



**Item #08-05-24  
Action**

## **SACOG Board of Directors**

May 22, 2008

### **AUTHORIZE CO-HOSTING SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Issue:** Should SACOG be a co-host of the Safe Routes to Schools National Conference?

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends the Board support staff working with Caltrans and other potential co-hosts to submit a proposal to host the conference in Sacramento.

**Committee Recommendation/Discussion:** This item did not go to the Transportation Committee as it came to our attention after the committee met. The National Center for Safe Routes to School and the Safe Routes to School National Partnership are seeking proposals from potential host agencies to organize the second annual Safe Routes to School National Conference for the summer or fall of 2009. SACOG is interested in co-hosting the conference in Sacramento, to draw attention to successful Safe Routes to School work in the region and learn more about best practices across the country. Caltrans, the California Department of Public Health and nonprofit organizations would be asked to co-host the conference.

The Safe Routes to School National Conference provides an opportunity for 300-600 program representatives, state DOTs, planners, elected officials and community members to come together for a three-day national meeting. The co-hosts would be responsible for conference and event support, planning, coordinating, and fundraising for the conference. The inaugural Safe Routes to School National Conference was held in Dearborn, Michigan in November 2007.

The National Center for Safe Routes to School assists communities in enabling and encouraging children to safely walk and bike to school. Established in May 2006, the Center is maintained by the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center, with funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration.

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership is a fast-growing network of hundreds of organizations, government agencies and professional groups working to set goals, share best practices, secure funding, and provide educational materials to agencies that implement Safe Routes to School programs.

The deadline for proposal submissions is July 1, 2008. Staff will participate in a conference call on June 4 to gather more information about this opportunity.

Approved by:

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Executive Director

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