



**UPDATE ON 2015 SAN DIEGO NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY AND TIJUANEANDO EN BICI**

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**Introduction**

Bike to Work Day is a national event celebrated annually in the United States on the third Friday of May as part of National Bike Month. The purpose of National Bike Month is to encourage biking as a viable, fun, and healthy transportation choice for all types of trips. Bike to Work Day was created by the League of American Bicyclists in 1956 to increase public interest in biking and to promote it as an alternative for commuting to work.

**Discussion**

This year, Bike to Work Day was Friday, May 29, 2015. Despite a two-week postponement, due to a rain storm, a record-breaking 8,742 people in the San Diego region chose to GO by BIKE on Bike to Work Day. Bike commuters logged a total of 18,065 miles in the iCommute TripTracker tool, averaging 9.7 miles per rider. This represents a 34 percent increase from 2014. Volunteers staffed a record of 104 pit stops around the county, eight more than the previous year. The SANDAG iCommute Program and several partner groups provided amenities and organized a series of activities and pit stops where bicyclists could stop to pick up free t-shirts snacks, and receive encouragement. Additionally volunteers were on hand to reenergize and assist participants. As part of the Bike to Work Day celebration, the SANDAG iCommute staff and local sponsors organized three pit stops throughout the San Ysidro area, including a morning pit stop from 6 to 9 a.m. located at the San Ysidro Transit Center where over 100 bike riders stopped during their commute.

Additionally, in spirit of Bike to Work Day, SANDAG, Tijuana bike riders, the San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition, and the City of Tijuana partnered to coordinate and celebrate the 5th annual "Tijuaneando en Bici" border-crossing event at the San Ysidro Port of Entry (POE). Over 25 participants from both sides of the border, including Mayor Serge Dedina, City of Imperial Beach, met in Tijuana to cross at the San Ysidro POE. After crossing, the Tijuaneando en Bici group reassembled at the San Ysidro Transit Center for an afternoon bike ride tour of the San Ysidro community.

In coordination with the annual Tijuaneando en Bici border crossing event and bike tour of San Ysidro, Outlets at the Border and Casa Familiar hosted two afternoon pit stops. The group of cyclists traveled from the San Ysidro POE to the first afternoon pit stop located at the Outlets at the Border parking lot, near the future Virginia Avenue Transit Facility and the new pedestrian border

crossing that will accommodate future bike crossings to and from Mexico.

From that location, bikers rode four miles to the last pit stop of the afternoon, located at the Casa Familiar: THE FRONT art gallery venue. Casa Familiar hosted a gathering for Tijuaneando en Bici participants. This stop included access to the art exhibition by Mexican photographer Arturo Rodríguez Torija, refreshments, and a group discussion on bike conditions on both sides of the San Ysidro-Tijuana border.

Lastly, in association with the Tijuaneando en Bici event, the City of Tecate held its first “Bici TKT” bike ride on May 15th. The Bici TKT bike ride was coordinated by SANDAG iCommute, the City of Tecate, bike riders from both sides of the border, and pit stop sponsors. In addition, another border crossing event took place on May 29.

CHARLES “MUGGS” STOLL

Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning

Key Staff Contact: Marc Baza, (619) 699-6912, [marc.baza@sandag.org](mailto:marc.baza@sandag.org)