

For Immediate Release:

September 5, 2006

Contact:

David Vossbrink, (408) 535-4840
Mayor's Office

Linda Crabill Byrne, (408) 975-3238
San José Department of Transportation

**San José to Improve Pedestrian Safety Near Schools
with State Grant for Countdown Signals**
*Back-to-school traffic safety education underway
through San José Street Smarts Program*

Event: Caltrans will present \$382,500 in state grant funds to San José Mayor Ron Gonzales to help install pedestrian countdown signals at 98 intersections near schools throughout San José and improve pedestrian safety through traffic safety education programs at schools and neighborhoods.

When: 8:15 a.m., Thursday, September 7, 2006

Where: **Ramblewood School**
1351 Lightland Road, San José (near McLaughlin Ave. and Yerba Buena Rd.)

Visuals: **Schoolchildren walking to school;**
Presentation of check to Mayor Gonzales by Caltrans

Who: Mayor Ron Gonzales
Councilmember Madison Nguyen
CalTrans
Dr. John R. Porter, Jr., Superintendent, Franklin McKinley School District
Ms. Jeanie Sharrock, Principal, Ramblewood Elementary School

Background: On August 29 the San José City Council enthusiastically approved the acceptance of \$382,500 from Caltrans to install pedestrian countdown signals at 98 intersections throughout San José and conduct pedestrian outreach and education through the San José Street Smarts Traffic Safety Education Program. This will expand the City's ongoing traffic safety efforts, including completion of the installation of countdown signals at 50 intersections recommended by Mayor Gonzales in his 2005 budget message.

Public outreach and education is a key component of San José's traffic safety strategy, with a particular emphasis on educating schoolchildren. The City develops specific lessons appropriate to each school's traffic challenges, neighborhoods, and pick-up and drop-off patterns. San José has accomplished an admirable pedestrian safety record through the use of innovative programs, such as the Street Smarts program, emerging technology, and grant funding.

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