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We're on the Web!

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Contra Costa County
 Guaranteed Ride
 Home Program—

For your commuting
 peace of mind.

Postage
 required

Mailing Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3

“GRH is a great program, I know I can get home in case of an emergency. It allows me to carpool without worry!”

The 511 Contra Costa Guaranteed Ride Home Program Continues to Grow!

The Countywide Guaranteed Ride Home Program (GRH), administered by WCCTAC, has shown exciting gains in participation according to Fiscal Year 2005~2006 data.

The GRH program is available at no charge to employers or their employees who commute to work in Contra Costa County and use a “commute alternative”, (carpool, vanpool, bus, BART, train, bicycle or walk) to reach their work place.

Participants are

eligible to receive up to six vouchers in a calendar year to be used to cover the cost of a taxi or rental car in the event of personal illness, family emergency or unexpected overtime, etc.

The most recent participant survey data shows that over 500 new participants were registered for the free service this past year.

With approval ratings at 69% the program is enjoying its highest success rate to date.

The program continues to be a motivating factor for participants when it comes to choosing a carpool, vanpool, bus, or train over driving alone to work.

Others say that

without Guaranteed Ride Home they would not risk riding public transit and would have to sit in traffic.

For more information about the GRH program or any of the other 511 Contra Costa Commute Alternative Incentive programs call 510.215.3035 or check out the website at:

511contracosta.org

The 511 Contra Costa program is also linked to the WCCTAC website for easy access!

**Participation Numbers Are Up!
 Satisfaction is Up!
 Commute Costs are down!**

WCCTAC INFORMER

August
 2006

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WCCTAC Board Meeting Schedule

- September 29, 2006
- October 27, 2006
 7:30—9:00 am

Meetings are held at the City of San Pablo City Hall Complex at 13831 San Pablo Ave, San Pablo.

For information call 510.215.3035 or www.wcctac.org

West County Transportation Project Funding:

Measure J (transportation sales tax in Contra Costa County) and Developer Fees

Currently, the WCCTAC Technical Advisory Committee and Board of Directors are preparing Strategic Plans for two transportation funding sources: Measure J – the continuation of the ½ cent sales tax that begins in April 2009, and the Subregional Transportation Mitigation Fee Program – fees charged to developers to mitigate regional transportation impacts.

The project lists contain important West County projects (and some projects are funded through both sources).

You may recall that prior to the voters approving Measure J in November 2004,

WCCTAC held over twenty public outreach meetings to inform residents, businesses, and public/private agencies of the benefits of Measure J for West Contra Costa.

The following is an update on projects that will be funded by one or both of these sources:

- Capital Corridor Rail Station in Hercules – funding is provided in both sources for construction of the rail station and related improvements.
- Interchange improvements at I-80/San Pablo Dam Road in San Pablo and I-80/Central Avenue

in El Cerrito/Richmond – these improvements are funded by both sources.

- BART access, parking, and capital improvements at the three West County stations (El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito Del Norte, and Richmond) – funding is in both sources for BART improvements.

- AC Transit and WestCAT capital improvements – bus stop improvements and bus purchases are funded by Measure J (as well as significant funds for operating expenses on an annual basis).

(Transportation Project Funding Continued on page 3)

Bike Rack and Locker Funds Available—

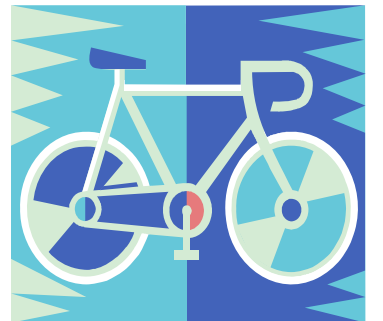
WCCTAC IS PUTTING OUT THE CALL -

To all cities, businesses and schools in the West Contra Costa region to help us find locations which could use a bike rack or locker to encourage commuters in the I-80 Corridor to leave their car at home and take the

bike for work, school or shopping trips.

The ever growing network of bike and pedestrian pathways in West Contra Costa offers a unique opportunity to take your bike, get some exercise, and enjoy the scenery!

The funds for the bike rack



and locker project are provided by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Transportation Fund

Bike Rack (Continued on page 2)

Traffic Calming Tools - Choker

Chokers are curb extensions at midblock or intersection corners that narrow a street by extending the sidewalk or widening the planting strip.

“Chokers are one of the many tools street planners use to slow down traffic and make streets safer for children in residential neighborhoods.”

Chokers can leave the cross section with two narrow lanes or with a single lane.

At midblock, chokers are

sometimes called parallel, angled or twisted chokers, angle points, pinch points, or midblock narrowings.

At intersections, chokers are sometimes called neckdowns, bulbouts, knuckles, or corner bulges; if marked as a crosswalk, they are also called safe crosses.



Chokers are applied to local and collector streets, pedestrian crossings, and main roads

bles, raised intersections, textured crosswalks, curb radius reductions, and raised median islands.

Some chokers are installed using an island – this allows drainage and bicyclists to continue between the choker and the original curb line.

Chokers are typically designed to narrow a road to 20 feet for two-way traffic.

Vertical delineators, bollards or object markers are often used to make chokers visible to snowplow operators, in areas with snowfall.

John Rudolph, Mgmt Assistant

through small communities.

Chokers work well with speed humps, speed ta-

West County Transportation Center -NRNH

The West County Transportation Center located in the North Richmond Neighborhood House offers transit maps as well as fare and schedule information for local and regional carriers.

“Making Public Transit Work For You” A free video available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Mien, Laotian and Punjabi.

The center offers customized trip-planning and

problem-solving for individual transportation needs as well as orientation for using BART ticket machines, the Regional Transportation phone line: 511, and the “Bus Buddies” program.

The Transportation Center distributes a free 10 minute video, “Making

Public Transit Work for You”. The video is available in English, Spanish, Mien, Vietnamese, Laotian, and Punjabi.

The Transportation Center Staff is available for on-site presentations; translation services available – Spanish/SE Asian.

All services are available by drop-in at 820 23rd Street, Richmond 94804, during open hours or by calling 510.229.5042



(Bike Rack continued from page 1)

for Clean Air – Regional Grant.

“Could your location utilize a bike rack or locker?”

The grant provides the WCCTAC region with the opportunity to reduce on-road motor vehicle emissions by providing bicycle parking at transit centers, park and ride lots, businesses, and schools so that commuters, employees, residents and students can take more trips by bicycle instead of driving to destinations.

For more information, or to recommend a location, call Linda Young 510.215.3008.

Improving Bus Rapid Transit

The SMART Corridors Program in partnership with Contra Costa County’s transit provider AC Transit, have implemented intelligent transportation solutions to improve the mobility of Rapid Bus service along the San Pablo Avenue Corridor which runs through multiple jurisdictions in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

Features of the SMART Corridors Program to improve the mobility of Rapid Bus service include:

- Reducing the number of bus stops
- Relocating bus stops
- Introducing low platform buses
- Implementing a headway-based schedule in which buses are released from both ends of the corridor every ten minutes
- Installing pedestrian push button devices

- Installing transit signal priority technology

Transit signal priority technology allows Rapid Bus services signal priority over other vehicles. This improves traffic flow, increases transit ridership and decreases congestion along the corridors. Rapid Buses transmit a signal coded with a vehicle identification number to receivers installed at intersections. The receiver detects up to ten seconds of an early-green or extended green to allow Rapid Bus signal priority. The signal cycle returns to normal after a Rapid Bus crosses an intersection.

To reduce rider frustration and increase transit reliability, the SMART Corridors Program operates on a headway-based schedule and real-time technology, which provides accurate

digital displays of bus arrival information at bus shelters and kiosks.

Currently, Rapid Bus services along the San Pablo Avenue Corridor use Transit signal priority technology.

During peak hours, transit ridership along the San Pablo Avenue Corridor has increased by 77% and 19% of commuters have started riding Rapid Bus instead of driving.

Since the launch of Rapid Bus there has been a 17% decrease in transit travel time along San Pablo Avenue. Transit signal priority technology along the East 14th/International Boulevard/ Telegraph Avenue Corridor

“It is estimated that Rapid Bus service along the East 14th Street/International

Boulevard/Telegraph Avenue Corridor will carry approximately 30,000 passengers per day. Nicholas Zubal—Consultant

“Since the launch of Rapid Bus there has been a 17% decrease in transit travel time along San Pablo Avenue.”



For more information about the SMART Corridors Program, visit www.smartcorridors.net

(Transportation Project Funding Continued from page 1)

- Richmond Parkway – funds for upgrading the Parkway to Caltrans’ standards so that the State can ultimately take over the Parkway (Measure J project).
- Ferry Service from Richmond and/or Hercules/Rodeo – funding for ferries and/or operating new ferry service is in both sources.
- Continued improvements

at the Richmond Transit Village/Intermodal Station – funds to complete station and parking improvements, and improvements on the East side of the station are in the developer fee program.

• San Pablo Dam Road, San Pablo Avenue, and North Richmond Road improvements are in the developer fee program.

• Transit-Oriented Development at the Del Norte BART station – funds are in the developer fee program for

this project.

• Relocation of the Hercules Transit Center – funds to move the transit center to the opposite side of I-80 are in the developer fee program.

• Bay Trail Gap Closure – funds are in the developer fee program (and additional funding could be provided by the bike/pedestrian/trail category in Measure J.

• There are also significant funds in the “Program” categories of Measure J that include: Senior and disabled

transportation, street maintenance and improvement projects, bus service, school transportation for low-income students, and Transportation for Livable Communities grants.

If you have any questions regarding transportation projects and funding in West County, please call 510.215.3044 or send an email to lisah@ci.sanpablo.ca.us.

Drive safely – school will soon be back in session!