

Livable Places Update

Emerging Trends in Community Planning and Design

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www.lgc.org

LGC Welcomes Incoming Executive Director, Kate Meis:

The Local Government Commission is pleased to announce the selection of Kate Meis as its new executive director. This announcement wraps up a three-month national search to replace founder and executive director Judy Corbett - a true icon in the smart growth world for her tireless work and commitment to sustainable communities. Under Judy's directorship the Local Government Commission has been a national leader for more than three decades in improving communities through innovative approaches to environmental sustainability, economic prosperity and social equity.

The LGC Board of Directors vetted nearly 100 applicants through an intensive process to fill the executive director position as Judy prepared to step out of the role she has held for 34 years. The fact that an internal candidate was ultimately chosen is a testament to the strength of the organization that Judy has built over the last three decades.

Safe Routes to School Conference Draws National Audience:

In mid-August, 650 SRTS advocates, school leaders, government leaders, professionals in public health, transportation, planning and parks and recreation, advocates for biking, walking and social equity, and over 20 high-school student leaders converged on downtown Sacramento for the 4th Safe Routes to School National Conference. Sponsored by the National Center for Safe Routes to School and the Safe Routes to School National Partnership and hosted by the Local Government Commission, the event included 60 dynamic sessions and seven tours of local model projects. Several interactive special events were also included throughout the event, including: a Charitable Bike Build, Mobile Bike Mural, Student Art Show, and a Kidical Mass Ride. The conference also featured a free onsite Bike Valet service and Bike Share program, which encouraged attendees to bike to the event, and check out a bike to explore Sacramento's very bikable downtown and extensive bike paths.

PDF files of all the PowerPoint presentations collected at the conference will be posted on the conference web site for free download by early September. Visit the conference website to learn more about the program, tours, partners and sponsors: saferoutesconference.org

Conference Session Highlights:

One Congresswoman Connects Complete Streets, Safer Routes and Healthier Lifestyles: Among the many inspiring speakers at the conference was Congresswoman Doris Matsui, a leading advocate for federal Complete Streets legislation and sustained funding

for Safe Routes to School programs. During the opening plenary, the congresswoman - who has represented the Sacramento region since 2005 - led off the evening by talking about her complete streets legislation and the connection to creating safer, healthier places for our kids to live, learn and play.



"We must design our neighborhoods and roads so they are conducive and inviting to healthy lifestyles," Matsui explained. "When streets are designed to accommodate only cars, they deny people the opportunity to choose walking and biking."

The 2 Choices - Evaluating Complete Streets Benefits:

The LGC's Paul Zykofsky and Florida planner Richard Hartman picked up on the congresswoman's perspective in their session to show how the implementation of Complete Streets policies around the U.S. can get more kids walking or biking to school.

The 3 S's - Streets, Stormwater and Schools:

Green routes to school - which may incorporate curb extensions, rain gardens, swales and green gutters - can make walking and riding a bike safer while managing stormwater runoff and calming traffic. Green infrastructure along a route to school has low-maintenance plants that allow stormwater to permeate and be retained in the soil. This vegetation adds visual interest, sequesters carbon, and mitigates the urban heat island effect. Rain gardens near schools also provide learning labs for children. Fairfax, CA (Marin County), for example, is completing construction of a Green Bike Boulevard this month.

The 4 E's - Hypothetical City Gets Interactive Solutions:

Conference participants worked together to identify strategies using the 4 E's of Safe Routes - education, encouragement, enforcement and engineering - to improve conditions for children to walk and ride a bicycle to school. Led by engineers David Parisi and Mike Cynecki and planner Paul Zykofsky, they went to work on a hypothetical school in "No-Way City," where conditions are representative of some of the worst in the nation. After showing photos of what this place might look like, participants worked in small groups around area maps to find potential solutions using the

4 Es. The task wasn't easy since streets around the school were the all-too-familiar "Wide Fast Boulevard," "Speedway Street," "Congested Arterial" and "Unhappy Neighbor Way" - but the teams proved that collaborative efforts often result in creative, innovative solutions.

Read more about the keynote sessions at: <http://saferoutesconference.org/news-resources/for-media-only/media-advisory-5>

Presentations are available at: <http://saferoutesconference.org/program/presentations>

Special Feature Highlights:

Building Bikes for Kids: The Safe Routes to School Charitable Bike Build was a great success! Thanks to the support from the Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates, Sacramento Police Department South Station and Youth Services, community leaders, conference participants and other organizations (more than \$9,000 was raised) the conference was able to build and give away 27 brand new youth bikes. We also secured helmets and locks to go along with the bikes, thanks to BELL Helmets and Nutcase Helmets.

The bikes were presented to three youth services organizations dedicated to improving the lives of children in Northern California - Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento, Loaves and Fishes Mustard Seed School in Sacramento and the Safe Routes to Schools Alameda County.



During the conference, over 40 attendees along with mechanics from local bikes shops - Edible Pedal, Natomas Bike Shop and City Bicycle Works - spent volunteer time assembling all of the bikes. At the end of the conference, each recipient organization was presented with nine bikes, helmets and locks. Great job to all those who donated their time to build all of these bikes!

Mobile Bike Mural: Muralist Danielle Fodor invited conference attendees to participate in a mobile community bike mural by taking a moment to imagine Bike Fun. Conference attendees were encouraged to create their own images of bike fun in drawings, poems, and collages in an ongoing art space. Audience ideas acted as inspiration for the improvisational mural, which Fodor painted live during the conference. More at daniellefodor.com

Kidical Mass Rides Sacramento Streets: During lunch on Wednesday a group of about 35 adults and children could be spotted preparing to go on the conference's first ever Kidical Mass Ride. This ride was led by Sacramento bicycle advocate Elle Bustamante and Shane MacRhodes, the founder of Kidical Mass. Conference participants and community supporters set off on a casual, family-friendly 3 mile ride around Downtown Sacramento. Along the way Shane provided some great suggestions and ideas for fun rides that include adults, kids and bicycles.

Kidical Mass started in Eugene, OR as a way to combine adults, kids, and bicycles. You can now find Kidical Mass rides all over the world! Children are traffic, too! This is a wonderful way to get families riding bikes together, safely and confidently. We encourage your neighborhood to organize a Kidical Mass Ride! More info at kidicalmass.org.

Youth Leading the Charge: Over 20 youth leaders from across the country attended this year's conference. They were involved in sessions as speakers presenting case studies, helping with the bike build, leading tours around town, or networking with other conference participants. During the closing plenary, the crowd got to meet five outstanding and enthusiastic youth leaders from across California who served as facilitators at the event.

Leading up to the conference, these youth facilitators came together to help plan fun and informative opportunities for youth conference participants, including a lunchtime networking event on Wednesday at Hot Italian, a local eatery that provided a relaxed and informal opportunity to get together, share ideas and learn what other youth from around the country are doing to promote Safe Routes to Schools.

Super Weevil Plays It Safe: Super Weevil made his way to Sacramento to spread his message of wearing safety gear when riding bicycles, skateboards and scooters at the SRTS conference. This cheery, oversized insect participated in some of the planned conference activities and made many impromptu appearances throughout the conference on his three-wheeled tricycle, complete with traveling stereo system and happy boogie tunes!

Super Weevil, part of the Kaiser Permanente Educational Theatre, has been touring schools with his safety message since 1986, and most recently partnered with Safe Routes to School on Walk and Bike to School Days throughout Northern California.

To learn more about the growing national movement to create safer routes to school for children, visit the National Center for Safe Routes to School website at: www.saferoutes-info.org