



Safe Routes to School Programs

*Baltimore Regional Transportation Board
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Group
November 2016*





Safe Routes
to School
**National
Partnership**

About the National Partnership

We are a nonprofit organization that improves the quality of life for kids and communities by promoting **active, healthy lifestyles, equity,** and safe infrastructure that **supports bicycling and walking.**

What We Do



- Advance policy change at the federal, state and regional levels
- Provide local technical assistance and engage communities
- Share best practices



Safe Routes
to School
National
Partnership

In 1969, nearly **50%** of
all children walked or
bicycled to school.

Today, just **13%** walk or
bicycle.

All kids and communities
deserve access to **safe,**
healthy streets and
opportunities for
physical activity.



The Evidence is In: Safe Routes to School Works

- Safe Routes to School programs lead to a **35-45% increase in walking and bicycling** to school
- Safe Routes to School programs result in a **45-75% decrease in pedestrian injuries** near school
- Kids who walk and bike are **more physically active, fitter and have lower BMIs** than kids who don't



Safe Routes
to School
National
Partnership



Safe Routes to School addresses MANY problems...

- Children's health and obesity
- Climate change
- Air pollution
- Dangers of crime and violence
- Traffic injuries when walking & biking
- Economic – school bus costs, increased attendance, health care



The 5 E's: An Integrated Approach



Engineering
Encouragement
Evaluation

Education
Enforcement

Engineering

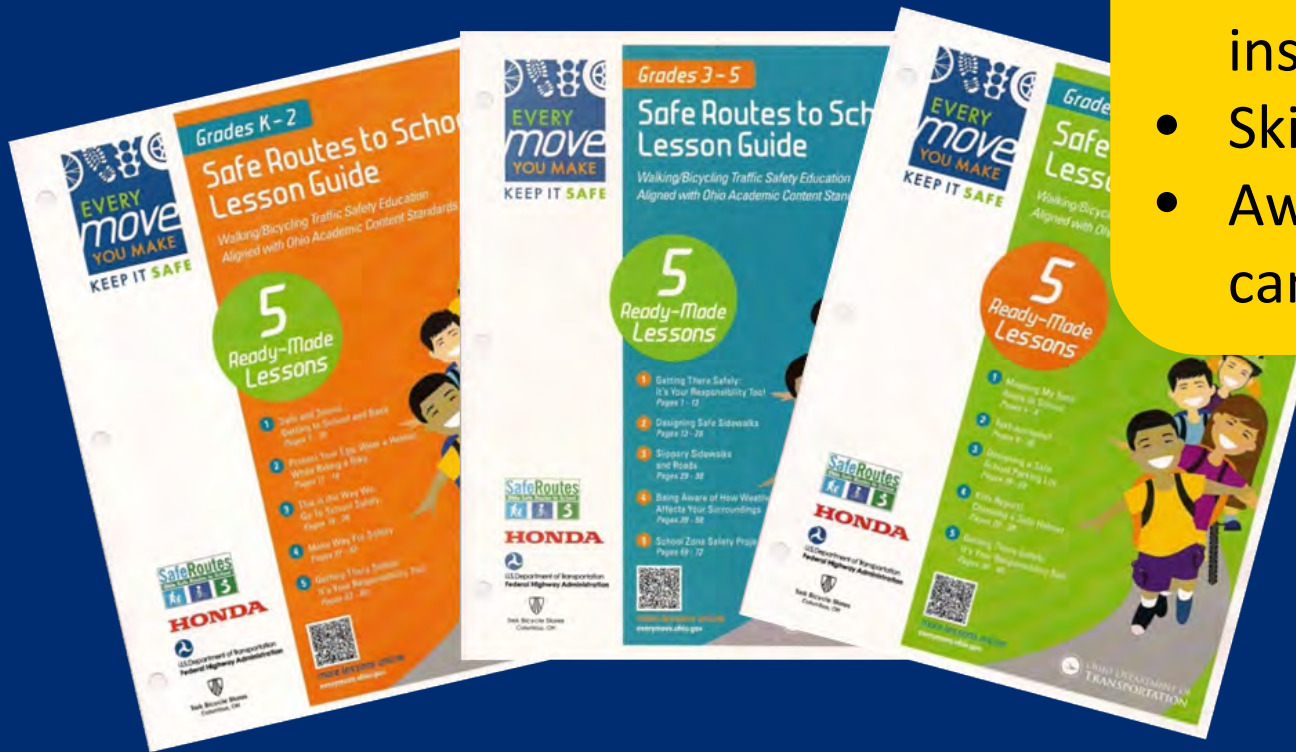
Improvements to the built environment (infrastructure) within 2 miles of K-8 schools that:

- Reduce car speeds and potential conflicts with vehicles
- Establish safer and accessible crossings, walkways, trails and bikeways

- Crosswalks
- Sidewalks
- Bike lanes
- Multi-use paths
- Lighting
- Road diets



- Assemblies
- Classroom instruction
- Skills practice
- Awareness campaigns



Education

Teaching students and drivers about transportation choices, bicycling and walking safety skills, and launching driver safety campaigns

Skills Practice



Photo courtesy of League of American Bicyclists



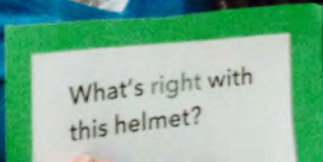
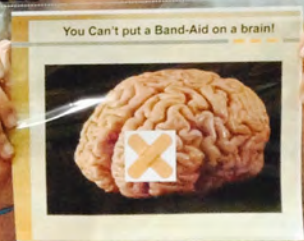
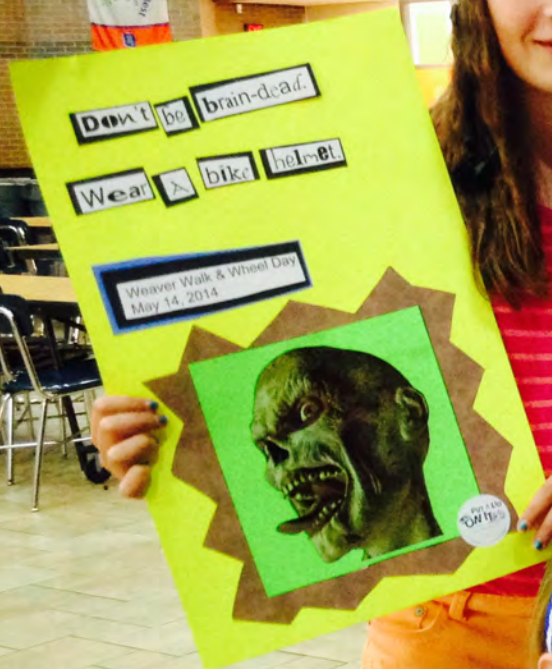
Photo courtesy of OCTA

Encouragement

Using events and activities to promote walking and bicycling

- Events
- Walking school bus/bike train
- Contests and competitions





- Crossing guards
- Pedestrian sting operations
- Speed feedback trailers
- Student safety patrols



Enforcement

Partnering with local law enforcement to ensure safety from traffic and crime in the vicinity of schools and initiating community enforcement such as crossing guard programs

Evaluation

Monitoring and documenting outcomes and trends through the collection of data, including before and after projects and programs

Parent Survey About Walking and Biking to School

This survey will take about 5 - 10 minutes to complete. If more than one child from a school brings a survey home, please fill out the survey for the child with the next birthday from today's date.

Your child's school wants to learn your thoughts about children walking and biking to school. Your responses will be kept confidential and neither your name nor your child's name will be associated with any results.

Thank you for participating in this survey!

+ CAPITAL LETTERS ONLY - BLUE OR BLACK INK ONLY

School Name: _____ Grade (K,1,2,3,4,5,6): _____

1. What is the grade of the child who brought home this survey? Male Female

2. Is the child who brought home this survey male or female?

3. How many children do you have in Kindergarten through 8th grade? _____

4. What is the street intersection nearest your home? (Provide the names of two intersecting streets.) _____ and _____

5. How far does your child live from school? **Place a clear 'X' inside box. If you make a mistake, fill the entire box, and then mark the correct box.**

Less than 1/4 mile	1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	More than 2 miles
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1/2 mile up to 3/4 mile	1 mile up to 2 miles	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3/4 mile up to 1 mile		
<input type="checkbox"/>		

6. On most days, how does your child arrive and leave for school? (Select one choice per column, mark box with X)

Arrives at school		Leaves from school	
<input type="checkbox"/> Walk	<input type="checkbox"/> Bike	<input type="checkbox"/> Walk	<input type="checkbox"/> Bike
<input type="checkbox"/> School Bus	<input type="checkbox"/> Family vehicle (only children in your family)	<input type="checkbox"/> School Bus	<input type="checkbox"/> Family vehicle (only children in your family)
<input type="checkbox"/> Family vehicle (only children in your family)	<input type="checkbox"/> Carpool (Children from other families)	<input type="checkbox"/> Carpool (Children from other families)	<input type="checkbox"/> Carpool (Children from other families)
<input type="checkbox"/> Carpool (Children from other families)	<input type="checkbox"/> Transit (city bus, subway, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Transit (city bus, subway, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Transit (city bus, subway, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Transit (city bus, subway, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (skateboard, scooter, inline skates, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (skateboard, scooter, inline skates, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (skateboard, scooter, inline skates, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (skateboard, scooter, inline skates, etc.)		<input type="checkbox"/> Other (skateboard, scooter, inline skates, etc.)	

7. How long does it normally take your child to get to/from school? **Place a clear 'X' inside box. If you make a mistake, fill the entire box, and then mark the correct box.**

Travel time to school		Travel time from school	
Less than 5 minutes	5 - 10 minutes	Less than 5 minutes	5 - 10 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 - 10 minutes	11 - 20 minutes	11 - 20 minutes	More than 20 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 - 20 minutes	More than 20 minutes	More than 20 minutes	Don't know / Not sure
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More than 20 minutes	Don't know / Not sure	Don't know / Not sure	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Safe Routes to School Students Arrival and Departure Tally Sheet

+ CAPITAL LETTERS ONLY - BLUE OR BLACK INK ONLY

School Name: _____ Grades (K,1,2,3,4,5,6): _____

Monday's Date (Please count who arrived): _____ Teacher's First Name: _____ Teacher's Last Name: _____

Number of Students Enrolled in Class: _____

Key

Weather	Student Tally	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Sunny	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overcast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sample AM: _____

Sample PM: _____

Tues. AM: _____

Tues. PM: _____

Wed. AM: _____

Wed. PM: _____

Thurs. AM: _____

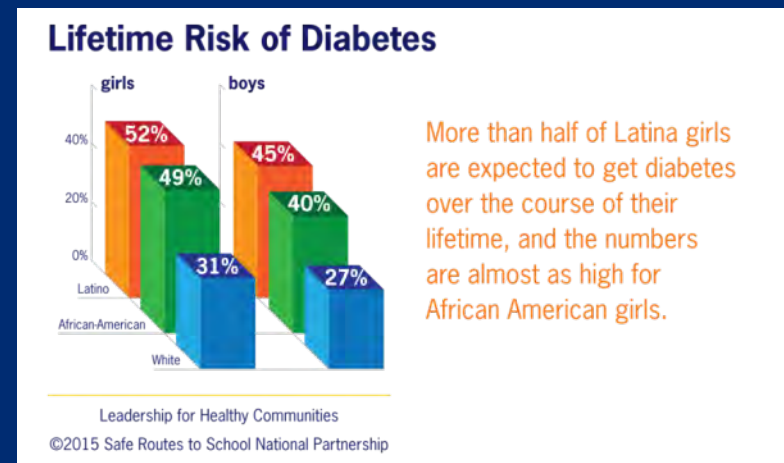
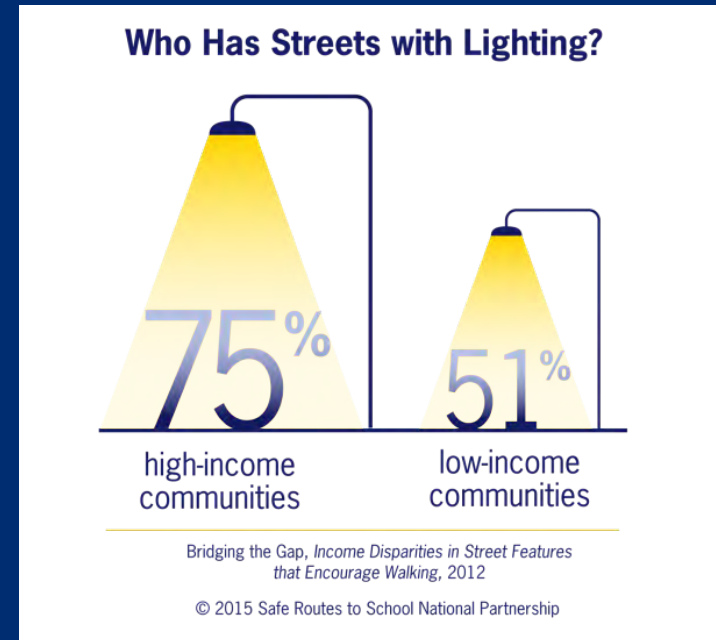
Thurs. PM: _____

Please list any disruptions to these counts or any other comments: _____

- Tallies/counts
- Surveys
- Walk audits

The 6th E: Equity

- Addressing social, economic and political differences that result in health, education and employment disparities
- Ensuring all students have the resources they need to participate



Safe Routes in Planning



Policies: Leveraging Regional & State Efforts



- Comprehensive and Regional Trans Plans
- Bike/Ped Plans
- Complete Streets
- Zoning and land use
- Vision Zero
 - Lower speed limits around schools or city-wide
 - Crossing Guards
 - Photo enforcement in school zones

Funding



We've gotten creative in a post-SAFETEA-LU era in how we look to fund Safe Routes to School and other active transportation projects.



TAP Funding Eligible Activities

Infrastructure

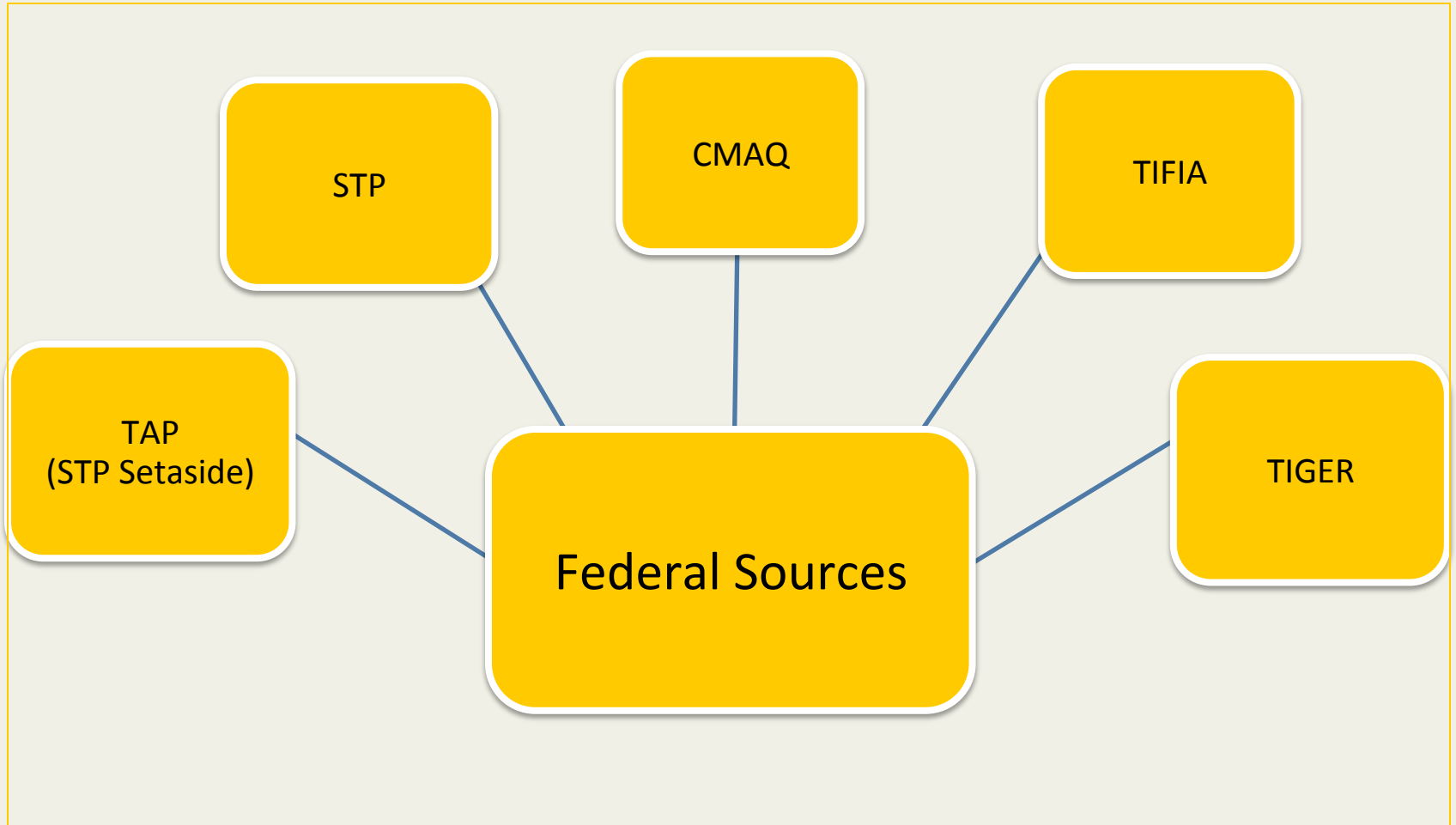
- Sidewalk improvements
- Traffic calming/speed reduction
- Pedestrian and bicycle crossings
- On street/off street bicycle facilities
- Secure bicycle parking
- Traffic diversion improvements

Non-infrastructure

- Public awareness campaigns
- Traffic education and enforcement
- Student sessions on pedestrian and bicycle safety, health, and environment
- Training, volunteers and managers of SRTS programs.

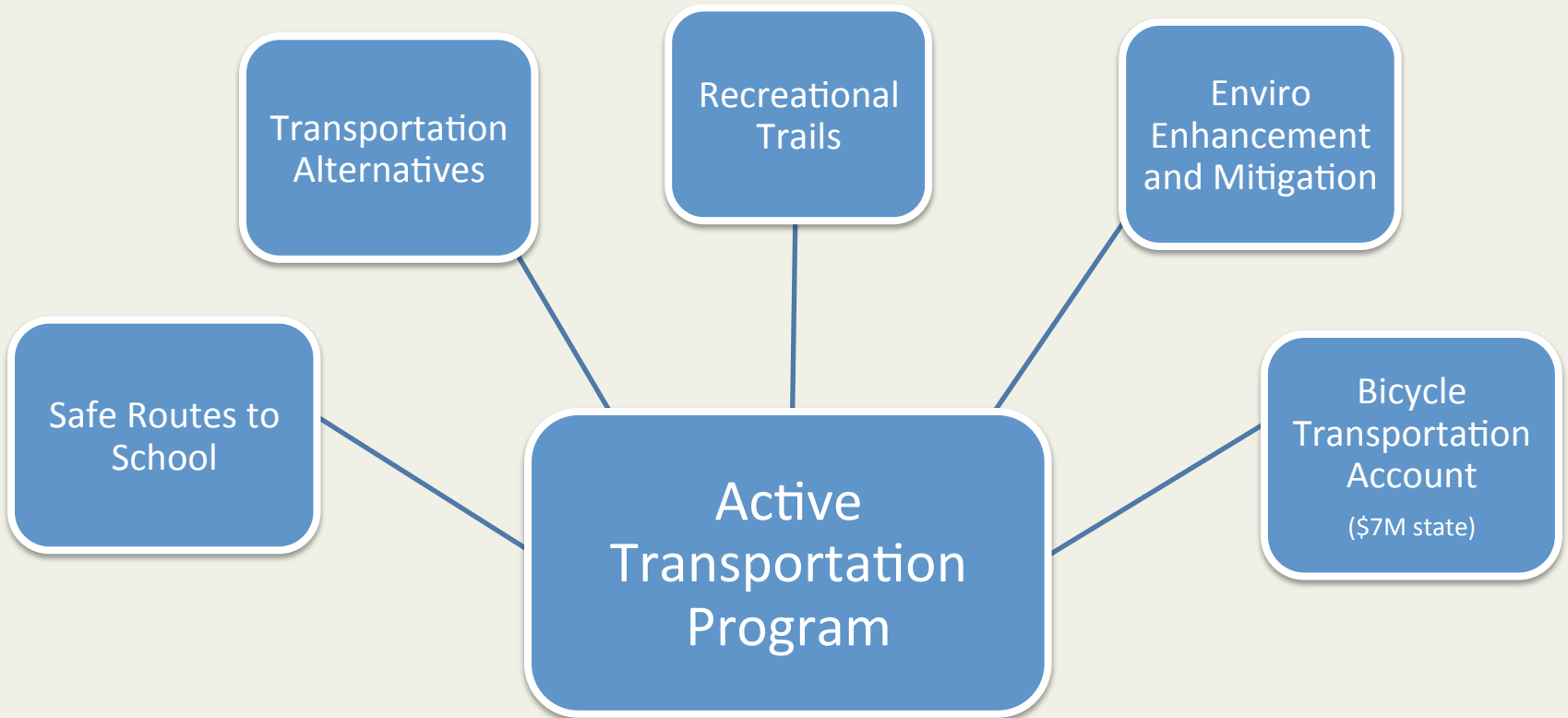


Various Federal Sources





Combining Funding Sources (a California example)





Safe Routes
to School
National
Partnership

Local & Regional Funds



Challenges to Implementation

- School siting issues
 - EPA School Siting Tool
- Individual barriers to walking/
bicycling to school
- Community issues



Success Stories: Garfield, NJ



- Students involved with identifying unsafe routes
- Integrated safety education into the classroom
- City created safe routes maps
- Received United Way funding for a new family exercise path

Success Stories: Farmington, NH

- Small town without many sidewalks leading to school
- Using state grant funds, constructed the Tiger Trail
- Connects neighborhoods to local elementary schools
- Provide safety education, a walking school bus and evaluate the program
- Increased walking to school



Resources



Safe Routes To School National Partnership

- www.saferoutespartnership.org/
- National Learning Network
- Webinars
- Quick Facts, Publications, Enews, forthcoming toolkit on Walking School Buses



National Center for Safe Routes to School

- www.saferoutesinfo.org/
- Great national support, education tools, training and data resources
- SRTS Guide:
<http://guide.saferoutesinfo.org/introduction/index.cfm>

Contact



Marieannette Otero

Mid-Atlantic Regional Policy Manager

marieannette@saferoutespartnership.org

301-676-9010

www.saferoutesgreaterwashington.org



[Facebook.com/SafeRoutesDC](https://www.facebook.com/SafeRoutesDC)



[@SafeRoutesDC](https://twitter.com/SafeRoutesDC)