



Georgia SRTS Newsletter

Winter 2007
Issue 1

SRTS in Georgia!

By Adrienne Gil, GDOT:

Safe Routes to School is a new federal program, created in SAFETEA-LU, to enable children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school; to make walking and bicycling to school safer and more appealing; and to facilitate the planning, development and implementation of projects that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity of K-8 grade schools.

The Georgia Department of Transportation recently hired Adrienne Gil as the new State Safe Routes to School Coordinator. Ms. Gil assembled the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee, a multidisciplinary team of representatives from Transportation, Safety, Law Enforcement, Public Health, Education, local and state government, nonprofit and advocacy organizations. The SRTS Advisory Committee held its first meeting on October 5, 2006. The advisory committee is charged with recommending policies and procedures for the SRTS program to GDOT, which will have final approval.

The federal SRTS program has allocated approximately \$16.8 million to GDOT over 5 fiscal years. Under the federal guidelines, the SRTS program is a comprehensive program that includes the 5 E's: Education, Encouragement, Engineering, Enforcement, and Evaluation.

GDOT is currently in the process of drafting the programs policies and procedures, and anticipates the first call for applications in the summer 2007. Visit the Georgia SRTS website www.dot.state.ga.us/srts/ for program updates and to sign up for the Georgia SRTS quarterly newsletter.



Clairmont Elementary, Decatur, Georgia
Walk and Roll to School Day October 6, 2006
Principal, Jan Goodloe; Adrienne Gil (GDOT), Sharon Bagatell (ABC) (Left to right)

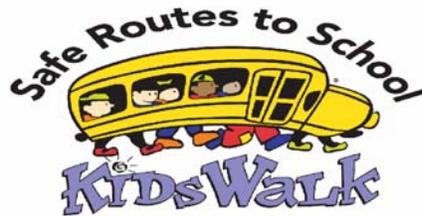
Local SRTS Successes!

Kids Walk

Submitted By: Sally Flocks, PEDS

KidsWalk is creating safer routes to school in metro Atlanta! KidsWalk, a Safe Routes to School program for metro Atlanta, has expanded its size and geographical focus. The program now includes 16 elementary schools in Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry and Rockdale counties. Managed by PEDS, metro Atlanta's pedestrian advocacy organization, and funded by the Atlanta Regional Commission, KidsWalk incorporates education, encouragement, enforcement, and engineering to increase the safety and frequency of walking to school. PEDS conducts a walking audit at each participating school and works with local officials to mitigate pedestrian hazards and add safety devices along routes to school. Fun activities and contests have been developed to motivate children to keep walking.

[More information](#)



Safe Routes Athens, Program of BikeAthens, Georgia

Submitted By: Kristin Boudreau, Bike Athens

Safe Routes Athens (SRA) was established in fall 2005 by volunteers who wanted to bring the program to the Clarke County School District. SRA is a true community effort: it is an official program of BikeAthens, a nonprofit organization promoting transportation choices, and is also supported by a volunteer network extending beyond BikeAthens. During its first year, SRA established a sixteen-member county-wide task force made up of parents, school employees, community volunteers, and professionals from the fields of law enforcement, health care, transportation, and planning. The task force has been setting policy for an initial pilot program to be run out of Barrow Elementary School that can be modified for other schools. This year we plan to extend our partnership to include Athens Twilight, who will join us in sponsoring a "Safe Routes to Twilight" bike ride as part of the Twilight Criterium.



League of American Bicyclists Certification Seminar
July 2006 (Bike Athens Members)



Bike Safety Rodeo held at Dudley Park, April 2006

As part of its efforts to set policy and promote the program, SRA worked with a University of Georgia student intern to organize a Bike Safety Rodeo, staffed by BikeAthens members and supported by the Clarke County Department of Leisure Services and the Athens Regional Medical Center's Safe Kids Program. Volunteers with the BikeAthens Bike Recycling Program set up a workstation to repair the bikes of kids who came to the rodeo, while

others offered basic safety instruction and distributed new helmets and water bottles. A cadre of community volunteers worked with the county's Department of Transportation and Public Works to survey county streets and update its sidewalk map for future distribution to school principals.

Safe Routes Athens cont.

A local amateur racer provided bike safety instruction at Barrow Elementary School. And on "Walk and Bike to School" days at Barrow, parents, teachers, and neighbors work together with law enforcement personnel to ensure that the routes to the school are adequately staffed with volunteer crossing guards and ride leaders. Even the mayor and several county commissioners have turned out to walk or cycle to school with the kids.

In July 2006, BikeAthens and SRA sponsored a League Cycling Instructor Certification Seminar at the University of Georgia, where experienced cyclists from Alabama and Georgia underwent intensive training with a League of American Bicyclists (LAB) instructor. Eight people from Athens are now certified by LAB to teach Bike Education courses to children and adults. We will begin offering our first courses in January 2007.

The Metro Atlanta Safe Routes to School Project: Three Years of Walkin' and Rollin' to School

Submitted By: Sharon Bagatell, Project Director-Atlanta Bicycle Campaign

In December 2006, the Metro Atlanta Safe Routes to School Demonstration Project wrapped up its work in five pilot schools, bringing to a conclusion the active "field work" portion of the project. Funded by the Georgia Department of Transportation and managed by Atlanta Bicycle Campaign, the demonstration project was the first comprehensive Safe Routes to School program in Georgia that included both walking and biking to school.

Three years of work in the schools brought about many changes in the school communities in Duluth (Gwinnett County), Decatur and Chamblee (DeKalb County). Said one Gwinnett county resident involved in the project, "People get out of their houses now and walk/bike about. I have seen families walking and bicycling to the grocery store and other places. We were once cocooned suburbanites. Now we're neighbors." Said another, "The program increased awareness about safe alternatives to get to school. We had a lot of fun getting to know kids and parents who walked and rode to school together. It built community."



Glenwood Elementary International Walk and Roll to School Day
Decatur, Georgia

Tools developed through the project are currently available on the Atlanta Bicycle Campaign website, www.atlantabike.org/Safe_Routes_Tools.html. The tools include assessment instruments, sample flyers,



Bike Train, Glenwood Elementary Decatur, Georgia

bicycle and pedestrian safety hand-outs, "how to's" on planning a Walk and Roll to School Day event, information on setting up a Bike Train or Walking School Bus, as well as a pedestrian safety video in Spanish, developed and created by mothers at Dresden Elementary in Chamblee. A parent from Decatur wrote: "The tools you've posted on the Safe Routes website have been extremely useful. We're using the permission slips, flyers, and planning outline as guidelines in developing our own materials. Thanks for sharing what you've learned so that others don't need to start from scratch!"

Metro Atlanta SRTS cont:

Using the information learned from working with the schools, project staff are now developing the Safe Routes to School Guidebook for Georgia. The Guidebook is a "how to" manual, designed to help local communities establish Safe Routes to School programs across the state. Target date for publication is summer 2007.

Crossing Guard Appreciation Day November 21, 2006

Schools participating in the Metro Atlanta Safe Routes to School Project celebrated Crossing Guard Appreciation Day on Tuesday, November 21, 2006. On the school day before schools break for the Thanksgiving holiday break, students, parents, and teachers showed appreciation to their school crossing guards.



Case Study: Putting it into practice: Bicycle safety training BB Harris Elementary, Duluth, GA

During a one month period at B.B. Harris Elementary in Duluth, Georgia, Safe Routes to School Project staff collaborated with the school's physical education teachers to train 450 children in grades 3rd-5th in bicycle safety. Using the League of American Bicyclists Kids Bicycle Education and the Basics of Bicycling curricula, the school developed a 5-session bicycle safety program to fit the physical education schedule. The course was entitled, "Safe Bicycle Driving," and the instructor, (certified by the [League of American Bicyclists](#)), began each class by telling the students that this was effectively their very first driver's education class; because no matter what they grow up to drive — cars, trucks, motorcycles, or bicycles, the same rules of the road apply

Throughout the training, the children had opportunities to fit helmets and bicycles, practice bicycle-handling skills, and learn four basic rules of the road. On the final day, the students were introduced to "Harristown, A Bicycle-Friendly City," in the gym, with simulated streets and destinations such as a store, a park, and a library. The students rode around the "city" to the Harristown destinations, some as bicycle-drivers and some as car-drivers. A few served as police officers, giving out tickets to those who violated a rule of the road. The students then received a "Safe Bicycle Drivers License" and an activity booklet by the same name. (courtesy of www.saferoutesinfo.org)

Additional Funding Information

CMAQ: Funds Bike/Ped programs in Non Attainment areas in GA
www.dot.state.ga.us/DOT/plan-prog/planning/AQ/CMAQ/index.shtml
www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/cmaq/eligblty.htm

Transportation Enhancement Applications available on April 2, 2007
www.dot.state.ga.us/DOT/plan-prog/planning/projects/te/index.shtml

Other Funding Resources

www.dot.state.ga.us/bikeped/info_links/index.shtml#funding

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