Creating Inclusive & Equitable Safe Routes to School Programs

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Moderator:
Holly Nickel, Safe Routes to School National Partnership
National Walking Summit: Crafting Inclusive and Equitable Safe Routes to School Programs

Tacoma WA SRTS Action Plan

Hannah Day-Kapell, Alta Planning + Design
SRTS STRATEGY GOALS

• Increase safety around schools through infrastructure improvements

• Improve enforcement to promote safety of students traveling to school

• Implement SRTS education and encouragement programs

• Evaluate the effectiveness of SRTS interventions

• Sustainably fund SRTS efforts
SRTS: THE PROBLEM

Students live further from school

- Enrollment policies
- School siting & consolidation

Other factors deter families:

- Traffic speeds and volumes
- Concerns about personal safety
- Inconvenience
- Inequitable access to resources
EQUITY LENS

**Equity** refers to how decisions impact communities, ensuring that benefits and burdens are shared appropriately.

SRTS programs should reduce disparities by prioritizing schools with the highest need. All programming should be culturally competent and accessible to students of all income levels.
EQUITY NEED

In Tacoma, between 2010 and 2014:

- 153 youth hit by cars while walking
- 69 youth hit by cars while biking
EQUITY NEEDS ANALYSIS

- Low Income School
- Diverse School
- Low Income and Diverse School
- Bicycle and pedestrian youth crashes (2010-2014)
Join us for an **OPEN HOUSE** to learn more about Safe Routes to School in Tacoma

**SAFE ROUTES**

**to School**

**TACOMA, WA**

**WEDNESDAY**

**NOV 16**

5 - 7pm

Lincoln High School Cafeteria
701 S. 37th St.

All are welcome. Food will be provided.

Have concerns about walking and biking to schools in Tacoma? Let us know by taking a short survey!

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/TAC-SRTS](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TAC-SRTS)
Equity: How Can We Make SRTS a Program for ALL?

Add a sticker to any of these issues that you or other people in your community face, or add your thoughts at the bottom.

**Live too far away from school?**
A Park & Walk program gives students the chance to walk to school, no matter where you live.

**PARK & WALK**

**Can’t ride a bike?**
Adaptive bikes can help kids of all abilities experience the fun of riding a bike.

**ADAPTIVE BIKES**

**Concerns about personal safety?**
Clean areas, free of trash and graffiti, can create a sense of safety and help reduce crime rates.

**NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION**

**Leave for work before your child goes to school?**
A Walking School Bus is a safe way for your child to walk to school with adult supervision.

**WALKING SCHOOL BUS**

**Just too busy?**
A 1 day event, like Walk & Bike to School Day, is a fun and easy way to try walking and biking to school.

**WALK & BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY**

**No safe places to walk or bike?**
A route map can help you identify the safest way to walk or bike to school.

**ROUTE MAPS**

These are a few of our ideas. What are yours?
Why do you think more students do not walk, bike, or skate to your school?

- Personal safety concerns: 30%
- Weather conditions: 20%
- High traffic speeds: 10%
- Lack of facilities: 5%
EQUITY VISION

Tacoma SRTS resources are prioritized for students at under-resourced schools and those most impacted by unsafe conditions.
GOAL 1. PRIORITIZE UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

- Hire a SRTS Coordinator
- Update safety & equity needs analysis
- Provide support to under-resourced schools
- Develop policy language to institutionalize the SRTS program and equity commitment
GOAL 2. ENGAGE DIVERSE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

• Establish a SRTS Working Group
• Seek cultural competency with translated materials
• Support community members to promote activities and engage with traditionally under-represented groups
GOAL 3. REDUCE BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

• Connect students with resources for free or low-cost bikes and/ or skateboards, locks, helmets, lights, and skills classes
ENFORCEMENT VISION

The community, law enforcement, City, and Tacoma Public Schools partner to create safe travel environments near schools.

1. Address traffic violations near schools
2. Encourage partnerships with community and law enforcement
3. Reduce barriers to following the law
EQUITY RECOMMENDATIONS

• Provide **appropriate activities & events** for the community, such as ones that address personal safety concerns

• **Allocate resources** based on equity & safety need (acknowledging historic IN underfunding)

• **Translate materials** & hire trusted community members in leadership roles

• **Work with law enforcement and community members** to promote traffic safety without impacting low income or minority groups
RECOMMENDED READING

• **Spare the Air Youth's Inclusion & Equity in School Commute Programs**: Metropolitan Transportation Commission, San Francisco Bay Area, CA

• **Implementing SRTS in Low-Income Schools and Communities**: A Resource Guide for Volunteers and Professionals: SRTS National Partnership

• **SRTS Local School Project: A Health Evaluation at 10 Low-Income Schools**: SRTS National Partnership

• **Strategies for Engaging Immigrant and Refugee Families**: National Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention

• **Understanding Barriers to Bicycling Project**: Community Cycling Center, Portland, OR

• **Diversity and Inclusion Toolkit**: National PTA

• **Personal Security and SRTS**: National Center for SRTS

• **Best and Promising Practices to Address Violence and Personal Safety in SRTS Programs**: Advancement Project

• **Taking Back the Streets and Sidewalks: How SRTS and Community Safety Initiatives Can Overcome Violence and Crime**: SRTS National Partnership

• **For Bikers of Color, The Barriers go Beyond Infrastructure**: People for Bikes
THANK YOU!

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Safe Routes to School
Minneapolis Public Schools
Safe Routes to School

Culinary & Wellness Services

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Student Wellness Manager

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Safe Routes to School Specialist

funding:
Statewide Health Improvement Program
Minnesota Department of Transportation

MPS
Nurturing ALL children through access to quality food and active living.

MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Urban Education. Global Citizens.
Minneapolis Public Schools

I WALKED

I BIKEED
MPS SRTS Equity

Walking and biking are safe, comfortable, and convenient for every student, regardless of race, cultural identity, immigrant or refugee status, language, gender or sexual identity, income, religion, and whether or not a student receives special education, has a physical or mental disability or is homeless or highly mobile.
OUR VISION extends beyond school commute
MPS SRTS Strategic Action Plan

1. Develop universal Bike Education 4th & 5th graders

2. Encourage green walk/bike field trips

3. Develop system to compensate MPS Super Stars

4. Partner and explore options to address and reduce street harassment

5. Develop a pilot program to promote traffic safety near schools
#1 Universal Bicycle Education

Want to learn more this year? Walk or bike to school.
Pillsbury Pedal Power
#2 Walk Bike Field Trips
South High School
#3 Stipends for Staff & Volunteers

Bus Stop & Walk
Nearing 4,000 students
Once a week | One-half mile
Fall & Spring
Lyndale Bus Stop & Walk
#4 Explore options to reduce street harassment
#5 Develop a traffic safety pilot program
MPS SRTS Strategic Action Plan

1. Identify priority areas for planning & infrastructure.
2. Within priority areas, generate planning level SRTS infrastructure recommendations for individual schools.
3. Update City and County Complete Streets checklists to enhance school coordination on transportation projects.
4. Consider a pilot program to implement school speed zones on arterial streets near schools.
5. Consider adding a City of Minneapolis SRTS and active transportation encouragement staff position.
**Safe Routes to School**

**Wednesday, October 4 is International Walk to School Day** and on that day Minneapolis Public Schools will join families around the world to celebrate the joys and reap the benefits of walking and biking to school and work. Schools can celebrate on that day or any day in October. Schools that register to participate in the event will receive an awesome “prize package” with I WALKED and I BIKE stickers and other incentives and technical assistance to help make the event a success. Staff who participate in their school’s event will receive Vitality points too. Last year more than 37 schools participated. All events—big or small—are encouraged, and MPS Safe Routes to School can help your school include students who ride the bus or are driven too.

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**Minneapolis Public Schools**
**Student Wellness**
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Safe Routes to School
Equity Analysis & Equity Project

Theresa Vallez-Kelly, MPH
Coordinator Safe Routes to School
San Mateo County Office of Education
Grant Program

-City/County Association of Governments of SMC
-Call for projects each spring
  Districts, Schools, CBOs
-Technical Assistance throughout the school year
Equity

Equality vs. Equity
Collaboration
Equity Analysis

• SRTS funding recipients 2011/2012 – 2016-2017
• High free and reduced lunch
• Communities of Concern
• High bike/ped collision rates
• Dangerous intersections
• 10 recommended schools; 3 recommended districts
Pedestrian, Bicyclist and Vehicle Collisions
Collisions & Intersections Analysis

Maps by Heather Arata
Areas of High-Poverty
High-Poverty Data Analysis

• High Poverty areas are defined as census tracts with 30% or more households living 200% below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

• There are 22 schools in SMC located in these high-poverty census tracts ranging from 30% to 63% of households below 200% FPL.

• Of these 22 schools, 5 are private schools and 10 are located in just 2 districts.
High-collisions & poverty

- Layering schools within high-poverty areas with high-collision counts revealed 10 public schools and two private schools located in these areas.

- Of these 10 public schools, two were located in census tracts with the highest percentage of households living below 200% FPL (Hoover Elementary and Fair Oaks Elementary).
Equity Project

• 3 schools/districts
  – Daly City
  – EPA
  – SSF

• Goal setting/strategic planning w/stakeholders

• Grant Writing workshop – April 2018
Green Streets Pilot Project

SRTS and Storm Water Management Call for Projects
Thank You!