

# WCCTAC Informer

Volume 1, Issue 1

August / September 2005

## GREETINGS!

Welcome to the first edition of the West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee's (WCCTAC)

### WCCTAC Informer

Lisa Hammon  
Managing Director

Welcome to the WCCTAC Informer, bringing you news of transit, congestion management, air quality, land use, commute alternatives, and other important issues related to transportation.

This newsletter is a collaborative effort between the WCCTAC staff and other public and private agencies that support the issues identified above.

It is intended to deal with a wide range of subject matter.

If you have suggestions regarding the newsletter composition or layout please contact Nancy Cuneo, Administrative Analyst, at 510.215.3035 or by email at [nancyc@ci.san-pablo.ca.us](mailto:nancyc@ci.san-pablo.ca.us)

Happy reading!

## WCCTAC Website

*Updating and expanding*

Recently, the WCCTAC website [www.wcctac.org](http://www.wcctac.org) was transferred "in-house". WCCTAC staff now has the capability to expand and update the website internally.

While not fully developed, there are new additions to the website, links to [www.wescountywalks.org](http://www.wescountywalks.org), [www.511contracosta.org](http://www.511contracosta.org), and the WCCTAC member agency's websites.

Check it out, and let John Rudolph, Management Assistant, know if you have any feedback at 510.215.3042 or by email at [johnr@ci.san-pablo.ca.us](mailto:johnr@ci.san-pablo.ca.us)



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Welcome to WCCTAC Informer
- WCCTAC Website update
- Way to Go, Contra Costa!
- Capitol Corridor Intercity Rail Service
- What is WCCTAC
- 511 Contra Costa
- West County Air Quality: Links between Transportation and Health

### ***"Way to Go, Contra Costa!"***

Contra Costa County Aging & Adult Services is pleased to announce the debut of the "Way to Go, Contra Costa!" Transportation Resource Guide. The guide provides seniors, persons with disabilities and commuters with information to find the best transportation options in Contra Costa County and the Bay Area.

To request a copy of the "Way to Go, Contra Costa!" brochure contact the WCCTAC office at (510) 215-3035 or by email: [nancyc@ci.san-pablo.ca.us](mailto:nancyc@ci.san-pablo.ca.us)

## Capitol Corridor Intercity Rail Service

*Comfortable and Convenient*

Are you aware that the Capitol Corridor trains – operating between Auburn and San Jose – are a comfortable, cost effective and convenient way to travel in the Bay Area? Did you know that in the month of July, the Capitol Corridor trains carried over 100,000 passengers, and increase of over three percent over July 2004?

Did you know that a direct transfer point between the Capitol Corridor trains and BART exists at the Richmond Intermodal Station, which has become a vibrant transit village with a station building starting construction this fall?

Check out the Capitol Corridor schedule and other information on line at [www.capitolcorridor.org](http://www.capitolcorridor.org) or by phone at 510.464.6995



## West County Air Quality: Links between Transportation and Health

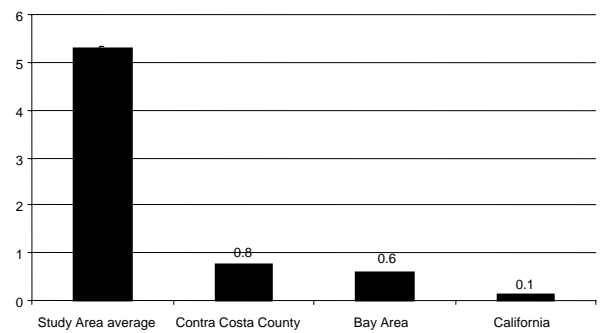
Over the last year, a coalition of organizations including: Neighborhood House of North Richmond, the Community Health Initiative, the Pacific Institute, West County Toxics Coalition and Contra Costa Health Services came together to assess the extent of diesel pollution in Inner West County, the sources of diesel pollution, and solutions to reduce this pollution.

The final report, *Deluged by Diesel: Healthy Solutions for West County* summarizes the research results and community identified solutions:

- 1) Average diesel emissions in Inner West County are 6 times higher per area than the County as a whole, and 40 times higher than the State on average. An emissions inventory found significantly higher levels of diesel released in Inner West County compared to the County and the State on average.
- 2) Monitored Inner West County homes have an average of 4 times the level of soot compared to a home in another part of the County. An indoor air study of three Inner West County homes found that weekday levels of black soot were on average 4 times higher than a home in Lafayette. A sizeable portion of this soot is from diesel pollution.
- 3) The report presents a wide range of practical solutions that can reduce exposure to diesel pollution without harming the economy. Community members developed the proposed solutions detailed in the report that range from short-term and easy to implement to longer-term approaches. Solutions include developing a regional truck route, getting cleaner trucks on the road, and reducing pollution at rail yards and ports. Changes to local, state and federal regulations are also needed.

The entire report is available at <http://www.pacinst.org/reports/west-county-diesel/west-county-report.pdf>

Diesel Particulate Matter Per Square Mile/Ton/Year



## 511 Contra Costa announces partnership with MTC



511 Contra Costa (formerly the Contra Costa Commute Alternative Network) is partnering with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's 511 system to improve service to Contra Costa County employers, residents and commuters. 511 Contra Costa is a program which promotes the use of alternative commute methods to solo drivers. Use of alternatives such as carpool, vanpool, transit, biking and walking reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality by maximizing the use of the existing roadway system.

511 Contra Costa provides one-time cash incentives to encourage the use of commute alternatives. A Guaranteed Ride Home program provides a back-up system to registered commuters to ensure that they are not stranded at the work site due to illness, family emergency or unanticipated overtime. The 511 Contra Costa program will also help employers and businesses establish trip reduction plans and make the commute a little less stressful! To help commuters learn how to use the local transit systems, a 10-minute video titled *"Making Public Transit Work for You"* is available in several languages including English, Spanish, Laotian, Mien and Vietnamese.

For information about 511 Contra Costa programs and services contact the West Contra Costa representative Linda Young at (510) 215-3008 or by email at [linday@ci.san-pablo.ca.us](mailto:linday@ci.san-pablo.ca.us)

## MANY TIMES WE ARE ASKED "WHAT IS WCCTAC"

WCCTAC is a public agency, set up via a 1991 Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement between the member agencies – the cities of El Cerrito, Hercules, Pinole, Richmond and San Pablo; Contra Costa County; and the transit agencies AC Transit, BART and WestCAT.

WCCTAC rents office space at the beautiful City of San Pablo complex; however, we are not employees of the City or the County, rather, employees of WCCTAC. For payroll and benefit purposes we are aligned with the City of San Pablo.

WCCTAC is one of four Regional Transportation Planning Committees in Contra Costa County formed after the passage of the transportation sales tax ("Measure C") in 1988.

WCCTAC is governed by an eleven member Board of Directors from the JPA member agencies.

The current Chair of WCCTAC is Sharon Brown from the City of San Pablo, and the Vice Chair is Maria Viramontes from the City of Richmond.

## THE WCCTAC INFORMER

West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory  
Committee Newsletter  
13831 San Pablo Avenue  
San Pablo, CA 94806