



**Bayer HealthCare**  
Pharmaceuticals



June 11, 2009

Mayor Tom Bates, Members of the City Council  
Attn: Matt Nichols, Public Works Transportation  
1947 Center St., 3rd floor  
Berkeley, CA 94704

I am writing to express Bayer's strong support of the proposed Tax Relief Action to Cut Commuter Carbon (TRACCC) Ordinance, which would require employers to offer employees a pre-tax commute benefit.

As you may be aware, Bayer HealthCare, through its 30-year Development Agreement with the City of Berkeley, has since 1992 offered such commute benefits as part of a comprehensive Auto Use Reduction Program. This program has a goal of 1.5 passengers per vehicle for employee commutes—and I am pleased to report that we just got our 2008 figures, which stand at 1.58.

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We believe a significant contributing factor to our own auto use reduction is the provision of direct commute benefits to employees. Combined with our lead support of the Ashby BART Shuttle serving West Berkeley, preferred car pool parking, and shuttles for long-distance commutes, these policies have proven to increase transit usage, reduce parking and traffic problems, and shrink our carbon footprint. They are also very good for employee morale.

In February, I attended a meeting organized by the City seeking input regarding the proposed ordinance. There was consensus that such an ordinance is a 'win-win' for the business community. As a company we share the City's concern about climate protection and appreciate, once again, your proactive approach.

Sincerely,

Trina Ostrander  
Manager, Development Agreement and Communications



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