

# WCCTAC Informer

November / December 2005

## “Guaranteed Ride Home”

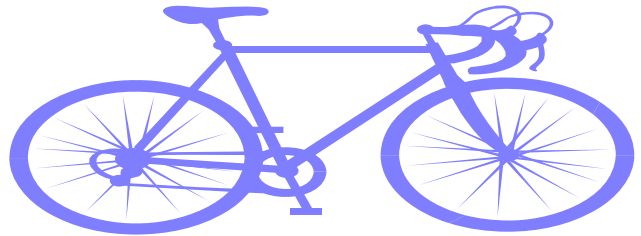
Would you be willing to try a carpool, vanpool, bus, BART, Capitol Corridor, Ace Train, walking or bicycling to get to work... instead of driving alone in your car.... IF... you had a Guaranteed Ride Home in case of an emergency?

The Countywide Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) Program offers anyone who works in Contra Costa County, and uses a commute alternative to get to work, a voucher for their trip home in the event of a personal or family emergency, unscheduled overtime or even a commute vehicle breakdown.

The GRH program is available free of charge to all employers in Contra Costa County no matter the size of the workforce or the location within the county.

To request a copy of the Guaranteed Ride Home brochure or to schedule an on-site visit contact the WCCTAC office at (510) 215-3035 or by email: [nancyc@511contracosta.org](mailto:nancyc@511contracosta.org)

## Bicyclists WIN!



West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee received notice of a successful application to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District for a Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) Regional Fund Grant for FY 2005/2006.

The grant will provide funding for installation of Bicycle Cage Parking facilities, lockers and racks at transit centers, Park & Ride lots, schools and employment centers and businesses throughout West Contra Costa.

The grant totaled \$147,500 and will be administered by WCCTAC and 511 Contra Costa.

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### WCCTAC Board Meetings

- December 2, 2005
- January 27, 2006

#### Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

- January 12, 2006

Meetings are held at the City of San Pablo City Hall at 13831 San Pablo Ave, San Pablo - Call 510.215.3035 to be placed on the mailing list

### Holiday Schedule

Our office will be closed from  
December 23, 2005 through January 2, 2006

## TRAFFIC CALMING

### – WHAT IS IT?

Traffic Calming is a combination of physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use. Traffic Calming measures can alter driver behavior and improve conditions for non-motorized street users.

The goals of Traffic Calming include: (1) increasing the quality of life for all users of the roadway, including local residents and businesses; (2) incorporating the preferences and requirements of the people using the area (e.g., working, playing, residing) along the streets, or at intersections; (3) creating safe and attractive streets; (4) helping to reduce the negative effects of motor vehicles on the environment (e.g., pollution, sprawl); and (5) promoting pedestrian, cycle and transit use.

Specific objectives of Traffic Calming include: (1) achieving slow speeds for motor vehicles; (2) reducing collision frequency and severity; (3) increasing the safety and the perception of safety for non-motorized users of the streets; (4) reducing the need for police enforcement; (5) enhancing the street environment (e.g., street (land)scaping); (6) encouraging water infiltration into the ground; (7) increasing access for all modes of transportation; and (8) reducing cut-through motor vehicle traffic.

In this and the next six issues of the WCCTAC newsletter, we will be discussing some of the traffic calming tools available in the “tool box” of the typical transportation planner or traffic engineer.

## Transportation Planning to Project Implementation

Many times WCCTAC is asked to participate in transportation planning studies. We're then asked how recommendations in a study can be translated into actual capital improvements/projects. Here is a specific example:

1. In April 2003, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) contracted with Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Services and Neighborhood House of North Richmond for the first of five pilot transportation planning programs in low-income Bay Area Communities. The planning effort took place between April and December 2003. The Community Based Transportation Plans were designed to build upon the findings in MTC's *2001 Lifeline Transportation Network Report*, which outlined a safety net of transit routes for low-income communities.
2. As a follow-up to the Community Based Transportation Plan, which recommended low, medium and high-cost solutions to transportation issues, in Fall 2004, WCCTAC partnered with lead agency Neighborhood House of North Richmond and several other agencies on the Low-Income Flexible Transportation Program (LIFT) grant application for "Bus Benches and Local Transportation Center Coordinator – Recommended in the Richmond Area Community-Based Transportation Plan."
3. The LIFT grant was successful! The project's total budget over three years is \$247,150. The funds will be used to install art-decorated bus benches in the community and provide a Transportation Center within the Neighborhood House's location on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street in Richmond. The Transportation Center provides information (in multiple languages) and opened several weeks ago. Planning is underway to work with local youth on the bus bench art, installation, and maintenance.

This is an example of how a planning process can result in actual project implementation. WCCTAC is pleased to be working with many partner agencies on the bus bench project and the Transportation Center. Be sure and attend the December WCCTAC meeting where an informational presentation will be made on the progress of the LIFT grant.

### 511 Contra Costa 2005 Commuter Survey



511 Contra Costa will be conducting a survey of the work sites in West Contra Costa County during November and December, 2005.

The survey is designed to gather information about commute habits on the Interstate 80 Corridor, one of the most congested roadways of the Bay Area.

The survey is short; it asks only eight simple questions about the commute and how employees get to work. As a bonus the Survey provides space to request Ridematching information and Free 511 Commute Incentives!

Employers in the West Contra Costa region are encouraged to contact Linda Young at (510) 215-3008 to discuss how they can take advantage of this planning tool for the worksite.

The survey provides valuable information for future planning and funding of commute alternative programs.

Linda Young can be reached at (510) 215-3008 or by email at [linday@511contracosta.org](mailto:linday@511contracosta.org)

### Meet the WCCTAC Staff

Linda Young; Transportation Project Specialist

Linda wears multiple hats while she oversees a number of programs and projects for WCCTAC and 511 Contra Costa.

One of Linda's current projects is the Bus Bench Art project. The Neighborhood House of North Richmond and local youth groups are working on providing an opportunity for the youth of the community to express themselves artistically and to encourage pride in their neighborhoods.

Linda also has a love of English/Scottish castles and the travel that takes her there. She also loves the outdoors, gardening and her orchards. (She may still have some squash leftover).

You can reach any of our staff by phone at:  
Lisa Hammon, Managing Director – 510.215.3044  
John Rudolph, Management Asst – 510.215.3042  
Linda Young, Project Specialist – 510.215.3008  
Nancy Cuneo, Admin Analyst – 510.215.3035  
Jeremy Hughes, P/T Admin Clerk – 510.215.3217

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West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory  
Committee Newsletter  
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