



**Sacramento County
Department of Transportation
Ron Vicari, Principal Civil Engineer**

In Partnership with:

WALKSacramento

**Anne Geraghty,
Founding Executive Director**

**Welcomes you to the
2010 Sacramento County
Safe Routes to School Conference**



Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programs

❖ What is SRTS?

The concept is to increase the number of children who walk or bicycle to school, by funding projects that remove the barriers that prevent them from doing so.



❖ Why is SRTS important?

- ✓ Improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians.
- ✓ Improves air quality and traffic congestion.
- ✓ Encourages physically healthier children.
- ✓ Provides an important funding source for infrastructure.

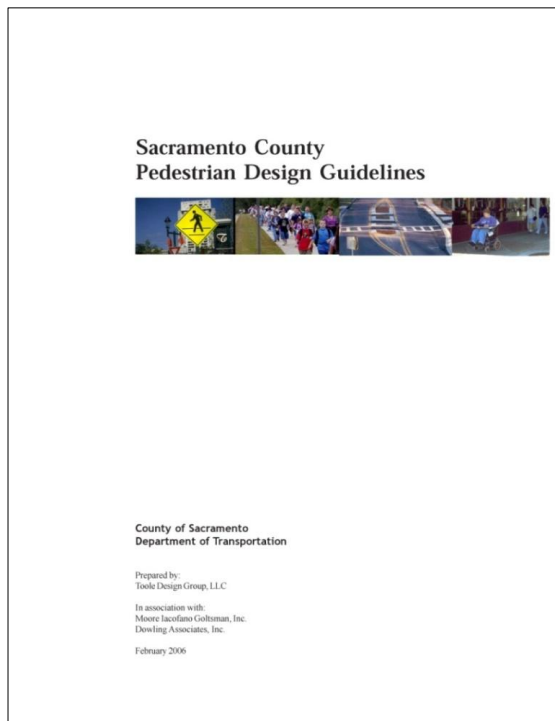
Student Commuting Trends*

- ❑ In 1969 about 50% of all children walked or biked to school. Today, less than 15% walk or bike.**
- ❑ There are more than three times as many overweight children today as there were 25 years ago.**
- ❑ As much as 20 to 30% of morning rush hour traffic can be parents driving children to schools.**

***Source: Safe Routes to School National Partnership**

State & Federal Safe Routes to School Programs

<p><u>Program Features</u></p> <p>Eligible Applicants</p>	<p><u>State: "SR2S"</u></p> <p>Cities & Counties</p>	<p><u>Federal: "SRTS"</u></p> <p>State, local & regional agencies. (School Dist. must partner with a city, county or Met. Planning Org.)</p>
<p>Local Match</p>	<p>10% Required</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Targeted Schools</p>	<p>Grades K-12</p>	<p>Grades K-8</p>
<p>Next Funding Cycle</p>	<p>To Be Announced</p>	<p>Expected In Early 2011</p>
<p>Grant \$ Limits</p>	<p>\$500k or \$1 mill</p>	<p>\$500k or \$1 mill</p>



“Pedestrian Design Guidelines”
Adopted 11/15/05

“Pedestrian Master Plan”
Adopted 11/27/07

Objective:

- To improve pedestrian safety and access on County streets.
- Prioritize improvements on the heavily traveled corridors.
- ✓ The greatest benefits come when focused around schools

Early Stages Of This Process

- **Sac DOT historically upgrades facilities around schools as funds permit.**
- **Initially Sac DOT also coordinated with PTA groups and concerned parents.**
- **The Safe Routes grant program became a popular funding source.**
- **Sac DOT assisted schools with audits, traffic studies and Safe Routes grant writing. Some schools would not follow-up.**

Current Process: Using A Grant To Help With Grants

- ❖ A \$500,000 SRTS grant helps enable schools and school districts to be more proactive and informed about the SRTS process through the “Five E’s” Program.**
- ❖ WALK Sacramento & Sac DOT team up for three years to conduct five audits per year and host annual conferences.**
- ❖ Allows for a more comprehensive approach with the Five E’s program leading to stronger community support and better SRTS applications.**

The “Five E’s” Program

Creating Your Action Plan

For the Safe Routes to School

1. Evaluation:



2. Engineering:



3. Education:



4. Encouragement:



5. Enforcement:



The Five E's Program – The Action Plan

1. Evaluation:

- ✓ Evaluate the walking and biking needs in the school neighborhood.
- ✓ Survey parents – why are they driving their kids?
- ✓ Survey the kids - what is their attitude about walking and biking to school?
- ✓ Most of the evaluation can be completed during the walk audit.



The Five E's Program – The Action Plan

2. Engineering: Engineered improvements are a critical component of the SRTS program.

- ✓ Sidewalks
- ✓ Bike lanes
- ✓ Traffic calming
- ✓ Safer crossings



The Five E's Program – The Action Plan

3. Education: Important component of the SRTS “5 E's” is to educate students, parents and Staff including:

- ✓ Bike and pedestrian traffic safety programs
- ✓ Rules of the road
- ✓ How to prepare a grant for SRTS
- ✓ Organizing and hosting safety programs
- ✓ Instructions on being approached by strangers



The Five E's Program – The Action Plan

- 4. Encouragement:** Encourage students to walk & bike!
- ✓ Have Special Events & Contests for walking & biking.
 - ✓ Promote Newsletters, Banners & Posters.
 - ✓ Invite Media & Sponsor Walking School Buses.



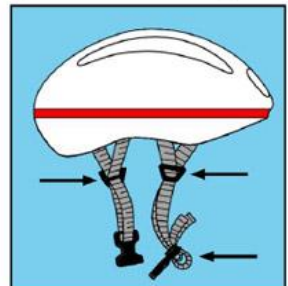
The Five E's Program – The Action Plan

5. Enforcement: Enforcement is vital for kids safety.

- ✓ Partnerships with local law enforcement
- ✓ Stationing crossing guards
- ✓ Speed & helmet law enforcement



Wear the helmet flat on the head, not tilted back at an angle!



Make sure the helmet fits snugly and does not obstruct the field of vision. Make sure the chin strap fits securely and that the buckle stays fastened.

Sac DOT Grant Awards

<u>AWARD YEAR</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	GRANT AMOUNT (TOTAL PROJECT)
2000 (SR2S)	Roberts Elementary and Andrew Carnegie Middle School	\$291,600 (\$324,000)
2000 (SR2S)	Del Paso Manor Elementary	\$267,390 (\$297,100)
2004 (SR2S)	Florin Elementary School	\$286,110 (\$317,900)
2007 (SRTS)	Pacific Elementary	\$825,000 (\$1,028,500)
2010 (SR2S)	Mary A Deterding Elementary	\$435,000 (\$484,098)

Contact Information

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Safe Routes:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/saferoutes/saferoutes.htm>

Questions?

**To get back to 50% of the kids walking
and biking to school like in 1969, we must rely on:**

- 1. Evaluation**
- 2. Engineering**
- 3. Education**
- 4. Encouragement**
- 5. Enforcement**

**I would also add ... make it safe,
make it convenient ...**

and most importantly ... Make It FUN!!