



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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## ***SAN DIEGO COUNTY, COMMUNITY PARTNERS TEAM UP TO PROMOTE HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES Health and Planning Experts Talk About Pedestrian, Bike Safety***

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency's (HHS) North Regions, the County of San Diego Land Use and Environment Group's Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Healthy Transportation Network hosted an important workshop on community design for pedestrian and bicycle safety at the San Marcos Regional Education Center. The all-day workshop provided the latest strategies, technical tools and innovations in bicycle and pedestrian design aimed at transforming communities into safer and more enjoyable places to walk and bike.

"This new partnership between these two County departments and our partners is critical to impacting change in the community," said County Supervisor Bill Horn, whose fifth district covers much of North County. "It's important for cities and unincorporated areas to work together to ensure the safety and well-being of our citizens and together, I believe we can shape a healthier environment."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, obesity rates have doubled for adults and tripled for children since the 1980's. Obesity is a risk factor for developing chronic diseases including heart disease, diabetes and cancer, which account for up to 70 percent of all deaths in San Diego County.

"Childhood obesity, and many of the chronic diseases that it leads to, is largely preventable through increased physical activity and access to nutritious foods," said Donna Hand, HHS Deputy Director. "We are pleased to partner with our Public Works colleagues to promote safe and livable environments."

Community advocates, city/county planners and engineers, health professionals, and transportation experts, led by Supervisor Horn, participated in a "walkabout" through nearby neighborhoods to discuss design concepts, concerns and solutions as part of the workshop.

"By implementing appropriate strategies to enhance the pedestrian and bicyclist environment, communities can make an impact in both the safety and health of its residents," said Michael Robinson, Deputy Director for the County's Department of Public Works. "Everyone has a role, and through partnerships like this, we have the ability to make a positive impact throughout San Diego County."

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