

Press Release

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Alameda County High Schoolers Lead Efforts to Boost Safe and Active Transportation

Designed by Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Youth Task Force members, Reboot Your Commute events provide student leadership experience and encourage active and shared transportation.

ALAMEDA COUNTY, Calif. - Across Alameda County, students are preparing to lead "Reboot Your Commute," two months of fun and engaging events supported by the <u>Alameda County Transportation Commission</u> (<u>Alameda CTC</u>) that inspire fellow classmates to be creative and thoughtful about the impact of their transportation choices. Presented by the <u>Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Program</u>, <u>Reboot Your Commute events</u> will take place at participating Alameda County high schools between Monday, February 3 and Friday, March 28, 2025.

Reboot Your Commute encourages high school students to walk, roll (e.g., bike, skate, scoot, use wheelchairs, and other mobility devices), carpool, and take transit to school. During these events, students share their transportation and travel stories through drawing and creative writing to foster a schoolwide conversation about how travel choices affect their community, environment, health, and wellbeing.

"The Youth Task Force for the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program and their work on Reboot Your Commute each year are models for youth leadership programming by incorporating peer-led approaches that activate fellow students' engagement.



Berkeley High School students host a Reboot Your Commute event in 2024.

Alameda CTC is proud of the high school leaders who are engaging their peers and facilitating important conversations about shifting to active travel modes to support the environment and community," praised SR2S Program Manager Denise Turner.

Reboot Your Commute events are organized by <u>SR2S Youth Task Force</u> members, with assistance from

Alameda County SR2S staff. Some 60 students representing every high school district in Alameda County comprise the Youth Task Force and meet quarterly to arrange events, build community, and support sustainable transportation solutions at participating schools. Since 2011, task force members have learned to mentor classmates about joining the SR2S Youth Task Force and offer support with signing up and accessing SR2S resources such as Youth Clipper Cards, the Student Transit Pass Program (STPP), and biking and walking route maps. Each year, the program produces rising transportation thought leaders who leave a lasting impact. One example is this initiative's name "Reboot Your Commute," which came from a Youth Task Force member.

Each year during Reboot Your Commute, SR2S Youth Task Force student leaders design and manage events at their schools, including setting up welcome tables where they facilitate peer-to-peer engagement and hand out raffle tickets to students who choose active or shared transportation to get to school during the event. At the end of each school's event or series of events, a drawing is held to select a student participant from each school to receive a scooter or a \$50 Clipper Card. Student leaders also customize events by incorporating SR2S engagement activities like a bike blender (a bicycle-powered fruit smoothie maker), a trivia wheel, or participation in SR2S trainings. The program benefits from high school students designing activities that resonate with fellow classmates.

Visit the <u>Reboot Your Commute event webpage</u> for more information. Student leaders and their schools can express interest in getting involved by submitting a <u>registration form</u>. To learn about events as they are happening, follow SR2S on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, and <u>X, formerly known as Twitter</u>, and follow and use the hashtag #saferoutestoschools.

About the Alameda County Transportation Commission

The Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) coordinates countywide transportation planning and delivers essential, voter-supported transportation improvements in every city throughout Alameda County. Alameda CTC administers the county's Safe Routes to Schools Program and provides most of its funding through the voter approved transportation sales tax Measures BB, which was approved by more than 70 percent of voters in 2014. Visit Alameda CTC's website to learn more, and follow Alameda CTC on Facebook and X, formally known as Twitter.

About Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools

Safe Routes to Schools is a comprehensive and effective approach to getting more kids biking, rolling, and walking safely to school. It provides kids and their parents with skills, encouragement, and inspiration through a range of activities, events, and lessons, while also addressing local pedestrian, bicycle, and personal safety concerns. Operating since 2006, the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program is a program of the Alameda County Transportation Commission (alamedactc.org) and is funded in part by Alameda CTC with Alameda County's local Measure BB sales tax, and regional, state, and federal funds, serving more than 295 schools throughout the county. Visit the Safe Routes to Schools website to learn more, and follow Safe Routes to Schools on Facebook and X, formally known as Twitter.