



# INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR ON THE KENTUCKY SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL NETWORK

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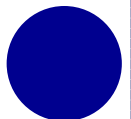
# WHAT IS SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL?

- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a national and international movement to create safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to bicycle and walk to and from schools.



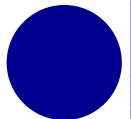
# WHAT IS THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM?

- The Safe Routes to School Program is a Federal-Aid program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The Program was created by [Section 1404](#) of the *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users Act* (SAFETEA-LU).
- The national SRTS program is federally funded, but managed and administered by each State Department of Transportation. The Program makes funding available for a wide variety of programs and projects, from building safer street crossings to establishing programs that encourage children and their parents to walk and bicycle safely to school.



# 5 ES OF A SUCCESSFUL SRTS PROGRAM:

- **Engineering** – Building sidewalks, crosswalks, and other infrastructure that provide children safe paths to walk and bike to school.
- **Education** - Teaching children about the broad range of transportation choices, instructing them in important lifelong bicycling and walking safety skills and launching driver safety campaigns in the vicinity of schools
- **Enforcement** - Partnering with local law enforcement agencies to ensure traffic laws are obeyed in the vicinity of schools and to initiate community enforcement such as crossing guard programs.
- **Encouragement** - Events and activities to promote walking and bicycling. These activities are about having fun and generating interest in walking and bicycling. (International Walk to School Day)
- **Evaluation** - Monitoring and documenting outcomes and trends through the collection of data both before and after the intervention. Evaluation is key in any SRTS program because it determines if the strategies employed are meeting expectation and assure resources are being directed toward efforts showing the greatest likelihood of success.



# POSITIVE IMPACTS OF SRTS

- Increased physical activity among students
  - Children that walk/bike to school are known to be more active throughout their day.
- A more walkable and bikeable community
  - SRTS programs can encourage “complete streets” in a community.
- Improved safety
  - With more parents and children walk and biking in their communities, fears of “stranger danger” and other safety issues decrease.



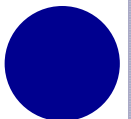
## POSITIVE IMPACTS OF SRTS CONT...

- Reduced traffic near schools
  - Fewer parents are dropping their children off in schools
  - Fewer collisions involving parents taking their children to school.
- Reduced pollution and traffic emissions near schools
  - With fewer auto emissions near schools, the air quality is better for students.



# SRTS ACTIVITIES – NON-INFRASTRUCTURE

- Walking School Buses/Bike Trains
- Corner Houses
- Corner Captains
- Adult Crossing Guards
- Safety Education
- Walkability/Bikeability Assessments

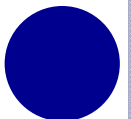


# KENTUCKY SRTS NETWORK

- The KY SRTS Network began in 2007 and is a project of the [SRTS National Partnership](#).
- Kentucky is one of 19 states plus the District of Columbia that has a State Network.
- The Kentucky SRTS Network works to advance the SRTS movement in Kentucky. The Network specifically works on on policy change to remove barriers to walking and bicycling to and from school and to encourage physical activity in communities.

## KY SRTS Network Organizer

- Andrea Plummer, Kentucky Youth Advocates  
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**Safe Routes to School**  
National movement to create opportunities for children to bicycle & walk to and from school safely.

**National SRTS Program**  
Federal Transportation Bill appropriates funding to each state for SRTS. Funding goes to state DOTs in which all federal SRTS programs are housed.

**SRTS National Partnership**  
Privately funded network of 400 + organizations working to advance SRTS in the US.

**National Center for SRTS (NCSRTS)**  
Receives federal funding and is the Federal program's information clearinghouse. Works closely with State SRTS programs.

**State Network Project**  
Brings together partners in Network states to advocate for SRTS, specifically focusing on policy change.

**KY SRTS Program**  
KY SRTS Coordinator, Jackie Jones, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, serves as project manager for KY SRTS Program and federal funding.

**KY SRTS Network**  
Promotes SRTS concepts in KY and works to remove barriers to kids walking/bicycling to school in the Commonwealth. The network is organized by Kentucky Youth Advocates.



# WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE KY SRTS NETWORK?

- **Health Advocates** (Partnership for a Fit Kentucky)
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advocates** (KY Bicycle and Bikeway Commission)
- **State Government Officials** (KY SRTS Coordinator)
- **Local and Regional Government Officials** (OKI Council of Regional Governments)
- **Foundations** (Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky)
- **Parents, Teachers, and School Administrators** (Marion County Board of Education)
- **Elected Officials** (Lt. Governor's Office)



# ISSUES/POLICIES AFFECTING SRTS

## Complete Streets

Complete streets are designed to accommodate everyone that uses the road, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation users of all ages and abilities.

## Curriculum and Training Programs

Statewide curriculum and training programs provide for opportunities to integrate SRTS into school studies and other municipal activities.

## Fine-Based Mechanisms

Some states have successfully funded local SRTS programs through fine-based mechanisms such as double-fine zones, and/or additional fees for red-light runners.

## Joint Use Agreements

As a strategy for addressing childhood obesity and physical inactivity, school districts can share their recreational facilities after school hours through joint use agreements with their local governments.

## Personal Safety

Although personal safety has steadily improved over the years, many parents are still too worried about the personal safety of their children to allow them to walk or bicycle to school.



# ISSUES/POLICIES AFFECTING SRTS

## School Bus Cuts

School districts all across the country are struggling to balance budgets and save money. When school districts face financial challenges, a common target for cuts are the school transportation system by cutting back bus routes, trimming the number of bus stops, or widening the walk radius around a school.

## School Siting

Only about 35% of students in the United States live within two miles of their school. Statewide policies on school siting, acreage requirements, joint-use, and renovations can profoundly impact the percentage of students who live within walking or bicycling distance of their school.

## Strategic Highway Safety Plans

Each state DOT is required to develop a data-driven Strategic Highway Safety Plan for programming their Highway Safety Improvement fund. Some of this funding can be spent on bicycle and pedestrian safety for school children.

## Wellness Policies

Federal policies mandate that each school receiving federal aide for school lunches develop a wellness policy that focuses on nutrition and physical activity.



# KY SRTS NETWORK 2010 ACHIEVEMENTS

## ○ Key Presentations:

- Students Taking Charge Conference – school wellness policies
- Coordinated School Health Institute – joint-use agreements
- Lake Cumberland District Health Department – SRTS Network
- Northern Kentucky – SRTS & the KY Network
- Partnership for a Fit Kentucky – KY SRTS Network and joint-use policies



# KY SRTS NETWORK 2010 ACHIEVEMENTS

## ○ **Webinars:**

- Joint-Use Agreements - March 2010
- Community-Centered Schools – May 2010
- Complete Streets – July 2010
- Personal Safety – September 2010
- Keeping SRTS Active through the Winter Months – November 2010.



# KY SRTS NETWORK 2010 ACHIEVEMENTS

## ○ **Media Attention:**

- Social Media – Facebook, Twitter
- Lexington Herald - Walk to School Day
- WHAS – Walk to School Day
- Public News Service – Walk to School Day
- Public News Service – Complete Streets
- ABC36 Good Morning Kentucky in Lexington – Personal Safety



## 2010 POLICY ADVANCEMENTS

- Successfully advocated for the inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian safety language in the updated KY Strategic Highway Safety Plan.
- Successfully collaborated with the KY Cancer Consortium to write a grant which includes work on joint-use agreements.
- Met with Secretary Hancock of KYTC and his staff on complete streets.
- Leveraged resources from the Paula Nye grant program to launch a complete streets education and awareness project across Kentucky during 2011.



# 2011 PRIORITIES AND GOALS

- Expand Network member base (reach out to missing sectors)
- Assist KY SRTS Coordinator with SRTS project application process
- Hold 5 webinars on SRTS related topics
- Complete a survey on joint-use agreements of Kentucky schools
- Release issue brief and toolkit on complete streets in Kentucky
- Give at least 12 presentations to key stakeholder groups on complete streets across the state



# HOW TO GET INVOLVED??

- Participate in and spread the word about webinars and network calls
- Collaborate with the SRTS Network Organizer to hold a presentation in your community on SRTS, complete streets, joint-use agreements, etc.
- Lead a work team on a specific issue
- Share SRTS resources, fact sheets, etc. with members of your community
- Contact your local school or your city government to find out if your community already has a SRTS program in place. Local programs are often looking for volunteers for special events like [“Walk and Bike to School Day”](#) or individuals willing to help with [“walking school buses”](#). If your community does not have a SRTS program, here's how you can [get started locally](#).



# QUESTIONS?

[kentucky@saferoutespartnership.org](mailto:kentucky@saferoutespartnership.org)

Learn more:

- [Kentucky SRTS Network](#)
- [Kentucky SRTS Program](#)
- [SRTS National Partnership](#)
- [Complete Streets](#)
- [Joint-Use Agreements](#)

