

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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*****PRESS RELEASE*******SFMTA ANNOUNCES RECORD NUMBER OF BICYCLISTS PEDALED TO
WORK ON BIKE TO WORK DAY***Twice as Many Bicyclists as Motorists Eastbound through Market and Van Ness Intersection*

San Francisco—The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) announced that a record number of bicyclists pedaled to work today on Bike to Work Day (BTWD) 2008.

A count taken between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. this morning found that twice as many bicyclists as motorists traveled eastbound on Market Street past Van Ness Avenue. A total of 812 bicycles were counted, compared to 403 automobiles. Bicycles made up 64 percent of the total vehicles headed eastbound, while automobiles came in at 32 percent (transit and taxis account for the remaining 4 percent of the vehicles).

Today's bicycle numbers represent a 31 percent increase from last year's record-setting Bike to Work Day, when 622 bicyclists and 477 automobiles commuted eastbound through the Market and Van Ness intersection.

"To see twice as many bicycles as automobiles on Market Street this morning is truly astounding and heartening," said Nathaniel P. Ford, Sr., Executive Director/CEO of the SFMTA, who bicycled from the Ferry Building to City Hall this morning. "We are committed to doing the work needed to keep the number of bicyclists growing in the years ahead."

Bike to Work Day continues during today's afternoon commute. The SFMTA is partnering with the San Francisco Bike Coalition to provide refreshments and reusable BTWD tote bags at 25 "Energizer Stations" throughout San Francisco.

Though Bike to Work Day serves as an important annual reminder of the benefits of bicycle commuting, the effort to improve bicycling in San Francisco is year-round. The SFMTA's Bicycle Program is planning a total of 60 proposed bicycle improvement projects that would add approximately 34 miles of bike lanes to the bike route network, almost doubling the City's bicycle lane mileage.

Beginning on May 21, four neighborhood meetings will allow residents to provide input on the proposed improvements, which could be implemented following the expected completion of an environmental review process in mid-2009. For details on the meetings and BTWD, please visit www.sfmta.com/bikes.

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