

San Mateo County Office of Education

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

# Annual Report

2021-2022







## BACKGROUND

In the 2021-2022 school year, 19 grantees from San Mateo County school districts were awarded \$236,000 in non-infrastructure funding from the San Mateo County City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) and \$105,000 from the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) for infrastructure and special projects. (A list of TA awarded projects can be found on page 10).

With the return to in-person learning since the COVID-19 pandemic, grantees had high hopes for in-person bike rodeos, bike and pedestrian classroom presentations, walk and bike to school days, and small capital infrastructure projects. There were unforeseen challenges for Safe Routes to School, however, as schools instead prioritized helping students heal academically, socially, and emotionally. Despite this, the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) Safe Routes to School program successfully engaged schools through virtual walk audits, International Walk to School Day, Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, and the inception of its School Travel Fellowship.

The City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) provides the foundation for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) in San Mateo County through a combination of funding from the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and Local Measure M funds. C/CAG's unwavering commitment to SRTS for the past 12 years has led to collaboration with other agencies, including San Mateo County Transportation Authority, the California Transportation Commission Active Transportation Program, and the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). Funding from these agencies has allowed the San Mateo County Office of Education to grow exponentially and successfully deliver innovative programs to schools across the county.

Education and encouragement events, and infrastructure that supports safe walking and biking will lead to more opportunities for students and their families to engage in active transportation. The San Mateo County Safe Routes to School program works in partnership with municipalities, schools, community partners, and service providers to make this a reality.



## VISION

The San Mateo County Safe Routes to School program envisions less traffic congestion around schools; improved air quality; a greener, healthier community; and self-reliant children who walk and bike to school. Safe Routes to School is the catalyst for teaching children traffic safety skills and encouraging them to take an active mode of transportation to school. San Mateo County communities support this initiative with infrastructure that provides safe passage for children.

## MISSION

San Mateo County Safe Routes to School encourages and enables school children to walk and bike to school by implementing projects and activities that improve the health, well-being, and safety of children, resulting in less traffic congestion and vehicle emissions caused by school-related travel.

## GOAL

The San Mateo County Safe Routes to School program has two main goals:

1. Partner with schools and community-based organizations to encourage families to carpool or to take an active mode of transportation to school to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. This is achieved through educating students and families on pedestrian and bicycle safety as well as building awareness of our impact on the environment.
2. Assist schools with developing a relationship with their respective municipality to maximize active transportation support for children and their families. Oftentimes, schools and their respective

cities do not communicate about issues regarding transportation. School/city partnerships gives the city access to the school community's perspective of transportation barriers and solutions that will work for students and their families.

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The SMCOE Safe Routes to School program is a collaborative effort between C/CAG, San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA), and SMCOE. Funding for the program is made possible through a combination of federal CMAQ funds and local C/CAG Measure M funds as well as Measure W funds from the TA. During the 2021-2022 school year, other partners and collaborators included municipalities throughout San Mateo County, California Office of Traffic Safety, Caltrans Active Transportation Program, San Mateo County Health Policy and Planning, Spare the Air Youth Technical Advisory Committee, Alta Planning + Design, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), and a variety of approved service providers listed on page 5.

Specific support to participants included promotional items for walk and bike to school days, an annual grant award program, professional development and training, various Safe Routes to School resources, assistance in city/school relationship building, customized outreach, consultation, technical assistance, and countywide event coordination. The San Mateo County Safe Routes to School team included a coordinator, project specialist, two AmeriCorps Fellows, and two consultants. During the 2021-2022 school year, the team collaborated with district administration, wellness coordinators, teachers, parents, community partners, and stakeholders to encourage active modes of transportation to school.



## Partner Organizations

Additional active partners include the following schools, districts, and organizations in San Mateo County:

### Schools and Districts (2021-22 C/CAG and TA Grantees)

Belmont Redwood Shores School District  
Brisbane School District  
Cabrillo Unified School District  
Carlmont High School (SUHSD)  
Hillsdale High School (SMUHSD)  
La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District  
Las Lomitas Elementary School District  
Martin Elementary School (SSFUSD)  
Menlo Park City School District  
Menlo-Atherton High School (SUHSD)  
Marjorie H. Tobias Elementary School (JESD)  
Pacifica School District  
Ravenswood City School District  
Redwood City Together (RWCSO)  
Redwood High School (SUHSD)

San Mateo-Foster City School District  
St. Charles Elementary (San Carlos)  
Westlake Elementary School (JESD)  
Woodside High School (SUHSD)

### 2021-2022 Cities and Organizations

AAA  
Active Transportation Resource Center  
Alta Planning + Design  
California Office of Traffic Safety  
Caltrans  
City of Daly City  
City of East Palo Alto  
City of Half Moon Bay  
City of Menlo Park  
City of Redwood City  
City of San Mateo  
City of South San Francisco  
City/County Association of Governments  
Community Trust  
County of San Mateo  
Reimagine SamTrans  
Ruby Bridges Foundation  
Safe Kids Coalition  
Safe Routes to School National Partnership  
San Mateo County Health Policy and Planning  
San Mateo County Office of Sustainability  
San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans)  
San Mateo County Transportation Authority  
South San Francisco Orange Library  
South San Francisco Rotary Club  
Spare the Air Youth Technical Advisory Committee  
Stanford University, Our Voice Initiative  
UC Davis Cooperative Extension

## FRAMEWORK FOR SUCCESS

The SMCOE Safe Routes to School program was modeled after the nationally recognized Six E's framework. The 6 E's are Education, Encouragement, Evaluation, Engineering, Equity, and Engagement. When included as part of a comprehensive SRTS program, the Six E's are an effective approach to creating safer environments for walking and biking to school and other destinations. During the 2021-2022 school year, the SMCOE Safe Routes to School program engaged in every E and piloted new ways to engage with the school community at a deeper level.

**Education:** Education plays a significant role in SRTS programming and can be delivered through school assemblies, classroom instruction, bicycle and pedestrian rodeos, wellness programs, student clubs, family and parent education, and other events.

These activities increase participation in SRTS events throughout the school year by giving students and their families the traffic safety education they need to navigate their routes safely when traveling to school. Education provides the entire school community a common understanding of what the SMCOE Safe Routes to School program seeks to achieve and the positive impact the program can have on the environment, such as improved air quality, and students' lifestyles. Education also provides valuable skills to help students build their confidence and independence at an early age so they are ready to walk and bike to school alone when the time is right for them.



**Engagement:** All initiatives begin by listening to students, families, teachers, and school leaders. The SMCOE Safe Routes to School program does not use a “cookie-cutter” approach. Working with existing community organizations and building intentional, ongoing engagement opportunities provide an experience that meets the school community’s needs. The SMCOE Safe Routes to School program held county-wide engagement efforts in the 2021-2022 school year through many community partnerships that led to safer streets for all. One of these efforts was Crossing Guard Appreciation Week. This was a new engagement event that encouraged students, parents, teachers, and school staff to show their support and appreciation for their local crossing guards. The SMCOE Safe Routes to School program created a toolkit for schools to participate in this week-long event and provided reflective gloves for each crossing guard who was recognized.

**Encouragement:** Encouragement events and activities are intended to spark interest in walking and biking to school instead of relying on single-occupancy vehicles. Encouragement events such as Walk and Roll to School Days go hand in hand with educational activities. They provide students with the opportunity to practice safe walking and biking behaviors, generate interest, build community, and sustain momentum by celebrating success. Countywide encouragement events include International Walk to School Day in October, Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in November, Earth Day in April, and Bike to School Day in May. Schools encourage students to walk/bike to school year-round by establishing and promoting weekly or monthly Walk and Roll to School Days. Regular activities are essential to encourage more active forms of transportation.

In the 2021-2022 school year, the SMCOE Routes to School program began coordinating Golden Sneaker Contests, a friendly classroom competition that encourages students, parents, teachers, administration,

## Approved Service Providers

- **Alta Planning + Design** – traffic analysis, route maps, GIS modeling, encouragement activities, community policies, bike share programs
- **Earthcapades** – live and virtual assemblies emphasizing active transportation’s effects on the environment
- **Ecology Action** – walk smart and bike smart programs
- **Kidpower** – safety trainings, workshops, and materials for children and adults
- **Marine Science Institute** – interactive, hands-on adventures with San Francisco Bay Area marine life to show how active transportation helps the environment
- **Music Notes** – live or pre-recorded concerts and songwriting workshops teaching students about walking and biking safety via music
- **Our Voice** – mobile app that collects community-generated data to help facilitate discussion for improving and planning walking/biking infrastructure
- **Parisi** – walk/bike audits, school route maps, training and safety education
- **Perfection on Wheels** – bicycle stunt show emphasizes the importance of wearing a helmet and riding a bike safely
- **Pik My Kid** – mobile application and consultation to improve daily school dismissals and traffic
- **Safe Moves** – bike rodeos, parent workshops, family bike rides
- **Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition** – pedestrian and bicycling safety skills, bike rodeos
- **Toole Design/TransForm** – programming for connecting students to walking and biking by relating active transportation to locations and issues local to them



and other school staff to walk, roll, carpool, or take transit to school. The classrooms with the highest levels of participation over a two-week period were entered into a raffle to meet San Mateo Police Department's Therapy Goldendoodle, Rookie. Eighteen schools participated county-wide and five lucky classrooms won the grand prize.

**Evaluation:** Evaluation is an important element of any SRTS program. It can determine if the most vital needs are addressed, appropriate strategies are used, and desired results are achieved. The two main evaluation methods in the SMCOE Safe Routes to School program are student travel tallies and the parent and caregiver survey.

Student travel tallies are collected twice a year and measure how students get to and from school. Student travel tallies can serve as a metric for the effectiveness

of encouragement and education activities. These data are collected through the National Safe Routes Student Travel Tally Form and are computed with the assistance of the National Safe Routes Data Center.

The parent/caregiver survey asks for information regarding factors that affect a parent or caregiver's decision to allow their children to walk, roll, or bike to school; the presence of key safety-related conditions along various routes to school; and related background information. The parent survey is provided in English and Spanish and is available online as well as in print. The 2021-2022 iteration of the annual parent survey reverted to pre-COVID questions and did not include questions about distance learning.

In the 2021-2022 school year, the SMCOE Safe Routes to School program worked with the consultant Alta Planning + Design to evaluate the effectiveness of its

## Safe Routes to Schools Shared Goals

### Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

Grant program funded by federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program, local C/CAG Measure M funds (which may be used for education and encouragement), and Transportation Authority Measure W funds (which may be used for small capital infrastructure and special projects).

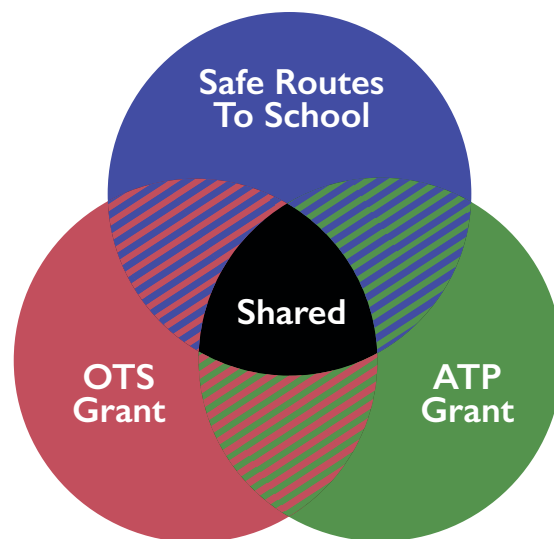
Districts or individual schools apply for funding to implement walking and biking education and encouragement and/or small capital infrastructure improvements.

### Active Transportation Program (ATP)

Cycle 1 Caltrans ATP Grant supported the creation and implementation of Resilient Neighborhoods, a standards-aligned Safe Routes to School curriculum. The ATP grant also supported the pilot of the School Travel Fellowship.

### California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS)

Equity-focused funding from OTS to support ten schools in developing a Safe Routes to School program. The schools were in areas of the county that were identified as hotspots for pedestrian and bicycle collisions.



### Shared Goals

- Educate and encourage children and their families to walk and bike to school
- Assist cities and their respective schools in developing a collaborative relationship

### Shared Expectations

- Participation in county-wide walk and roll to school days
- Parent/Caregiver Survey and Student Travel Tallies
- Promotion of active transportation



county-wide efforts. This evaluation included a five-year program evaluation, strategic plan, and youth-based High Injury Network (HIN) Analysis to help inform future work.

**Engineering:** Engineering allows for broader collaboration with stakeholders and local cities, municipalities, and other public agencies to identify and address barriers to walking, bicycling, and access to transit.

Walk and bike safety audits assess the walkability and bike-ability of a school and its surrounding environment. These audits include analyzing traffic patterns and travel to and from a school. Walk and bike audits allow for direct and indirect feedback for potential positive changes. Walking and biking suggested route maps are also generated in order to provide an effective tool for safe and efficient travel flow. Engineering proposals tend to focus on smaller infrastructure projects, which include painting parking lots, directing traffic flow, designating pick-up and drop-off zones, and installing bicycle racks.

In the 2021-2022 school year, numerous projects included engineering and infrastructure changes to create safer walking and biking environments across San Mateo County. Projects included bike racks, sidewalk repairs, and infrastructure improvements at key intersections near schools.

**Equity:** Children from families with limited incomes are more likely to walk to school out of necessity and often face busy streets, poor infrastructure, and more instances of crime or violence during their trips to and from school. Communities that are under-resourced have historically lacked policies, funding, or other forms of support to ensure streets are safe for walking and biking. Additionally, these communities experience high injury and fatality rates from traffic crashes due in large part to years of disinvestment in safe infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists. Due to these factors, fatality rates nationwide are twice as high for pedestrians in these areas than those in neighborhoods with low poverty rates.

Supporting accessible and equitable programming has become the leading strategy of the SMCOE Safe Routes to School program. The growing focus on

equity has made it possible to focus on the needs of all students, with particular emphasis on providing access and support for students with limited financial means, students of color, students of all genders, students with disabilities, and others. This foundation ensures safe, healthy, and fair outcomes for all. SRTS has committed to building programs around equity by prioritizing funding in communities with high poverty rates within the county through OTS funding, and special focus and technical assistance provided to schools serving communities that are under-resourced and experience higher traffic collisions involving pedestrians and cyclists. During the 2021-2022 school year, SRTS utilized OTS funding to improve walking and biking safety for priority schools in low-income neighborhoods within a ½-mile radius of unsafe intersections. The program provided educational opportunities for students to learn about safe walking and biking practices. OTS-funded projects improved partnerships between schools, their local municipalities, and community organizations through walk audits, outreach events, providing helmets to families in need, and stakeholder coordination.

The Youth-Based High Injury Network (HIN) Analysis, described in more detail on page 9, provided critical information regarding pedestrian and bicycle hot spots in under-resourced areas of the county. The HIN Analysis will be used in decision-making for future grant cycles.







## 2021-2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

### COASTSIDE SUPPORT

In 2021-2022, the SMCOE Safe Routes to School program funded a consultant to ensure school districts along the coast were supported. As a result, all districts participated in encouragement events, provided educational programs at schools, and conducted SRTS Student Travel Tallies and Parent Surveys. The consultant continued to support Pescadero Middle School/High School's Riding for Focus physical education program, which was initiated by the consultant and granted during the summer of 2021. Through SRTS special project funding, Pescadero Middle School/High School also started an after school bike mechanics program, which included space to store donated bikes that students fixed and took home. Pacifica School District ramped up the number of skateboard/scooter racks on school campuses and provided bicycle rodeos for all fourth and fifth grade students in the district. Cabrillo Unified School District worked with the City of Half Moon Bay to make safety improvements at a busy intersection near three schools. This long-awaited project was partially funded through the SRTS Infrastructure Grant. In the spring of 2022, a walk audit was conducted at a school in each of the three districts, along with an Our Voice project in Pescadero. As a result of the walk audits, each district applied for and received funding to complete infrastructure projects in 2022-2023.

### CLIMATE CORPS AMERICORPS FELLOWS

The SMCOE Safe Routes to School program has hosted fellows from the Climate Corps AmeriCorps program since 2018. Fellows are recent graduates interested in active transportation, education, equity, and accessibility. Their placement with Safe Routes to School provides them with an opportunity to engage with communities, use their talents, and develop their professional skills. Fellows primarily assist in managing a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) that funds outreach and education programming for schools that are in communities with high poverty.

levels and are located near unsafe roads and intersections. Programming is diverse and meant to teach K-12 students about pedestrian and bike safety in ways that are relevant, informative, and engaging through activities including bike rodeos and assemblies.

During the 2021-2022 school year, one fellow worked with the OTS grant while a second fellow managed the Safe Routes to School grant and coordinated all SRTS services for the Ravenswood City School District and the San Mateo-Foster City School District. The fellows also initiated the first annual Crossing Guard Appreciation Month and recruited schools to take part in the Golden Sneaker Contest. Climate Corps AmeriCorps fellows add value to the Safe Routes to School program!

## HIGH INJURY NETWORK ANALYSIS

SRTS contracted with Alta Planning + Design to complete a Youth-Based High Injury Network (HIN) Analysis in San Mateo County. The HIN Analysis identifies segments in road networks where many pedestrian and bicycle collisions have occurred as a means for prioritizing future infrastructure improvements. The analysis considers historic collisions in San Mateo County, prioritizing those with greater severity involving youth or active-mode victims. The HIN Analysis will be used to identify segments near schools where students traveling to or from school may face increased safety challenges. The report provides data for Safe Routes to School, San Mateo County Public Health, and municipalities throughout the county to expand educational safety programs that address safe walking and biking practices, redesign student access to schools to minimize their exposure to vehicular traffic, and demonstrate need when applying for grants to improve infrastructure.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

SRTS contracted with Alta Planning + Design to develop a strategic plan for Safe Routes to School. The strategic plan establishes an overarching approach to SRTS and defines a five-year action plan and performance measures to expand, strengthen, and monitor the SMCOE Safe Routes to School program. The strategic plan is intended to guide SRTS partners in San Mateo County and funding opportunities, including

the on-going SRTS special projects and infrastructure grant program provided in partnership with the San Mateo County Transportation Authority. The strategic plan is also for local SRTS professionals, as well as the many people who work on related efforts, such as school administrators and district wellness coordinators, city public works and planning staff, and advocates, educators, and SRTS champions.

## Presentations

*July 16, 2021*

Back to School Travel with Equity and Empathy

*August 25, 2021*

Safe Routes to School Summit

*September 2, 2021*

Youth Climate Ambassadors

*October 5, 2021*

Transportation Authority Community Advisory Committee

*October 7, 2021*

Transportation Authority Board

*November 3, 2021*

San Mateo County Office of Education Board

*March 11, 2021*

C/CAG Board

## Encouragement Events in 2021-2022

*September 2021 and October 2021*

Pedestrian Safety Months

*October 6, 2021*

International Walk to School Day

*November 17, 2021*

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

*April 22, 2022*

Earth Day

*May 4, 2022, and the entire month of May*

Bike to School Day and Bike Month

*Fall 2021-Spring 2022*

Weekly/Monthly Walk & Roll to School Days



## Transportation Authority Projects

School District	Amount	Project Details
Sequoia Union High School District (Woodside High School)	\$5,000	Bike shed program - materials
Pacifica School District	\$5,000	Skateboard/scooter racks or additional bike racks
San Mateo-Foster City School District	\$8,000	Bike racks
Belmont Redwood Shores School District	\$9,000	Crossing guards
San Mateo Union High School District (Hillsdale High School)	\$11,295	Bike shed materials, salary for bike mechanic
Jefferson Elementary School District (Westlake Elementary)	\$14,000	Crossing guards
Cabrillo Unified School District	\$14,000	Infrastructure improvements at Kelly Ave. and Pilarcitos Ave. in Half Moon Bay.
La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District	\$18,705	Walk audit, bike shed tools and parts, bike shed, stipend for bike mechanics instructor, bike shed or bike container with concrete foundation, indoor bike stands/racks as needed
South San Francisco Unified School District (Martin Elementary)	\$20,000	Sidewalk repair in front of school

## 2021-2022 COORDINATOR SUPPORT

The following workshops and opportunities were offered to support school and district Safe Routes to School Coordinators:

### Safe Routes to School Coordinator Meetings

The Safe Routes to School Coordinators met quarterly via Zoom. Meetings included presentations by various partners on a variety of topics.

### Safe Routes to School Summit

The seventh annual Safe Routes to School Summit was held virtually to encourage SRTS practitioners from San Mateo County and beyond to share best practices. This summit is the only one of its kind in the Bay Area. Practitioners participated in a vendor showcase and attended workshops on the theory of stages of change and how it applies to transportation choices, positive social norms, and the importance of wearing a helmet.

### Technical Assistance

SMCOE's Safe Routes to School Coordinator and Project Specialist provided support and technical assistance throughout the 2021-2022 school year and implemented twice weekly drop-in office hours on Zoom.

# SPECIAL EVENTS/PROJECTS

## Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day (RBWTSD) has captured the imagination of young people across the country because of the efforts of the SMCoe Safe Routes to School team in collaboration with Martin Elementary School (South San Francisco Unified School District) and Northern California AAA. The SRTS team created a Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day website, sign-up link, and resource page and worked with a videographer and Martin Elementary School students to create a promotional video that was

shared with Safe Routes to School programs across the country. At the start of the 2021-2022 school year, a RBWTSD resolution was passed by the California State Senate making November 14th Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in California. Ruby Bridges restarted her foundation, making RBWTSD a key initiative and encouraging more than 200,000 people nationwide to walk in 2021. When we walk, things change!

## Safe Routes to School for Health and Wellness

In 2014, the SMCoe Safe Routes to School program was awarded funding from Caltrans' Cycle I Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant. However, the



### Participation Breakdown

K-5th Grade.....	47
K-8th Grade.....	12
Middle School.....	11
High School.....	6
Total number of schools supported in 2021-22.....	76
Walkability and Bikeability Audits.....	13
Total assemblies, bike rodeos, education, encouragement events.....	155



organization was unable to access the grant funds until May 2017 due to specific funding requirements. Grant funds were used to hire a project specialist to deepen schools' connection to SRTS through resources designed to shift school culture in San Mateo County from one that enables families to drive to school to one that promotes safe, accessible, active transportation. These resources include an administrator toolkit that assists school site administrators in addressing common SRTS issues, such as bullying and personal safety, and provides communication resources for education and encouragement events; a parent and community engagement toolkit that encourages parents to become actively involved in SRTS and provides fun and engaging ideas for encouragement events; planning tools to help facilitate event coordination; and a curriculum that meets science, engineering, computer science, health, and social science standards.

The ATP project specialist worked with educators, administrators, and community organizations across the county to implement these resources and provide additional technical assistance to 14 schools

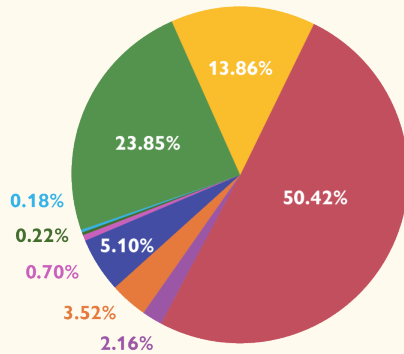
located in communities of concern. These schools received hands-on technical assistance and resources that included pedestrian and bicycle rodeos, parent engagement workshops and resources, walk and bike audits, and additional support for walk/bike to school encouragement events. In addition, more than 50 educators county-wide have been trained in the SRTS Transportation-focused Environmental Literacy Curriculum since its inception in the 2018-2019 school year. Through the support of C/CAG, SRTS staff were able to offer a teacher stipend to those implementing the curriculum in their classrooms across the county. The standards-aligned, solutions-focused curriculum allows educators and students to assess their neighborhoods, understand transportation needs in their communities, and make an informed and healthy decision regarding how they choose to travel to school. The combined efforts of the SRTS staff helped pave the way for a greater county-wide emphasis on the benefits of active transportation. The ATP funded grant received an extension from Caltrans due to the pandemic and is scheduled to close out in May 2023, but the programs created a lasting impact for schools county-wide.



# Parent Survey Results

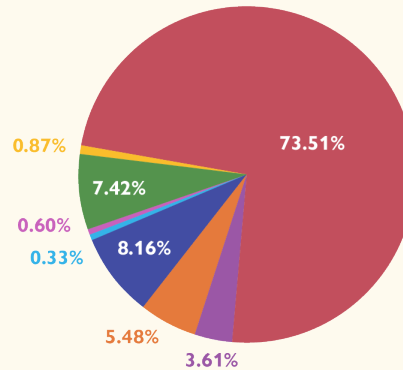
## How does your child usually travel TO school?

2,273 total responses



## How does your child usually travel home FROM school?

1,495 total responses

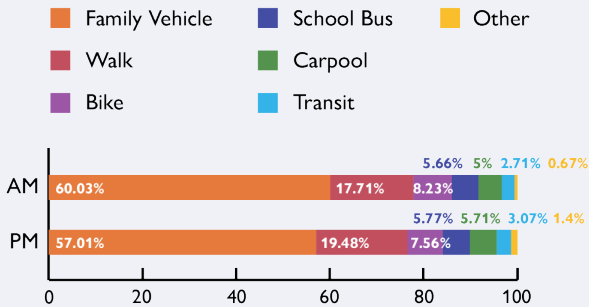


- Walk
- Bike
- Family Vehicle (your kids only)
- School Bus
- Carpool
- City Bus/Transit
- Drives Self (high school student)
- Takes a Car Service (Uber, Lyft, Zum, etc.)
- Other (scooter, skateboard, etc.)

## Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison

30,468 total responses for AM

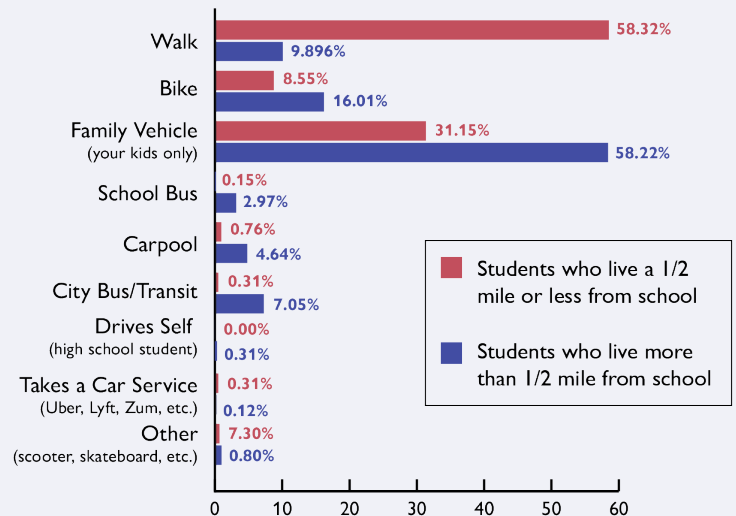
26,999 total responses for PM



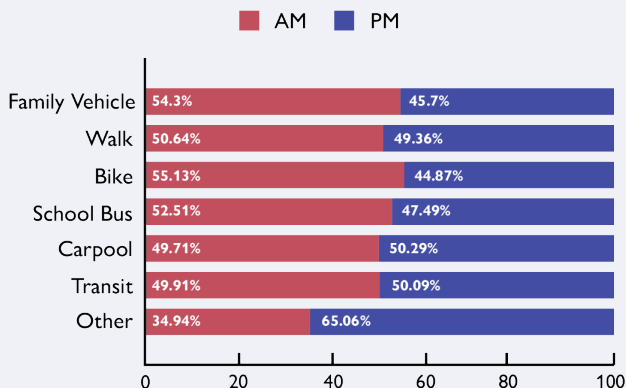
## How does your child usually travel to school?

By distance from home to school

2,273 total responses

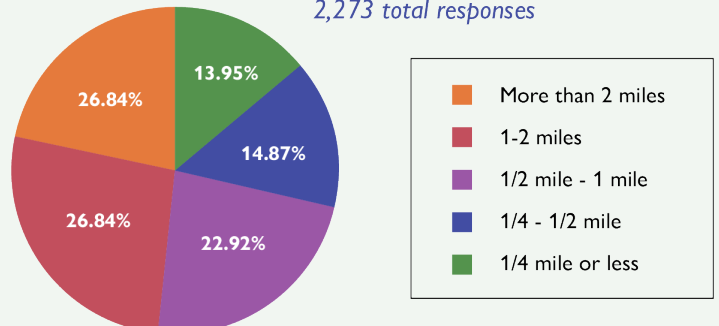


## Comparing Popularity of Travel Mode by Time of Day



## What is the approximate distance from your home to the school?

2,273 total responses





## 2021-22 Program Participants

District	Bike Rodeos	Bike Skills Presentations	Pedestrian Skills Presentations	Assemblies	Community Events	Walk Audits	Walk and Roll to School Days	Bike/Shed Club	Poster Contest	Other/Workshops
Belmont-Redwood Shores SD	5					3				
Brisbane Elementary SD	3		1			2				
Cabrillo Unified SD	3	4		1	1	6			18	
Jefferson Elementary SD	1		2		1	4		3	3	
La Honda-Pescadero Unified SD		4	2		1	3	1		5	
Las Lomitas Elementary SD			1			1				
Menlo Park City SD	3	1			1	2		2		
Pacifica SD	17					3			12	
Ravenswood City SD					4	2				
Redwood City Together	1					2		7		
San Mateo Union High SD	1	1		1	2	1	2		1	
San Mateo-Foster City SD						4				
Sequoia Union High SD						1	3			
South San Francisco Unified SD	1				1			2		
St. Charles School		1	2		2	5		1		

## Safe School Travel Fellowship

The SMCOE Safe Routes to School program introduced the School Travel Fellowship in the 2021-2022 school year to address common issues encountered when addressing bike/pedestrian safety. City/municipal staff, schools, and community-based organizations often have limited communication with one another, which limits their ability to address school travel safety concerns. The SMCOE Safe Routes to School program has identified this as a key issue that hinders bike/pedestrian safety and, as a result, has modeled the School Travel Fellowship to support cities and schools in creating safer streets near schools for long-lasting change.

In July 2021, SMCOE Safe Routes to School began implementing the School Travel Fellowship Program to provide technical assistance to city traffic/transportation/planning officials who wanted to increase pedestrian and bicyclist safety to and from school; decrease traffic congestion that creates unsafe walking/bicycling conditions; and implement new, innovative transportation projects near schools. The five interdisciplinary city/school teams chosen to pilot this program were Daly City, East Palo Alto, San Mateo, South San Francisco, and Redwood City. The teams were selected through a competitive application process and were scored based on project innovation, project location, equity consideration, and breadth and diversity of the identified team.

Through this fellowship, teams received technical assistance to effectively collaborate with stakeholders, plan bike and pedestrian education at their prioritized schools, and organize regular walk/bike to school days. They worked with a transportation consultant one-on-one to identify and implement feasible demonstration projects that increased school travel safety by removing barriers to walking and bicycling to school.

A key strategy of the School Travel Fellowship was pop-up demonstration projects, also known as tactical urbanism, which convene multidisciplinary stakeholders and community members to create temporary improvements such as separated bike lanes, traffic circles, and street closures during school drop off/pick times. Pop-up demonstrations are useful in bringing city staff, school personnel, community-based organizations, businesses, and local residents together

to work collaboratively and evaluate the proposed solutions before making permanent changes. Pop-up demonstrations typically result in more walking and bicycling, demonstrating that if the facilities are welcoming and safe, more people are likely to use them. By focusing on pop-up demonstrations, cities can assess project feasibility in a low-cost way, collect data on potential costs to pursue additional funding, and identify issues that can be corrected prior to permanently changing the infrastructure.

## SRTS Curriculum 2021-2022

The 2021-2022 school year marked the fourth year of the SRTS Transportation curriculum and C/CAG's support of this curriculum by providing teacher stipends for the training. The San Mateo Environmental Literacy Collaborative (SMELC) included the SRTS Transportation Curriculum as one of the official topical pathways for the Solutionary Teacher Fellowship. The Solutionary Teacher Fellowship, formerly called the San Mateo Environmental Literacy Collaborative Teacher Fellowship, is a knowledge-to-action program that builds teacher capacity for designing and delivering learning experiences that are student-centered, problem-project-based, solutions-oriented, and integrates real-world environmental justice issues. The Solutionary Teacher Fellowship is an opportunity for region-wide educators to implement environmental literacy and standards-aligned curriculum into their classrooms through service learning and a solutionary framework, which empowers students to explore, understand, and tackle real-world issues that impact the environment.

Through the lens of transportation, educators and students learn to assess their neighborhoods, understand the transportation needs in their communities, and ultimately learn to make an informed and healthy decision regarding how they choose to travel to school. Teacher fellows participated in virtual synchronous and asynchronous learning activities to help them teach the subject matter virtually, while still emphasizing the importance of teaching environmental, social, and transportation justice to students.





# FUTURE OF SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Several goals for the future of the SMCOE Safe Routes to School program were identified during the 2021-2022 school year. They include:

- Provide technical assistance to meet the needs of individual schools
- Deliver the SRTS program with an equity lens
- Promote active transportation across the county
- Assist schools and their municipalities in relationship building
- Use the High Injury Network (HIN) Analysis data when awarding SRTS funds
- Design and implement an in-house database for travel tallies and parent survey data

## Technical Assistance

Safe Routes to School programming is contingent on the needs of the school community. The SMCOE Safe Routes to School program will continue to engage with all school stakeholders to provide technical assistance that addresses barriers to walking and biking to school. The SRTS team will also host a grant writing workshop prior to the release of the next SRTS grant application.

## Equity Lens

In May 2022, the SMCOE Safe Routes to School program was awarded a grant from OTS for the fifth year in a row to continue focusing its efforts on priority schools in under-resourced areas of the county where the majority of students are on free and reduced lunch. SRTS staff also use the C/CAG priority communities map to identify schools. Additionally, OTS fully funded the School Travel Fellowship, which allows cities to receive technical assistance from a planning firm to prioritize active student travel. The utilization of the C/CAG priority communities map and the OTS grant have enhanced SRTS' equity lens by highlighting schools in under-resourced areas of the county and providing more access to education and encouragement, community engagement, and bike helmets.



The SRTS team will work with service providers to make sure they have adaptive equipment to meet the needs of students who have developmental and/or physical disabilities.

## Promote Active Transportation Across the County

The SMCOE Safe Routes to School team will continue to advocate for active transportation for all. This includes continuing to provide bike and pedestrian education, engage high school students through their green teams and bike shed programs, develop materials reminding drivers to slow down around schools, and provide a repository for success stories, walk audit reports, and other resources to keep children safe while walking and bicycling. When a community is safe for its most vulnerable members, it will be safe for everyone.

## Assist Schools and Their Municipalities in Relationship Building

The School Travel Fellowship was piloted in the 2021-2022 school year and was very successful. Five city/school teams received technical assistance in supporting active school travel. This program will continue in the 2022-2023 school year with funding from C/CAG, the Office of Traffic Safety, and San Mateo County Public Health.

## High Injury Network (HIN) Analysis

The San Mateo County Safe Routes to School team will use the High Injury Network Analysis, completed during the 2021-2022 school year, in grant selection criteria for infrastructure and programmatic grant opportunities.

## Data Collection

The SMCOE Safe Routes to School team will work with the San Mateo County Office of Education's Center for Learning Analytics to design and implement a database to house student travel tally data and parent survey data. Travel tally data is currently housed on the National SRTS Database but funding fluctuates from year to year; an internal database will ensure that this data is easily accessible.





## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



San Mateo County Office of Education



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TO  
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