


Safe Routes to School Program

At a Glance



Benicia



Birds Landing Rio Vista



Suisun FAIRFIELD



Vacaville Libfarmo

Presented By



Solano Transportation Authority



Vacaville

Elmira Liberty

Interested in starting a SR2S program at your school?

Danelle Carey
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Schedule an event!

Tracy Nachand
Health Education Specialist (SR.)
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Start a Walking School Bus!

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Walking School Bus
Coordinators
(707) 399-3222

Questions about the program?

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SOLANO COUNTY-SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL A RESOURCE GUIDE

Provided by Solano Transportation Authority

WELCOME TO THE SOLANO COUNTY SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM!

Welcome and congratulations! You have taken the first step in improving the safety of children who walk or bicycle to school. The materials in this guide will enable you to establish a successful and ongoing Safe Routes to School Program at your school- and ultimately enhance the safety and health of your community. We are excited to kick off your school year with some fun and free events for your students!



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Solano Transportation Authority launched the County's Safe Routes to School Program in 2008 in response to the growing childhood obesity epidemic, student travel safety concerns, growing air pollution and traffic. The program brings together city planners, traffic engineers, and police and public health experts to create safer, less congested routes to school.



The goal of Solano County's Safe Routes to School Program is to encourage students to walk or bike to school most days of the week. As a result, the program will:

- Reduce traffic congestions and air pollution around schools.
- Improve children's health by increasing physical activity.
- Create community awareness and togetherness





GETTING STARTED

To get your school started, we would like to discuss some important information about the Safe Routes to School Program and its benefits. We will get you up to date with the most recent Safe Routes to School news and answer any questions that you may have.

Best of all, we would like to schedule some exciting events for your students in an effort to encourage them to walk or bicycle to school safely.



"The Safe Routes to School Program has had a great impact on our school. The Bike Rodeo was very engaging and fun for all who participated. The students learned about the value of walking or biking to school. Their efforts were rewarded with prizes to make it even more fun! Thanks to the Safe Routes to School Program for supporting us in building a safer school and community."

**-Stephanie Wheeler, Former Principal
Laurel Creek Elementary, Fairfield CA**

SR2S-BACK TO SCHOOL MEETING AGENDA

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>ADMINISTRATOR</u>
I. Introductions	All
II. SR2S Education /Background Information	SR2S Staff
III. Questions & Answers	All
IV. Schedule Encouragement Events	SR2S Staff

We are excited to have you on board with our program and look forward to creating a safe and healthy environment for your students!

FREE PROGRAM EVENTS

Throughout the school year the Safe Routes to School program encourages walking and bicycling to school while enhancing the safety of these trips. During the 2011-12 school years, the SR2S program reached **12,811 students** through our free program events. Safe Routes to School provides the following educational activities:

Traffic Safety Assemblies



Traffic Safety Assemblies educate students about how to walk and ride to school safely. Students are separated by grade levels.

Assemblies take place at the school, during school hours. Each presentation lasts approximately 45-60 minutes.

Bike Rodeos



Bike Rodeos are fun training courses that teach kids bike riding and safety skills, while having a great time!

Bike Rodeos take place at the school and, normally after school hours. Bike Rodeos last anywhere between 1-2 hours and require 12 volunteers.

Walk and Roll Week



Walk and Roll Week is an encouragement program, including a one day walk and bike event which requires 4-5 volunteers to observe students demonstrating safe and appropriate walking and riding to school behaviors. Students will receive a gift bag with educational materials, snacks, water and an incentive item. They will also be entered into a raffle for a variety of prizes.

Walk and Roll events take place 15-20 minutes before school starts. Observers will be posted anywhere from one mile away from the school to the front doors of the school.

How do I schedule my free events?



“Our parents and students had nothing but positive things to say about the events. The kids loved walking to school with parents and friends and then getting prizes for participating in this healthy activity. The Bike Rodeos were a grand success. The kids loved them! It was wonderful to build a relationship with our local law enforcement. We are looking forward to participating again this year.”

**- Carin J. Garton, Principal
Joe Henderson Elementary School, Benicia CA**

Our school event statistics prove that schools who scheduled all three of the encouragement events received large student participation and an increased number of students walking and biking to school. For more information about the free SR2S program events, contact Tracy Nachand at (707) 553-5543.

Event Schedule Example:

	Safety Assembly	Bicycle Rodeo	Walk & Roll Week	Walk & Roll (Day)
Date	June 9, 2013	July 21, 2013	December 13-17, 2013	December 16, 2013
Time	8:45am-10:30am (1 st -5 th grd)	12:45- 2:45 pm	7:30 am	7:30 am

If you are ready to schedule your events, we can get you signed up today!

	Safety Assembly	Bicycle Rodeo	Walk & Roll Week	Walk & Roll (Day)
Date				
Time				

Note: Safety Assemblies are scheduled by grade, so multiple dates and times may be required. Typically we schedule two safety assemblies in one day, one for kindergarten students and the second for grades 1-5.

Walking School Bus:



What is a walking school bus?

- ➔ A walking school bus is an organized group of students who walk to school under the supervision of an adult volunteer.
- ➔ They can range from informal groups of families walking to school with an alternating adult volunteer, to highly structured organizations with specified schedules and routes



What are the benefits of a walking school bus?



- ➔ Children who participate in walking school buses participate in physical activity every morning by simply walking to school.
- ➔ If children already walk to school on a regular basis, the walking school bus provides a safer environment through the incorporation of adult supervision.
- ➔ The walking school bus saves parents both time and money that would often be spent on other forms of transportation.
- ➔ Schools that establish walking school bus programs help limit traffic and air pollution in their communities by decreasing the number of cars used to transport children to and from school.
- ➔ A Walking School Bus also promotes a sense of community within the school.

How can I start a walking school bus at my school?

- ➔ Informal walking school buses can be started simply through collaborating with other families within the school community.
- ➔ More structured groups can be formed through our Safe Routes to School program. If you are interested in starting a Walking School Bus, we offer a free parent and volunteer training, please contact us for assistance.

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THE 5 E's

E ducation

Teaches children about the benefits of walking and bicycling and the positive impacts these activities have on personal health and the environment.



E ncouragement

Free program events generate excitement and interest in walking and bicycling by rewarding participation and educating children and adults about safety and the benefits of bicycling and walking.



E nforcement

Strategies to deter unsafe behavior of drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians and encouraging all road users to obey traffic safety laws and to share the road.



E ngineering

Improvements designed to improve the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists along school commute routes.



E valuation

Twice a year, the STA compiles travel to school surveys conducted by teachers to measure program effectiveness and mode shift.



MAPPING & PLANNING

Safe Routes to School Program aims to promote walking and bicycling to school by improving safety through our 5E's. Mapping and Planning occurs within the *Engineering* component.



At the community level, Safe Routes to School efforts are organized by Community Task Forces that bring together schools and municipal leaders, parents, representatives of community organizations and anyone else interested in the program.

Their task is to assess local conditions and find ways to make improvements around schools in their vicinity.

The Solano Transportation Authority coordinates planning events at school sites for Community Task Forces and mapping consultants to review existing mapping data, draft maps and conduct walking audits. The task forces review draft plans and make project recommendations to the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee and the STA board.



Each School will receive a suggested route to school map from this process. On the next page you can review a sample plan map and a suggested route to school map.

Safe Routes to School & 511 School Pool

The 511 SchoolPool system helps schools with traffic congestion by enabling parents to link up to form alternative transportation pools for walking, bicycling, or carpooling. 511 School Pool will enable parents to register in the online system and find other parents with who they can share the task of transporting their children to school.

Free and easy to use.

Register at www.schoolpool.511.org/?client=solano

Get your "Matchlist" with the names and contact information of other parents, and e-mail or call them to arrange shared rides to school.

Confidential, too.

511 does not disclose your child's name. Only your name and the contact information you provide will be share with others.

Sign up today at

www.schoolpool.511.org/?client=solano

You'll add time to your day as well as make your child's school safe and improve air quality—and do your part to cool the planet.

Welcome to 511 SchoolPool Matching

Welcome to the 511 SchoolPool RideMatch service - this pilot program is an interactive, on-demand system to help you find others in your neighborhood to carpool, walk or bike to and from school.

Join the 511 SchoolPool RideMatch system and get a list of other families who travel a similar route and with whom you could share the trip. You can also create a transit trip itinerary right from the matchlist page.

For more information on school safety assemblies, bicycle rodeos, and student contests and prizes, visit solanosr2s.ca.gov for more information or call (707) 553-5543.

Click on REGISTER HERE (right) to get started.

SchoolPool Log On

First Time User? [Register Here >>](#)

Returning User? Please log on using your registered e-mail and password below.

E-mail:

Password:

[Forgot Password?](#) [Log On >>](#)

SchoolPool Tips

- Distribute a list of contact phone numbers to each family in your carpool. Consider having back-up drivers and listing their contact information as well.
- Inform your child so he/she knows exactly who is picking him/her up as well as a back-up plan in the event of a no-show or sickness.
- Set expectations for the time to meet, the location and

Add a Safe Routes to School button to your website or newsletter for parents.

Tired of school traffic?
Walk and Roll with us!



Figure 5-8 Anna Kyle School Improvement Plan

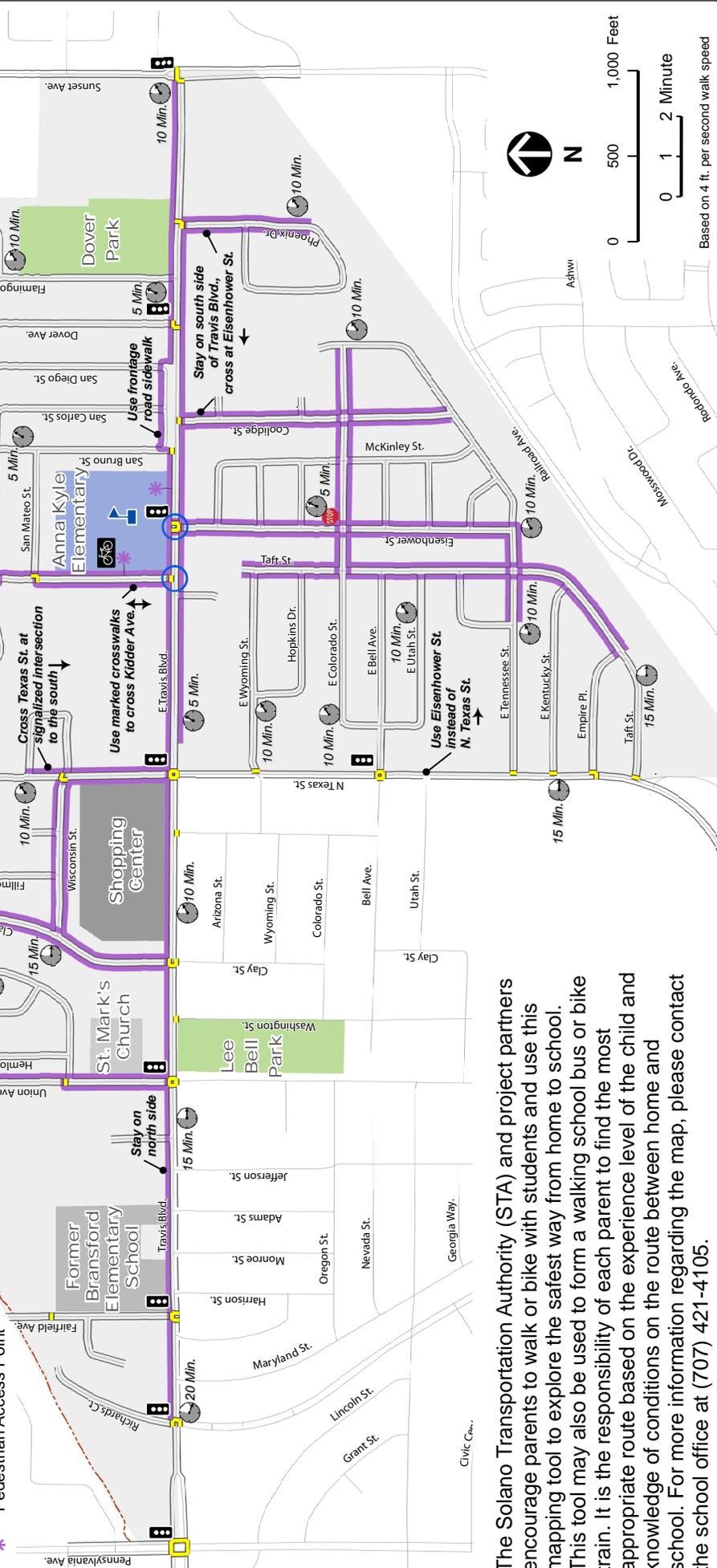




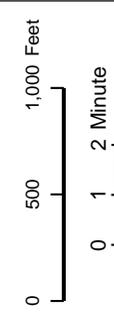
ANNA KYLE ELEMENTARY RECOMMENDED ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

LEGEND

- Recommended Walking Route
- Crossing Guard
- Sidewalk
- Approximate Walk Time (Based on 4 ft. per second walk speed)
- Multuse Trail
- Bicycle Parking
- Crosswalk (4, 3, 2, and 1 leg)
- Traffic Signal
- All-Way Stop
- Enrollment Boundary
- Pedestrian Access Point



The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) and project partners encourage parents to walk or bike with students and use this mapping tool to explore the safest way from home to school. This tool may also be used to form a walking school bus or bike train. It is the responsibility of each parent to find the most appropriate route based on the experience level of the child and knowledge of conditions on the route between home and school. For more information regarding the map, please contact the school office at (707) 421-4105.



Based on 4 ft. per second walk speed

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Free and easy to use.

Register at www.schoolpool.511.org/?client=solano

Get your "Matchlist" with the names and contact information of other parents, and e-mail or call them to arrange shared rides to school.

Confidential, too.

511 does not disclose your child's name. Only your name and the contact information you provide will be share with others.

Sign up today at

www.schoolpool.511.org/?client=solano

You'll add time to your day as well as make your child's school safe and improve air quality—and do your part to cool the planet.

The screenshot shows the website for the 511 SchoolPool program in Solano County. At the top, there is a banner with the STA logo, the text "saferoutes to school IN SOLANO COUNTY", and the 511 logo. Below the banner is a "LOGIN" section. On the left, a "Welcome to 511 SchoolPool Matching" box contains a welcome message, an illustration of four children, and a "REGISTER HERE" button. On the right, a "SchoolPool Log On" box has fields for "First Time User?" (with a "Register Here >>" button), "Returning User?" (with "E-mail:" and "Password:" fields and a "Log On >>" button), and a "Forgot Password?" link. Below the login box is a "SchoolPool Tips" section with three bullet points. At the bottom of the page, there is a "Safe Routes to School" logo and the Solano Public Health logo.

Add a Safe Routes to School button to your website or newsletter for parents.

Tired of school traffic?
Walk and Roll with us!



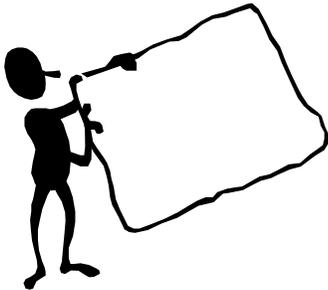
Student Contests

Contests encourage children to walk and bike to school by offering prizes and recognizing students for their efforts.

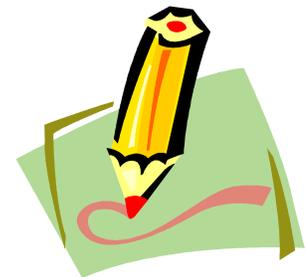


These contests are still under development. Please let us know which of the following ideas would excite your students the most.

- **Poster Creation Contest:** Students will create a marketing poster incorporating the numerous aspects of SR2S, promoting “green” travel methods, and being safe while travelling to and from school. Winners will also receive a special item such as (iPod, bike helmet, and skateboard) and recognition.



- **Essay Contest:** Students write an essay on the topic “Advantages of walking and biking to school”. Winners will receive a small prize and have their essay published on the SR2S website and in select Safe Routes publications.



- **Name that Bus contest:** Students create a name, logo, and tagline for their walking school bus for the chance to win custom tee shirts for the entire bus.

liability



Solano County Safe Routes to School



The fear of liability can keep schools from embracing the Safe Routes to School Program.

According to the National Policy & Legal Analysis Network to Prevent Childhood Obesity (NPLAN), to date there are no known lawsuits involving an injury to a child in an organized SRTS program, although there are SRTS programs in place at over more than 4,500 schools around the country.

As a government agency sponsor our program carries a *Basic Governmental Immunity*. “Governmental immunity” shields public money and governmental decision-making from lawsuits, and provides some level of protection for school districts in every state. Sponsoring or endorsing a SRTS program will rarely subject a school district to any direct liability.

Understanding Negligence

The key to preventing liability is to avoid being negligent. Negligence occurs when a person or entity doesn’t act as carefully as an ordinary, reasonable person would under the circumstances, and as results someone is injured or property is damaged. SRTS programs need to act with reasonable care to anticipate and prevent injuries, but they do not need to guarantee safety to avoid liability.

In Summary

Supporting and implementing SRTS programs can help schools and other organizations decrease their liability exposure while giving children the physical activity they need to be healthy and learn well.

Additional Resources

The National Policy & Legal Analysis Network to Prevent Childhood Obesity (NPLAN)
http://www.phlpnet.org/sites/phlpnet.org/files/SRTS_Fact_Sheet_FINAL_20100727.pdf

volunteers

Solano County Safe Routes to School



Volunteers are an integral part of the Safe Routes to School Program and help to create healthy communities and help children lead healthier lives.

Safe Routes to school needs teachers, staff, parents and others to help champion walking and biking. There is several ways you can get involved at your school and make a difference!

People sometimes worry that they could be at risk of liability if an injury occurs while they are volunteering. A federal law- *the Volunteer Protection Act*- provides volunteers with significant protections from liability associated with volunteer activity.

We welcome volunteers to assist with our encouragement events and our walking school buses.

Additional Resources

The National Policy & Legal Analysis Network to Prevent Childhood Obesity (NPLAN)
http://www.nplanonline.org/sites/phlpnet.org/files/Volunteers_Liability_Fact_Sheet_FINA_L_20100727_0.pdf



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www.facebook.com/solanosr2s

OR

Check out our website at

www.solanosr2s.ca.gov