



# City of Albany

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April 19, 2010

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**CITY COUNCIL**

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**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**

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- Environmental Resources
- Maintenance
- Planning

PH. (510) 528-5760  
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**CITY TREASURER**  
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PH. (510) 525-7300  
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**RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

1249 Marin Avenue  
PH. (510) 524-9283  
FAX (510) 528-8914

- Friendship Club/ Childcare Program  
PH. (510) 559-7220
- Senior Center  
PH. (510) 524-9122  
FAX (510) 524-8940
- Teen Center  
PH. (510) 525-0576

**Alameda County Legislative Campaign for Active Transportation Steering Committee**

c/o Tess Lengyel, Programs and Public Affairs Manager  
Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority  
1333 Broadway, Suite 300  
Oakland, CA 94612

**RE: City of Albany Support and Endorsement for H.R. 4722**

Dear Members of the Alameda County Legislative Campaign for Active Transportation Steering Committee:

Our organization strongly supports and endorses H.R. 4722, the "Active Community Transportation Act of 2010" (Representative Blumenauer), which creates a competitive program to provide communities with concentrated investments ranging from \$25-75 million over 5 years to create active transportation networks: walking and bicycling facilities and programs, and improved access to transit. The goal is to incorporate H.R. 4722 into the next federal transportation bill. Alameda County seeks to be one of the communities to be funded by this program, once enacted.

There is a tremendous need for more investment in Active Transportation infrastructure in Alameda County, and nationwide. We know that nearly half of all trips for personal transportation in the United States are three miles or less in length, and thirty percent of all trips in the San Francisco Bay Area are one mile or less, making biking and walking a healthy, convenient transportation choice for a significant portion of daily trips. We also know that, in order to significantly increase bicycling and walking, we need to make our facilities safe, especially in our low-income neighborhoods which have disproportionately higher rates of pedestrian and bicyclist injuries. Currently, bicyclists and pedestrians represent 9% of all personal trips nationwide (13% in Alameda County) and 14% of all traffic fatalities in the United States (almost 25% in Alameda County); yet receive less than 1% of all federal road spending. This disparity indicates an opportunity to produce a substantial shift to these healthy, non-motorized transportation modes.

To realize the multitude of benefits from Active Transportation – improved safety and mobility, reduced pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, improved public health -- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, a national non-profit multi-modal transportation advocacy organization, is leading a national Active Transportation Campaign. This campaign led to the introduction of H.R. 4722, and the goal is to

*The City of Albany is dedicated to maintaining its small town ambience, responding to the needs of the community, and providing a safe, healthy environment now and in the future.*



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incorporate the bill into the next federal transportation reauthorization. Alameda County has been a partner in the Active Transportation Campaign since 2008, and seeks to be one of the communities to receive funding from the Active Community Transportation Act of 2010 when enacted.

In 2008, the county developed an Alameda County Active Transportation Plan to benefit the entire county and create active transportation opportunities for kids, commuters and community by investing in three priority areas:

1. Advancing pedestrian and bicycle access to transit,
2. Connecting communities with urban greenways, and
3. Inspiring the community to walk and bike through education and promotion programs.

The overarching goal of this Plan is to increase the number of people walking, biking and using public transit in Alameda County from 22% today, to 30% by 2016. The result will be a healthier community with more mobility choices, and greater access to essential everyday destinations such as school, work, shopping, and parks through safe and accessible walking, biking and transit connections.

Alameda County has already demonstrated a serious commitment to improving conditions for bicyclists and pedestrians. In 2000, the voters of Alameda County approved a \$100 million investment in improving biking and walking as part of the Measure B local sales tax renewal. In 2006, a *Countywide Strategic Pedestrian Plan*, a *Toolkit for Improving Walkability in Alameda County*, and a *Countywide Bicycle Plan* were adopted. One of the key goals of these plans is to increase the number and percentage of walking and biking trips, with the intention of reducing motor vehicle use, preserving air quality, and improving public health. The City of Albany prides itself in providing and improving pedestrian and bicycle paths throughout our community, with linkages to important regional trails.

We believe it is imperative for Congress to incorporate H.R. 4722 into the next federal transportation bill. Alameda County is an excellent candidate for Active Transportation investment: we are committed, ready and poised for success.

Sincerely,

Joanne Wile, Mayor