safe Routes to School program or upcoming School Walking Audits, contact Danelle Carey, STA's SR2S Program Coordinator at dcarey@sta-snci.com or 707-399-3219, or go to the website: www.SolanoSR2S.ca.gov.

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