CITY OF VENTURA RELEASE 501 Poli Street Ventura, CA 93001

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Community invited to join a free bike ride on the Westside as part of the City of Ventura's Active Transportation Plan

Ventura, Calif. - The City of Ventura's Active Transportation team is hosting two free community bike ride events on the Westside on Wednesday, October 20, from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday, October 23, from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. Both events will start at <u>BikeVentura</u>, located at 490 N. Ventura Avenue.

Participants will enjoy a five-mile bike ride in the City's Westside neighborhoods while helping raise awareness about Ventura's Active Transportation Plan (ATP), which is going on now.

"The Active Transportation Plan examines the quality, safety, and connectivity of existing networks for people walking, biking, and taking transit," said City Public Works Director Phil Nelson. "As we embark on creating this ambitious roadmap, we need the community's help in prioritizing projects and programs that will help improve active transportation choices for all people living, working, and visiting Ventura. I'd love to see the community register to walk, ride, or roll with us as we raise awareness for this important initiative."

The ATP calls for participation from the low-income and minority households, homebound seniors, youth, young parents, community stakeholders, partner agencies, and community members who are familiar with what it's like to walk and bike in Ventura. Everyone's feedback is important!

"BikeVentura has called The Avenue our home for almost a decade, and we want to be involved in sharing input about the community's active transportation needs," shared BikeVentura Executive Director Joey Juhasz-Lukomski. "If we can make that fun, and get folks to understand what it's like to ride a bike, walk, or roll over here, then that's even better."

Ways to Participate in the Active Transportation Plan:

- Register to walk, bike, or roll in the free community bike ride events happening in October.
- Share ideas about walking, biking, rolling, and taking transit during the bike ride events.
- Encourage friends and family to take the ATP survey and help shape Ventura into a safer place for active transportation.

Community members interested in participating in the free bike ride events are encouraged to register online at www.ActivePlanVentura.com. The ride is open to all age groups. For the safety of all participants, masks and social distancing will be encouraged.

For more information about the Active Transportation Plan or to share feedback in surveys, visit www.ActivePlanVentura.com.