

MEDIA RELEASE

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Alameda County Receives \$2 Million from Feds for Safe Routes to Schools

Kids and families throughout Alameda County can look forward to safer streets, bike rodeos, walking school buses and more thanks to the award of over \$2 million in 5 federally funded Safe Routes to Schools grants. This week Caltrans announced the recipients of Cycle 3 federally funded grants to improve school safety. Click here for full press release:

Low income elementary schools in East and West Oakland. Bella Vista, Bridges, Fruitvale, Global Family, Greenleaf, Hoover, Lafayette, Learning Without Limits, Manzanita Community, Manzanita SEED, New Highland, Rise, and Place @ Prescott will all receive help in improving safety through student safety patrols, walking school buses, a puppet show assembly program promoting pedestrian and bicycle safety, and bicycle rodeos that teach kids how to safely ride bikes. The program will be coordinated by the Alameda County Public Health Department with help from TransForm, and other partners.

“We are thrilled at the opportunity to continue and expand the Safe Routes to School - Safety Patrol Program” said Diane Woloshin, Director of Nutrition Services at Alameda County Public Health. “We believe the Safety Patrol Program is not only a model enforcement and education program; it is also a youth development and community engagement program. As part of the program, parents are involved by volunteering at the school to assist in the coordination and youth mentoring.”

“The Alameda County Safe Routes Partnership identified fear of dangerous crosswalks as one of the major obstacles to walking/biking. The variety of services this Safe Routes to School Program will bring to the neediest schools by this collaborative partnership will help ease parents fear of walking or biking to school. Our vision is that together parents, students, teachers, families and community will make the streets around their schools safe to walk and bike to and from school.”

“We are excited to work with this dynamic collaborative that includes OUSD, TransForm, Alameda County Public Health and the City of Oakland Police Department Traffic Safety Unit to help families get active - and walking and biking to school is a great way to start the day and get moving!”

Other funded projects include:

The City of Albany: \$200,000 to continue their strong Safe Routes to Schools program and hire a program coordinator to coordinate efforts at their three elementary schools and Albany Middle School.

The City of Emeryville: \$748,000 was awarded for installation of in-pavement crosswalk lights, rapid flashing beacons, audible pedestrian countdown heads, signs, and bulb outs.

San Leandro will receive \$410,000 to implement pedestrian and bicycle safety education for all seven of their elementary schools.

Lincoln Middle School and Edison Elementary School in the city of Alameda will have improved safety through the construction of raised medians, curb ramps, stop controls and striping—they received \$184,600 to carry out this work.

Now into its 5th year, Alameda County's Safe Routes to Schools program is one of the largest in the country. Said program director Nora Cody, "Our hard work to improve the safety and walkability of county schools is clearly paying off in this increased federal funding. Our communities desperately need this funding, not only to prevent tragic accidents but also to increase active transportation to schools."

Led by the nonprofit TransForm, the program works with more than 80 elementary, middle, and high schools.