

For Immediate Release:

August 24, 2007

Contact:

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Mayor's Office**

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San José Department of Transportation**

**SJ to Enhance School Zone Safety
as Kids Return to School**

***City launches new School Parking Safety Team; announces
State grant for \$790,000 to install school zone signs; CHP and SJPD
launch Operation Safe Passage***

Event: San Jose Police Chief Rob Davis will provide safety tips for parents driving in school zones and announce Operation Safe Passage; City to launch School Parking Safety pilot program; Caltrans to present check for \$790,000 in state grant funds to San José Mayor Chuck Reed to install crosswalk warning signs at over 250 SJ schools.

When: **8:30 a.m., Monday, August 27, 2007**

Where: **Blackford Elementary School**
1970 Willow Street (west of Meridian – Willow St. dead ends into the school parking lot.
Media vehicles advised to use on-street parking to avoid drop-off congestion.)

Visuals: Parents dropping children off at school (8:10 – 8:20 a.m.)
Presentation of grant check to Mayor Reed by Caltrans
San Jose Police Mounted Unit
California Highway Patrol motorcycles

Who: San José Mayor Chuck Reed
Pierluigi Oliverio, San José Councilmember, District 6
San Jose Police Chief Rob Davis
CalTrans District Office
Dale Thurston., Deputy Superintendent, Campbell Union School District
Matthew Nagle, Principal, Blackford Elementary School
James Helmer, San José Transportation Director

Background: CHP and the San Jose Police Department will launch Operation Safe Passage to encourage safe driving in school zones as children return to school. Caltrans will present a check to the City of San José for a Safe Route to School grant in the amount of \$790,000 to install approximately 3600 crosswalk sign improvements at 250 schools throughout San José. Additionally, the City will launch a pilot program to encourage parking compliance in school zones through outreach and education. These programs will expand the City's ongoing efforts to enhance safety in school zones.

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