

WRITE NOW!

Senate Bill 916 (Perata) adds \$1 to Bay Area bridge tolls to reduce congestion on the bridges by expanding transit projects. The innovative Safe Routes to Transit (SR2T) element conceived by East Bay Bicycle Coalition and the Bay Area Transportation and Land Use Coalition (TALC) would provide \$129 million for pedestrian and bicyclist improvements needed to make these new and expanded transit options work.

Your support is needed to make certain that SR2T is fully included in Senator Perata's legislation.

SR2T is a new idea in the US that borrows on successful programs in Japan, Germany and the Netherlands. Each of these countries routinely links walking and bicycling with transit operations. As a result, the bicycle feeder mode has blossomed and continues to rise. Bicyclists in busy Tokyo account for over 36% all trips. Such shifts have occurred as a result in policy changes and investments. For example, the Bicycle Law issued and implemented by the Japanese government in 1980 encourages local governments to provide bicycle lanes and bicycle parking facilities near the metro stations.

SR2T has three **major components**:

- Routine provision of safe bike/ped access to transit stations from all quadrants;
- Secure bicycle parking at all stations; and
- Removal of major barriers to walking and bicycling near transit stations.

Our specific projects proposed for the toll increase expenditure plan represent only the highest-priority projects that were carefully selected to reduce bridge congestion. This so-called "bridge nexus" necessarily excludes many worthy SR2T-type projects outside of the bridge corridors.

SR2T projects only amount to about 7%

percent of the new toll, a figure proportionate with the existing nonmotorized percentages in Alameda County. The cost-effectiveness of SR2T and its dividends for all transit providers make SR2T an important and proven element in building the share of passengers who take transit.

For a complete 19-page report and spreadsheet listing of Safe Routes to Transit projects, please click on www.ebbc.org/sr2t.pdf. Only the high-priority subset of this list has been submitted for consideration. A sample letter is also available online.

-Robert Raburn

Please write or fax a letter of support to:

The Honorable Don Perata
 California State Senate
 PO Box 94248-0001
 FAX: (510) 286-3885



Lower image: A bike path running directly into the train station in Groningen, Netherlands. Safe bicycle access to transit has been highly successful in the Netherlands, Germany, and Japan and serves as a model for the Bay Area. SR2T would also fund projects to overcome barriers to non-motorized access, such as this bike/ped bridge built in Walnut Creek (upper image).