

**CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 10/4/10  
Reviewed by: BP

**SUBJECT:** International Walk to School Day-Wednesday October 6, 2010  
**REPORT BY:** Aleida Andrino-Chavez, Transportation Planner

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

For information only. An invitation to volunteer on October 6, 2010 for the International Walk and (Bike) to School Day in Albany.

**BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

Since 2007 the City, in coordination with TransForm, has celebrated the International Walk to School Day at the three elementary schools in Albany. In the past three years, the City has received Safe Routes to School grants over two consecutive cycles for the implementation of pedestrian enhancements and new traffic signals at two intersections in Albany: One at the Buchanan/Jackson intersection and the other at the Marin/Santa Fe intersection. As part of these grants, the granting agency has allocated a total of \$44,000 for educational purposes. Thanks to these grants, the City has been able to fund programs at all three elementary schools, which include a bicycle program during the Physical Education period, educational presentations, such as puppet shows, teacher curricula, and the monthly Albany Walk to School Day event.

Through these grants the City recently purchased the parts necessary to assemble its own blender bike that will be available for events promoting active modes of transportation. One of the highlights of the educational component of the SR2S program is the establishment of Walking School Buses (WSB) at the elementary schools. There are approximately five WSB that regularly bring kids to schools.

The upcoming International Walk and (Bike) to School Day is an event celebrated in several countries throughout the world. Last year, a total of 40 countries participated in this event. In the past two years, the Albany Strollers & Rollers have been providing bicycle lights for children who bike to school at the three elementary schools and at the Middle School in Albany. There is always a need for volunteers to assist in this task, as it can be time consuming. This year the AS&R will donate 80 lights to each school (50 front lights and 30 rear lights). It is estimated that on average, one person could install five lights in one hour, so approximately 16 volunteers are needed at each school. This event is in addition to the traditional sticker and fruit/snack distribution. The Bicycle

Blender will be stationed at Cornell Elementary and the kids will be making smoothies using muscle energy. Volunteers are needed for these activities as well.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

Promoting active transportation among children is a way to ensure a decrease in emissions and traffic congestion around schools. This dovetails with the City's policy to decrease emissions from transportation sources.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

None. Funding for these activities is being furnished by the SR2S grants and TransForm.

**Attachments**

International Walk to School Day Poster