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3rd Annual Car Free Day Long Island Scheduled For September 22 **Farmingdale State College to Host September 17 Car Free Day LI Rally**

Long Island will once again join in the celebration of Car Free Day – an international event that encourages drivers to leave their cars at home for a day on Tuesday, September 22. Participants are being asked to use more sustainable travel choices on the 3rd Annual Car Free Day Long Island, such as transit, carpooling, bicycles, walking and telecommuting to help reduce traffic, conserve energy, reduce harmful emissions, improve fitness, reduce parking problems and save money. Last year, 2,855 Long Islanders pledged to be car free or car-lite, saving over 72,000 miles of driving, and 36 tons of CO2 emissions.

Car Free Day LI is organized by a broad-based group of Long Island leaders from major employers, business, civic and environmental groups, universities and municipalities. Commuters, students and residents can pledge to go car free or car-lite at the Car Free Day LI website (www.carfreedayli.com). Participants are also eligible to win raffle prizes including commuter bikes, gift cards, theater tickets and more. To date, over 1,550 Long Islanders have already pledged.

In support of the event, an island-wide Car Free Day LI Rally will be held at Farmingdale State College on Thursday, September 17 that will promote the use of commuting alternatives and will feature information provided by organizations such as 511NYRideshare, Transit Solutions, Farmingdale State College and Sustainable Long Island. The Rally will be held at the Farmingdale State College Campus Center from 1-4pm and all are welcome. Guest speakers will address issues such as the environmental, economic, and health impacts of single occupancy vehicles. In addition, several Long Island municipalities will be recognized with Car Free Day LI Municipal Challenge awards for their efforts in celebrating Car Free Day. Participating municipalities include Suffolk County, the Towns of North Hempstead, Huntington and Babylon, and the Villages of Amityville, Malverne and Sea Cliff.

“We’re thrilled that Farmingdale State College will once again be hosting our Car Free Day LI Rally,” said Rosemary Mascali, Manager of Transit Solutions and Co-Chair of the Car Free Day LI event. “We’re eager to recognize the efforts of Long Island’s colleges, universities and municipalities who have been leaders in promoting sustainability and more sustainable transportation options.”

“Farmingdale State is eager to support the efforts of so many organizations promoting Car Free Day so we are pleased to host the Rally on September 17,” said Hubert Keen, president of Farmingdale State College. “Getting involved with Car Free Day LI spurred the creation of a Commuter website (farmingdale.edu/commuter) which provides information and encourages our almost 10,000 person community to find alternative methods of getting to the campus. I believe we can all agree that reducing vehicle traffic is good for the environment and has positive long-term effects.”

Companies, schools and organizations who would like to encourage their employees, students and members to pledge can utilize the Car Free Day Toolkit, available for download at the Car Free Day LI website, which includes celebration ideas, logos, flyer, poster, stickers and sample emails and social media posts. Information on commute alternatives is also available on the website.

Whether commuting to work or school, or running errands around town, using your car less qualifies for participation in Car Free Day LI. Even those already using commute alternatives can take the pledge to go car free or car-lite.

Car Free Day LI * 516-242-8121 * Email: info@carfreedayli.com * Website: www.carfreedayli.com