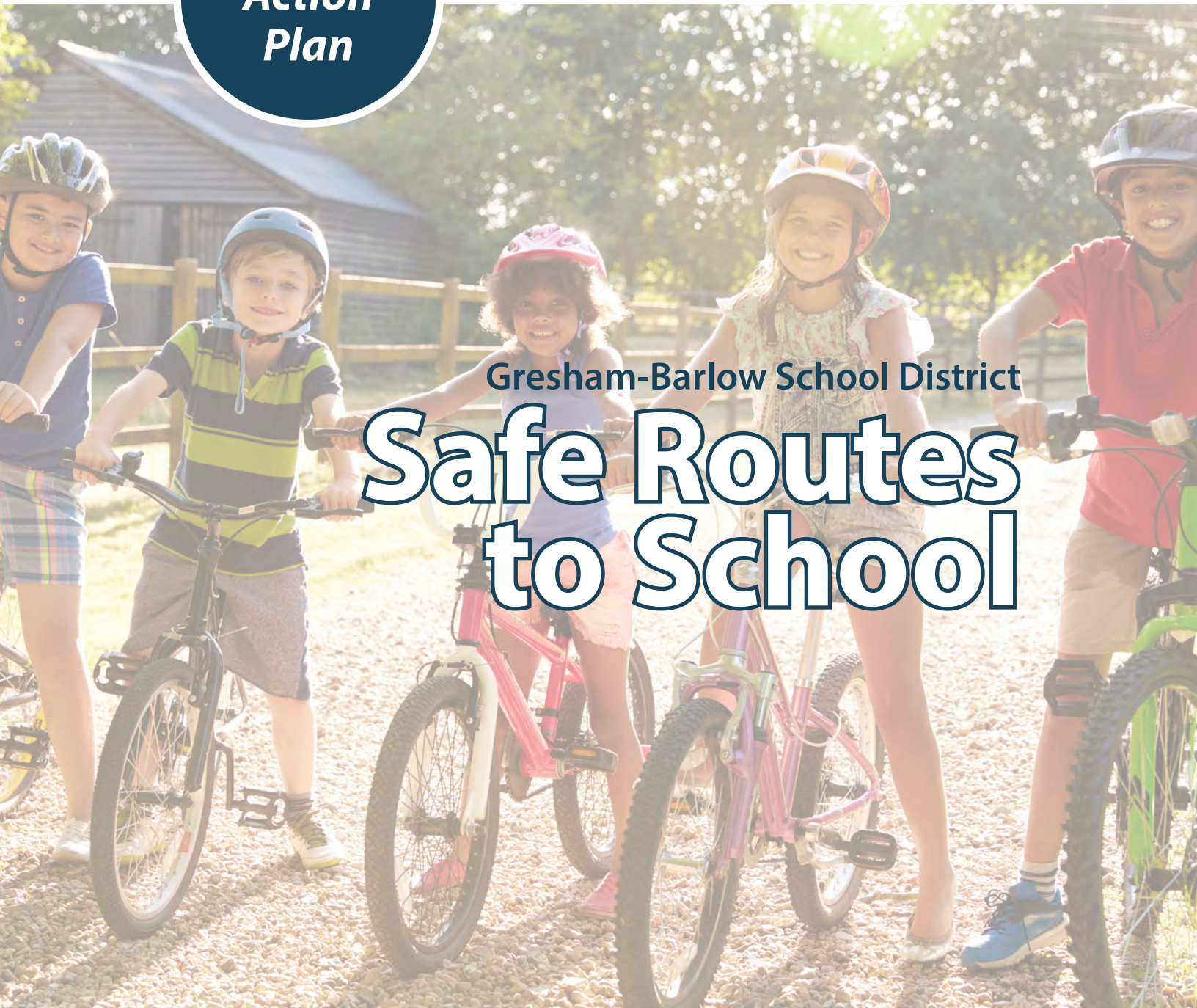


**2019
Action
Plan**



Gresham-Barlow School District

Safe Routes to School

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Introduction

What is Safe Routes to School?

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a national program that encourages students to walk, bike, and roll to school. It makes getting to school active, fun, and safe for kids.



Safe Routes to School programs and activities encourage physical activity, increase safety, reduce traffic congestion at schools, and have been shown to benefit students through better concentration in class. *So what does this look like at your school?* Safety education, route improvements, and school events are a few ways to get kids walking, biking, and rolling to school.

This action plan is intended to help schools implement programming and infrastructure to increase walking, biking, and rolling to and from school. Policies, partners, and actions need to come together to create a strong program aimed at achieving the goals of Safe Routes to School — safer, healthier, happier kids.

The goals and actions laid out in this plan directly support the District's policies through Safe Routes to School efforts.



Gresham-Barlow School District Policies

The School District's policies support the way the school district integrates programs and activities into their school curriculum and culture. The following policies directly address the focus of Safe Routes to School: *safe and healthy children*.

Local Wellness Program (EFA-AR)

Physical activities and physical education

In order to ensure students are afforded the opportunity to engage in physical activity and physical education in the school setting, the following guidelines apply:

- *When possible, physical activity will be integrated across curricula and throughout the school day.*
- *Movement will be made a part of all classes or courses as part of a well-rounded education;*
- *Physical education courses will be the environment where students learn, practice and are assessed on developmentally appropriate knowledge, skills and confidence to become physically literate;*

Other activities that promote student wellness

The district may provide the following activities and encourage the following practices which promote local wellness:

- *Safe Routes to Schools Program;*
- *Assemblies which focus on wellness issues such as the importance of breakfast, healthy beverages, and how students and staff can incorporate 60 minutes of physical activity into their day.*

Safety Committee (EBAC-AR)

Safety committees shall be established to implement the district's safety program as part of an ongoing effort to help ensure the safety of students, staff and others while on district property. The superintendent shall designate a district safety officer who shall be the chief financial officer unless otherwise designated. The safety officer shall:

- *Establish a district safety committee, advisory to the safety officer, to implement and monitor the district safety program;*
- *Be responsible for writing and implementing a district safety program. (The written program shall include reporting procedures and in-service safety training program.);*
- *Coordinate all matters relating to safety and shall make, or cause to be made, periodic inspections of sites and review with the site safety manager the status of record keeping, reports and meeting agendas;*
- *Maintain liaison with applicable agencies outside the district;*
- *Assist all administrators and department supervisors as necessary in the preparation and implementation of their site safety programs;*
- *Maintain the accident record system; make necessary reports; personally investigate fatal, serious and potentially serious accidents; and check corrective action taken by teachers or other personnel to eliminate causes of accidents;*
- *Establish specific goals for the district's safety program and evaluate goals and accomplishments on a regular basis.*

Goals + Actions

This Action Plan

This district-wide action plan for the Gresham-Barlow School District identifies opportunities and priorities around Safe Routes to School efforts at the District level.

This plan sets goals and action measures to help Gresham-Barlow schools create and maintain Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs. SRTS programs are strengthened when efforts are focused on several different areas, known as the “6 E’s” of SRTS: *Equity, Education, Evaluation, Encouragement, Enforcement, and Engineering.*

The following pages go through these “E’s” with goals to further support SRTS throughout the Gresham-Barlow School District. These goals are supported with action items and lead partners to provide direction and accountability within the district’s program. **SRTS coordinators** from City of Gresham and Multnomah County will support the school district, school leaders, parents, and volunteers in their efforts.



EQUITY

Equity refers to how decisions that impact communities are made and how benefits and burdens are distributed. Barriers to walking and rolling disproportionately affect students of color, those living in lower income households, those with disabilities, and those who are English-language learners.



EDUCATION

Education programs teach walking and biking safety skills, promote driver safety campaigns near schools, inform children about transportation choices, and help people better understand the benefits of active transportation.



EVALUATION

Evaluation helps to understand levels of participation in walking, biking, and rolling to school. It helps track progress and determine which programs are most effective.



ENCOURAGEMENT

Encouragement events and activities spark interest in students and parents to walk, bike, and roll to school. Encouragement programs reward participation.



ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement involves strategies to deter unsafe behavior of drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians and encourage all road users to obey traffic safety laws and share the road safely around schools.



ENGINEERING

Engineering is about removing barriers on the route to school through infrastructure improvements. Schools can work with local road authority on items like sidewalk gaps and safe crossings.



EQUITY

Equity ensures that Safe Routes to School efforts serve all populations by including communities of color, reaching low-income communities, and non-English speakers.

Prioritize equity and access in SRTS programs. *Focus efforts on Title I schools with a greater share of underserved populations. Prioritize schools based on collision data, race/ethnicity data, and pedestrian planning projects that include equity considerations.*

Actions	Lead	Support
<i>Use the City's Active Transportation Plan analysis to determine infrastructure projects with a focus on equity and safety needs around schools.</i>	City of Gresham	SRTS Coordinators
<i>Provide additional support to under-resourced schools that may have limited capacity.</i>	SRTS Coordinators	Gresham-Barlow School District

Use culturally-relevant communications materials with messaging in multiple languages. *Materials need to be accessible by everyone in order to truly be effective.*

Actions	Lead	Support
<i>Work with regional partners to access and build resources to create more inclusive SRTS materials.</i>	City of Gresham	Metro + SRTS National Partnership
<i>Incorporate SRTS messaging into existing District materials.</i>	Gresham-Barlow School District	City of Gresham

Equity Tools

Safe Routes to School programs must be equitable to be truly effective. For those championing SRTS efforts, here are a few ways to make your program more inclusive:

- Participation in a SRTS program should be free.
- Invite people from different communities and backgrounds to be a part of your SRTS team.
- For activities that require bikes, have bikes available for participants. Make appropriate accommodations for students in wheelchairs.
- For students who can't walk or roll to school because they face barriers, incorporate activities that take place during the school day.
- Translate program materials into languages relevant to your school and have multi-lingual parents and volunteers at events.
- Provide incentives to make it easier for families to attend events, such as food or transit vouchers and childcare.
- Educate yourself and your team about the barriers and challenges faced by different parents and children. The SRTS National Partnership Equity Resources page has information that addresses working with different communities.

How are we addressing equity around infrastructure and programming for our schools?





EDUCATION

Education programs help students and families develop skills to safely walk, bike, and roll to school.

Encourage traffic safety education in schools. *The District encourages individual schools to provide traffic safety education and trainings on active transportation for all students and teachers.*

Actions	Lead	Support
<i>Develop and distribute informational materials for parents.</i>	SRTS Coordinators	Gresham-Barlow School District
<i>Promote incorporating SRTS education into classes such as health and physical education.</i>	SRTS Coordinators	Gresham-Barlow School District + School leaders
<i>Seek funding for a SRTS coordinator, volunteer stipends, and/or school staff to manage SRTS and wellness initiatives.</i>	Multnomah County + City of Gresham	Gresham-Barlow School District



The Street Trust's Jump Start! Program



Past Efforts

In-class education

The City of Gresham and Gresham-Barlow School District have partnered to bring bike safety training to students through The Street Trust’s Jump Start! program. The program provides teachers with materials to teach students Safe Routes to School (SRTS) curriculum and includes 36 bikes, 100 helmets, a 20-foot trailer, and bike repair tools.

The City of Gresham continues to work with Gresham-Barlow schools to support future in-class and after school pedestrian and bicycle education programs.

Education Tools

There are different options for SRTS education programs around pedestrian and bike safety. Education can take place either in-class or after school. It can be taught by trained school leaders, such as teachers or afterschool program coordinators, or by instructors. Education program choices depend on your school needs.

Education is more effective if it is structured for the appropriate ages. Pedestrian safety courses are typically most effective with kindergarteners through 3rd grade, while bike safety programs are most effective with 4th through 8th grade.

Pedestrian and Bike Education Classes

Get trained

Pedestrian and bike safety education can be taught by trained school teachers, community group members, the health department, or volunteers. The Street Trust, a Portland-based non-profit, provides training for these individuals so they can empower kids through pedestrian and bike safety education.

After school programs

There are a number of SUN School programs providing after-school activities in GBSD schools. Partnering with these programs can be an effective way to reach kids and teach safety education and skills training. Contact your SUN school coordinator to gauge their interest or find out about past or current SRTS efforts.

In-class programs

The Street Trust can provide walking and biking education at schools which meet Oregon curriculum requirements. A number of lesson plans have been created that support curriculum requirements by addressing health, physical education, social sciences, math, science, and writing through the program. These lesson plans are designed to be integrated into existing classes while not creating a greater workload for teachers.

There are plenty of organizations and resources in Oregon for bringing pedestrian and bike education into schools, either in-class or after school. The table below outlines pedestrian and bicycle education The Street Trust can offer for your school. Visit www.thestreettrust.org/saferoutestoschool and contact The Street Trust for more information.

	Option	Description	Time	Approximate cost
<i>Pedestrian education</i>	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full-grade presentation about crossing the street safely and basic pedestrian safety principles 	45 minutes	\$350 per school
	Train-the-trainers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training focused on the concepts of the Street Trust's Pedestrian Safety Curriculum for teachers 	2-3 hours	\$1,375
<i>Bicycle education</i>	Education Training for Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaches SRTS curriculum to teachers 10 lessons on the basics of bicycle safety with in-class and on-bike/on-street practice 	12 hours	\$2,550 per training
	Jump Start program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher training of the full SRTS curriculum Teachers implement education programs using provided equipment and materials 	16 hours over 2 days	Free if application is accepted!
	Bicycle Education Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Street Trust educator will teach SRTS curriculum to one class of students Includes in-class and on-bike instruction, fleet of bikes and helmets, parent release forms, pre- and post-evaluation for progress, and a graduation ride 	10 1-hour lessons (over 10 consecutive school days) <i>or</i> 5 2-hour lessons (over 5 consecutive school days)	\$5,000 per school





ENCOURAGEMENT

Encouragement events and activities help people participate in walking, biking, and rolling to school.

Support active transportation and other alternatives for traveling to and from school.

The district supports all modes of transportation to and from school such as walking, bicycling, and rolling, taking the school bus, public transportation, and carpooling.

Actions	Lead	Support
Talk to parents at the beginning of the school year about transportation options and resources for SRTS activities.	SRTS Coordinators	Gresham-Barlow School District
Maintain official City of Gresham SRTS webpage with information about ongoing efforts, opportunities, and resources.	City of Gresham	
Maintain the Gresham-Barlow School District SRTS webpage with school-specific resources such as maps with suggested routes.	Gresham-Barlow School District	City of Gresham

Support activities that encourage students to engage in active transportation.

The District supports events (such as Walk and Bike to School Days) that encourage students to engage in active transportation to and from school to promote active, healthy lifestyles for the community at large.

Actions	Lead	Support
Provide support for school leaders (administration, teachers, parents, student groups, etc.) organizing SRTS activities and events.	Gresham-Barlow School District	SRTS Coordinators
Promote and organize Walking School Bus and Bicycle Train programs.	Parents and volunteers	SRTS Coordinators + Gresham-Barlow School District

Strengthen the District’s SRTS Action Team. *The Action Team develops and implements strategies that address SRTS planning, funding, and actions specific to Gresham-Barlow School District.*

Actions	Lead	Support
Continue to meet regularly with stakeholders and designate additional individuals (teachers, administrators, parents, students) to be part of the Gresham-Barlow Action Team.	Gresham-Barlow School District + City of Gresham	School leaders

Participate in regional discussions focused on SRTS in East County. *Involvement from every school will bolster the program and provide more opportunity for collaboration and sharing across schools, school boards, and other agencies.*

Actions	Lead	Support
Participate in regional SRTS discussions with the East County Action Team.	Gresham-Barlow School District	SRTS Coordinators

Past Efforts

Walk + Bike to School Events

The City of Gresham partners with local schools to provide support for events to encourage walking, biking, and rolling to school. Two of these events occur on International Walk + Roll to School Day in October and National Bike to School Day in May. Gresham-Barlow schools have participated in Walk + Roll to School Day since 2009. The City has developed and led walk and bike routes in coordination with school administration, police, and elected officials. For these events, the City has provided raffle items like bike helmets, scooters, and bike safety lights.

National Bike Month

The City promotes and participates in “May is Bike Month”, the annual, month-long event that includes group bike rides, a commute challenge, bike promotion events, and more. The City has used this month to promote SRTS through events like the Transportation Safety Fair. Events include:

- Helmet giveaways--over 1,000 to date!;
- Information booth with tips and trip planning services for walking and biking;
- Bike rodeos teaching the “rules of the road”;
- Bike repair classes and clinics; and
- Group bike rides along Gresham’s multiuse paths.

Encouragement Tools

Encouragement activities come in all shapes and sizes, from school-wide events to small group activities. This section will provide examples of different activities you can bring to your school to make walking and rolling to school fun for kids and families.

Smaller activities

Holding smaller events that involve less effort throughout the year is a great way to maintain momentum around SRTS programs.

Bike fairy (Surprise giveaways)

Surprise giveaways can encourage kids to walk and roll to school all year long. One activity is a “bike fairy” who visits school while students are in class to leave them small surprises like stickers, pencils, or lights on bikes, skateboards, scooters, and other mobility devices.

Golden sneaker

This activity rewards classes with the most students walking, biking, or rolling to school in a month. The Golden Sneaker—a gold, painted award—is given to the class with the most student participants. The winning class gets to display their award throughout the month and celebrate.

Walking school buses + bike trains

Many families want their kids walking and rolling to school, but are worried about traffic and other safety concerns. If students travel in groups, parents can be reassured their kids are arriving to school safely. Walking school buses and bike trains are organized groups of students who walk or bike to and from school with adults. The route is the same every time, with pick up and drop off areas designated along the way. These efforts are often shared by different families where adults can rotate the walking responsibility. Students can get exercise on their way to school while building strong social connections with their schoolmates. These groups are great because they reinforce safe travel habits and empower kids to travel around their communities.



Remote drop-off

Safe Routes to School programs also recognize walking and biking might not always be feasible given existing infrastructure conditions. Remote drop-offs, by bus and by car, are ways to still get kids walking and biking to school—even part of the way. Drivers can drop off kids at a designated meeting spot where conditions are safer to travel to school from. It supports kids being social, being active, and understanding the importance of using different modes of transportation.

For instance, efforts focused on remote drop-off have included school bus drivers bringing children to a designated spot where they will then lead a walking school bus the rest of the way to school.

Events recognize the kids already walking, biking, and rolling to school while encouraging new kids to join.

Bigger events

The following events usually take a bit more time and effort, but can be extremely successful in getting people excited about walking, biking, and rolling to school.

Walk + Bike to School days

National Walk + Bike to School Day takes place every year in October. The event is aimed at getting students, families, and neighbors all out walking, biking, and rolling. It creates a fun atmosphere that highlights active transportation to and from school.

A few things you can do to prepare for the day:

- Arrange ways for **all** students to participate!
- Register your event with Walk + Roll and The Street Trust. *Tap into resources, get free incentives, and get publicity for your event.*

May Walk + Roll Challenge Month

Students all around the region participate in Walk + Roll Challenge Month in May every year. During the month, students travel by foot or wheel as often as possible. For instance, schools can use frequent punch cards for each day kids walk or bike to or from school. When the card is full, they turn it in for a prize! With an element of friendly competition and incentives for participating, it is a great way to get increased engagement from kids.

Street demonstration/pop-ups

Street demonstrations and pop-ups temporarily make public spaces more walkable, bikeable, and attractive. By using temporary installations to calm traffic and create crosswalks and protected bike lanes, for instance, pop-up projects can show how infrastructure improvements enhance safety and sense of community.

After identifying a route that could be improved, parents and school leaders will work with City of Gresham on a plan to implement the temporary installation. These installations can serve as a pilot for the kinds of engineering improvements that have been demonstrated to improve safe travel to school and support the case for permanent improvements.



Bike rodeos/fairs

A bike rodeo is an event that provides elementary and middle school children with the opportunity to learn, practice, and demonstrate bike handling skills in a fun, safe, and encouraging environment. Numerous stations or courses are set up with chalk and traffic cones. Each station touches on a critical skill to assist children in becoming safe and responsible bike riders, such as “safety checks” or learning to steer through tight spaces. Adult volunteers or trainers run each station with the objective of teaching children how to better control their bikes and the rules of the road.





ENGINEERING

Engineering efforts look at the physical environment around schools to create safe and accessible places for walking, biking, and rolling through improving infrastructure like sidewalks, crosswalks, and bike parking.

Create safe school routes based on existing infrastructure. *Perform an assessment of existing conditions near the school. By doing assessments, 1) suggested routes can be recommended based on existing infrastructure and 2) infrastructure barriers to walking, biking, and rolling can be identified.*

Actions	Lead	Support
Create maps identifying hazards or specific conditions and showing recommended routes from surrounding neighborhoods for students to travel to and from school.	The City of Gresham	Gresham-Barlow School District, School leaders, parents, students

Support schools in the creation of Action Plans. *The District supports schools in the creation of their own Action Plans to help identify infrastructure gaps that may create barriers to using active transportation to get to and from school. Action plans are important for identifying projects that may be eligible for funding.*

Actions	Lead	Support
Encourage schools to perform a walk audit or another assessment to look at traffic and safety conditions near the school.	Gresham-Barlow School District	SRTS Coordinators + School leaders
Coordinate with City + County staff to identify and implement needed infrastructure improvements.	Individual schools	City of Gresham + Multnomah County

Past Efforts

Action Plans

Action plans have been completed for the following GBSD schools: Dexter McCarty, Gordon Russell, East Gresham, and Powell Valley Elementary. The City will continue to partner with parents and school staff to develop Action Plans for Schools. Action plans identified missing sidewalk and bikeway links from residential areas to schools and prioritized those needs.

Infrastructure improvements

The City works with schools to identify gaps and opportunities in the surrounding active transportation network.

Rapid Reflective Flashing Beacons (RRFB) have been installed near West Gresham Elementary, North Gresham Elementary, and Gresham High School. ADA ramps have been installed near East Gresham Elementary, Highland, Davis, and Dexter McCarty.

Engineering Tools

Improving infrastructure like sidewalks and crosswalks improves the safety of kids walking, biking, and rolling to school. Improvements such as bike parking provide a place to safely store their equipment.

Route mapping

Route mapping can be a very important tool for identifying the safest travel routes for kids. It is important to understand where students are traveling from in order to provide routes that are accessible for all students and families. Beyond understanding school attendance boundaries, it's also important to understand barriers to safety the District has identified for bussing. Talking to students, families, and school staff can help better understand which neighborhoods most kids are traveling to school from.

Walk and bike audits

Audits help SRTS teams to identify gaps and opportunities in transportation networks. They typically look at facilities such as lighting, sidewalk conditions, accessible crossings, school arrival and departure procedures, and safety concerns. These audits typically include professionals with experience in walking and biking issues along with community members, school leaders, families, and students. With a broader range of experience comes a wider range of perspectives on infrastructure concerns.

It is helpful to create a list of priority projects, both smaller projects (striping, route maps, bike racks, etc.) and larger projects (sidewalks, trails, etc.) for infrastructure improvements when funding is available. Smaller projects can be completed with fewer resources and require shorter timeframes. These projects can help build momentum in SRTS efforts.

School action plans

Action plans for individual schools identify specific concerns around schools (often through walk and bike audits) and outline how to achieve solutions. Action plans both recommend infrastructure improvements where they are needed and highlight activities or events that help overcome different barriers to walking, biking, and rolling. With infrastructure funding now available from ODOT, grant applications are strengthened when a school has an action plan that clearly identifies improvements around schools.

Need help getting started on your action plan? See the template in the *Resources* section of this document.



ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement activities remind everyone to follow traffic laws near schools, keeping those using all modes of transportation safe getting to and from school.

Engage with local law enforcement to ensure traffic safety around schools. *District personnel will work with local law enforcement to encourage enforcement of traffic safety laws to reduce the possibility of collisions around school.*

Actions

Continue to partner with local Police Departments to ensure traffic safety enforcement is provided near schools, especially during arrival and dismissal.

Lead

Multnomah County Sheriff's Office + Gresham Police Department

Support

City of Gresham + Gresham-Barlow School District



Traffic safety enforcement during school arrival

Past Efforts

The City of Gresham continues to do enforcement missions near 5 target schools with funding from the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) SRTS grant. The Gresham Police Department conducts the missions, providing warnings and citations for drivers who do not follow rules about driving safely in school zones such as speeding, distracted driving, and not stopping for a crosswalk. Educational material is also distributed to individuals who are stopped, represented below as "community contacts". The following table represents data gathered in 2017 and 2018.

	2017	2018
<i>Community contacts</i>	163	280+
<i>Traffic warnings</i>	57	51
<i>Traffic violations: Speed</i>	39	50
<i>Traffic violations: Other</i>	100	77

Enforcement Tools

Enforcement efforts aim to create safe travel environments near schools. The following tools can be used by the community, law enforcement, City of Gresham, and Gresham-Barlow School district to partner and improve safety, especially around arrival and dismissal times.

Partner with local law enforcement

These partnerships can be extremely helpful in making sure traffic laws are obeyed near schools. Officers can enforce speeds and stopping for pedestrians and cyclists, among other things. School leaders, parents, or community members can coordinate with Safe Routes to School staff to explore options for your neighborhood such as:

- Speed cameras
- Speed assessment
- School zone signs

Contact the City of Gresham

Transportation Planning
<https://greshamoregon.gov/Safe-Routes-to-School>

MyGresham
<https://greshamoregon.gov/services/MyGresham/>

Crossing guard programs

Could street crossings be safer near your school? One solution is a crossing guard program. Crossing guard programs are important for offering a familiar face and eyes on the street around schools while reminding drivers of people presence. The first step is identifying locations where guards are needed. Based on the location, school leaders and other involved community members determine the number of guards, proper signage, and time period for crossings.

City of Gresham and Multnomah County SRTS coordinators can help work with schools to build their crossing guard program.



EVALUATION

Evaluation efforts help to understand existing conditions and participation levels so we can accurately look at the effectiveness of Safe Routes to School programs and projects.

Regularly collect data, evaluate and share progress toward goals, and continuously improve activities based on feedback.

Actions	Lead	Support
<i>Collect data on how children are traveling to and from school at least once a year.</i>	City of Gresham	Gresham-Barlow School District
<i>Create maps and routes to school based on existing infrastructure.</i>	City of Gresham	School leaders

Look at school arrival and dismissal procedures to improve safety. *Ensuring safety is critical during these times as automobile and bus traffic volume increases and there are more opportunities for potential conflicts between modes of transportation.*

Actions	Lead	Support
<i>Consider all modes of transportation in school site planning.</i>	Gresham-Barlow School District	Safety Officer + SRTS Coordinators
<i>Separate active transportation from other forms as much as possible to increase safety.</i>	Gresham-Barlow School District	Safety Officer + SRTS Coordinators

Tools

There are a number of evaluation tools that are helpful for understanding your Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program and getting important feedback. Evaluating SRTS efforts can help your team better understand what has been working and what might need more attention. Both personal experiences and data are important.

Traffic data

The perception of danger and safety around traffic is a common SRTS barrier. Traffic data provides objective information on speed and volume of traffic which allows solutions to be identified. Perceived hazards/dangers may prevent kids and their families from walking and biking to school due to feeling uncomfortable or unsafe. By evaluating traffic conditions, data can help inform where there are real issues with traffic flow in neighborhoods surrounding schools. The City of Gresham may also be able to provide schools with this information. *Contact the City's Planning Department at 503-618-2235.*

Student tallies

Student tallies can be taken in class and are a quick, easy way to find out how students are getting to school. Student tally sheets can be completed by teachers in each classroom manually or electronically. Electronic forms are an easy way to immediately input data. Ideally, every school in the district will participate. Try to take student tallies at least once a year (ideally twice) to get the best results for continued evaluation. Tallies should be taken around the same time each year for consistency. A student tally sheet to use can be found in the *Resources* section of this document.

Parent and student surveys

Surveys can provide a more detailed understanding of travel patterns. Surveys usually take more effort to administer and process, but they provide important information beyond student tallies. Sample surveys can be found in the *Resources* section of this document. Here are a few ways to effectively administer surveys:

- Attend school events and engage with students and parents.
- Include a survey in your school's weekly/monthly newsletter.
- Work with students to send surveys home for students and parents to complete and return

Example survey question:

If your student does NOT walk or bike to school, what do you see as the major issues/barriers?

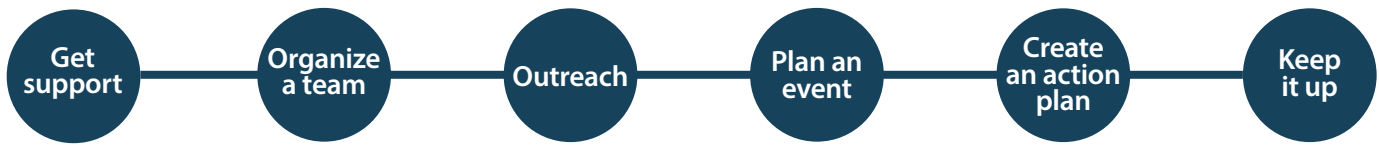
- Distance
- Time
- Convenience of driving
- Before/after-school activities
- Traffic speed/volume along route
- Sidewalks/pathways
- Safety of intersections & crossings
- Crossing guards
- Violence/crime
- Weather/Climate
- Other?

Photographs/videos

While it is important to understand the number of students walking and rolling to school, qualitative information can help teams better understand *why* people may or may not be travelling to school this way. Telling the story of how children are getting to school and why can be very effective through photographs and videos. Photographs can be used to show existing infrastructure issues like hazardous sidewalks or show activities in the neighborhood like a local weekly walking school bus. Seeing what trips to school *look* like can support people in taking part in Safe Routes to School activities.

Starting a Program

Starting a SRTS Program in 6 Steps



1 Secure school support

Tell teachers and parent groups about the importance of SRTS. Share materials and success stories from around Gresham and the broader region. It's important to talk about the benefits of active transportation and transportation safety. The following points can be used when talking to people about the importance of SRTS activities.

Health

Walking, biking, and rolling to school creates the opportunity for more physical activity, reduced risk of obesity and diabetes, and improvement in overall health. It is recommended that children get at least 60 minutes a day of physical activity, which many students aren't meeting. Using active transportation to and from school can help students reach these recommendations for better health.

Learning

When students exercise before school, they arrive focused and ready to learn. Safe Routes to School programs allow for more focus potential without taking time away from existing school-day activities or placing additional responsibility on teachers.

Environment

Ten to fourteen percent of morning rush-hour traffic is attributed to families driving their kids to school. More personal vehicles on the road means more carbon dioxide emissions. Because fewer car trips means lower emissions, walking, biking, and rolling to school reduces air pollution and helps the environment. It also reduces health problems associated with exposure to emissions.

Community

Walking, biking, and rolling to school means kids can meet each other (and their other neighbors) on the way to school, which increases feelings of community and social support.

Safety

With fewer vehicles on the road, neighborhood streets become safer and more welcoming for people out walking and biking. Walkers and bikers are safer in numbers. When more people walk and bike to school, it means there are fewer cars near the school during arrival and dismissal times. Drivers also become more aware when there are more pedestrians and bicyclists around.

Equity

Low-income communities, where appropriate infrastructure is often more needed, usually have fewer sidewalks and safe routes for kids to get to school. While 90% of streets in high-income communities have sidewalks, 49% of streets in low-income communities don't. It is important to recognize what infrastructure exists across neighborhoods to better address equitable access to safer routes.

2

Organize a team or task force

Having a group of people that meet regularly is important for building and supporting momentum towards Safe Routes to School (SRTS) efforts. A broad base of support also highlights the importance of SRTS in the existing community. The SRTS team can provide direction for the program, coordinate projects, fundraise, recruit volunteers, and organize events. Brainstorm a list of people who you would like to be involved. Invite them to a kick-off meeting where they can learn about Safe Routes to School, voice concerns, brainstorm ideas, and identify next steps and involvement. Think about other school events you can participate in and other school groups you can work with to reach as many people as possible. Team members could include:

- *School personnel*
- *Parents/guardians/caretakers*
- *Students*
- *Elected officials*
- *Transportation planners & traffic engineers*
- *Police officers*
- *Health officials*
- *Non-profit organizations*
- *Business and community leaders*
- *Representatives of neighborhood associations*

Gather information and resources

One of the first steps is to better understand the needs for SRTS at your school. Reach out to existing school staff, coordinators, parents, students, and local community members to learn about specific issues and opportunities at your school. Gather information and resources about SRTS best practices to share with and inspire the team. Check out the *Resources* section of this document.

3

Outreach

Joining already-scheduled events at or near your school is a great way to spread the word about Safe Routes to School.

The following are outreach options for school events:

- Speak at school events.
- Set up a table at an event where you can engage with people and teach them about SRTS.
- Provide information such as walking school bus flyers or bike route maps.
- Collect contact information of people who want to be involved.

Contact the City of Gresham for additional outreach materials.



4

Plan a SRTS event

Putting on a Safe Routes to School event takes planning. Get support from members of your SRTS team.

Schedule your event

- Schedule as far in advance as possible
- Coordinate with the school principal and staff to get the event on the school calendar
- Make sure there are no conflicts

Recruit volunteers

- Reach out to your SRTS team to see who they can recruit as volunteers to help organize and staff the event
- Older students, such as high school students and college groups, might be interested in getting involved. Connect with other schools and your local community groups.
- Keep a contact list of those interested to further follow up. Your network will grow as your program grows.

Publicize your event

- Announce the meeting at school events (staff meetings, assemblies, etc.) to get attention from the school.
- Send flyers home with students.
- Include information in the school newsletter.
- Post on the school's website and any relevant social media.
- Arrange for a publication in the community newspaper or on the local radio station.

Order giveaways and seek donations

- Arrange for giveaways you need well in advance.
- Local businesses can be asked to contribute snacks, beverages, small prizes or raffle items.
- Free giveaways are occasionally available through partners. For instance, The Street Trust offers giveaways such as stickers, temporary tattoos, bandanas, and pencils for October Walk + Roll to School Day.

Day of event

- Get your team and volunteers to school early.
- Set up a table with sign-in sheets, small giveaways, walking and biking maps.
- Create a fun atmosphere with music!

Reward participants with enthusiasm!

- Take lots of photos!
- Remember good stories from the day.
- Ask for feedback from participants.

Track participation

- Through sign-in sheets, get names and contact information for family members.
- For participation logs, use punch cards to track participation.
- Organize names and contact information so you can track participation over time. This information will also be important for communication purposes.





5

Create a School Action Plan

Action Plans bring all the SRTS elements together for your school. A School Action Plan is a great way to better understand and plan to address needs around your school in regard to Safe Routes to School infrastructure and programming. School Action Plans do the following:

- Identify individuals who will help develop and implement the plan
- Assess how students currently get to and from school
- Assess current walking and biking conditions (including any hazards) near schools
- Identify solutions to hazards
- Identify education programs and encouragement events to implement at your school

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has an Action Plan Template, included in the **Resources** section of this document. The template clearly describes how to develop an action plan at your school and what information to include.

Why create an action plan?

Team building

Build trust and shared involvement among SRTS team members.

Clear communication

Avoid confusion by clarifying future steps and responsible parties.

Established timeline

Ideas are great, but deadlines really help. Keep everyone on the same schedule and keep tasks moving forward.

Grant funding eligibility

To be eligible for most state SRTS funding, a school must have an Action Plan identifying projects. This district-wide plan is a great start, but by identifying opportunities for infrastructure improvements around a specific school, a grant application will be strengthened.

6

Keep your SRTS program going

A sustainable Safe Routes to School program means thinking about the present and what the program looks like moving forward. It is important to keep the right people active and involved. The idea is to have a robust program that persists, even as individuals leave and join over time.

Beyond the people, a successful program often needs resources. Work with City and County SRTS coordinators to help identify funding opportunities as SRTS grants are often available. Smaller grants can be a catalyst for building relationships, completing demonstration projects and programs, and for showing successes.

What resources are available to help achieve success?

Grant funding

	Program name	What is it about?	Funding available
Programming	Regional Travel Options SRTS Grant <i>Metro</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support agencies sharing information about/ providing alternatives to driving Funding for items such as coordinators, events, activities, outreach 	\$900,000 total for personnel
	Regional Travel Options Sponsorship Grants <i>Metro</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support agencies sharing information about/ providing alternatives to driving 	
	Action Plan Mini-Grants <i>Commute Options</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To complete a school Action Plan For schools with a SRTS team who have already assessed current conditions 	\$2,000
	Train the Coordinator Program <i>Commute Options</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For schools to complete actionable items in their Action Plan 	\$1,000
	Safe Routes to School <i>ODOT</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program development (materials, evaluation, outreach, etc.) School site 	\$1 million total <i>Up to \$50,000 a year over 3 years</i>
Infrastructure	Safe Routes to School <i>ODOT</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To build infrastructure projects that address the needs of students that walk, bike, and roll to school Sidewalks, crosswalks, rapid flashing beacons, etc. 	\$15 million (statewide) bi-annually

Resources

Local Resources

City of Gresham

Visit the [City of Gresham Safe Routes to School](#) webpage for up-to-date information, resources, and contact information. A SRTS brochure is included on this page.

Contact

Carly Rice, Assistant Planner
503-618-2818, carly.rice@greshamoregon.gov

Gresham-Barlow School District

Visit the District's safety page for information about existing SRTS efforts, future opportunities, and other resources. The page includes maps with the best existing routes to your GBSD school.

Contact

Kevin Sutherland, Safety & Security Director
sutherland10@gresham.k12.or.us

Local SRTS Providers

The following agencies have experience planning and implementing SRTS programs and may be able to answer questions about your program.

[Multnomah County SRTS](#)

Contact

MaryJo Andersen, SRTS Coordinator
maryjo.andersen@multco.us

[Clackamas County SRTS](#)

Contact

Nicole Perry, Safe Routes to School Coordinator
nicoleperry@thestreettrust.org

[Portland Bureau of Transportation SRTS](#)

Contact

saferoutes@portlandoregon.gov

SRTS Contacts in Oregon

The [SRTS National Partnership](#) is a national non-profit that provides regional SRTS coordination and support.

Contact

Kari Schlosshauer, PNW Regional Policy Manager
kari@saferoutespartnership.org

The [Oregon Department of Transportation \(ODOT\)](#) SRTS website has information about infrastructure and non-infrastructure grant opportunities, how to create action plans, and other helpful resources.

Contact

Heidi Manlove, Non-Infrastructure Program Manager
503-986-4196
LeAnne Ferguson, Infrastructure Program Manager
503-986-5805

[The Street Trust](#) is a Portland non-profit that promotes bicycling and walking throughout the region. They promote SRTS by providing bicycle and pedestrian safety education and coordinating outreach events.

Contact

Lindsay Huber, Program Manager
503-226-0676 x29, lindsay@thestreettrust.org

[Metro's SRTS programs support](#) SRTS in the region by providing funds through the Regional Travel Options (RTO) grant program.

Contact

RTO@oregonmetro.gov

National resources

The National Center for Safe Routes to School is a great resource for training opportunities and program materials. You can find tools for collecting data and generating summary reports.

www.saferoutesinfo.org

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership, as a national SRTS support network, has a lot of expertise on how to help make communities and schools safer, healthier, and more active.

www.saferoutespartnership.org

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Health and Human Services have a guide to promote walking to school, which provides a great SRTS overview and provides templates and ideas for events.

www.cdc.gov

Resources by Section

Equity

- Equity resource page saferoutespartnership.org/resources/publications/equity
- The 6 E's of SRTS: Embracing Equity saferoutespartnership.org/blog/6-es-safe-routes-school-embracing-equity

Education

- National Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Curricula www.saferoutespartnership.org/state/bestpractices/curriculum
- BLAST Training Pedestrian Education
- The Street Trust Jump Start Program www.thestreettrust.org/initiatives/jump-start

Encouragement

- The Street Trust Walk + Roll Day www.thestreettrust.org/initiatives/walkroll
- SRTS National Partnership Walking School Bus Primer www.saferoutespartnership.org/sites/default/files/resource_files/step-by-step-walking-school-bus.pdf
- PBOT Walking School Bus Information www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/article/536540
- PBOT Bike Train Information www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/article/536541
- El Monte, California WSB Program www.walkelmonte.org
- Marin County, CA Golden Sneaker Award Guidebook www.saferoutestoschools.org/SR2Simages/GoldenSneaker-Guide-2010.pdf

Engineering

- National Center for SRTS Safety Project Prioritization www.pedbikeinfo.org/pdf/Community_SRTSstate_SafetyBasedPrioritization.PDF

Enforcement

- Oregon SRTS Safety Brochures and Posters
- National Safety Council Back-to-School Tips for Drivers
- AAA School Safety Patrol Membership
- ODE Crossing Guard + Safety Patrol Program
- Adult School Crossing Guideline saferoutesinfo.org

Evaluation

- National Center for SRTS Data System www.saferoutesdata.org
- Parent Surveys in Other Languages Guide www.saferoutesinfo.org/evaluation/appendix_b_safe_routes_to_school_parent_survey.cfm
- Metro SRTS Maps www.oregonmetro.gov/regional-safe-routes-school-framework

Funding Resources

Grants

The Oregon Department of Transportation has two [Safe Routes to School grant programs](#): infrastructure and non-infrastructure grants.

- The non-infrastructure program focuses on education and outreach to assure awareness and safe use of walking and biking routes.
- The infrastructure program aims to build projects that address the needs of students that walk and bicycle to school considering the unique perspectives and behavior of children.

Metro's [Regional Travel Options \(RTO\) grant](#) has a funding category dedicated to supporting existing and new efforts in the region's schools aimed at educating children to walk, bike, or roll safely to school.

Commute Options offers small grants to support Safe Routes to School efforts.

- [Action Plan mini grants](#) offer funding and technical assistance for schools to complete Action Plans to identify gaps and opportunities for SRTS.
- The Train the Coordinator Program offers free training for educators and coordinators. Once training is complete, individuals can apply for a stipend to complete actionable items within their Action Plan.

Safe Routes to School Student Arrival and Departure Tally Sheet

School name

Teacher

Monday's date 20

M M D D Y E A R

Zip code -

Grade (K-8) # of students in class

Teachers or volunteers, here are simple instructions for using this form:

- Please conduct these counts on any two days from **Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday** of the assigned week. Only two days worth of counts are needed, but counting all 3 provides better data. *Please do not conduct these counts on Mondays or Fridays.*
- Before asking your students to raise their hands to indicate the one answer that is correct for them, read through all potential answers so they will know what the choices are.
- Ask your students as a group, **"how did you arrive at school today?"**
- Read each answer and record the number of students that raised their hands for each.
- **Place just one character or number in each box.**
- Follow the same procedure for the question, **"how do you plan to leave for home after school?"**
- Please conduct this count regardless of weather conditions.

Step 1. Fill in the weather conditions and number of students in class each day.				Step 2. Ask students the two following questions and record the number of hands for each answer. <i>How did you arrive at school today? How do you plan to leave for home after school?</i>													
	Weather Sunny (S) Rainy (R) Overcast (O) Snow (Sn)	Number of students in class when count was made		Walk		Bike		School bus		Family vehicle (only with children from your family)		Carpool (riding with children from other families)		Transit (bus, subway, etc.)		Other (scooter, skateboard, etc.)	
SAMPLE	S	2	7	4	2	1	1	7	3	0	0						
Tuesday AM																	
Tuesday PM																	
Wednesday AM																	
Wednesday PM																	
Thursday AM																	
Thursday PM																	

Comments:

List disruptions to counts or any unusual travel conditions to/from school on the days of the tally.

Thanks for your help!

Dear parent or caregiver,

Your child's school wants to hear your thoughts about children walking and rolling to school. This survey will take about 5 - 10 minutes to complete. We ask each family to complete only one survey per school your children attend. If more than one child from a school brings a survey home, please fill out the survey for the child with the next upcoming birthday. After you have completed this survey, send it back to the school with your child or give it to the teacher. Your responses will be kept confidential and neither your name or your child's name will be associated with any results. **Thank you for participating!**

Please use CAPITAL LETTERS and BLUE OR BLACK INK only.

School name

Grade of child who brought home this survey (K-8) Sex of child who brought home this survey Female Male Number of children you have between grades K - 8

What is the street intersection nearest to your home?

and

Place a clear X inside box. If you make a mistake, fill the entire box and mark the correct box.

• **How far does your child live from school?**

Less than 1/4 mile 1/4 mile - 1/2 mile 1/2 mile - 1 mile 1 mile - 2 miles More than 2 miles Don't know

• **On most days, how does your child get to school and get home from school?**

To school

Walk Bike
 Family vehicle (only children in your family) School bus
 Carpool (children from other families) Public transit
 Other (skateboard, wheelchair, etc.)

From school

Walk Bike
 Family vehicle (only children in your family) School bus
 Carpool (children from other families) Public transit
 Other (skateboard, wheelchair, etc.)

• **How long does it normally take your child to get to/from school? Choose one per column.**

Travel time to school

Less than 5 minutes 5 - 10 minutes 11 - 20 minutes More than 20 minutes Don't know / Not sure

Travel time from school

Less than 5 minutes 5 - 10 minutes 11 - 20 minutes More than 20 minutes Don't know / Not sure

• **Has your child asked you for permission to walk or bike to/from school in the last year?** Yes No

• **At what grade would you allow your child to walk or bike to/from school without an adult?**

