

The City of Bakersfield Hosts an Active Transportation Summit and Festival—Free to All Who Walk, Bike, Roll, or Skate in the Local Area and Want to See More of It

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The City of Bakersfield in partnership with Blue Zones Project Bakersfield hosts a free Active Transportation Summit and Festival to gather public feedback about walking and biking in its communities as part of an Active Transportation Plan project.

BAKERSFIELD, CA (OCTOBER 21, 2023) — The City of Bakersfield, California, held an Active Transportation Summit and Festival on Saturday, October 21st, 2023, from 12-4pm at the Bakersfield Community House. The event was attended by over 500 people, with 50 of them participating in the summit portion of the event following the festival. Attendees were given booklets to fill out as they interacted with the different festival stations, encouraging them to engage with local companies and organizations, and win prizes along the way. The booths were run by Kern County Library, Bike Bakersfield, Blue Zones Project Bakersfield, Bakersfield ARC, Quality Team Inc., a local caricature artist, City of Bakersfield Police Department, Bakersfield Skate Company, Bakersfield Diamond City Minors Derby Team, La Rosa Fruit Bars, Tailored Burgers, and City of Bakersfield Public Works Department. Several of these organizations donated active transportation-focused prizes, which summit and festival attendees earned the chance to win by completing activities laid out in their booklets. Prizes included four bikes with helmets (donated by Blue Zones Project), three light-up scooters with helmets (donated by Blue Zones Project Bakersfield), three skateboards (donated by Bakersfield Skate Company), three helmets (donated by the City of Bakersfield Police Department), one gift bag (donated by Bakersfield ARC), and one family skate pass with free pizza and soda (donated by Bakersfield Diamond City Minors Derby Team).

The summit portion of the event kicked off with a presentation focused on educating attendees about Active Transportation Plans (ATP) and providing a breakdown of how the City of Bakersfield plans to implement one in its community. The presentation was led by the City of Bakersfield's Ed Murphy, Kimley-Horn's Darryl dePencier and Stewart Robertson, and Blue Zones Project Bakersfield's Yesenia Fernandez. To further engage attendees, an activity table was introduced to promote active transportation-based thinking among the Bakersfield community. Attendees were asked to imagine a street near them and how it could be improved. This activity was carried out through Streetmix.net, which allows users to design a cross section for how they'd like a street to look, choosing the arrangement and dimensions of vehicle lanes, sidewalks, bikeways, landscaping, medians, and more. Along with this, a Bakersfield ATP Map Survey was introduced to gauge attendees' concerns about walking, biking, and ADA-accessibility within their community. For those who did not get a chance to participate, the survey can be found on the Provide Input tab at www.bakersfieldatp.com.

Event attendees included Bakersfield Mayor Karen Goh, Council Member Bob Smith, City Manager Christian Clegg, Public Works Director Gregg Strakaluse, and Assistant Public Works Director Luis Topete.

The City of Bakersfield continues to seek public input by reaching out to neighborhoods, business, and civic association meetings and events.