



Solano Transportation Authority
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Solano County's Safe Routes to School Program Awarded \$388,000 in Active Transportation Program Grant Funding!

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved Solano County's Safe Routes to School Program application for \$388,000 under the 2014 Active Transportation Program on August 20. The Solano Transportation Authority's submission was one of 771 projects seeking funding under this highly competitive State grant program, aimed at supporting projects that will encourage walking and bicycling.

STA Board Chair and Mayor of Vallejo, Osby Davis stated, "This approval allows us to expand our outreach efforts to engage parents in this important program. This is good news for Solano County parents and students. Working together, we can improve the health and safety of our children." Using these funds, STA in collaboration with the Solano County Department of Public Health will select 15 schools to be part of a pilot program to build upon the current Walking School Bus program that has been running in Solano County since January 2013.

The first element of the project is to provide a stipend to the school to fund a position to lead a Walking School Bus Route on a daily basis from a marked location which would reduce traffic congestion around the school. The second component is extensive parent education to not only better inform parents on the physical, mental and safety benefits of walking and rolling (bicycling, skateboard, scooter, etc.) to school, but also to identify parent champions and volunteers that will work to promote the Safe Routes to School program at their children's school.

STA and Solano County Public Health staff will work with the schools to:

- (a) train the dedicated staff member to lead the walking school bus route,
- (b) educate parents and identify and support parent champions/volunteers,
- (c) set individual targets for schools to increase active transportation based on current walking/rolling status
- (d) award schools with special distinction as long as the school continues to work on promoting walking and rolling to school.

It is anticipated this pilot program will begin in early 2015. For more information, please contact Sarah Fitzgerald at 707-399-3219.

SOLANO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Safe Routes to School (SR2S) in Solano County is a program of the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) and is run in partnership with Solano County Public Health. The program was launched in 2008, with an aim to increase the number of students that walk, bike, rideshare or take transit to and from school and supports these activities with educational events throughout the year. There are substantial benefits to increasing active transportation to and from school including improving students' health and well-being plus reducing both air pollution and traffic congestion.

Solano Safe Routes to School
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