



saferoutes TO SCHOOL

2014 Summary of Activities Safe Routes to School Program FC Moves Department, City of Fort Collins

Background

Safe Routes to School is a nationwide effort to get more children biking and walking to school for their health, the environment and academic achievement. The City of Fort Collins Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program is administered by an SRTS coordinator (0.80 FTE) housed within the FC Moves Department. Our goal is to get at least 50 percent of local K–12 students biking or walking to school on a regular basis. Funding is provided by the Keep Fort Collins Great (KFCG) tax initiative and grants from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), BNSF Railway and other sources. Major program partners include Poudre School District (PSD) and Thompson School District; Bike Fort Collins; Safe Kids Larimer County; Bicycle and Pedestrian Education Coalition (BPEC) and its member organizations; local bike shops and other businesses; and several City departments, including Police Services, Engineering, Traffic Operations, Environmental Services and Recreation. Information on Safe Routes to School is available at fcgov.com/saferoutes, coloradodot.info/programs/bikeped/safe-routes, saferoutesinfo.org, and saferoutespartnership.org.

Financials

- Expenditures: \$114,000 (\$74,000 City KFCG funding and \$40,000 grant funding).
- New grant funding received: \$355,725.
- New City funding approved for 2015–16: \$100,000 annually for SRTS Strategic Traffic Infrastructure.

Education and Encouragement Activities

- Education and encouragement activities for Fort Collins K–12 students and preschoolers were delivered by the SRTS coordinator and through contracted services by Bike Fort Collins. This programming reached approximately 12,000 students and 3,000 adults in 2014. Of this number, 6,544 students received a high-quality educational contact with an SRTS instructor; these high-quality contacts came in the form of helmet fittings (and free helmets), bike-ped safety education in PE classes and after-school programs, Family Bike Rodeos, bike field trips, walking school buses and similar activities. A total of 24 PSD schools and four non-PSD schools were served by SRTS in 2014 (including PSD Options for homeschoolers). In addition, SRTS reached several youth organizations, including Center for Family Outreach, La Familia, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, KidsThatTri and BASECamp. High-quality adult educational contacts were made at train-the-trainer workshops, with 124 adults receiving SRTS training in 2014.
- The Safe Kids Larimer County Strap & Snap program, an SRTS partner organization, reached an additional 1,622 third-graders with helmet-safety instruction during the year.

- The coordinator gave SRTS informational presentations to nine school and community groups.
- The coordinator facilitated community-wide celebrations of National Bike to School Day and International Walk to School Day.
- A new partnership program was developed with the City's Recreation Department in offering B.I.K.E. Camps during the summer led by SRTS instructors.
- Train-the-trainer workshops included a training for BASECamp instructors and a Basic Bike Maintenance workshop for SRTS instructors.
- About 600 free bike helmets were distributed to students and parents in the community.
- New ride-leader bags with first-aid supplies and on-the-road repair kits were created for use on practice bike rides.
- The coordinator worked with FC Bikes to implement a grant-funded Boltage Demonstration Project and Junior Bicycle Ambassador Program.
- The coordinator wrote the following BPEC columns, published in the Coloradoan: "This Land Is Your Land, So Grab Your Bike" (Jan. 27), "Fort Collins Trails a Diamond in the Making" (June 16) and "Start a Trend on International Walk to School Day" (Sept. 22).
- The coordinator wrote an article titled "Two-wheeled Families Have More Fun" that was published in Ride magazine.

Engineering Activities

- The CDOT-funded grant for 40 new bike racks at 15 PSD schools was completed.
- SRTS assisted PSD Wellness with acquisition and installation of bike fix-it stations at the four major PSD high schools.
- SRTS received \$314,903 in grant funding from CDOT and PSD for a new multi-use trail serving Tavelli Elementary.
- Traffic Operations coordinated many SRTS-related projects, including an enhanced crosswalk on Swallow Road in the vicinity of Rocky Mountain High School and a new radar speed display on Prospect at Bauder Elementary.
- The Engineering Dept. completed several sidewalk projects near schools as part of the Pedestrian Needs Assessment program, including in the areas of Irish Elementary and Barton Prekindergarten.
- A new pedestrian overpass was built on the Mason Trail near the Spring Creek Trail as part of the MAX Bus Rapid Transit project, and a new pedestrian underpass was built on the Mason Trail at Troutman as part of the same project.

Enforcement Activities

- Fort Collins Police and School Resource Officers assisted with SRTS-related enforcement in school areas.
- The FC Moves Dept. continued funding of the PSD Crossing Guard Program, administered by PSD.

Evaluation Activities

- Mode-of-transportation tallies and parent pre-training and/or post-training surveys were administered, collected and delivered to the National Center for Safe Routes to School for schools receiving grant-funded SRTS activities.
- Pre- and post-tests were created and conducted as part of the Blevins Middle School "Bike PE" program.
- Feedback was solicited and received from PE teachers and train-the-trainer workshop participants to help improve future programming.
- Feedback was provided to Bike Fort Collins relating to its contractual services.

Program Administration

- The program's expenditures for 2014 included \$74,000 in KFCG funding plus approximately \$40,000 in grants, totaling \$114,000.
- New grants received during 2014 amounted to \$355,725, including \$314,903 for the Tavelli multi-use path, \$25,822 for educational programming at PSD schools and a \$15,000 grant from New Belgium for SRTS Strategic Equipment for Fort Collins Youth.
- Routine administrative functions included grants administration, including budget management, subcontractor oversight and reporting. Final reports were submitted to CDOT for the 2011–12 Infrastructure Grant (bike racks) and 2012–13 Non-infrastructure Grant (education/encouragement). A final report was also submitted to BNSF Railway for its \$10,000 grant.
- The coordinator wrote and submitted several offers as part of the City's "Budgeting for Outcomes" process for the 2015–16 budget. One enhancement that received funding is for \$100,000 annually for SRTS Strategic Traffic Infrastructure.
- The coordinator wrote and submitted a 2015–16 CDOT SRTS Non-infrastructure Grant proposal (anticipated to receive funding in the amount of \$55,000).
- The SRTS warehouse moved to an improved facility at 220 N. Howes St., and the SRTS program acquired a new cargo van (shared with the FC Moves Dept.).
- The SRTS bike fleet was delivered to schools/events where needed; 45 new bikes were added to the SRTS fleet, bringing the total to 98 bikes (including 20 bikes housed at Lincoln Middle School and 25 bikes housed at Bauder Elementary).
- The coordinator assisted in the acquisition of a new pedaling school bus to be used at encouragement activities at schools. A local fabricator is building the new school bus with funding provided by a private donor. It was test-ridden in 2014 by students at Harris and Beattie elementary schools. The bus will be completed in 2015.
- The coordinator attended a mandatory CDOT SRTS grantee training in May for the 2014–15 non-infrastructure grant. The coordinator also attended the Colorado Bike Summit/Winter SRTS Rally and the New Partners for Smart Growth conference in Denver.
- The coordinator served on the following committees: City of Fort Collins Bike Plan Planning Management Team, Bike Plan Technical Advisory Committee, West-Central Area Plan Technical Advisory Committee, Bike Share Business Plan Technical Advisory Committee, Bicycle and Pedestrian Education Coalition (BPEC), Built Environment Work Group, Poudre River/Spring Creek Trail Wayfinding Task Force, Rocky Mountain High School Wellness Team, Fort Collins High School Bike Program and Healthier Communities Coalition Council.
- The coordinator participated in the Ride of the NoCo Leaders, the League of American Bicyclists' "Getting to Diamond" ride and the Leshar Middle School "Green Ribbon School" celebration.
- The coordinator participated in a CDOT Road Safety Plan Workshop and Bike-Ped Emphasis Team meetings, a Larimer County Community Health Improvement Plan implementation meeting, a City of Fort Collins Bike Plan Visioning Workshop, a PSD Wellness Workshop and a United Way "Make a Difference Day."
- The coordinator chaired meetings of the PSD SRTS Steering Committee.
- The coordinator participated in the interview process for a new FC Bikes program specialist (Jamie Gaskill-Fox).
- The coordinator maintained/updated the SRTS program website, fcgov.com/saferoutes, and updated the SRTS Coordinator Procedures Manual.
- The coordinator responded to SRTS-related inquiries from schools, parents and the public.

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