



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 15, 2009

Contact: Jayne Bauer  
Marketing & Legislative Program Manager  
jbauer@sta-snci.com, 707-424-6075

---

**\*\*\* MEDIA ADVISORY \*\*\* MEDIA ADVISORY \*\*\***

---

## **Nominations Sought for Bike Commuter of the Year**

**Suisun City, CA** – The May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Bike to Work Day festivities kick off with nominations for Bike Commuters of the Year.

Nearly 150,000 commuters are expected to put their feet to the bike pedal during the San Francisco Bay Area's 15th annual Bike to Work Day. Many more will bike commute the entire month of May to commemorate National Bike Month. Solano Napa Commuter Information, a program of Solano Transportation Authority (STA), is partnering with 511.org to promote Bike to Work Day activities in Solano and Napa counties.

Nominations are now being accepted for Bike Commuter of the Year. Names of people who go above and beyond in their dedication to bicycle commuting can be submitted through the Bike to Work Day website ([www.511.org](http://www.511.org)) by April 20<sup>th</sup>. Nominees will be in the running to win one of many great bicycle-related prizes. A Bike Commuter of the Year will be chosen from each county in the Bay Area.

The Team Bike Challenge provides an opportunity for more experienced riders and new bicycle commuters to team up to save money and reduce pollution. Participants track their bike trips during May as they compete against other teams to log the most bicycle trips. Sign up at [www.511.org](http://www.511.org).

To help people make the change to commuting by bicycle, Bike to Work Day events will be taking place throughout the month of May. On May 14<sup>th</sup>, volunteers will staff Energizer Stations along bike commute routes throughout Solano and Napa counties. Cyclists will receive complimentary treats, a reusable goodie bag, bicycle information, and good cheer! For a complete list of energizer stations, visit the Bike to Work Day website at [www.511.org](http://www.511.org).

During these difficult economic times, many are evaluating the true costs of their travel decisions. In addition to the price of fuel, driving to work includes the cost to purchase, insure, license, maintain and park a car. The annual cost of owning a car is around \$8,000 according to the American Automobile Association. With the cost of commuting by bicycle at around \$700 a year, that is an annual savings of \$7300. With the added no-cost health benefits of commuting by bicycle, it's easy to see how biking to work makes good economic sense.

"We hope Bike to Work Day inspires more people to ride their bikes for everyday transportation," says Judy Leaks, Bike to Work Day event coordinator for Solano and Napa counties. "Commuting by bicycle is a simple solution to several complex problems. It provides physical activity, reduces pollution, and saves money."

The STA regularly encourages the use of alternative modes of transportation for commuting through its Solano Napa Commuter Information program. Commute alternatives information for transit, carpooling, vanpooling, and bicycles can be found at 800-53-KMUTE or [www.commuterinfo.net](http://www.commuterinfo.net). For more information about Solano and Napa counties' Bike to Work Day activities, please contact Program Manager Judy Leaks at 707-399-3220.

\*