Safe Routes to School

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Safety, physical activity & transportation choices
This is a story of the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.
Fewer kids are biking and walking. More parents are driving.
Parents driving their children to school account for 20%-25% of morning rush hour traffic.

(NHTSA 2003; Dept of Environment)
How did we get here?

31% of children live within a mile of school
(2009 National Household Travel Survey)
Individual barriers to walking to school
Today’s children may be the first generation to have a shorter life expectancy than their parents have.
Promoting safe walking and bicycling is an ideal strategy to increase physical activity.
Benefits of SRTS programs

- Increase bike, pedestrian and traffic safety
- Reduce congestion around schools
- Reduce air pollution
- Improve children’s health
- Can lead to cost savings for schools (reduce need for “hazard” busing)
- Others: increase child’s sense of freedom, help establish lifetime habits, teach pedestrian skills
Federal Safe Routes to School Program

- $612 million to States
- State SRTS Coordinator
- Funding for elementary and middle school programs (K-8)
Safe Routes to School Program

- Limited funding
- Intended as a catalyst to build relationships, complete demonstration projects and show success
- Inspire communities to find other resources
Safe Routes to School Program

- Follows the 5 E’s
  - Education
  - Encouragement
  - Enforcement
  - Engineering
  - Evaluation
Safe Routes to School Program

- Two groups of funding available:
  - Infrastructure projects within two miles of the school
  - Non-infrastructure activities: education and encouragement, traffic enforcement activities within two miles of the school
Potential Applicants

School districts, schools (public, private, parochial, charter or alternative education program, grades K-8) in cooperation with the governing body with jurisdiction over affected roads and properties
Potential Applicants

Units of state and local government in cooperation with a school district or a qualifying school
Potential Applicants

Non-profit organizations in partnership with any of the above to perform education and enforcement activities that directly benefit a qualifying elementary or middle school.
Steps in creating a SRTS Program

- Bring together the right people
- Hold a kick-off meeting
- Gather information and identify issues
- Identify solutions
- Develop a Plan
- Fund the plan
- Act on the plan
- Evaluate, make changes and keep moving
School Task Force

School Principal or designated school staff

A parent who is a representative of or has endorsement of a recognized school/parent organization

City or county staff or representative endorsed by the local road authority.

Local traffic safety committee member
Schools

- District management or school board
- Safety patrol coordinator, crossing guards
- Teachers
- School nurse
- Site council member
- District transportation or facilities representative
Community

- Neighborhood or community association member
- Chamber of commerce or business associations
- Pedestrian and bicycle advocates
- Public health professionals
- Community groups or non-profit organizations
- Rail, trucking industry representatives
- Media or marketing representatives
Local Government

Council or commission member
Transportation or traffic engineer
Local planner
Public works representative
Law enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Department
Bicycle/pedestrian advisory committee;
Municipal or regional transit agency
Gather the Data

### Parent Survey About Walking and Biking to School

**To Parent or Caregiver,**

Your child’s school needs to form a safe route plan for walking and biking to school. This process will take about 5–10 minutes to complete. We hope you and your family can help make this plan a reality. Thank you for your help in keeping our children safe.

To give us the best picture of how children get to and from school, we are asking you to complete this survey. This survey will help us understand the modes of transportation used by students and assess the safety of the routes they travel. Your responses will help the school create a safe route plan for walking and biking to school.

Thank you for participating in this survey.

1. What is the grade of the child who brought home this survey? [ ] Grade 1-3, [ ] Grade 4-6, [ ] Grade 7-8, [ ] Grade 9-12
2. Is the child who brought home this survey male or female? [ ] Male, [ ] Female
3. How many children do you have in Kindergarten through 8th grade? [ ] 1, [ ] 2, [ ] 3, [ ] 4, [ ] 5, [ ] 6 or more
4. What is the closest intersection near your home? Check the closest one that matches your location.

### Safe Routes to School Students Arrival and Departure Tally Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name:</th>
<th>Teacher’s First Name:</th>
<th>Teacher’s Last Name:</th>
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**Please note these are mean times of the following three days, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday.**

- **Please do not complete these counts on Mondays or Fridays.**
- **Before doing your survey to see their hands, please read through all pages to ensure that each student has only one response.**
- **Ask your students a couple of questions about how they got to and from school today.**
- **Please note that the times are mean times of the following three days, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday.**

#### Step 1

**If there are any conditions and number of students to each class**

**AM:** How did you arrive at school today? Record the number of hands for each answer. **PM:** How do you plan to leave for home after school? Record the number of hands for each answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key</th>
<th>Weather</th>
<th>Travel Time to School</th>
<th>Inside to School</th>
<th>Reached School on Time</th>
<th>AM: How did you arrive at school today?</th>
<th>PM: How do you plan to leave for home after school?</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Last 5–10 minutes</td>
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**Additional notes:**

- Please list any disruptions or any other events that occurred during the travel to school on the days of the tally.
Veneta, Oregon

- 4800 population
- Located 12 miles west of Eugene/Springfield Metropolitan Area
- In close proximity to Fern Ridge Reservoir
- 45 miles from the Pacific Ocean
Veneta Elementary, Oregon

- k-5 elementary school on Territorial Road, Oregon Route 200
- 35 mph slowing to 20 mph school speed zone
- 350 enrollment
- Eligible for reduced lunch, free lunch
Grades When Parents Will Allow Child to Walk or Bike Alone to School
School Attitude Towards Walking and Biking

- 85% Neither
- 10% Encourage
- 1% Discourage
- 2% Strongly Discourage
- 1% Strongly Encourage
How Much Fun is Walking and Biking to School?

- Very Fun: 16%
- Fun: 26%
- Neutral: 51%
- Boring: 6%
- Very Boring: 1%
Veneta Elementary, Oregon

How Healthy is Walking and Biking to School?

- Very Healthy: 42%
- Healthy: 43%
- Neutral: 15%
- Unhealthy: 0%
- Very Unhealthy: 1%
Veneta Elementary, Oregon

Distance From Home to School

- Less than 1/4 mile: 15%
- 1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile: 15%
- 1/2 mile up to 1 mile: 24%
- 1 mile up to 2 miles: 27%
- More than 2 miles: 18%
- Don't know: 0%
Veneta Elementary, Oregon

Travel Modes To and From School (Parent-Reported)

- Walk
- Bike
- School Bus
- Family Vehicle
- Carpool
- Transit
- Other
“It’s been proven 1 out of 9 vehicles on our roads are semi-trucks. Unless we divert these semis from traveling Territorial, I don't feel they're safe. Also, my child doesn’t leave without an adult. Times were different when I was younger; more sexual predators these days.”
“It amazes me how there is a sidewalk on the road behind Bi-Mart, yet there is none on Hunter or any of the other existing streets by the school.”
"I have 2 girls. We have a public library and a fire station between our home and school. I'm not sure if I will ever let them walk or ride a bicycle without an adult until they are teenagers. Even then, I will probably not let them go without at least one other person."
“I am afraid to let my kid go alone by the street to walk or ride his bike. I prefer to take him.”
“One child had a bullying issue 2 yrs ago; a bigger boy was picking on her and a friend of hers.”
Veneta Elementary, Oregon

Results of Action Plan:

- City not ready to apply for infrastructure funding
- Pedestrian and bike safety education appropriate for elementary school
Veneta Elementary, Oregon

Results of Action Plan:
Local Fire District applied for and received funding for a pedestrian and bike safety education program in the elementary school and for after-school program.
Examples of SRTS activities

Non-Infrastructure --
Education
Encouragement
Enforcement & traffic safety education
Evaluation
Public awareness campaigns

Welcome to Another Safe Intersection

Bicyclists have a legal right to ride in the street with traffic, when traveling through single-lane and multi-lane roadways, just like other road users. However, in general, bicycling through intersections with multiple lanes of traffic increases their exposure to hazards compared to passing through crosswalks. The most in-tune drivers are the ones that know how to share the road safely. Bicyclists need to be aware of their environment and use their skills to anticipate and avoid possible dangers.

Quick Tips for Bicyclists

1. Know the rules of the road...
   - Obey all traffic signs and signals.
   - Wear bright-colored clothes to be seen.
   - Stick to routes with less traffic, fewer intersections, and sidewalks or paths that are separated from traffic.

2. Avoid driving on the sidewalk or in the crosswalk...
   - Use the bike lane to access the sidewalk.
   - Walk your bike.
   - Use the crosswalk.
   - Cross at intersections, using the signal instead.

Benefits of a Roundabout

- Slower vehicle speeds
- More time to react and make decisions; advantage for older and younger drivers
- Reduces the severity of crashes, if they occur; 75% fewer injuries to bicyclists
- Safer environment for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Yield control creates a safer environment for people crossing the street at the intersection
- Reduces pollution and fuel use due to fewer stop and go cycles through the intersection
- Academically appealing an opportunity to preserve natural features

Roundabouts and Bicyclists—Making Safe Choices

Walk. Bike. Enjoy!

Encouraging kids to walk or bike to school gives them more than a healthy dose of exercise. It’s a great way to teach them about safety, trust, and independence. It reduces pollution and traffic congestion in school zones and neighborhoods. And, it’s fun!

Written materials are available in alternative formats upon request. Please call (916) 600-2115 or e-mail at ADA@chief.durs

Let’s put more feet on the street.

Walk and Bike Safely. The Way to Go. Transportation Safety — ODOT

For helpful resources and information, visit www.saferroutesinfo.org
Bike safety education materials
Training on safe routes to school programs
Equipment for crossing guard programs
Examples of SRTS activities

Infrastructure -- Engineering within 2 miles of school
Engineering within 2 miles of school

Traffic calming, speed reduction
Off-street Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities

Bear Creek Elementary, Bend
Sidewalk & pedestrian improvements

Mountain View High School, Bend
Pedestrian & bicycle crossing improvements

Pilot Butte Middle School, Bend
Secure bicycle parking facilities

Thurston Elementary School, Springfield
Questions?