

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact: Kristen Holland

media.relations@sfmta.com****PRESS RELEASE******SFMTA Counts More Than 1,000 Bicycles on Bike to Work Day***Annual Ride Comes as City Increases Cycling Infrastructure*

San Francisco—The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) announced that more than 1,000 cyclists traveled eastbound on Market Street during this morning's commute on Bike to Work Day (BTWD) 2010, based on a count taken between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. at the intersection of Van Ness Avenue and Market Street, an increase of 34 percent over last year. A total of 1,038 bicycles were counted, compared to 307 automobiles. Bicycles made up 75 percent of the total vehicles headed eastbound, while automobiles came in at 22 percent (transit and taxis accounted for the remaining 3 percent of the vehicles). In 2009 bicycles accounted for 66 percent of the vehicles and automobiles for 32 percent.

"The fact that bicycling is on the rise in San Francisco shows that the City's efforts to improve the bike infrastructure are paying off," said Mayor Gavin Newsom. "Getting people out of their cars and onto bikes not only promotes health, it helps the environment."

"To see that bicycles made up three quarters of all traffic on Market Street this morning confirms what we see in our outreach and planning—San Franciscans are bicycling," said Nathaniel P. Ford Sr., Executive Director/CEO of the SFMTA, who bicycled to City Hall this morning with the SFMTA delegation from 4th and Townsend streets. "We are committed to doing the work needed to keep the number of bicyclists growing in the years ahead."

"I was thrilled to ride alongside Mayor Newsom and scores of smiling people this morning in the newly separated and green Market Street bike lanes. People love how safe they feel in these new green bike lanes," said Renee Rivera, acting Executive Director of the SF Bicycle Coalition, a non-profit which promotes bicycling for everyday transportation and organizes Bike to Work Day in San Francisco. "We are thrilled to have Mayor Newsom leading these exciting biking innovations on Market Street, the busiest biking street west of the Mississippi. This is a great first step towards a separated bikeway the length of lower Market Street."

Though Bike to Work Day serves as an important annual reminder of benefits of bicycle commuting, the effort to improve bicycling in San Francisco continues throughout the year. Since November, the SFMTA's Bicycle Program has:

- Installed, on a trial basis, sections of the City's first green bike lane on Market Street between 8th and 12th streets.

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- Installed approximately 1,000 shared roadway markings or “sharrows” (traffic tool first used in San Francisco that reminds cars and bicyclists to share the lane) on 50 different City streets
- Added the first green “bike box” (traffic tool that gives more space for bicyclists at intersections and makes the intersections safer) in California on Scott Street at Oak Street
- Expanded the number of bike racks by 300, including five bike corrals (multi-space, on-street bicycle parking facilities in the curb lane)
- Added innovative striping on Polk Street aimed at keeping bicycles clear of parked vehicles and their doors
- Installed safe-hit posts on Market Street to extend the buffered bike lane experiment between Gough and 8th streets and between Larkin and Polk streets

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Established by voter proposition in 1999, the SFMTA, a department of the City and County of San Francisco, oversees the Municipal Railway (Muni), parking and traffic and taxis. With five modes of transit, Muni has approximately 700,000 passenger boardings each day. Over 35,000 extra vehicles enter San Francisco on any given business day, and rely on the SFMTA to keep the flow of cars, transit vehicles, taxis, delivery trucks, pedestrians and bicycles moving smoothly through the streets.