

Santa Cruz County Folding Bikes in Buses Program **General Program Description & Commonly Asked Questions**

The Folding Bikes in Buses program offers a financial incentive for Santa Cruz residents to ride a folding bike for short commutes or utility trips instead of driving an automobile. The incentives will assist with the cost of purchasing a folding bike, while also providing discounted bus passes and safety training. All Santa Cruz residents are eligible to participate in the program. What follows are the most commonly asked questions regarding the program. *To request more information, or to enroll in the program, please call the Santa Cruz Area TMA at (831) 423-9569 ext. 128.*

Q: WHAT IS THE FOLDING BIKES IN BUSES PROGRAM?

A: This program helps county residents get on folding bicycles. A rebate helps reduce the purchase price of a folding bike to encourage more bike commuting. Discounted bus passes are provided to encourage bike/bus trips. This program aims to reduce single-occupant automobile travel, which helps decrease traffic congestion, parking demands and air pollution in our community.

Q: WHY A FOLDING BIKE?

A: Folding bicycles can easily and quickly be folded up to safely store at work, a closet at home, or taken in a bus. The capability to store a folding bike makes it easier to use than regular bikes in many situations. It also reduces the all too prevalent problem of theft. Additionally, a folding bike increases your potential travel range as you can easily bring the folded bike into any Santa Cruz Metro bus. Folding bikes are affordable as entry-level bikes start at \$300.

Q: HOW ARE FOLDING BIKES DIFFERENT THAN REGULAR BIKES?

A: Folding bikes have smaller wheels that accelerate faster, but are less stable at absorbing potholes, ruts, & road obstacles. They also have narrow handlebars, which maneuver more nimbly and provide less leverage for climbing. Folding bikes are sturdy, reliable and safe.

Q: HOW SAFE IS BIKE COMMUTING IN THIS COMMUNITY?

A: Santa Cruz County has many bike lanes, several bike paths and a high number of cyclists on the roadway. More cyclists riding makes the road safer as motorists, in general, become more familiar with sharing the road with cyclists. The program also includes an equipment operation, safety, and rules of the road training class for all participants. New bike commuters are taught how to ride safely and confidently in urban traffic.

Q: WHERE CAN I BUY A FOLDING BIKE?

A: You can buy a folding bike from any one of the approved local vendors on the program product list. You cannot use the program rebate for folding bikes sold outside the county, from a catalog or on the internet.

Q: HOW ARE THE FOLDING BIKES AVAILABLE THROUGH THE PROGRAM DIFFERENT FROM FOLDING BIKES ELSE WHERE?

A: All the folding bikes acquired through the program are serviced and warranted for parts by a local vendor. The local vendors provide one year of service and parts. You can only use your program incentive for bikes from approved vendors.

Q: HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR THE PROGRAM?

A: You must fill out an application and show proof of residency in Santa Cruz County. Additionally, you will be required to attend a 2-hour safety training class. Once you have attended the safety class, you can pick out a product from the models on the approved vendor list. To receive the program discount at the time of your purchase you must give the vendor your program certificate.

Q: DO I NEED ANY EXTRA EQUIPMENT?

A: No, but we strongly recommend a helmet, an U-lock and lights (front and back).

Q: I'M A SENIOR, DISABLED, OR ON A FIXED INCOME. CAN I GET A LOAN TO HELP PAY FOR A FOLDING BIKE?

A: You may apply for an interest-free TMA bike loan if you are a senior, disabled or on a fixed income. You may also apply for a TMA loan if your company is a TMA member. You must be able to pass a standard credit check. For more information, please call the TMA at (831) 423-9569 ext. 128 to find out if you qualify.