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*(Air Quality from page 1)*

fornia." The report's main authors, Meena Palaniappan, Swati Prakash, both from the Pacific Institute, and Diane Bailey, from the Natural Resources Defense Council, are joined by fourteen contributing authors, including Lee Jones, from the Neighborhood House of North Richmond, and Margaret Gordon, from the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project.

"Paying With Our Health" found that "Freight transport will cost California residents \$200 billion over the next 15 years in health costs, and most of this is borne by low-income communities of color near freight transport hubs. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) estimated that freight transport each year causes 2,400 people to die prematurely; 2,830

people to be admitted to the hospital; 360,000 missed workdays; and 1,100,000 missed days of school. The medical and social costs of these impacts are an environmental injustice that affects predominantly low-income communities of color in California."

"Paying With Our Health" also found that using "cleaner equipment and better technology for freight transport will cost just \$6 to \$10 billion over the next 15 years. CARB estimates that for every dollar invested in cleaning up pollution from freight transport, \$3 to \$8 in health costs will be saved."

Further, the report says, the "costs of cleaning up pollution are only a fraction of the benefits derived from the transport of freight. The good news is that if the

major corporations benefiting from freight transport through California paid less than a penny for every dollar in revenue, we could clean up the system of

freight transport in California. In fact, cleaning up freight transport in California would cost less than a penny for every dollar in estimated California-dependent revenue made by Wal-Mart alone." (Executive Summary, The Costs of Freight Transport, page 3).

In the State of California, Senate Bill 1266, the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, and Port Security Fund of 2006, provides \$3.1 Billion for Ports Infrastructure, Security, and Air Quality, with \$1 Billion available to CARB for emission reductions from activities related to the movement of freight along trade corridors.

Among questions to keep our eyes upon is how much of the \$1 Billion state-wide set-aside for CARB's activities related to emissions reductions will go to Northern California generally and West Contra Costa County specifically, and what the expenditure plans are for these funds.

In future issues of the WCCTAC Informer, we will explore local technical studies pertaining to environmental matters.

# WCCTAC INFORMER

June 2007

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**WCCTAC Board Meeting Schedule**  
**June 29, 2007**  
**7:30 AM**

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

Accessible by AC Transit Line #72 and #72R.

Additional parking is available two blocks south of City Hall at 13685 San Pablo Avenue

For information call 510.215.3035



Chronicle / Lacy Atkins

When the MacArthur Maze meltdown occurred on April 29, 2007, and the single driver method of commuting from San Francisco to Contra Costa County destinations came to a halt, the 511 Contra Costa Commute Alternative Network staff jumped into action.

Valuable commute alternative information and extensive public transit incentives were provided.

In a three-day period, 511 Contra Costa fielded thousands of phone calls, emails, and Internet questions from stranded drivers seeking assistance and provided approximately \$400,000 in free transit passes for Contra Costa commuters.

Planning ahead for potential challenges for the daily commute to work such as freeway closures, earthquake damage to bridges and overpasses,

**Air Quality and Freight**

In the last issue of the WCCTAC Informer, a series of discussions about Air Quality with an explanation of three main sources of air pollution – mobile, point, and area began.

In this and future issues of the WCCTAC Informer,

local technical studies linking air quality and respiratory illnesses to geographic proximity to industrial and transportation facilities, such as refineries, railroads, freeways, shipping lanes, and ports are explored.

One local resource for information about air quality is the Pacific Institute.

Founded in 1987 and based in Oakland, the Pa-

**511 Contra Costa Responds to Commuter Concerns During MacArthur Maze Meltdown**

and even anticipated events such as major sporting and entertainment events will help to relieve stress and worry.

To ensure that worksites are ready in the event of an emergency, begin with a discussion session with employees and staff on the ways in which alternative commutes can be accomplished.

Inviting the West County 511 Contra Costa representative to an employee meeting is a good first step.

Contact Linda Young at [linday@ci.san-pablo.ca.us](mailto:linday@ci.san-pablo.ca.us) or call 510.215.3008 for your free consultation.

cific Institute is an independent, nonpartisan "think-tank" studying issues at the intersection of development, environment, and security.

In November 2006, the Pacific Institute published a report, available free online at [www.pacinst.org](http://www.pacinst.org), called "Paying With Our Health: The Real Cost of Freight Transport in Cali-

*(see Air Quality on page 4)*

### RIDE TO READ! GET A CLUE @ YOUR LIBRARY!

Announcing an exciting program that encourages parents to have their children use local busses to get to the library during the summer months and participate in the summer reading program.

The program provides the kids with lots of fun, and keeps them busy while sharpening their skills during the long summer vacation. (And what a clever way to encourage literacy!)

The 511 Contra Costa, AC Transit, WestCAT, BAAQMD, Richmond and West Contra Costa libraries partnership will provide transit passes to young

people who join the Library Summer Reading Program: Get A Clue @ Your Library.

The **Ride to Read!** program is being promoted through interior bus ads, posters, bus shelters signs and a sign-up form with a tear-off book marker.

For more information, you can visit our web site: [www.511contracosta.org](http://www.511contracosta.org) or

call (510) 215-3217 for more details.

Registration forms are available at West Contra Costa and City of Richmond libraries.

*See you on the bus and at the library this summer when you...*

#### RIDE TO READ!

**Summer Reading Program...**

ALL SUMMER READING PARTICIPANTS who use libraries in West Contra Costa County are eligible for a FREE 10-Ride Bus Pass. A \$10 or more value! Participants will be included in the end of summer drawing for PRIZES and more bus passes. Fill out this form and deposit it in the Ride to Read box at the West Contra Costa Libraries or mail it TODAY!

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Age  Adult (18-64)  Youth (5-17)

Do you ride the bus to the library?  Yes  No  Sometimes

How do you get to the library?  Car  Bus  Bike  Walk

What library do you mostly use? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you go to the library? \_\_\_\_\_

As a parent, I need \_\_\_\_\_ more passes for other family members to visit the library.

Answer questions above to enter the end of summer drawing for prizes and to be eligible for FREE Bus Passes, subject to availability of funding.

Adults may request additional passes for their children. Children, 5 and under ride FREE with a parent or guardian. Adults may also request bus passes to visit the library for their children who are not in the Summer Reading Program.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY

511 CONTRA COSTA

AC TRANSIT

WESTCAT

BAY AREA AIR QUALITY

### Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC)

#### 2009 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

MTC is embarking on an effort to update the Regional Transportation Plan for the nine-County Bay Area.

This is a monumental effort which occurs every four years.

To date, several "brainstorming" sessions have taken place, but between now and final adoption of the plan in February 2009, there will be many opportunities for groups, agencies, and individuals to provide input and feedback.

The general timeline is as follows:

Between June 2007 and December

2007 is the "**Visioning**" phase (Phase 1 public outreach, policies to be considered, specific investments to add to the RTP, performance evaluation, and a regional summit in November 2007);

Between January 2008 and September 2008 is the "**Financials and Technical Analysis**" phase (phase 2 public outreach, finalize the vision, finalize the financials, identify a financially constrained subset of the RTP vision, technical modeling work, and preparation of the draft RTP); and

Between October 2008 and February 2009 is "**The Plan**" phase (release of

the draft plan for review and comment, public hearing, certify the EIR, and adopt the final plan).

Since the RTP is a look forward up to the year 2035 and how the Bay Area's transportation system will function, your participation in the process is essential.

WCCTAC and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority ([www.ccta.net](http://www.ccta.net)) will be discussing the RTP Update at various times throughout the process.

In addition, complete information can be found on MTC's website at [www.mtc.ca.gov](http://www.mtc.ca.gov).

### Bike to Work Day 2007 - Success comes one bicyclist at a time!



Bike to Work Day 2007 was a huge success in West Contra Costa with 8 Energizer Stations and more than 350 participants.

Laurenteen Brazil, City of

El Cerrito: Our Energizer Station went very well. We had 59 cyclists that got information, water, or snacks.



A few people lingered for a while to visit; one person offered suggestions on how to make the Greenway better with a native garden; we had some fathers with their children; and one woman dressed in full business attire en-route to work.

The Musette bags were a success and some would like us to use recycled-content products.

Nancy Cuneo, 511 Contra Costa: The weather was cool and the bicyclists were warm. I spoke with a gentleman who has commuted on his bike for 18 years. It was a good way to spend a nice morning.



Jeff Jerge, The Pedaler Bike Shop: Bike to Work Day is always fun.

I feel good about helping people get out of their cars and onto a bike.

Mike Daley, Sierra Club:

It was another great Bike to Work Day. We had a good turnout for a nice ride down the Ohlone Greenway with Tony Thurmond from Richmond. The electric bike was a big hit! No emissions, and it's a super-easy, fun way to ride a bicycle!



**Team Bike Challenge:** With 14 teams signed up from Contra Costa County, everyone knew it was going to be a tough race.

The City of Richmond team: We Can Do It! was in the lead with 164 points at the time of this print. Second place was claimed by Team Kyocera of Walnut Creek with 150 points, and the Ancient Aces from the City of Richmond were hot on their tails at 128 points.

The contest ran through the end of May and the team with the most points won a grand prize. Check out [www.511.org](http://www.511.org) or [www.511contracosta.org](http://www.511contracosta.org) to see the final results.



(All BTWD photos courtesy of Lawrence Migdale at [www.migdale.com](http://www.migdale.com))

#### Bike Commuter of the Year Award:

The 2007 Bike Commuter of the Year for Contra Costa County is **Robert Haas** of Moraga. Robert has been a regular bike commuter for nineteen years. Five days a week, rain or shine, Robert pedals to and from BART on both ends of his commute. He employs bike lockers at both the Orinda and El Cerrito BART stations which he uses to store his bike when he's on the train. Robert is known in the bicycling community as a personable, out-going individual with a commitment to preserving the environment. Robert definitely pedals what he preaches!

