Safe Routes to School Programs

Baltimore Regional Transportation Board
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Group
November 2016
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
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 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
Education
Teaching students and drivers about transportation choices, bicycling and walking safety skills, and launching driver safety campaigns

• Assemblies
• Classroom instruction
• Skills practice
• Awareness campaigns
Skills Practice

Photo courtesy of OCTA

Photo courtesy of League of American Bicyclists
Encouragement

Using events and activities to promote walking and bicycling

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

- Crossing guards
- Pedestrian sting operations
- Speed feedback trailers
- Student safety patrols
Evaluation
Monitoring and documenting outcomes and trends through the collection of data, including before and after projects and programs

- 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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infrastructure</th>
<th>Non-infrastructure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Sidewalk improvements</td>
<td>• Public awareness campaigns</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Traffic calming/speed reduction</td>
<td>• Traffic education and enforcement</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Pedestrian and bicycle crossings</td>
<td>• Student sessions on pedestrian and bicycle safety, health, and environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>• On street/off street bicycle facilities</td>
<td>• Training, volunteers and managers of SRTS programs.</td>
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<td>• Secure bicycle parking</td>
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<td>• Traffic diversion improvements</td>
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Various Federal Sources

- STP
- CMAQ
- TIFIA
- TIGER
- TAP (STP Setaside)
Combining Funding Sources (a California example)

Active Transportation Program

- Transportation Alternatives
- Recreational Trails
- Enviro Enhancement and Mitigation
- Safe Routes to School
- Bicycle Transportation Account ($7M state)
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/](http://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/](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/)
- Great national support, education tools, training and data resources
- SRTS Guide:
Contact

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