

NEWS RELEASE



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WALK or ROLL your way to Main Plaza on May 6, 2016 for the 20th Annual Walk & Roll Rally

This May, the **20th Annual Walk & Roll Rally** will pop up for one hour only at **8 a.m. Friday, May 6, 2016, at Main Plaza** in downtown San Antonio! An SA2020 certified awesome event, the Walk & Roll Rally applauds residents who use active transportation in their daily routines as well as encourages others to consider what trips they could make by foot, bike, or bus.

Join an organized walk or bike ride to the rally point and enjoy free breakfast, door prizes that include free bikes, music by Matt Kitchen (<https://vimeo.com/144194849>), and a bicycle contest. We're looking for the best **Throwback Bike** (vintage or classic), the **Sorriest Bike** (a clunker but must be rideable), and most inventive **Wild Card Bike** (decorated or custom, it's your pick, surprise us).

Marina Gavito, Executive Director for Tech Bloc, joins the event as Master of Ceremonies.

Robert "Bob" Rivard, Director for *The Rivard Report*, will deliver a keynote address offering his perspective as a driver, cyclist, and everyday pedestrian. **Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff** will also join the celebrations to lead a distinguished panel of judges presiding over the bike contest AND a bike ride along the Mission Reach immediately following the rally. VIA Metropolitan Transit is also providing free bus transportation for people who board with a bike on the day of the Walk & Roll Rally.

The Walk & Roll Rally kicks off a full calendar of events in May, recognized since 1956 as National Bike Month, that offers opportunities for everyone in the Alamo Area to learn more about or share their love of walking and bicycling. To keep track of local bicycling and walking events going on during May or for Bicycle Contest Rules, please visit www.alamoareampo.org/walkandroll or contact the MPO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Planner, Allie Blazosky, at blazosky@alamoareampo.org or 210-230-6911.

About Walking & Cycling in Our Community

The first Walk & Roll Rally was held on the steps of City Hall in 1997. Since then, there have been numerous improvements to help support multimodal travel in our community. Here are some of the key ways the MPO and our community partners are making biking and walking more accessible:

- In 2016, AAMPO completed its first Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Study that includes communities in four counties.
- Over 230 miles of bike lanes have been striped in Bexar County in the past two decades.
- Bexar County voters approved the Linear Creekway Parks Development Program, which provides sales tax funding for land purchases and trails development, four times: in 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015. In 2015, support for the program was about 75% of the vote!
- Sixty-eight miles (and counting) of shared used paths now provide access along San Antonio's creeks and rivers: Leon Creek, Salado Creek, the Medina River and San Antonio River. Ten miles of shared-use paths also provide access through Boerne, New Braunfels and Seguin.
- City Councils of Helotes, New Braunfels and San Antonio are among those in Texas that approved a Safe Passing ordinance to protect people walking, riding bikes and other vulnerable road users.
- Vision Zero is a traffic safety approach to eliminate traffic-related deaths and severe injuries. In 2015, San Antonio became the first city in Texas to launch a Vision Zero initiative. AAMPO's Transportation Policy Board and the Cities of Kirby and Leon Valley have since approved resolutions in support of Vision Zero initiatives within the Alamo Area.
- San Antonio B-cycle users have made 260,000 trips since bike share was established in San Antonio in 2011. You can find 58 B-cycle stations around the city today.
- Every VIA Metropolitan Transit bus is equipped with bike racks that carry two bicycles (three on Primo buses).
- The MPO hosts Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility Advisory Committees (PMAC and BMAC), formed in the 1990s. BMAC holds three Bike Night events yearly with the next one scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Friday, May 20, 2016, at the Alamo Area MPO offices located at 825 S. St. Mary's Street.
- The League of American Bicyclists awarded San Antonio a Bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community.
- In 2015, they also recognized the Alamo Area MPO as a Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Business.

About the Alamo Area MPO: The Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is responsible for a study area of almost 2 million residents who travel more than 50 million miles each day in Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe and a portion of Kendall Counties. Overseen by the 21 member Transportation Policy Board, comprised of elected and appointed officials, the Alamo Area MPO is one of approximately 400 MPOs across the country working to ensure a comprehensive, cooperative and continuous transportation planning process. For more information on the MPO, please visit our website at www.alamoareampo.org.