

The Spin



Colorado Safe Routes to School State Network

Volume 3, Issue 5

Colorado Safe Routes to School Successes!

Welcome to *The Spin*, a monthly e-newsletter brought to you by the Colorado Safe Routes to School State Network.

The Safe Routes to School State Steering Committee is excited to announce that **House Bill 1301: Safe Routes to School Funding** is headed to Governor Hickenlooper's desk! This bill, which passed in the final days of the session, will provide \$700,000 for fiscal year 2014-15 to fund statewide education projects for Safe Routes to School programs in Colorado. While there is a strong need and desire for this funding which will apply only to non-infrastructure projects, we expect work will be done to secure funding for infrastructure projects in the future. Your voice and personal stories were instrumental in the success of this bill and they did not go unnoticed by legislators. Thank you for taking the time to be a champion for Safe Routes to School in Colorado!

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Stories from Schools

Free Horizon Montessori Celebrates Bike to School Day!

Free Horizon Montessori (FHM), a Jeffco public Charter School in Golden was one of 85

Colorado schools that celebrated [National Bike to School Day](#) on Wednesday, May 7. Nearly 100 FHM students and parents met at [Spot Brand Bikes](#) to walk and wheel up to the FHM campus. City of Golden Councilor Saoirse Charis-Graves was also in attendance and showed support by handing out flashing clip-on bike safety lights and cheering on the participants.

From preschoolers to middle schoolers, students pedaled to school to raise awareness of the need to create safer routes for children to walk and bike. FHM parent and biking enthusiast Monica Buhlig remarked, "This morning exemplifies the spirit of Free Horizon each and every day. It has energy, a sense of community, prepares the kids to learn and contributes to our greater community through reduced driving and increased physical activity. My son was ready to get out of the house this morning because we were biking today!"



FHM exemplified how Bike to School Day can build connections between families, schools and the broader community to emphasize the importance of increasing physical activity among children; pedestrian safety; and reducing traffic congestion. They have established a tradition of celebrating both National Walk to School and National Bike to School Days with community events like this, which the students look forward to each season.

Walk to School Day 2014 is scheduled for October 8. Start planning today with resources available at <http://walkbiketoschool.org/>.

The National Crosswalk

New Bilingual Resource: Bicycle Safer Journey

The [Federal Highway Administration](#) (FHWA) recently released [Bicycle Safer Journey](#), a free online education tool designed to help educators, parents and others who care about bicycle safety to get the conversation started with children. The tool consists of three videos for all ages accompanied by a quiz or discussion and an educator's resource library. The videos, which are available in English and Spanish, address picking the safest places to bicycle and the importance of being alert. Consider it a perfect resource for Bike Month events and for children starting their summer vacations.



Bicycle Safer Journey is the second part of FHWA's effort to better inform children and teens about safe non-motorized travel. FHWA released [Pedestrian Safer Journey](#), in 2013 to offer similar educational tools for walking.

Cruisin' with CDOT

US DOT and CDOT Celebrate National Bike to School Day

May 7 marked the third annual [National Bike to School Day](#). In addition to CDOT's Safe Routes to School Program promoting the event statewide, US DOT also encouraged students and parents across the country to strap on their helmets and ride to school on National Bike to School Day. On their blog, the Department of Transportation wrote, "We always want kids to get to school safely, and improving bicycle and pedestrian safety is a top priority – especially as more and more Americans are choosing these options for getting to work, school, and other places".



Colorado Bike to School Day highlights include:

- 85 Colorado schools registered their events on the Bike to School website (up from 81 from last year)!
- 48 of the schools were first-time registrants.
- Of the first-time participants, 20 Colorado schools in 16 school districts received CDOT-SRTS "Please Drive with Care" yard signs reminding drivers to slow down and watch for kids biking and walking to school.
- Schools from the mountains (Frisco, Carbondale) to the plains (Holyoke, Calhan), from up and down the Front Range (Boulder, Fort Collins, Colorado Springs) to the Western Slope (Grand Junction) and from small communities (Fruita, Rangely, San Luis) to large (Denver, Lakewood, Aurora) celebrated BTSD.
- Congratulations to Fort Collins, who lead the state with 16 schools that registered events.

Training Wheels and Webinars

Complete Streets: From Policy Adoption to Complete Streets in New Jersey

June 12

12:00-1:15pm MST

[Register here](#)

This webinar will cover all you need to know about complete streets policy. It will highlight successful case studies and strategies for getting complete streets policies approved at the local level.

Managing and Retaining Volunteers for Long Term Success!

June 19

12:00pm

[Register here](#)

Part two in a series of two webinars that will explore in-depth tried and true methods for ongoing management and retention of volunteers to participate in Safe Routes to School Programs.

Pedaling Programs and Funding Feet

2014 Spring Activity Challenge Winners Announced

During the month of April, thousands of students, families and school staff across the country tracked their physical activity as part of the 2014 Spring Activity Challenge. Among the nationwide participants, four Colorado schools received challenge awards for their efforts.

Congratulations to the following winners: 1st place- Shrine of St. Anne in Arvada (awarded \$2,000); 2nd place- Chinook Trail Elementary in Colorado Springs (awarded \$1,000); and 3rd place tie- Ranch Creek Elementary in Colorado

Springs and Shelton Elementary in Golden (awarded \$500 each). The winning schools can use this funding to help create or maintain walking school bus programs; purchase bike racks or safety vests; provide incentives for Walking Wednesdays; and fund other means to help promote more walking and biking.



Did your student or family miss out on the Spring Activity Challenge? If so, start getting

fired up for the Fall Activity Challenge which will take place in October 2014. For more information visit <http://co.fireupyourfeet.org/>.

*The purpose of the **Colorado Safe Routes to School State Network** is to facilitate two-way information sharing and connecting among communities and organizations in order to lift up what is working, identify new opportunities and galvanize support for policy and culture change that will increase the number of students walking and biking safely to and from school in every Colorado community.*

[LiveWell Colorado](#) serves as the lead facilitator for the Network. Other members of the Network's steering committee include: [Action for Healthy Kids](#), [Bicycle Colorado](#), [Colorado Department of Transportation \(CDOT\)](#), [Children's Hospital Colorado](#), [Kaiser Permanente](#), [Safe Routes to School National Partnership](#), and subject matter experts.

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