

The Spin



Colorado Safe Routes to School State Network

Volume 4, Issue 5

Stories From Schools

Bike to School Day Excites Communities

Thousands of children across Colorado strapped on helmets, kicked up kickstands, and put their mettle to the pedal as they rode their bikes, scooters, and skateboards to school on Wednesday, May 6, in celebration of the fourth annual National Bike to School Day. More than 110 Colorado schools registered on the Walk Bike to School website, far exceeding the 85 who registered in 2014. Students will be riding or walking to school throughout May along with parents, teachers and community leaders but most chose May 6 as their event day.

“This year’s participation in Bike to School Day is spectacular,” said Leslie Feuerborn, program manager of the Colorado Safe Routes to School program managed through CDOT. “The excitement and support for events across all regions of Colorado is inspiring, and we couldn’t be more pleased with how many communities and families are coming together to promote safe biking to school on this one day.”

Bike to School Day events raise awareness of the need to create safer routes for bicycling and walking and emphasize the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, reducing traffic congestion and concern for the environment. The events build connections between families,

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schools and the broader community.

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Schools from all areas of the state had kids riding and rolling to school. Fort Collins had 21 schools and Denver's 16 schools were twice as many as last year. Besides schools along the Front Range participating, we also had many schools from rural areas including Chipita Park, DeBeque, Center, Buena Vista, Fruita, Kremmling, Las Animas, Pagosa Springs, Sterling, Salida, Steamboat Springs, Rifle, Telluride and many more.

Cruisin' with CDOT

Update on SRTS Grants

The state legislature again this session introduced a bill (HB15-1003), originally recommending \$3.0 million be allocated for SRTS projects. The bill was amended to provide \$750,000 from the general fund for non-



infrastructure projects. There was no recommended allocation for infrastructure projects. The bill passed the House on April 27th but on May 4, the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs committee voted to "postpone indefinitely" the bill which meant it would not be considered further during the session.

CDOT is committed to continuing the great work of SRTS in Colorado. Since the state legislature was unsuccessful in passing a SRTS bill to continue the funding for SRTS grants in FY 2016 (starting July 1st) CDOT will investigate other short-term funding sources to provide program continuity while discussions on long-term funding of the program are explored.

We hope to be able to offer grants again this year but will not know until Fall 2015 if money will be available for next year's projects. Watch for updates in upcoming issues of The Spin.

School Speed Zone Safety Cameras

In a recent Association of Pedestrians and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) webinar, *Law Enforcement Strategies to Improve Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety*, Brian Dougherty, City of Seattle's SRTS Coordinator talked about school speed zone safety cameras. In 2008, Seattle passed an ordinance authorizing the use of traffic safety cameras to enforce school speed zone limits. Another ordinance passed in 2013 established the School Zone Camera Fund with dedicated funding for school traffic and pedestrian safety projects. Cameras have been installed at nine schools with six more schools to receive them later this year. In 2014, the city collected \$5.1M in revenues from camera-initiated citations. School zone camera revenues have funded design and construction of 30 projects citywide such as new school

sidewalks, and school crossing improvements such as bulbs, islands and signals. For more information, check Seattle's SRTS website at www.seattle.gov/transportation/saferoutes_Enforcement.htm#cams.

Photo: Ayres Elementary, Sterling students, parents and staff line up at the starting line for the Walk, Ride or Roll Family Event the school held Friday morning for Bike to School Day. (Callie Jones/Journal-Advocate)

The National Crosswalk

Impact of SRTS Programs On Walking & Biking

[Active Living Research](#) has just released a review on *The Impact of Safe Routes to School Programs on Walking and Biking* (<http://bit.ly/1cOiXQL>) that highlights findings from studies conducted in several states and cities that have examined walking or biking rates, safety, and economic issues associated with Safe Routes to School.



Key finding and recommendations:

- Actively commuting to and from school could improve mental and physical health.
- SRTS has increased the number of students who walk or bike to and from school.
- Unsafe routes make it harder for students to walk or bike to and from school. SRTS has made it safer for students to walk or bike to or from school.
- SRTS can lower health care and transportation costs for school districts and families.
- Communities can take action on SRTS through subdivision regulations that require sidewalks, education facility plans that ensure access to school by foot and bicycle, school wellness policies that include Safe Routes to School, and capital improvement plans that prioritize engineering improvements near schools.

Colorado Ranks As 7th Bicycle Friendly State

Colorado ranks behind Washington, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Delaware, and Oregon for bike friendly states. Colorado was ranked 22nd in 2008 and has been in the top 7 for the last 4 years. For more information on this year's ranking go to <http://bikeleague.org/content/bicycle-friendly-state-ranking>.

Planning Separated Bike Lanes In Your Community?

The FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) has just released new guide - "Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide" - that can help. This Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide outlines planning considerations for separated bike lanes (also

sometimes called “cycle tracks” or “protected bike lanes”) and provides a menu of design options covering typical one and two-way scenarios. It highlights different options for providing separation, while also documenting midblock design considerations for driveways, transit stops, accessible parking, and loading zones. The Guide consolidates lessons learned from practitioners designing and implementing separated bike lanes throughout the U.S. [Click here to see the guide.](#)

Shared Use, Joint Use, Community Use, Oh My!!!

Many communities are working to open up schools and other facilities for community use but there is an abundance of terms and meanings that are being used. In consultation with the Prevention Institute and ChangeLab Solutions, the SRTS National Partnership developed the Spectrum of Shared Use resource to include and differentiate some of the terminology that often comes up when we talk about shared use. The [Spectrum of Shared Use](#) resource explores the continuum of types of shared use in our communities -- informal versus formal approaches, policies versus agreements, as well as the differentiation between shared use, community use, recreational use, and leasing agreements. Read Mikaela Randolph’s blog at <http://saferoutespartnership.org/node/1637/>.

Photo: Asbury Elementary, Denver Public Schools was one of 16 schools in Denver who hosted events on Bike to School Day. (Denver SRTS Facebook)

Training Wheels & Webinars

Are you attending the Healthy Schools Leadership Retreat in Vail on June 11th and 12th?

Join Leslie Feuerborn (CDOT - Colorado SRTS), Jenna Berman (Bicycle Colorado) and Will Kerns (Open Plan LLC) at their breakout session *It’s Official: Safe Routes to School Increases Walking and Biking* on Thursday, June 11th from 10:00-11:30 in the Grand Ballroom/Salon A-B.



Webinar: “Community Engagement: An Essential Building Block in HEAL Cities”

Date: June 4, 2015

Time: 11:00am MT

To register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2669218774440495617>

Join HEAL Cities Campaigns of LiveWell Colorado, the Mid-Atlantic, the Northwest and California in exploring the topic of Community Engagement and its unique role in cities. Seeking out and listening to community voices is an important aspect of planning for a healthy future. Providing opportunities for the community to contribute their time and talent to implementing healthy plans, policies and programs is critical to success. The small cities of Milliken, CO and Falls City, OR successfully used community engagement strategies to create healthy environments for their residents. The active involvement of community members assured timely completion of important projects, and ensured that infrastructure

investments met the needs of the city and residents alike.

Webinar: “Measuring the Economic Impact of Non-Motorized Transportation”

Date: Thursday, June 4, 2015

Time: 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

To register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2031873665300242945>

This webinar will explore methods that can be used to evaluate the economic benefits of nonmotorized transportation investments based on a recent report from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), *Evaluating the Economic Benefits of Nonmotorized Transportation*. The report documents a variety of economic benefits of these investments and provides resources for communities who are interested in measuring the economic impact of future projects.

PBIC offers free, public webinars approximately every month. To register for upcoming webinars and to access archived presentations, visit www.pedbikeinfo.org/webinars.

Conference: 2nd National Walking Summit - “Walking is Going Places”

Date: October 28-30, 2015

Location: Washington, DC

The National Walking Summit is the premier opportunity for national organizations, companies, agencies, funders, local partners and advocates from across the country to share best practices and stories, increase the visibility of key issues, build support among federal agencies, and create momentum for the work ahead. For more information: www.walkingsummit.org

Conference: 5th Safe Routes to School National Conference

Date: April 5-7, 2016

Location: Columbus, Ohio

The conference brings together program representatives, state departments of transportation, planners, elected officials, and community members to provide an opportunity for individuals, agencies, and organizations involved with Safe Routes to School to network, engage in educational opportunities, become inspired, and form partnerships to enhance their Safe Routes to School work. Watch for updated information coming soon to www.saferoutesconference.org.

Photo: Students and parents from Free Horizon Montessori, Golden met at a remote location and moved in mass on to the school with support from Golden Police Department and Mayor Marjorie Sloan. (Leslie Feuerborn/ CDOT)

Pedaling Programs & Funding Feet

Five New Walk Friendly Communities-Learn How Your City or Town Can Become a Walk Friendly Community

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) announced five new Walk Friendly Communities (WFC) and recognized one community for jumping from Bronze to Silver. The "Walk Friendly" title means a city or town is being recognized for its success in working to improve a wide range of conditions related to walking, including safety, mobility, access,

and comfort. Colorado has 3 cities that have previously been designated Walk Friendly Communities: Boulder, Denver, and Fort Collins.[\[http://bit.ly/1c43ATq\]](http://bit.ly/1c43ATq)

June 15, 2015: Walk Friendly Communities applications due. - application can be found at www.walkfriendly.org/assessment . Before applying for a Walk Friendly Communities designation, visit their How to Get Started page at www.walkfriendly.org/get_started.cfm

*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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