



saferoutes TO SCHOOL

2013 Annual Report 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 (0.75 FTE) housed within the FC Moves Department. Our goal is to get at least 50 percent of K–12 schoolchildren 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); Bike Fort Collins; Healthier Communities Coalition; 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.

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 an estimated 13,907 students and 1,983 adults in 2013. Of this number, 5,828 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 36 PSD schools were served by SRTS in 2013; in addition, SRTS served public and private preschools as well as community organizations such as La Familia, Boy Scouts, and BASECamp. High-quality adult educational contacts came in the form of train-the-trainer workshops. A total of 102 adults received in-depth SRTS training in 2013.
- The Safe Kids Larimer County Strap & Snap program, an SRTS partner organization, reached an additional 1,898 PSD third-graders with helmet-safety instruction during the year.
- Informational presentations were given to nine PTOs/PTAs or school wellness teams. In addition, presentations were given at the PSD Wellness Advisory Committee Annual Retreat and the PSD Annual Wellness Workshop.
- More than 900 free bike helmets were provided to students and parents in the community.
- New bike rodeo kits specific to SRTS instruction at both elementary schools and middle schools were created.
- The local SRTS curriculum document was updated for a November train-the-trainer workshop.

- The SRTS coordinator helped the FC Bikes program by teaching Traffic Skills 101 courses in January, February/ March, April, May, and May/June.
- The SRTS coordinator wrote the following BPEC columns published in the Coloradoan: “Tips for Determining the Best Route to School for Your Child” (1/27/13) and “Cycling Challenge Allows You to Roll with the Pros” (8/5/13).
- The SRTS coordinator gave the following community presentations: “How to Be a Fan of Pro Road Racing” (in conjunction with USAPC Challenge) and “Where to Ride in Fort Collins” and “Basic Bike Maintenance” (twice) for Health District of Northern Colorado employees.
- The SRTS coordinator gave two interviews on KRFC radio for the Community Checkup show: “What Is Safe Routes to School?” and “How to Get the Most out of the USAPC Event.”
- The coordinator gave a national webinar for the Safe Routes to School National Partnership titled “SRTS as a Function of Municipal Transportation.”
- Technical assistance was provided to the Larimer County Health Department regarding implementation of its CDOT SRTS non-infrastructure grant.
- A motorist awareness campaign was conducted at start of 2013–14 school year titled “Look Out for Kids Biking and Walking” (on Tranfort benches in vicinity of schools).

Engineering Activities

- PSD Facilities worked with SRTS to plan for installation of 40 new grant-funded bike racks.
- The City’s Engineering and Traffic Operations department helped plan a new grant-funded multi-use trail serving Tavelli Elementary.
- Traffic Operations coordinated many SRTS-related projects, including the following: existing ped signal converted to Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon at Shields and Akin (Lab Elementary School); new radar speed displays on Hinsdale to mitigate traffic and restriped road to accommodate two-way reversible lane for left-turning traffic into school parking lot (McGraw Elementary); new school crossing via signs and pavement markings at Rock Creek and Country Squire (Preston Middle School); converted existing school flashers to radar speed display on Vine at Lancer (Lincoln Middle School).
- The Engineering Department completed a Pedestrian Needs Assessment, with priority given to sidewalk improvements near schools; numerous engineering projects benefited bicyclists and pedestrians, including the Spring Creek Overpass and Troutman Underpass along the Mason corridor.
- A bike-ped bridge was replaced over ditch in Indian Hills neighborhood.
- Traffic Ops helped plan for an update of the SRTS bike-walk suitability audit tool used at schools.
- SRTS input was provided for various City initiatives, including the Pedestrian Needs Assessment, Trails Master Plan, East Elizabeth Restriping Project, and other engineering-related road projects.

Enforcement Activities

- Fort Collins Police and School Resource Officers assisted with SRTS-related enforcement in school areas. Police Services helped update a Fort Collins Bike Laws brochure used in SRTS programming.
- The FC Moves Department continued funding of the PSD Crossing Guard Program, administered by PSD.

Evaluation Activities

- SRTS received approval from PSD Research and Evaluation Office to conduct tallies/surveys required by grants.

- Mode-of-transportation tallies and parent pre-training and/or post-training surveys were administered, collected, and delivered to National Center for Safe Routes to School for schools receiving grant-funded SRTS activities in 2013.
- Feedback was solicited and received from PE teachers and train-the-trainer workshop participants, to help improve programming.
- Feedback was provided to Bike Fort Collins relating to its contractual services.

Program Administration

- The program's budget for 2013 included \$74,000 in KFCG funding plus approximately \$110,000 in grants.
- Routine administrative functions included grants administration, including budget management, subcontractor oversight, and reporting. A final report for the 2011–12 SRTS grant was written and submitted to CDOT.
- On Sept. 3, City Council approved appropriation of new grant revenue and a contract agreement with CDOT for a 2013–14 Non-infrastructure Grant for education and encouragement (\$22,700). This grant required 20% matching funds, sourced from the SRTS operational budget (\$5,675).
- The program received notification from CDOT about award of a 2013–14 Infrastructure Grant to build new multi-use path for Tavelli Elementary (\$244,903). This grant requires 20% matching funds, to be provided by PSD Facilities (up to \$70,000).
- The coordinator wrote and submitted a 2014–15 CDOT SRTS Non-infrastructure Grant proposal (\$25,822).
- The program received a \$10,000 grant from BNSF Railway, presented at the USA Pro Challenge event in Fort Collins.
- The SRTS bike fleet was delivered to schools/events where needed; fifteen new bikes were added to the SRTS fleet, bringing total to 53 bikes.
- The coordinator attended a mandatory CDOT SRTS grantee training in June 2013 (with Rob Mosbey from Engineering) for the 2013–14 non-infrastructure and infrastructure grants. The coordinator also attended Safe Kids Larimer County's "Strap-n-Snap" training, the Colorado Bike Summit/Winter SRTS Rally, and the Safe Routes to School National Conference.
- The coordinator served on the following committees: Bicycle and Pedestrian Education Coalition (BPEC), Built Environment Work Group, Poudre River/Spring Creek Trail Wayfinding Task Force, Rocky Mountain High School Wellness Team, and Healthier Communities Coalition Council.
- The coordinator established and chaired meetings of a new PSD SRTS Steering Committee.
- The coordinator assisted with the City's successful Platinum Bicycle Friendly Community application.
- The coordinator participated in the City's EPA bike-sharing workshop.
- The coordinator participated in the interview process for a new FC Moves program manager (Paul Sizemore) and FC Bikes program manager (Tessa Greeger).
- A new SRTS brochure was created, and the SRTS Coordinator Procedures Manual was updated.
- The coordinator maintained/updated the SRTS program website, fcgov.com/saferoutes.
- The coordinator responded to SRTS-related inquiries from schools, parents, and public.

Report prepared by:

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Note: Dee Colombini served as temporary SRTS coordinator from Sept. 9 to Nov. 22, 2013.