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South Bay Riders take on 'Bike to Work Day' Challenge

By Rich Morallo



Metro South Bay Schedule Maker Steve Tontz, left, and Transportation Planning Manager Scott Greene.

It was warm and he was tired. His rear tire went flat. And he was out of shape - the last time he rode his bike a long distance was 25 years ago.

"But I'd like to bike to work again," remarked schedule maker Steve Tontz, who biked seven miles to Metro South Bay's Torrance office from Long Beach during Bike to Work Day.

When he noticed his rear tire had collapsed, Steve looked into the day pack he brought along with him. "I carried various bike tools and a cell phone, and I'm glad I also had an emergency flat repair kit there, too," Tontz said.

Tontz explained that he decided to participate in Bike to Work Day because he enjoyed the exercise, didn't want to pay the high gas price, and wanted to save his car from wear and tear.

"I'm glad Scott talked me into this," Tontz said, referring to transportation planning manager and co-worker Scott Greene who himself biked in 15 miles from Playa del Ray.

"It was a good ride but I worried about getting to work on time," said the schedule maker, who made the trip in 40 minutes. "Nonetheless, I recommend biking to all as long as they are prepared with the right equipment in case of problems," Tontz said.