



# SOUTH SACRAMENTO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL 2018-2019 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

During the 2018-19 school year, WALKSacramento worked with Will C. Wood Middle, Oak Ridge Elementary, Nicholas Elementary, and Elder Creek Elementary on a comprehensive Safe Routes to School program as part of a three-year program funded by The California Endowment. Each school’s program incorporated the six E’s of Safe Routes to School: education, encouragement, engineering, enforcement, evaluation, and equity.

The work done over the course of the year helped to grow local advocacy and organizing for built environment change, improve traffic safety through education and infrastructure, and inspire a culture of active transportation at each school. Beyond the school community, we also saw broader policy successes at the City and County that resulted from our previous Safe Routes to School work and ongoing advocacy for health in the built environment.

## BY THE NUMBERS



55

Students, parents, school staff, and partners participated in walk audits



880

Students learned safe walking and biking skills



1600

Students, families, and partners celebrated walk and bike to school days



35

Parents and school staff received walking school bus trainings



\$1,000,000

In grant funding received for active transportation infrastructure



3

Citywide policy wins for safety and mobility





# COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

## Community Walk Audits

WALKSacramento led three community walk audits at Will C. Wood Middle, Oak Ridge Elementary, and Nicholas Elementary during the fall of 2018. Each walk audit engaged students, families, school staff, community partners, and local agency staff around common goals for safety throughout the school neighborhoods. Strong participation helped to ensure that the infrastructure and program recommendations reflected each school's relevant priorities. Observations and feedback from the walk audits informed the development of walk audit reports that provided school staff, community members, and agency staff with recommendations to pursue short and long term improvements.

## Walking School Bus Trainings

As part of an initiative to address chronic absenteeism in Sacramento City Unified, WALKSacramento led a training with AmeriCorps program City Year during the summer of 2018 to train staff about the benefits of walking school bus programs and how to start and sustain programs at schools throughout the district. The training provided City Year team leaders with new ideas and tools to positively impact attendance, health, and community involvement over the course of the 2018-19 school year.

WALKSacramento also provided a walking school bus training during a parent meeting at Elder Creek Elementary during the winter of 2019. After learning about the basics of starting a walking school bus, parents brainstormed potential meeting locations and a schedule that would work for students and families.

## Youth Advocacy Through Media

WALKSacramento worked with the After School Education and Safety (ASES) program at Will C. Wood Middle to support students in creating Video Voice projects. Video Voice is a student-led project where students write, film, and edit their own videos about topics and issues they care about in their communities. Through this process, students learned about the value of media as a tool for advocacy and created videos focusing on safety concerns along a street in front of the school as well as a peer-to-peer pedestrian safety education campaign.

## Program Planning Resources

WALKSacramento developed a Safe Routes to School Program Planning Guide for school staff, parent champions, and other school stakeholders to plan for and implement Safe Routes to School programs beyond the first year. The Program Planning Guide provides a menu of activities that schools could choose to continue based on staff capacity and interest from the school community.







# POLICY AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT CHANGE

## Fern Bacon Infrastructure Improvements

Sacramento County received funding through the Active Transportation Program to improve pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure around Fern Bacon Middle School. This project was informed by community-identified barriers from a walk audit that WALKSacramento conducted with Fern Bacon Middle School as part of the school's Safe Routes to School program during the 2017-18 school year. School staff, students, and parents had identified sidewalk gaps as a major safety concern for students walking to school. In addition to constructing sidewalks along student routes, the ATP-funded project includes proposed improvements to crosswalks and bicycle facilities around the school.

## Vision Zero School Safety Study

As part of the City of Sacramento's Vision Zero Action Plan, the City is conducting a School Safety Study of 20 schools along the High Injury Network to identify recommendations for infrastructure improvements. Oak Ridge Elementary is one of the 20 schools involved in the study, and WALKSacramento met with City and school staff to align efforts with recommendations that were identified through family and student engagement during the walk audit in the fall of 2018. As a result of the work already done through the walk audit process, the City was able to better understand the needs and priorities of the school community for consideration through the School Safety Study.

## School Zones Speed Limit Policy

Through the City of Sacramento's Vision Zero Action Plan, the City is undergoing an initiative to reduce speed limits in school zones to 15 MPH. The Public Works Department has identified 225 roadway segments at 115 schools that qualify for the speed reduction. WALKSacramento has been an instrumental member of the Vision Zero Task Force since 2016 and has continually advocated for implementation of Vision Zero policies and strategies.

## Sacramento City Unified Sustainable Schools Program

WALKSacramento met with Sacramento City Unified's Sustainability Team in the spring of 2019 to identify partnership opportunities between WALKSacramento's Safe Routes to School program and District efforts. The Sustainability Team shared information about the Sustainable Schools Program which allows schools to earn badges based on completion of certain actions. Schools that have participated in WALKSacramento's Safe Routes to School program are eligible for earning a Transportation Badge, which provides schools with a transportation-related incentive such as new bike racks or EV charging stations.

## Student Bus Pass Program

Knowing that a large number of students who are chronically absent miss school because they lack transportation, WALKSacramento worked with schools, students, and families to recommend policies to improve school transportation access, including greater access to public transit. In June 2019, the City of Sacramento included \$1,000,000 in its budget to subsidize free bus passes for all students in the City of Sacramento, representing a massive step in the right direction toward addressing mobility and educational access across the region.

## Franklin Transformative Climate Communities Grant

The Franklin Boulevard Business District is using the nearly \$1,000,000 awarded to Sacramento County to improve student access to Fern Bacon Middle School as leverage funding to pursue a multi-million dollar Transformative Climate Communities grant through the State's Cap and Trade program. The grant would fund multi-sector projects that support local economic development, transformative mobility projects, and land use initiatives that address affordable housing and air quality.





# BEHAVIOR AND CULTURE SHIFT

## Walk and Bike to School Days

Walk and Bike to School Days were held at Will C. Wood Middle, Oak Ridge Elementary, and Nicholas Elementary at the beginning of the year in October and at the end of the year in May. In total, over 1,600 students, parents, school staff, and community partners participated in seven Walk and Bike to School Days over the course of the year. Elected officials, local agency staff, and community partners helped make each event more fun and exciting for students. In addition to support from long-standing partners including SCUSD Board Trustee Michael Minnick, Supervisor Patrick Kennedy, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, City of Sacramento Police Department, Safe Kids Greater Sacramento, Health Education Council, and Spare the Air Scooter, WALKSacramento also engaged with new partners this year including Caltrans, City Councilmember Eric Guerra, Contagious Wheels Bike Club, and the Office of Traffic Safety.

## Family-Led Safety Initiatives

As a result of the walk audit and Walk to School Day events at Oak Ridge Elementary, parents and family members volunteered to help address safety concerns around the school through crossing guard duty and monitoring the back entrance. The school had identified the crosswalk at the front of the school and the back entrance as primary safety concerns but did not have staff capacity to consistently monitor these locations. Parent volunteers have helped improve safety in these areas, and the school continued implementing a volunteer recruitment strategy throughout the year with resources provided by WALKSacramento.

## Walking School Bus Programs

After Walk to School Day, a group of parents at Nicholas Elementary initiated a monthly walking school bus from Sky Park, located about half a mile from the school. A group of about five families started meeting in January 2019 and consistently met each month through the end of the school year. WALKSacramento provided resources to support the program as well as punch cards and other incentive prizes to encourage participation.

## Pedestrian and Bicycle Education

Pedestrian and bicycle education activities were conducted at Will C. Wood Middle, Oak Ridge Elementary, and Nicholas Elementary in the fall and spring. In total, over 880 students learned about traffic safety, practiced safe walking and biking skills, and learned about the health and environmental benefits of walking and biking. In the spring, community partners provided support at bike skills course events by providing free helmet fittings, bike maintenance, and facilitating of other fun activities for students.

## Girl Scouts Climate and Transportation Lesson

WALKSacramento worked with the ASES program at Nicholas Elementary to provide a transportation and climate lesson for the Nicholas Girl Scouts group. The Girl Scouts learned about the environmental benefits of walking and biking through an interactive greenhouse gas simulation.

## Safe Walking, Biking, and Driving Resources

WALKSacramento developed resources for schools to share with students and families, including a Safe Walking and Biking Map and Pick Up and Drop Off Procedures. These resources help formalize and reinforce safe walking, biking, and driving behaviors around the school and can be incorporated into school handbooks and orientation materials for future years.

