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Unique Community Effort Leads to Safer Streets in Concord

WHAT:

A street party is taking place to celebrate a community-driven project that led to \$2.7 million in pedestrian safety improvements on Detroit Avenue, one of Concord's most heavily trafficked streets.

The celebration culminates a process that began in 2012, when neighborhood residents conducted an assessment of walking and biking safety on Detroit Avenue with help from local agencies and elected officials. The City of Concord was able to leverage the assessment to obtain \$1.8 million in grant funding to make recommended improvements, including:

- Four-way stop signs (Sunshine Ave, Lynn Ave, Walters Way)
- High-visibility crosswalks (Sunshine Ave, Laguna St, Lynn Ave, Walters Way)
- Sidewalk accessibility improvements
- New extended sidewalks along the busy stretch from Clayton Road to Monument Boulevard
- New street paving and surfacing
- New bike lanes including green paving to increase bicyclist visibility and safety
- New streetlights along Detroit Avenue

The street party celebration will feature free family activities, including a bike rodeo, Zumba, cooking demonstrations, and interactive children's games. Mayor Laura Hoffmeister, Councilmember Edi Birsan, local organizations and residents who participated in the project will speak and participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony.

WHEN: Saturday, September 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Meadow Homes Park (at Sunshine Drive) 1371 Detroit Ave. in Concord

WHO: The project was a result of collaboration among Monument resident leaders, Contra Costa Health Services, the Central County Regional Group (a parent advocacy group supported by First 5 Contra Costa), Monument Impact, Bike East Bay, Bike Concord, Healthy and Active Before 5, County Connection and the City of Concord.

The project received funding from local Measure J and Measure Q funds and a \$1.8 million One Bay Area Grant. The City of Concord is replicating this community-driven model to inform its new Bicycle, Pedestrian and Safe Routes to Transit Plan.

WHY: Detroit Avenue is a neighborhood street in the heart of the Monument community that sees extremely high numbers of walkers, bikers and bus riders. It is home to an elementary school, park and popular preschool center. The street lacked safe sidewalks, bike lanes and crossings, which has resulted in a number of collisions in recent years.