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**as of 6-24-2022**

**From:** [Safe Routes to School San Mateo County Office of Education Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)  
**To:** [Safe Routes to School San Mateo County Office of Education Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Happy Pride Month from SMCOE SRTS!  
**Date:** Thursday, June 23, 2022 8:30:55 AM

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## San Mateo County **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

Healthy Kids • Green Communities • Safe Journeys

CHOOSE



LOVE

CELEBRATE  
**PRIDE MONTH**

June is Pride Month, a time to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community, uplift LGBTQ+ voices, and recognize the years of advocating for equality and civil rights across the world. Pride Month is also a time to commemorate the Stonewall Riots that occurred in June 1969. Learn about LGBTQ+ leaders in the transportation world, resources and organizations in San Mateo County,

cycling groups in the Bay Area, and more. Scroll down to read the "Safe Routes to Anywhere and for Anyone Pledge", and see how SMCOE SRTS is committed to supporting the LGBTQ+ community in active transportation.

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## LGBTQ Leaders in Transportation

### Andrew Mortensen – Cyclist



Andrew Mortensen rode his bike 17,000 miles over a span of eight months from the U.S. to South America during the global pandemic. Mortensen says, "Two of my closest friends took their own lives over the past two years. I wanted to raise money for [The Trevor Project](#) to support both my friends and anyone else who's coming out." Mortensen raised more than \$17,000 for LGBTQ+ youth during his cycling journey.

### Camille Balanche – Competitive Cyclist



Hockey player and fencer turned mountain biker, Camille Balanche was the first out lesbian woman to win the UCI Downhill Mountain Biking World Championship and Trials World Championships. Winning cycling competitions all around the world, Balanche has proven her athletic abilities time and time again.

### Caroline Samponaro - Head of Transit & Micromobility Policy, Lyft

Caroline Samponaro joined Lyft in 2018 and developed the company's Bike, Scooter, and Pedestrian Policy program along with lead initiatives like Vision Zero and Complete



Street redesigns. Before Lyft, Samponaro worked as the Deputy Director of Transportation Alternatives in New York City. She is also the founder of Families for Safe Streets, a grassroots, victim-led movement set to eradicate reckless driving. Samponaro is a mother of twins and celebrates her LGBTQ culture as she continues to be a leader in the world of transportation.

**Dr. Rachel Levine – U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health**



Dr. Rachel Levine made history as the first openly transgender person to be appointed as the Assistant Secretary for Health for the United States Department of Health. Dr. Levine's career experiences as a pediatrician, teacher, researcher, and Pennsylvania's Health Secretary have helped her fight the opioid epidemic and COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Levine shares, "I am very pleased to advocate for the LGBTQ community in terms

of health equity and equality and fairness. And I feel that I have been able to do that in Pennsylvania. And I'm able to do that nationally now." Dr. Levine hopes to address the discrimination faced by the LGBTQ community, which often leads them to not seek out care or have equal access to the health care system.

**Jeffrey Tumlin – Director of Transportation of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)**

Jeffrey Tumlin is currently leading SFMTA



and is known for implementing value-based solutions to support city infrastructure and public transit systems. Tumlin deeply understands the interconnectivity of linking transportation to social justice, economic development, public health, and sustainability. Leading with pride, Tumlin addresses that transit is gendered and there

is a need to design our mobility system to serve all, including women, people with disabilities, and people of color. During an interview, Tumlin states, “The design of mobility systems can make us all feel like we are welcome and that we also have responsibilities to uphold in public to make everyone else feel welcome. So, a question that I always ask myself is, “Would my trans friends feel safe here?”

### **Justin Laevans - Competitive Cyclist**



Justin Laevans is the first male pro cyclist from Belgium to come out as gay. Laevans posted a message on his social media account, “Being out in the sports world is difficult. I hope I can set an example for other athletes, for riders or for cyclo-crossers who may still be hidden in their shell.”

### **Pete Buttigieg – U.S. Transportation Secretary**

Pete Buttigieg is the 19th U.S. Secretary of Transportation and the first openly gay person to serve in a president’s Cabinet. He previously served as Mayor of South Bend, Indiana and was a 2020 presidential candidate. Recently, Buttigieg announced \$1 billion in funding for local communities of all sizes to help them ensure safer streets and roads for all and address the national



roadway safety crisis. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's new [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) discretionary grant program](#) provides dedicated funding to support regional, local, and Tribal plans, projects and strategies that will prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.

### **Tamika Butler – Founder + Principal Tamika L. Butler Consulting**



Tamika Butler has worked as the Director of Planning, California, the Director of Equity and Inclusion at Toole Design and as the Executive Director of the Los Angeles Bicycle Coalition. Butler is known for spearheading inclusion mobility projects for Los Angeles and being a powerhouse for bicycle advocacy. She is a national expert and speaker on equity and justice issues related to transportation. Her diverse background in law, community development, and nonprofit leadership has provided critical perspective for mobility equity and how transportation policy and infrastructure can be improved to better protect historically oppressed groups of people. [Hear Butler speak about transportation inequities and what role data plays for those inequities.](#)

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## **Ride with Pride!**



*Photo of Different Spokes San Francisco recreational cycling club hosting the Pride Ride back in 2021. The 15-mile bike ride started at Golden Gate Park and went all the way to the Great Highway to Lake Merced and back!*

The 52nd annual [San Francisco Pride Celebration](#) take places **Saturday June 25 to Sunday, June 26!** The celebration starts on Saturday at 11:00am and the Pride Parade takes place on Sunday at 10:30am. Make your trip sustainable by riding your bike to the nearest public transit system to the SF Pride Parade.

The City of San Jose will be hosting the [Silicon Valley Pride Parade and Festival: "Proudly Authentic."](#) With precise details still in the works, the August Pride celebration takes place during the daytime and evening in downtown San Jose over a course of two days.

**August 27** Night Festival: 6-11pm

**August 28** Parade: 10am-12pm, Festival: 12-6pm

Plaza de Cesar Chavez, 194 S. Market St., San Jose. \$5 per person. [For more details, visit the Silicon Valley Pride Parade and Festival website.](#)

### **LGBTQ+ Friendly Cycling Groups in the Bay Area:**

[AIDS/LifeCycle](#)

[Different Spokes](#)

[OutCycling](#)

[Radical Adventure Riders](#)

[Women & Non-Binary Bike SF](#)

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## BART Celebrates Pride



Read the article, [BART Celebrates Pride: 50 years proud. 50 years BART](#), and learn how BART supports the LGBTQ+ community through the economic equity program. The article includes perspectives from a handful of LGBTQ+ employees and BART Board members.

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## Walk and Roll to Local Pride Events

Safely commute via walking, biking, and public transit to Pride Month events!

Plan your trip using the [SamTrans Trip Planner](#), try the [Caltrain Bike Share service](#), or use [Lyft WAV Ride](#), a ridesharing service that accommodates non-folding or motorized wheelchairs and scooters.





*Photo of Annie Segarra, a Latinx American YouTuber, artist, and activist for LGBTQ+ and disability rights.*

## Access to Transportation: The Problems Encountered



Oftentimes, crimes committed against the LGBTQ+ community go unreported due to the fear and stigma that LGBTQ+ individuals won't receive support from police and medical services. These crimes tend to happen on public transit, which creates an unsafe environment for those who identify as LGBTQ+.

- According to the [Gender Policy Report](#), sexual-orientation hate crimes increased 17 percent and 84 percent of which targeted gay men in Los Angeles in 2020.
- Only 54 percent of the LGBTQ population lives in states that have hate crime laws covering sexual orientation and gender identity

Regardless of one's sexual orientation or gender identity, public transportation should be a safe place for all. These crimes are not going unnoticed. San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) has launched The Safety Equity Initiative to address sexual harassment and

gender-based harassment impacting community members who are Black, indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC) and identify as LGBTQ+. The Movement Advancement Project (MAP)'s new report "[LGBT Policy Spotlight: Public Accommodations Nondiscrimination Laws](#)" provides an overview of federal, state, and local protections against discrimination in public spaces.

The SamTrans Art on Buses Project takes a stand against racism and hate crimes with the goal to address racial, gender, and economic injustices. Michelle Holdt, SMCOE's former Arts and Restorative Learning Coordinator, led the partnership with SamTrans on Art Takes a Bus Ride, where students created their own bus artwork integrating social justice. The student artwork is currently being showcased in the halls of SMCOE.





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## San Mateo County and SF Bay Area LGBTQ+ Support Organizations and Resources



[CoastPride](#)

[Outlet](#)

[PinkSpots](#)

[QueerinSMC.org](#)

[San Mateo Pride Center](#)

The websites listed below provide mental health hotlines, health centers, and nonprofits that focus on providing support for LGBTQ+ youth and adults.

[San Mateo County LGBTQ+ Organizations and Resources](#)

[San Mateo County Health LGBTQ+ Resources](#)

[San Mateo County Office of Education LGBTQ+ Initiatives](#)

[LGBTQ+ Nonprofits in San Francisco Bay Area](#)

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## Pride Visibility in San Mateo County

The [San Mateo County Pride Center](#) will be celebrating its fifth year anniversary on Thursday evening, June 30 at 6:00pm with a virtual event, inclusive for all. Mark your calendars now!

[For more information on pride visibility in San Mateo County, subscribe to the County of San Mateo LGBTQ Commission newsletter.](#)



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