

Five Million Milestone for Wheels and Hacienda

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Marking a milestone in a longstanding public-private partnership, the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA), operator of the Wheels bus service, and Hacienda Business Park note that Hacienda employees and residents have surpassed five million passenger trips utilizing Hacienda's free ECO Pass program.

Established in 1989 and funded by Hacienda, the ECO Pass program creates a convenient way for people who either live or work in Hacienda to use transit to get to work, school, and local businesses by providing free unlimited bus rides.

"We are pleased to celebrate the 5 millionth Hacienda Wheels bus rider," said Dublin Councilman Don Biddle, LAVTA Chair. "LAVTA's partnership with Hacienda is a model to deliver a convenient and affordable commute alternative that improves air quality and reduces traffic congestion."

Michael Tree, LAVTA's executive director, said "Since 1989 with the ECO Pass program, these 5 million trips on transit instead of a 17.5 mile daily average trip in a single-occupant vehicle, saved over 18 billion pounds of carbon dioxide emissions and over 85 million vehicle miles traveled."

James Paxson, Hacienda's general manager, added, "The ECO Pass program demonstrates Hacienda's commitment to both environmental stewardship and providing the best possible working and living environment."

ECO Pass holders benefit in a number of ways through their participation in the program.:

1. Riders cut their commute costs at the pump and reduce the cost of automobile maintenance.
2. Instead of driving on congested streets and highways, ECO Pass users get to rest and relax, catch up on social media, read a book, enjoy a conversation with their fellow riders, or use their travel time more productively by completing tasks for their jobs.
3. The ECO Pass is a great way for commuters to show their concern for the environment, allowing them to commute knowing that they are taking an active part in reducing carbon emissions and improving the region's air quality.

The ECO Pass program is a great way for employers to demonstrate their concern for their employees and the environment:

1. Hacienda employers have the opportunity to include the ECO Pass as a no-cost perk to their Employee Benefits Program.
2. The ECO Pass program also helps employers manage their own Commute Trip Reduction Programs.
3. By making the pass available to their employees, Hacienda companies automatically comply with the requirements of the Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program (SB 1339).

For more information about the ECO Pass program, contact the Hacienda Owners Association at 925-734-6500 or visit www.hacienda.org.

For more information about Wheels bus service, contact Wheels customer service at 925-455-7500 or visit www.wheelsbus.com.