

## Commute.org Wraps up the 2017 Commuter Challenge

### SAN MATEO COUNTY COMMUTERS REDUCE 1 MILLION SOV MILES AND GET REWARDED FOR THEIR CLEAN COMMUTES

SAN MATEO COUNTY, Calif., JUNE 19, 2017: Commute.org announced the results and the grand prize winners of the 2017 Commuter Challenge at an awards ceremony earlier this month. Five participants from this year's challenge were randomly selected to win one of the grand prizes: \$300 Clipper card; customized commuter bag; folding bicycle; \$400 REI gift card; and \$300 shopping spree at The Shops at Tanforan.

The 2017 Commuter Challenge is an annual event that rewards commuters who use alternative methods of transportation such as bicycling, walking, carpooling, shuttles or public transit. People who telework were also eligible to participate. Between April 1st and May 31st, people joined the challenge and logged their commutes using Commute.org's STAR platform. In addition to the five grand prize winners, over 100 weekly prizes were given to commuters who logged their trips at least once during the challenge.

The 2017 Commuter Challenge results are in...

- 1,480 challenge participants
- 53,377 non-drive alone trips logged
- 1 million single occupancy vehicle (SOV) miles eliminated
- 274 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> reduced
- \$285,945 in commute cost savings
- 4 million calories burned by bicyclists and walkers

It is amazing what San Mateo County commuters can accomplish in only two months by driving less and commuting smarter!

One of the grand prize winners, Cynthia Kosinski who works at Natera in San Carlos, used the challenge to help her convince her co-workers about the benefits of non-SOV commuting: "Since moving to the Bay Area over 15 years ago, I have been car-free, relying primarily on public transportation and walking. I've personally been motivated to take alternative transportation to reduce my carbon footprint, incorporate more physical activity into my daily routine, and save money by not owning a car. But an unexpected benefit has been developing new friendships with fellow commuters! The Commuter Challenge offered me a talking point to inspire others to look at new ways of getting to work as well as see the overall impact of a community choosing alternative commute options. Lastly, thank you for selecting me as a grand prize winner. I will continue to seek alternative options to driving and motivate others to do so too."

Commute.org would like to thank the employers and community partners in San Mateo County who helped encourage commuters to participate in the 2017 Commuter Challenge. Every trip counts towards improving our air quality and traffic congestion. Thank you for being a part of the solution.

For more details about the 2017 Commuter Challenge including infographics of the results, please visit [www.commute.org](http://www.commute.org).

Hashtags: #CommuteSTAR #YourCommuterCounts

About Commute.org:

Commute.org is San Mateo County's transportation demand management agency. Its primary objective is to reduce the number of single-occupant vehicles (SOV) in San Mateo County, thereby reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality. Commute.org is funded by the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County, the San Mateo County Transportation Authority, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

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