

For Immediate Release

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Our Helmets are off to you Felipe!

Felipe Buitrago selected as Silicon Valley Bike Commuter of the Year

Each year, one person is chosen from each of the nine Bay Area counties to receive a Metropolitan Transportation Commission award in recognition of their exemplary commitment to commuting by bicycle. The 2009 Bike Commuter of the Year for the Silicon Valley region is Felipe Buitrago!

Felipe is fiercely enthusiastic about cycling. Period. Born in Atlanta, growing up in Madrid, Felipe used to sneak out of his house as a kid just to ride his bike. In attempt to fund an education in photography, Felipe was a bike messenger until he was injured on the job. A true survivor, Felipe is now a professional photographer for Metro, Silicon Valley's weekly newspaper. If you've ever read the Metro, you've certainly seen his photographs. The amazing thing is, Felipe commutes via bicycle. He's able to take all of Metro's cover story photos, news article story photos and weekly photos of people out and about town, commuting via bicycle. Felipe accomplishes all of this while still meeting his deadlines.

When asked, Felipe is particularly grateful for the additional available space to lock his bike up in downtown San Jose between the fitness club and the movie theatre. He's also grateful for the fact that more people are riding their bikes. He thinks people should participate in Bike to Work Day simply because it brings awareness to the actual existence of cycling--one of the oldest and most efficient forms of human transportation.

Felipe offers words of encouragement to cyclists who can't quite seem to make the commitment to keep the car parked in the garage and travel to work by bicycle: "It's not as hard as it looks. Once you get past the first week, you'll be fine." A co-worker of Felipe's says, "Felipe exemplifies the artistic, creative and professional young people who bike to work in Santa Clara County's Silicon Valley." We agree. Our helmets off to you, Felipe. You are an inspiration to all of us!

<http://bikesiliconvalley.org>

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