

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022-2023



## BACKGROUND

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The San Mateo County Safe Routes to School program works in partnership with municipalities, schools, community partners, and service providers to encourage students and families to engage in active transportation, such as safe walking and biking, to support whole-child outcomes and help students grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

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 13 years has led to collaboration with other agencies, including the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA), the California Transportation Commission Active Transportation Program, and the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS).

In the 2022-2023 school year, **12 grantees from San Mateo County school districts** were awarded \$130,000 from the San Mateo County TA for infrastructure and special projects. A list of TA

funded projects can be found on page 7. In addition, schools across the county had access to bike and pedestrian education funded by C/CAG and OTS. Grantees implemented various traffic safety projects to support safe school travel and had access to educational services including bike rodeos, bike and pedestrian classroom presentations, walk and roll to school days, and technical assistance.

Funding from these agencies allowed the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) Safe Routes to School Program to grow exponentially and successfully deliver innovative programs to schools across the county during the 2022-23 school year, including **walk audits**, **International Walk to School Day** and **Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day** events, and the **School Travel Fellowship Program**. SMCOE Safe Routes to School continues to grow and deepen its work to support active transportation across the county.



## 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 and from school.

Safe Routes to School aims to enhance transportation equity for students and families within the county. The program achieves this through a combination of initiatives that prioritize equity to make active transportation more accessible, irrespective of an individual's socioeconomic status or other factors. 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.

## GOALS

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 use an active mode of transportation to and from school, reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality. This is achieved by educating students and families on pedestrian and bicycle safety as well as building awareness of our impact on the environment.
2. Assist schools in developing relationships 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 and city partnerships create clear lines of communication for school communities to share their perspective on transportation barriers as well as 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 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 2022-2023 school year, other partners and collaborators included municipalities throughout San Mateo County, California OTS, 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.

During the 2022-2023 school year, the San Mateo County Safe Routes to School team included a coordinator, project specialist, two AmeriCorps Fellows, and two consultants. The team collaborated with district administration, wellness coordinators, teachers, parents, students, community partners, and stakeholders throughout San Mateo County to encourage active modes of transportation to school.

## PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

### Schools and Districts

- Belmont Redwood Shores Elementary School District
- Benjamin Franklin Elementary School (JESD)
- Cabrillo Unified School District
- Carlmont High School (SUHSD)
- Hillside High School (SMUHSD)
- La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District
- Las Lomitas Elementary School District
- Lower Laurel Elementary (MPCSD)
- Menlo Atherton High School (SUHSD)
- Redwood City Together (RWCSO)
- Roy Cloud Elementary (RCSO)
- South San Francisco Unified School District
- Westlake Elementary School (JESD)

### 2022-23 Cities and Organizations

- AAA
- Active Transportation Resource Center
- Alta Planning + Design
- Bay Area Community Resources
- 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 Millbrae
- City of Redwood City
- City of San Mateo
- City of South San Francisco
- City/County Association of Governments
- Community Trust
- County of San Mateo
- Ruby Bridges Foundation
- Safe Kids Coalition
- Safe Routes to School National Partnership
- San Mateo County Office of Sustainability
- San Mateo Transit District (SamTrans)
- San Mateo County Transportation Authority
- Stanford University, Our Voice Initiative

## APPROVED SERVICE PROVIDERS

- **Alta Planning + Design** – Traffic analysis, route maps, GIS modeling, encouragement activities, community policies, walk audits
- **EarthCapades** – Live and virtual assemblies emphasizing active transportation’s effects on the environment
- **Ecology Action** – Walk smart and bike smart programs
- **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 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
- **Perfection on Wheels** – Bicycle stunt show emphasizes the importance of wearing a helmet and riding a bike safely
- **Safe Moves** – Bike rodeos, parent workshops, family bike rides
- **Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition** – Pedestrian and bicycling safety skills, bike rodeos

## FRAMEWORK FOR SUCCESS

The San Mateo County Safe Routes to School Program has embraced the nationally recognized Six Es framework, consisting of Education, Encouragement, Evaluation, Engineering, Equity, and Engagement. This holistic approach has proven effective in enhancing safety for students walking and biking to school. Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, the program actively implemented all “Es” and explored innovative ways to deepen its reach within each school community.

### EDUCATION

Education is a cornerstone of Safe Routes to School programming. The program utilizes various channels, including school assemblies, classroom instruction, wellness programs, and student clubs, to impart crucial traffic safety education. These efforts not only foster a shared understanding of the program’s goals but also equip students and their families with the skills needed to navigate routes safely. Education increases environmental awareness, promotes healthy lifestyles, and enhances air quality by reducing traffic congestion around schools.

## ENGAGEMENT

Safe Routes to School initiatives prioritize active engagement with students, families, teachers, and school leaders. Through intentional partnerships with community organizations, the program ensures a tailored experience that meets the unique needs of each school community. Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day is a powerful example of community engagement as it involves education, celebration, active involvement, inspiration, social justice promotion, and the building of bridges within the community.

### ENCOURAGEMENT

Encouragement activities aim to inspire interest in walking and biking to school, reducing reliance on single-occupancy vehicles. Events like International Walk to School Day, Bike Month, and the Golden Sneaker Contest promote safe behaviors while celebrating success. These initiatives, along with monthly Walk and Roll to School Days, play a vital role in encouraging a shift toward more active modes of transportation.

## EVALUATION

Evaluation is a critical element in assessing the effectiveness of the program. Student travel tallies, conducted semi-annually, gauge the impact of encouragement and education activities. Additionally, parent and caregiver surveys gather essential information about factors influencing transportation decisions. In the 2021-2022 school year, a comprehensive evaluation by Alta Planning + Design informed future SRTS work, encompassing a five year program evaluation, a strategic plan, and a youth-based High Injury Network analysis. This information informed Safe Routes to School efforts in 2022-2023 and will continue to inform future efforts.

## ENGINEERING

Engineering involves collaboration with local entities to identify and address barriers to walking, biking, and transit access. Walk and bike safety audits, along with infrastructure projects such as bike racks and sidewalk repairs, contribute to creating safer environments. The 2022-2023 projects, through the School Travel Fellowship, included key improvements at intersections and infrastructure enhancements to foster safer walking and biking around San Mateo County schools.

## EQUITY

Recognizing the disparities in pedestrian safety, the program emphasizes equity and focuses on the needs of all students, especially those from households with lower incomes. By directing funding to these communities and providing technical assistance, the program ensures accessibility and support for all students, including those with disabilities. The 2021-2022 Youth Based High Injury Network Analysis identified critical information in under-resourced areas and guided decision-making for SRTS programming in 2022-2023 and SRTS Transportation Authority-funded grants. The SRTS program's commitment to equity extends to educational opportunities, outreach events, and partnerships to improve safety in priority schools.



## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL 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 services to implement walking and biking education and encouragement and for funding for small capital infrastructure improvements and special projects.

### 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.

This funding was fully expended and ended in 2022-2023.

### California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS)

In 2022-2023, California OTS fully funded the grant application that the SMCOE SRTS program submitted. The funding provided foundational support for the School Travel fellowship as well as equity-focused work that supported 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 of All Three Programs

- Educate and encourage children and their families to walk and bicycle 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
- Promote Parent/Caregiver Survey and Student Travel Tallies
- Promotion of active transportation

## PARTICIPATION BREAKDOWN

### 111 Schools supported

- 70 K-6 Schools
- 17 K-8 Schools
- 20 Middle Schools
- 4 High Schools
- 8 walkability and bikeability audits
- 239 assemblies, bike rodeos, education, and encouragement events

## TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY GRANT AWARDS

El Granada School / Cabrillo Unified School District	Multimodal train connection to school	\$20,000
Pacifica School District	Cross walk improvements	\$20,000
Westlake Elementary/JESD	Marquee	\$16,552
La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District	Container, tools, and pop-up project items	\$13,500
Roy Cloud Elementary School/RCSD	Covered bike locker, scooter/skateboard docks, bike rodeo traffic signs	\$12,500
Benjamin Franklin Intermediate School/JESD	Bike, scooter, skateboard racks	\$11,848
Belmont-Redwood Shores	Crossing Guard Program	\$10,000
Sunshine Garden/SSFUSD	Electronic gate/sidewalk striping	\$6,000
Menlo Atherton High School/SUHSD	Supplies, staff time	\$5,600
Las Lomas Elementary School District	Bike shed and bike repair	\$5,000
Hillsdale High School/SMUHSD	Bike rack, supplies	\$4,500
Lower Laurel Elementary School/MPCSD	Bike rack	\$4,500

## 2022-2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

### COASTSIDE SUPPORT

In 2022-2023, SMCOE Safe Routes to School funded a coordinator for the third year to ensure San Mateo County school districts along the coast were supported. All school districts participated in encouragement events, provided educational programs at schools, and conducted Safe Routes to School Student Travel Tallies and Parent Surveys. The coordinator helped organize bicycle and pedestrian safety events for children at several affordable housing communities on the coastside and participated in the Make it Main Street Back-to-School Block Party in Half Moon Bay.

In response to Safe Routes to School walk audits conducted in 2021-2022, through Safe Routes to School grant funding, bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements were implemented in 2022-2023 near Sunset Ridge Elementary School, at El Granada Elementary School where the safe connection to the Midcoast Multimodal Trail was installed, and on-campus at Pescadero Elementary School. Additionally, Safe Routes to School continued to support the Pescadero Middle & High School Riding for Focus physical education program and their Bike Mechanic Apprenticeship program.

In the fall of 2022, Half Moon Bay High School AP Environmental Science students participated in an Our Voice project to collect data regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety concerns around the school. As a result, the students created a list of recommendations for administrators, which led to a walk audit where city and school administrators could further explore the student-collected data and recommendations. Cabrillo Unified School District then applied for and received Safe Routes to School funding to implement recommendations from the Half Moon Bay High School Walk Audit, which will be completed in the following year.

Additionally, a walk audit was conducted at Ortega Elementary School in Pacifica during the spring of 2023. In response to the walk audit recommendations, the Pacifica School District and City of Pacifica applied for and received Safe Routes to School funding to implement improvements near Ortega Elementary School.

### CLIMATE CORPS AMERICORPS FELLOWS

AmeriCorps Climate Corps fellows have been a valuable addition to the Safe Routes to School program since 2018. Fellows are recent college graduates interested in active transportation, education, equity, accessibility, and traffic safety. Their placement with Safe Routes to School provides them with an opportunity to engage with communities and develop their professional skills. Fellows primarily assist in managing the OTS grant, which funds outreach and education programming for schools in priority neighborhoods that typically have 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. Examples of programming include bike and pedestrian rodeos and traffic safety assemblies.

During the 2022-2023 school year, one fellow managed the Every Kid Deserves a Bike program at the City of South San Francisco, coordinating a bike donation program for five Title One schools, which included four elementary schools and one middle school. In addition to providing free bikes, the programming included helmet fittings, bike and helmet personalization stations, practice areas for kids to learn to ride a bike, bike safety rodeos for more experienced riders, and educational presentations on bike maintenance and how biking relates to



environmental health. Another fellow worked with the OTS grant to schedule traffic safety programming and support schools in participating in events such as Walk and Roll to School Day, Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, Crossing Guard Appreciation Month, and the Golden Sneaker Contest. The fellows also assisted in planning a community event for farmworkers in San Mateo County. The event was coordinated between many community partners to include bike giveaways, a bike rodeo course, food trucks, a live DJ, and community aid stands such as food assistance programs. AmeriCorps Climate Corps fellows are a valuable addition to the Safe Routes to School program!

## 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. In 2022, a resolution was passed by the California State Senate to recognize November 14th as 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 2022. Ruby Bridges made a surprise visit at Martin Elementary School in South San Francisco and expressed her gratitude to the students during an all-school assembly. 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 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,



and 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.

In 2022-2023, the ATP project specialist worked with educators, administrators, and community organizations across the county to implement these resources and provide additional technical assistance to 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. The ATP-funded grant closed out in May 2023 after receiving an extension from Caltrans due to the pandemic, but the funding created a lasting impact for schools county-wide.

## CROSSING GUARD APPRECIATION WEEK

SMCOE Safe Routes to Schools orchestrated Crossing Guard Appreciation Week (March 20-24, 2023) by distributing toolkits to schools with contained outreach materials, activity ideas, and resources to appreciate school crossing guards. Recognizing the essential role of crossing guards, the team compiled a county-wide list and sent traffic safety kits as a gesture of appreciation. Crossing guards can be funded through the city, school district, or SRTS small capital infrastructure or special projects grants or staffed by teacher or parent volunteers. In addition, SMCOE provided schools with crossing guard and safety patrol training, reinforcing a commitment to proactive traffic safety measures.





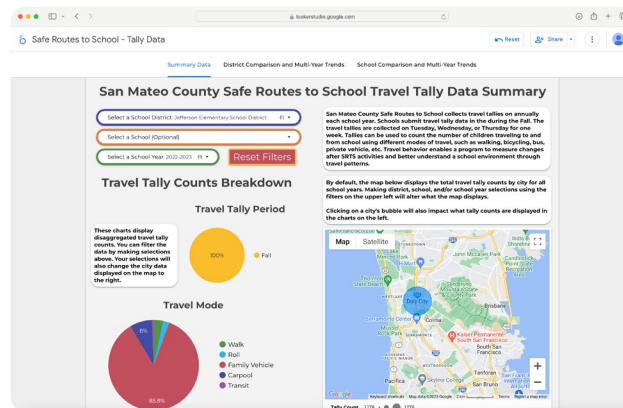
## EVERY KID DESERVES A BIKE

In the 2022-2023 school year, SMCOE SRTS partnered with the City of South San Francisco for the Every Kid Deserves a Bike program. Facilitated by a Climate Corps AmeriCorps fellow under the supervision of the City Manager’s Office, the initiative distributed 350 free bicycles, helmets, bike locks, and air pumps to students across five Title 1 schools. SMCOE SRTS played a vital role in the program by providing helmets, organizing bike rodeos for bicycle safety training, hosting a “Learn to Ride” station at the distribution events, and including bicycle and pedestrian safety training materials for all participants. The fellow adeptly coordinated distribution and event planning, and seamlessly integrated a climate education segment into the program.



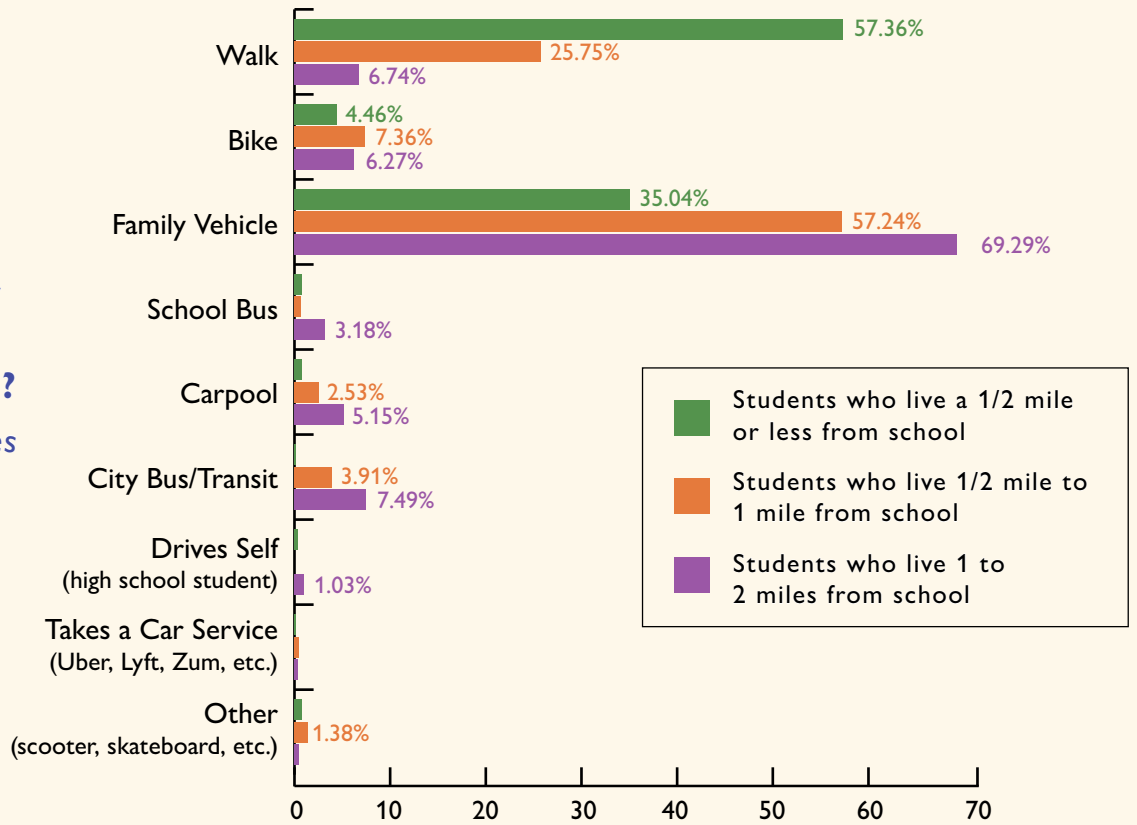
## TRAVEL TALLY DATABASE

In 2022-2023, the team introduced the SMCOE Safe Routes to School [Travel Tally Dashboard](#), which provides access to a vast collection of travel tallies from across the county with easy filtering options by city, school district, school, and year. Users can utilize the search box and interactive map on the initial page, compare tallies across districts on the second page, and explore individual school tallies on the third page. This vital tool offers insights into multi-year trends in school commuting. SMCOE SRTS now conducts an annual Fall collection of travel tallies, contributing to the dashboard’s growth and emphasizing the importance of safe school travel.

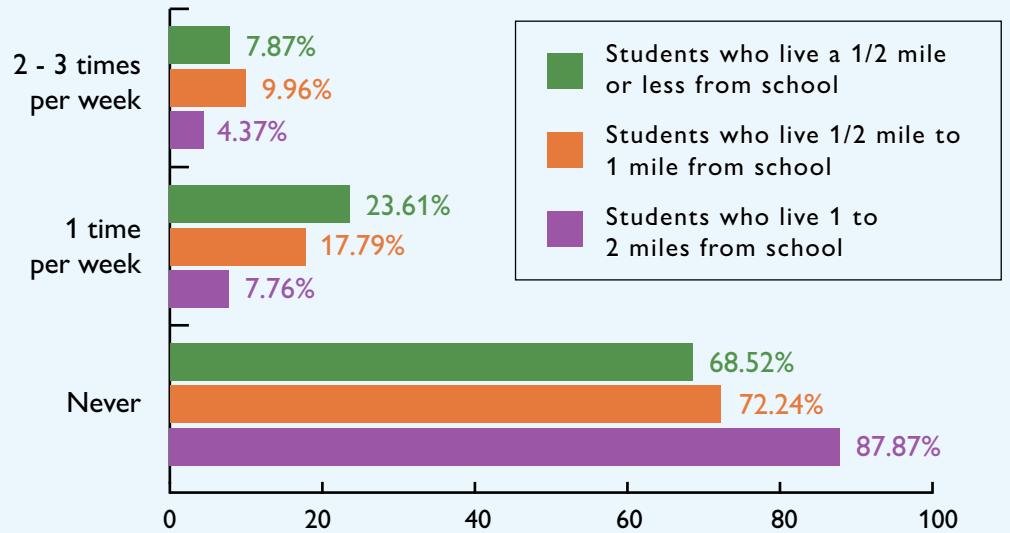


Scan or click the QR to explore the Travel Tally Database

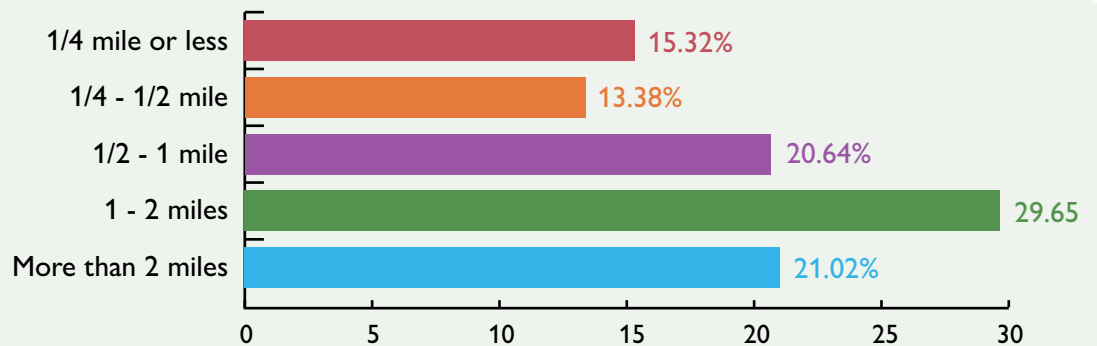
**How does your child usually travel to school?**  
2,108 total responses



**Does your child ever walk or bike?**  
1,412 total responses



**What is the approximate distance from your home to school?**  
2,108 total responses



## COMPLETE STREETS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

After a rigorous selection process in 2022, the National Complete Streets Coalition established four Complete Streets Leadership Academies in Alaska, California, Connecticut, and Tennessee to help local jurisdictions learn Complete Street best practices, enhance cross-jurisdictional coordination, and execute “quick-build” demonstration projects on state-owned roads.

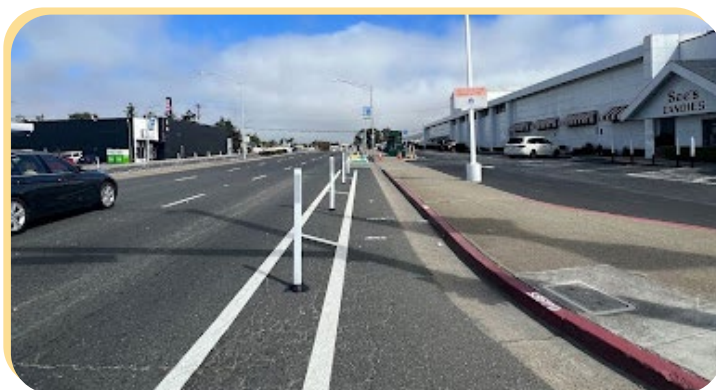
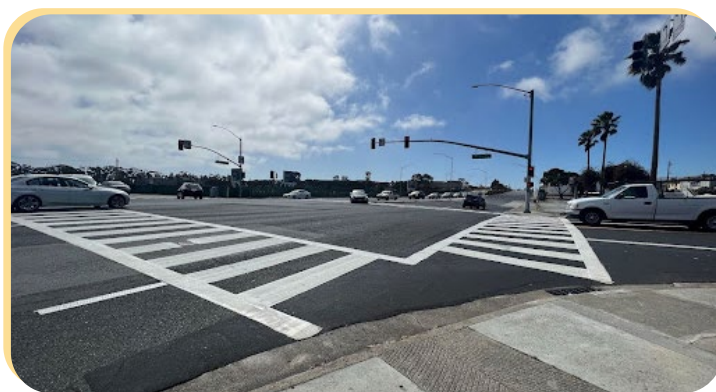
Among the selected California cities was South San Francisco, which implemented temporary traffic improvements along El Camino Real with support from Caltrans and several San Mateo County partners, including SMCOE SRTS. The project spanned along El Camino Real from Country Club Drive to South Spruce Avenue, in between three South San Francisco Unified School District schools where students commonly walk and take public transit. SMCOE SRTS supported outreach and community engagement for the project, which included:

- Installation of Class IV Protected bike lanes both north and south of ECR between South Spruce Ave. and Country Club Dr.
- Establishment of high visibility crosswalks at Country Club Dr.
- Introduction of transit boarding platforms at key stops, including El Camino Real & Spruce Ave. and El Camino Real & Country Club Dr.

Aligned with the Complete Streets approach, these improvements temporarily repurposed existing parking spaces to create room for the protected bike lanes, and ensured no interference with private retail parking lots. The focus on protected bike lanes aimed to enhance safety and visibility, particularly for students commuting to school. Additionally, the high visibility crosswalks mitigated vehicle speeding and enhanced pedestrian safety, while the transit

boarding platforms offered added waiting space for riders, potentially reducing dwell times.

This initiative prompted collaborative efforts from the City of South San Francisco, San Mateo County Transportation Authority, San Mateo County Office of Education, Silicon Valley Bike Coalition, and SamTrans. Their outreach and data collection aimed to monitor and evaluate the progress of these temporary improvements, indicating a commitment to assessing the impact on the community.



## SCHOOL TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP

After a successful pilot of the School Travel Fellowship ended in September 2022, SMCOE Safe Routes to School offered the program again in January 2023. The fellowship offers technical support to cities/municipalities that want to work with school and community partners to implement projects that promote safe and accessible active transportation around schools. Applicants are selected based on the innovation and feasibility of the project, equity consideration, and the breadth and diversity of team members. Fellowship teams receive one-on-one technical assistance from transportation consultants throughout the project and participate in four facilitated workshops where they learn best practices and use systems change strategies to develop plans and assess their progress. They also receive support from SMCOE Safe Routes to School to educate and encourage students to walk and bike safely to school.

Many School Travel Fellowship teams used demonstration projects and quick-builds to improve traffic safety in their communities. Demonstration projects create temporary installations such as separated bike lanes, street closures during school arrival and dismissal, traffic circles, and other traffic calming and safety features. These demonstrations typically last a few days to a week and are a low-cost way for cities to assess project feasibility, collect community feedback, and identify issues before permanently changing the infrastructure. Quick-builds are a low-cost way to make fast improvements by using less expensive and less permanent materials such as colored paint and bollards. This type of infrastructure provides the ability to quickly create safer and more accessible routes for pedestrians and bicyclists while allowing for relatively easy adjustments after installation, based on community feedback. Quick-builds can last for years if maintained, and they can be improved over time by using more durable materials.

At the final workshop for the pilot program in September 2022, the five teams, including Daly City, East Palo Alto, Redwood City, San Mateo, and South San Francisco, showcased their projects. Team projects included pop-up demonstrations at key intersections featuring high-visibility crosswalks and curb extensions, temporary traffic circles, and a pilot program called Every Kid Deserves a Bike, which South San Francisco continued and expanded in 2023.

In January 2023, the second School Travel Fellowship cohort was chosen to include three returning teams and two new teams: East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Millbrae, Redwood City, and South San Francisco. By May 2023, East Palo Alto completed preliminary designs and secured funding to convert the previous year's temporary traffic circles into permanent mini roundabouts, Redwood City implemented a pop-up demonstration project at an intersection near an elementary school, and both Millbrae and South San Francisco had plans to implement demonstration projects at key intersections near two schools, to be implemented early in the 2023-2024 school year. The pop-up demonstration plans included curb extensions, high-visibility crosswalks, bike lanes, and a street mural to heighten driver awareness of the school intersection. Menlo Park's team focused their efforts on engagement programs at two schools which included quarterly newsletters; bike and pedestrian skill-building for students; monthly walk and roll days; "Operation Safety," which rewarded students for safe bicycling; bike buses; and the "SRTS Supporter Program," in which they engaged local businesses to create a community network along school routes.



## WALK AUDITS

SMCOE Safe Routes to School has partnered with Alta Planning and Design and Transportation and Public Health Consultant Mark Fenton to conduct walk audits throughout the county. The objective of a walk audit is to identify obstacles that compromise the safety of walking and biking for students. Recognizing and prioritizing these issues allows city and school leaders to implement measures that enhance the safety of active transportation for students.

In the 2022-2023 school year, eight San Mateo County communities conducted walk audits. Additionally, the team introduced the Walk Audit Facilitator training, in which individuals countywide learned

how to conduct a walk audit assessment. Participants explored the fundamental principles of walk audits, how to facilitate the 3P planning exercise, and how to use Our Voice as a community data collection tool. Participants were also encouraged to attend and co-facilitate walk audits. To support the crucial post-walk audit phase, the team collaborated with Alta Planning and Design to compile a decade-long list of walk audits hosted by SMCOE SRTS. This database contains all walk audit reports and will aid cities in transportation projects near schools.

### WALK AUDITS 2022-2023

- Ponderosa Elementary, SSF
- Ben Franklin Middle School, Daly City
- Thomas R. Pollicita Middle School, Daly City
- Ortega Elementary, Pacifica
- Meadows Elementary, Millbrae
- Half Moon Bay High, Half Moon Bay
- Ralston Intermediate, Belmont
- Green Hills Elementary, Millbrae

## FUTURE OF SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The SMCOE Safe Routes to School program identified several goals during the 2022-2023 school year. They include:

- Tailored technical assistance
- Relationship-building support
- Equity-centric approach
- Comprehensive data management
- Advocacy for active transportation



### TAILORED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program is committed to a personalized approach in providing technical assistance that recognizes the unique needs of each school community. Throughout the upcoming year, the San Mateo County SRTS program will actively engage with school stakeholders to deliver targeted technical assistance that addresses specific challenges hindering safe walking and biking. Additionally, the SRTS team will continue to host a grant writing workshop preceding the release of the next SRTS grant application.

### EQUITY-CENTRIC APPROACH

The SRTS Team will continue to work with service providers to ensure adaptive equipment is available for students with developmental and/or physical disabilities. Additionally, the SRTS program remains dedicated to prioritizing Safe Routes to School efforts in underserved regions of the county, particularly in schools with a majority of students receiving free and reduced lunch. Leveraging the C/CAG priority communities map, the SRTS program aims to enhance equity by focusing on under-resourced areas, thereby increasing access to education, encouragement, community engagement, and providing essential safety equipment as well as funding for small capital improvement projects.



## ADVOCACY FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

In the pursuit of promoting active transportation countywide, the SRTS Team will persist in advocating for all-inclusive active transportation. Strategies include ongoing provision of bike and pedestrian education, engagement with high school students through green teams and bike shed programs, development of materials for driver awareness around schools, and establishment of a repository for success stories, walk audit reports, and other resources to ensure the safety of children walking and bicycling. By fostering a community safe for its most vulnerable members, we inherently create a safer environment for all.

## RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING SUPPORT

Building on its success in 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, the School Travel Fellowship program will continue into 2023-2024 with funding from C/CAG, OTS, and San Mateo County Public Health. This initiative facilitates technical assistance for city/school teams, fostering active school travel, and reinforcing relationships between schools and municipalities. Schools regularly reach out to the SRTS team for help in connecting with their respective cities and SamTrans. The SRTS team will continue to provide support in this area.

## COMPREHENSIVE DATA MANAGEMENT

Recognizing the importance of robust data management, the SRTS Team collaborated with the San Mateo County Office of Education Data Team to design and implement an internal database. Currently, the database houses student travel tally data from 2015-2023. The database ensures accessibility and continuity of data. In 2023-2024, the SRTS Team will work with the Data Team on adding relevant parent survey data to the database.

The database streamlines data retrieval and analysis processes, enables more informed decision-making for the Safe Routes to School program, and provides student travel information to schools and their respective cities.