

**6. 511 Contra Costa Report on School-Based Programs for Central and East Counties presented by Lynn Overcashier, Program Manager, 511 Contra Costa**

**Attachment:** TRANSPAC/TRANSPLAN 511 Contra Costa School-Based Programs report

## TRANSPAC/TRANSPLAN 511 CONTRA COSTA SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS

Since 1995, the Regional Transportation Planning Committees (RTPCs), by way of their respective Transportation Demand Management Programs (511 Contra Costa) have implemented school-based trip reduction programs throughout Contra Costa County. Many of these programs have been developed to address vehicle mile travel reductions (VMT) and trip reduction goals set forth in the RTPC Action Plans, which are an important part of the overall Contra Costa Growth Management Program and Countywide Transportation Plan. The TRANSPAC/TRANSPLAN 511 Contra Costa programs provide multi-modal trip reduction options to reduce single occupant vehicles near schools, while providing quantifiable emissions reductions. Staff works with the school districts, individual schools, local jurisdictions, law enforcement, transit operators, local businesses, the East Bay Regional Park District, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Rideshare Agency, to bring these programs to the schools.

### Bicycle/Skateboard Infrastructure Program

This program provides bicycle racks, bicycle cages, skateboard racks and scooter racks to schools each year throughout Central and East County. To date 18 bike racks, six skateboard racks, and a bike cage have been installed at seven school sites. A wrought iron bicycle cage was installed at Antioch Middle School to address bicycle security and storage issues. The bicycle cage dramatically increased bicycle use by students. Eleven additional schools have requested bike, skateboard or scooter racks for the 2011 school year.



### SchoolPool Transit Program

Free County Connection and Tri Delta bus passes are available to students in Central and East County at the beginning of each school year. These passes are available to all

elementary, middle and high school students, with the cooperation of school administrators in each school district, in order to encourage transit ridership and to reduce the number of cars transporting students to schools. Tickets are available on a one-time only basis at the beginning of the school year. The number of County Connection/Tri Delta bus passes distributed to students averages approximately 3,000 annually. Bus route maps and schedules for these select services are included with the ticket distribution. Due to requests from school principals and parents, bus etiquette education will be provided to students in grades 5-8 in 2011.

### SchoolPool Carpool Ridematching Program

School carpool ridematching services are provided to families in Central and East County in order to encourage and assist parents in forming carpools to transport their children to school. This program is available with the cooperation of school administrators at each school site. 511 Contra Costa staff is currently working with schools to provide carpool ridematching information on school and parent-led organization websites for FY 2011/12.



### **Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Training**

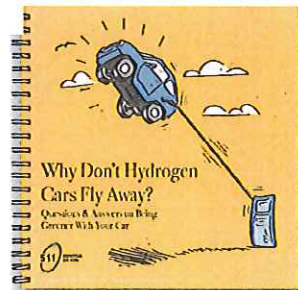
Bicycle and pedestrian safety training is offered to students at elementary and middle schools by way of either school assemblies Walk and Roll to School promotions, or through physical education classes. Schools are contacted to determine which of the options they prefer for their campus, and arrangements are made based on the preferred dates requested by the schools.

### **Educational Materials**



An alternative-mode activity wheel was produced and distributed through libraries and local schools to encourage children to bike and walk. In addition, a booklet intended for

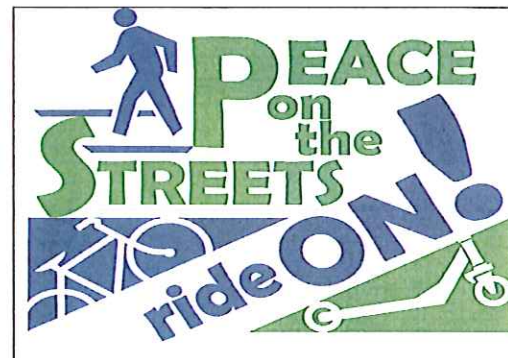
middle school children was produced to educate youth on the benefits of trip-linking, reducing cold starts, and reducing car trips, as well as the consequence of automobile use relative to air pollution. These materials are available interactively online at [www.511contracosta.org](http://www.511contracosta.org) and paper copies are made available to schools upon request.



### **Peace on the Streets: Ride On! – A Week-long Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Training Program**

This safety training program is offered currently to five middle schools as a pilot program, with plans to expand the program to additional middle and elementary schools as funds become available. Middle schools in Clayton, Concord, Martinez, Pleasant Hill and Walnut

Creek will be kicking-off this program beginning later this month (February, 2011). This week-long program relies upon cooperation and participation with the school districts, local school administrators, PTAs, student leadership, local police departments, local city staff and elected officials, medical professionals, local bicycle shops, East Bay Regional Park District, League of American Bicyclists, CCC Fire Protection District Emergency Services and local business who donate prizes and refreshments. The program includes: school site assessments; parent-faculty club safety education meetings; student-led safety videos and marketing materials; school-wide parent and student surveys; bicycle rodeos; a Challenge Day contest for those who bike, walk, carpool, or ride the bus; a bicycle/pedestrian safety stunt assembly; and pre/post program participation counts to assess the success of the program. The goal is to increase safety awareness among all modes of transportation for entire school community and neighboring streets and to increase the number of students walking and bicycling to school.



### **School Mini-Grants**

Staff works with schools to assist with minor school access improvements on school properties (e.g. parking lot striping, signage, etc.) through the allocation of mini grants distributed by 511 Contra Costa, as well as Safe Routes to School grant writing assistance. Working in cooperation with Dallas Ranch Middle School in Antioch, 511 Contra Costa staff obtained a Federal SR2S grant for a week-long Walk and Roll to School program in 2010.

