



Florida SRTS Updates

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SafeRoutes
Florida Safe Routes to School



www.srtstl.org

Florida Updates: State

International Walk to School Day is October 7, 2009: With less than a month to go before this signature SRTS event, Florida schools need to get in gear to match or meet last year's total of 227 participating schools! So far only 51 Florida schools are registered on the International Walk to School in the US website: <http://www.walktoschool.org/register/>, less than three percent of the total in the U.S. Registering will give schools:

- access to additional downloadable materials, including templates for printing stickers, certificates, and puzzles
- the chance to win prizes for your school
- a weekly e-newsletter leading up to Walk to School Day with valuable tips for holding a great event

Many of the FDOT Districts will be providing materials for Walk to School events. In addition, the Florida Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Resource Center: <http://pedbikesrc.ce.ufl.edu/> has materials you can order to help with your event.

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership suggests inviting your Congressman to join you on your walk (see their *Toolkit for Building Congressional Champions for Safe Routes to School* at <http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/national/164969/165707>). Kaiser Permanente is continuing its support of Walk to School Day by encouraging their clinicians to submit letters and editorial columns to local news outlets, and promoting participation in walking and bicycling to school activities by employees and physicians. If you don't have Kaiser Permanente in your community, try including your county Health Department, hospital or health maintenance organization in this important event.

Walk to School Day is a great way to kick off a SRTS program at a school, or to reinforce the fun and exercise of an ongoing SRTS program. Come join the fun, and remember to register your event at: <http://www.walktoschool.org/register/>.

Reminder about the Upcoming Southeast Road Safety Audit (RSA) Forum and Road Safety Audits for Local Governments Workshop: These two events, which follow the quarterly meeting of the Community Traffic Safety Teams, will take place on September 21-23, 2009 in Orlando. The Road Safety Audit events are sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The first 100 registrants for the *Southeast Road Safety Audit Forum* will receive an RSA T-shirt and RSA tote bag. Attendees will also get to meet Rebecca Crowe, who oversees both Road Safety Audits and the SRTS program for Federal Highway Administration. For more information, see:

- <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/CTST/ctstcoalition.shtm> for the CTST Coalition meeting
- <http://t2.ce.ufl.edu/workshops.asp?workshop=RSAF> for the *Road Safety Audit Forum*
- <http://t2.ce.ufl.edu/workshops.asp?workshop=RSA1> for Road Safety Audits for Local Governments – Southeast

Florida Updates: Local

Oldsmar: Route Kids Walk to School is too Dangerous: Parents in the city of Oldsmar, in Pinellas County, are protesting the school board's decision not to bus children who live within two miles of their school. Although the route does not meet the definition of Hazardous Walking Conditions, described in Section 1006.23, Florida Statutes (http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?mode=View%20Statutes&SubMenu=1&App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=Hazardous&URL=CH1006/Sec23.HTM), parents feel the route is too long (almost two miles) and too dangerous for their children to walk. The city will be picking up the cost for busing the children this year, but they hope to get the law changed in the next legislative session. Read the story at: <http://www.baynews9.com/content/36/2009/9/10/519292.html?title=Oldsmar%3A%20route%20kids%20walk%20to%20school%20is%20too%20dangerous%20&cid=rss>.

Palmetto Bay Wants to Expand Pedestrian, Cycling Paths Throughout Village: An August 9 article by this title in the Miami Herald includes SRTS improvements as part of its master plan to improve non-motorized transportation. Read the article at: http://www.miamiherald.com/news/miami_dade/pinecrest/story/1177036.html.

New Bike Racks in Marion County: Joan Carter in FDOT District Five reports that Marion County Public Schools

recently installed new bicycle racks at two elementary schools and two middle schools. College Park Elementary, Hammett Bowen, Jr. Elementary, Belleview Middle and Dunnellon Middle found ideal locations for installation of the racks under a program that partnered with District Five, Florida Dept. of Transportation. The School Board requested more than a hundred racks, which were purchased by the District and installed by the School Board. All racks were placed where they can be seen from the street and from classrooms or administrative offices. Each school also received bicycle locks, head and tail lights and bike bells that will be distributed to bicycle riders who use the racks.

FDOT's project manager, Joan Carter, recently visited the schools where bike racks were placed. She praised the excellent installation work done by the Marion facilities crew and the thoughtfully designed locations where racks were sited. Chuck Plummer, from the Marion County Public Schools Grants Office, and Ken Odom, transportation planner for the Ocala Marion Transportation Planning Organization showed off the bike racks. Ms. Carter commented

This is a grand project. It shows how three agencies can work together to improve healthy choices and school access. This brings a national initiative into a local setting.

The photo below shows the bike racks at one of the elementary schools in Ocala. The child's mother rides to school with him, parks her bike (see the big bike behind the child's bike), and walks home. At the end of the day, she walks back to school so she can ride home with him. The photo and the story illustrate the great success of this program. Congratulations to the partners in this wonderful project!



Tampa Bay Pedestrian Safety News: There are three recent pedestrian safety items from Tampa Bay:

- ***Fines, New Lights and Boardwalks Mean a Safer Walk to School:*** An article by this title was published August 21 in the Tampa Tribune. It explains how law enforcement personnel are issuing tickets to both drivers and pedestrians who are not obeying Florida laws in Tampa school zones.

Sheriff's Deputy Scott Skolnik sees a pattern in accidents where pedestrians, young or old, are at fault: "They cannot judge the speed of the car. They think they can make it."

Gap assessment is a vital skill which is not taught very often, and is much needed. To help increase safety, almost all of the 243 schools in Hillsborough County will have flashing yellow lights in place to warn drivers about school zones. Many of these school flashers were purchased with SRTS funds.

Read the article at:

<http://d7web.d7.dot.state.fl.us/newsarchives/2009/August/24/Fines,%20new%20lights%20and%20boardwalks%20mean%20a%20safer%20walk%20to%20school.htm>.

- **Stop and Look Tampa Bay:** This is an update on the new pedestrian safety campaign for Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. An August 20 article in the Tampa Tribune says:

With Hillsborough and Pinellas counties reporting pedestrian fatality rates higher than the national average, the Florida Department of Transportation today is launching a "Stop and Look" campaign for drivers and pedestrians... "The Stop and Look safety campaign will encourage pedestrians to be predictable to motorists and for motorists to drive alert and share the road," department District 7 Secretary of Transportation Don Skelton said in a news release.

Read more at: <http://www2.tbo.com/content/2009/aug/20/florida-launches-campaign-pedestrian-safety/> and check out the new video and audio PSA's, and photos from visits by super hero Pedman at stopandlooktampabay.com.

- If you missed the August 3, 2009 FHWA webinar which included a presentation by District Seven's Peter Hsu and consultant Demian Miller from Tindale Oliver & Associates, you have another opportunity to see it. View their discussion of the recently developed Pinellas County Pedestrian Safety Action Plan at http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/ped_focus/webinar.cfm.

News from Other States and Countries

News from Springfield, Missouri: There are three items of interest to SRTS advocates, from Springfield:

- While every state does things a little differently, Springfield's **Traffic Control Manual for School Crossing Protection** gives many ideas which can be considered when trying to make a school crossing safer. The program applies Best Practices of the three E's (education, enforcement, and engineering) to complement each other. See the manual at: <http://www.springfieldmo.gov/traffic/pdfs/SCPCmanual.pdf>.
- Springfield has created very nice school walking route maps for all its elementary schools. See these at: <http://www.springfieldmo.gov/traffic/school.html>.
- For the fifth year in a row, Safe Kids Springfield has received a \$10,000 grant from Fed Ex Express to improve the safety of children walking to school. Read the story at <http://www.ksmu.org/content/view/5007/2/>.

'Roads' talk won't get us anywhere: In an article of this title in the Charlotte Observer, Mary Newsome objects to discussions of "roads" for two reasons: it leads people to think of rural transportation corridors, and it limits thinking about transportation options. She says:

To assume that the solution to congestion is "roads" – that is, putting down pavement in new places – is like assuming all health problems should be treated with surgery or drugs. Those are good tools, when appropriate, but a good doctor doesn't ignore the options of prevention, exercise, diet and daily habits... "Transportation" means auto and foot traffic, bicycles, planes, trucks, trains, buses and streetcars. Call it "transportation," and you're already thinking more broadly.

Despite the objections of many of the commenters, there is a lot of truth in what she says. Read the article at: http://www.charlotteobserver.com/marynewsom/story/914830.html?pageNum=2&mi_pluck_action=page_nav#Comments_Container.

Other News Stories on SRTS: Check out news stories on SRTS from around the country at the SRTS National Partnership's website: <http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/mediacenter/6562> and the National Center for SRTS's website: http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/news_room/.

National News

Georgia SRTS Coordinator Joins SRTS National Partnership, Seeks Local Success Stories: The former Georgia SRTS Coordinator, Kelechi Nwosu, has recently joined the SRTS National Partnership. She is seeking brief local SRTS success stories to share with Congressional members, to help make the case for increasing funding for SRTS and for support for the SRTS Senate Bill (S. 1156). Please send your brief stories, about three sentences long, to [Kelechi Nwosu](mailto:Kelechi.Nwosu), including: your name, email, phone number, city, state, and school. To view sample stories, [click here](#).

Safe Kids Issues New Research *Distracted Drivers in School Zones*: This important research report by Safe Kids USA has just been released, and should be required reading for all SRTS advocates, Crossing Guards, Community

Traffic Safety Teams, PTA's, Law Enforcement officials and many others. We need to use this information to educate drivers and our communities to the fact that driving is a full time job, and it's not worth risking the life of a child to make a phone call, send a text message or eat a cookie! Because this is such an important report, I will quote more extensively from the Executive Summary than I usually do:

The main issue deals with the inability of the human brain to effectively perform multiple tasks while driving at the same time. These limits of human cognitive capacity have been well documented for the past four decades. This research demonstrates that the brain's ability to perform two or more tasks at the same time generally results in a decreased performance of each task depending on the complexity of the task and how the brain allocates priorities to each task. During every moment of the "Driving Task," vehicle operators are constantly being challenged by a changing environment and road conditions; by the actions of other drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians; and by the actions and behavior of passengers and objects in the car. Many drivers also operate their vehicles under less than ideal conditions such as being tired or being physically/emotionally stressed. The sum effect of all these factors makes driving an extremely complex task even under the best of conditions.

Distractions can take attention away from the driving task and place the driver at an increased risk of crashing. For example, the average person under ideal conditions takes about 1/4 of a second to identify a road hazard (such as seeing a child dart out between two cars), 1/4 of a second for the brain to process the situation, and another 1/4 of a second to make a decision on how to avoid the hazard. If a driver is traveling at 30 mph in a school zone, that processing time translates to about 33 feet before the driver even reacts to the situation. Once the driver identifies the hazard, they must react to it by applying the brakes. This costs the driver an additional 3/4 of a second and another 33 feet. Finally, the vehicles itself takes about 3 seconds to engage the brakes, bringing the vehicle to a complete stop in approximately 38 feet. Thus the overall braking distance needed for an attentive driver on a dry road is roughly 104 feet. In contrast, for each second the driver is distracted an additional 33 feet is added to this number. Thus, if the driver is distracted with a three-second task the moment a child steps out into the street, it would take them 203 feet to completely stop the car.

Two other recent research studies have shown that drivers are 4 to 6 times more likely to crash when using a phone, and 23 times more likely to crash while texting. The dangers are similar to driving with a .08 blood alcohol level, legally drunk. This was the first study to research distracted driving activities in school zones. Drivers were observed in school zones at 20 middle schools in 15 states. Some of the results were:

- one in six drivers were distracted by an activity not related to driving
- 57.6% of distracted drivers were using cell phones or other electronic devices
- There were more distracted drivers in the afternoon than in the morning
- Distracted drivers appeared more frequently in school zones without flashing lights and in school zones that had a daily traffic volume of 10,000 or more cars
- School zones that have an associated decrease in speed limit showed a higher distracted driver rate than school zones that did not change the speed limit
- Drivers of larger vehicles such as sports utility vehicles, pickup trucks, and minivans were more distracted than car drivers
- Drivers not wearing their seatbelts were 35% more likely to be distracted

I urge you to read the full 15-page report and use this information to increase the safety of children walking or bicycling to school by increased awareness of the problem, better enforcement and doing whatever else you can to change the culture that says it's okay to drive while not paying attention to the task at hand. Read the report at:

<http://www.usa.safekids.org/wtw/documents/Research08.pdf>.

Safe Routes to School National Partnership's Federal Update: The Safe Routes to School National Partnership has been doing a great job keeping tabs on the latest developments in the often confusing federal arena. So I will reprint their whole article on federal topics, from their September *Safe Routes to School E-News*:

- *Transportation bill - Congress is back in Washington, DC this week after spending the month of August listening to constituents; this fall will be a busy one on Capitol Hill. While most of the public attention is focused on the fate of the health care bill, the next month is also likely to result in movement on the transportation bill and the climate bill.*

On the transportation bill, the House and Senate must agree upon the length of the extension to the current transportation bill, which expires September 30. The Senate and the Administration want a longer extension of 18 months, while the House prefers a much shorter extension to keep a continued focus on passing the next 6-year transportation bill.

Whatever the length of the extension, it is expected to continue all current transportation programs at their current fiscal year 2009 funding levels. However, an extension may create difficulties for state DOTs in committing to new projects and grants as they will be receiving money in installments over the course of the year. The Safe Routes to School National Partnership will continue to monitor state DOTs to ensure that Safe Routes to School funds are awarded and obligated in a timely fashion.

To keep attention on the next transportation bill, the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee may hold a full committee "markup" of the [existing House transportation draft bill](#), which was unveiled in June 2009 without funding levels. In a markup, members of the Committee offer and vote on proposed changes to the legislation to develop a final version of the bill that would then be considered by the full House of Representatives.

- **Letters to Congress** - To prepare for the potential House Committee markup of the transportation bill and to continue to grow support in the Senate, the Safe Routes to School National Partnership has launched a "Dear Congress" campaign. We are asking parents, children, SRTS program staff and volunteers, and school and city leaders to write letters about the importance of SRTS. All letters should be delivered to the Partnership, and we will bundle them to share with members of the House and Senate. Please write a letter and ask others you know to write letters too. The deadline for these letters is September 24, 2009. Full instructions are posted on our website at <http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/national/299443>.
- **Rescissions** - In other federal news, it is time for rescissions. In this federally-mandated process, state DOTs must return a portion of their existing transportation funds in a number of programs to Washington. For most transportation programs subject to the rescission, the loss of funding will be approximately 5% of a program's total funding from FY2004-2009. Safe Routes to School is unique in that there are two methods of calculating the rescissions for each state -one based on unobligated balances as compared with other programs, and one is based on the funding level as compared with other programs. The Safe Routes to School National Partnership is working closely with the Federal Highway Administration to determine the impact on state Safe Routes to School programs. At this point it appears that the maximum rescission will be around 4.5% of a state's Safe Routes to School funds, but could be less in some states depending on obligation levels. As soon as we have more details, including state by state figures, we will share those via a subsequent email alert.

Two Recent Research Reports on the Role of Government to Prevent Obesity: These two reports have many recommendations in common, and they both break their recommendations into nutrition and physical activity. The first report focuses on all ages, and the second on children:

- **Recommended Community Strategies and Measurements to Prevent Obesity in the United States:** This research project by the CDC identified 24 recommended strategies which communities could take to prevent obesity. Read the full report at: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5807a1.htm?s_cid=rr5807a1_e.
 - Among *Strategies to Encourage Physical Activity or Limit Sedentary Activity Among Children and Youth* are these strategies related to SRTS:
 - Communities should require physical education in schools
 - Communities should increase the amount of physical activity in PE programs in schools
 - Communities should increase opportunities for extracurricular physical activity
 - Among *Strategies to Create Safe Communities That Support Physical Activity* are these strategies related to SRTS:
 - Communities should improve access to outdoor recreational facilities
 - Communities should enhance infrastructure supporting bicycling
 - Communities should enhance infrastructure supporting walking
 - Communities should support locating schools within easy walking distance of residential areas
 - Communities should enhance personal safety in areas where persons are or could be physically active
 - Communities should enhance traffic safety in areas where persons are or could be physically active
 - Under *Strategy to Encourage Communities to Organize for Change* is this strategy which relates to SRTS:
 - Communities should participate in community coalitions or partnerships to address obesity
- **Local Government Actions to Prevent Childhood Obesity:** After examining all the literature and evidence on this topic, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee on Childhood Obesity Prevention Actions for Local Governments Committee recommended nine healthy eating strategies and six physical activity strategies for

local government officials to consider in planning, implementing, and refining childhood obesity prevention efforts. The committee also recommends a number of specific action steps for each strategy and highlights 12 steps overall judged to have the most promise. Under the goal *Actions for Increasing Physical Activity* are these Strategies, many of which relate to SRTS or bicycling and walking:

- *Strategy 1: Built Environment:* Encourage walking and bicycling for transportation and recreation through improvements in the built environment
- *Strategy 2: Programs for Walking and Biking:* Promote programs that support walking and bicycling for transportation and recreation
- *Strategy 3: Recreational Physical Activity:* Promote other forms of recreational physical activity
- *Strategy 4: Routine Physical Activity:* Promote policies that build physical activity into daily routines

The other two Goals and Strategies also have some relation to SRTS. Under *Decrease Sedentary Behavior:*

- *Strategy 5: Screen Time:* Promote policies that reduce sedentary screen time

Under the goal *Raise Awareness of the Importance of Increasing Physical Activity* is a strategy related to SRTS:

- *Strategy 6: Media and Social Marketing:* Develop a social marketing program that emphasizes the multiple benefits for children and families of sustained physical activity

The full report and report brief include suggested Action Steps under each Strategy. Buy the full report at:

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12674#description or read the Report Brief at:

<http://www.iom.edu/Object.File/Master/72/800/local%20govts%20obesity%20report%20brief%20FINAL%20for%20web.pdf>

Safe Routes to School National Conference: I still haven't had time to review my notes and absorb all the information I learned from this wonderful conference. You can now see some of the presentations from this recent conference at [download presentations here](#). More presentations will be added in the future, so keep checking back.

Webinar: Safe Routes to School: Teens Go Green Program: America Walks and the National Center for Safe Routes to School announce this webinar on September 29 from 2:00-3:00 pm, as the next one in their Safe Routes Coaching Action Network Webinar Series. The presenters will be Aviva Joseph & Gwen Froh, from Marin County Bicycle Coalition, who developed a successful model for getting teens involved in SRTS.

The Teens Go Green Program empowers teens from numerous Middle and High Schools to promote and sustain green ways to schools. Learn how the Teens Go Green club has enabled students to spread awareness of the impact of transportation choices. Some of the activities they participated in were performing in school-wide assemblies, forming a bicycle recycle program to give refurbished bikes to families of modest means, creating special events to celebrate and inspire green transportation, and identifying and promoting a school's infrastructure changes to improve bike and pedestrian walkways.

You can register here: [REGISTER NOW](#). Remember that if you can't make the live webinar, you can watch the archived version later on the National Center's website. See http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/training/can_webinars.cfm for any previous webinars you may have missed.

PBIC launches Livable Communities Webinar Series: The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) has launched the Livable Communities Webinar Series to encourage safe walking and bicycling as a viable means of transportation and physical activity. These free, public Webinars will be offered every other month, and are based on PBIC's in-person trainings on pedestrian safety. The trainings provide more in-depth technical assistance, allow hands-on work with the experts, and generate detailed action plans. Detailed information on these trainings can be found on the PBIC training Web site at www.walkinginfo.org/training.

The first Webinar will be *Fundamentals for Connecting Transit and Pedestrian/Bicycle Facilities*, presented by Dan Nabors, Senior Transportation Engineer, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. and Daniel Rodriguez, Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning, UNC-Chapel Hill, on September 23, 2009, from 12:30 to 2 pm. To register, go to <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/911822570>. November's Webinar will be *The Power of 25: Advocacy Strategies for Creating Livable Communities* presented by Pete Lagerway, Senior Transportation Planner, Toole Design Group. Lagerway will articulate how just 25 people can positively impact pedestrian and bicycle environments. Register for upcoming Webinars and access archived presentations at: www.walkinginfo.org/webinars.

School Bicycling and Walking Policies: Addressing Policies That Hinder And Implementing Policies That Help: The two major organizations for SRTS (the National Center for SRTS and the SRTS National Partnership) have

collaborated on a new Tip Sheet by this title. It gives examples of school policies which help or hinder students who would like to walk or bike to school, and how these should be dealt with or implemented. This new resource was just launched on Sept. 1, 2009, and should be helpful to all SRTS advocates. See it at: <http://tinyurl.com/kpjxfc>.

Context Sensitive Solutions and USDOT to present a *Forum on Livability*: ContextSensitiveSolutions.org will present a Forum on Livability in partnership with the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The free event, held in webinar format, will be on Thursday, September 24, 2009, from 2:00 - 3:30 pm. The Forum on Livability will be the first national-scale opportunity for dialogue with some of the key U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) leaders and staff engaged in the new transportation and livability initiatives of the Obama administration. Register [here](#). (You may recall that one of the proposals for the next Transportation Bill would place all bicycle and pedestrian programs, including SRTS, under a new Office of Livability).

Florida & National Calendar of Events & Training Opportunities

❖ Indicates new items Items repeated until events are held All times are Eastern unless noted

September, 2009:

- ❖ **September 16, 5:00 pm: deadline for applications for \$6,000 sub-grants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.** These sub-grants will be awarded to nonprofits and their coalitions in up to 3 states to encourage community-centered schools by analyzing their state's policies and practices and making recommendations. The sub-grants will be accompanied by a year of technical assistance. If you have questions about the form or the application process, e-mail <policy@nthp.org> or call (202) 588-6234. Answers to Frequently Asked Questions will be posted at the link below as they are received. Source: <http://tinyurl.com/m8j5pc>
- ❖ **September 16, APBP webinar, 3:00-4:00 pm on *Pedestrian Safety Assessments: Sharing Lessons Learned from California's New Program*.** Cost is \$50/site for APBP members, \$60/site for non-members. Register at: <http://www.apbp.org/?page=Webinars&hhSearchTerms=webinars>.
- **September 16-19, *Bridging the Past to Tomorrow: 2009 America Planning Association Florida Chapter Conference*** - - Hyatt Regency Riverfront, Jacksonville - Join the leaders from the public and private planning sectors for their annual gathering - program content for every discipline. More info: <http://www.floridaplanning.org/>
- **September 18, 2009, PARK(ing) Day:** PARK(ing) Day is an international day to reclaim vehicle PARK(ing) spaces as park spaces. Started in San Francisco in 2005 by the REBAR arts collective, it has spread around the world. For more information and ideas on how to participate, see the Trust for Public Land website at: http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=22093&folder_id=3428. This idea could be tied into an existing or new SRTS project stressing the importance of children experiencing the outdoors, as in No Child Left Inside.
- ❖ **September 23, 12:30 – 2:00 pm, PBIC Webinar: *Fundamentals for Connecting Transit and Pedestrian/Bicycle Facilities*:** This is the first in a series of Livable Communities Webinars sponsored by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center, to encourage safe walking and bicycling as a viable means of transportation and physical activity. Presenters will be Dan Nabors, Senior Transportation Engineer, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. and Daniel Rodriguez, Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning, UNC-Chapel Hill. Nabors and Rodriguez will review critical research findings on the relationship of pedestrian and bicycle facilities and infrastructure to transit use, and offer practitioner-oriented tips and tools for transit agencies and pedestrian and bicycle professionals. Register at: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/911822570>. More info: www.walkinginfo.org/training.
- ❖ **September 20-26, 2009, National Turn off the TV Week.** For Information, see: <http://tinyurl.com/d4o6km> or contact: Center for Screen-Time Awareness, 1200 29th Street, N.W., Lower Level # 1, Washington, DC 20007; phone: (202) 333-9220; fax: (202) 333-9221; email: <cfstaemail@screentime.org>
- ❖ **September 24, 2:00-3:30 pm, Free Webinar *Forum on Livability*, sponsored by Context Sensitive Solutions and USDOT.** The Forum on Livability will be the first national-scale opportunity for dialogue with some of the key U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) leaders and staff engaged in the new transportation and livability initiatives of the Obama administration. Register [here](#).

October-December, 2009:

- **October 6-7, California School Board Association School Wellness Conference, Anaheim, California:** Featuring leaders from state agencies, the California School Boards Association and the community, who play a role in creating sustainable healthy school environments and more physical activity. More info: <http://swc.csba.org/>.
- **October 7, International Walk to School Day:** Register at <http://www.walktoschool-usa.org/register/index.cfm> to receive access to downloadable materials, a chance to win prizes for your school, and a weekly e-newsletter leading up to Walk to School Day with valuable tips for holding a great event.
- **October 7-9, Association of Pedestrian Bicycle Professionals (APBP) Professional Development Seminar and Walk21 New York City Conference:** Conference themes are *More footprints, less carbon, Paving with gold, There is more to walking than walking and Fit cities*. Read more at: <http://walk21nyc.eventbrite.com/>
- ❖ **October 8-10, 4th Annual Campus and Community Sustainability Conference, hosted by the University of South Florida, will be held in Tampa.** The event will feature five conference tracks and an exciting off-campus dinner on a farm is being planned. The event is designed for public and private sectors to network and learn how to improve their efforts toward sustainability. More info: <http://www.sustainablefloridaconference.org/>
- ❖ **October 21, 2009, APBP webinar, 3:00-4:00 pm on the MUTCD, with presenter Michael Moule.** Cost is \$50/site for APBP members, \$60/site for non-members. Register at: <http://www.apbp.org/?page=Webinars&hhSearchTerms=webinars>.
- **November 6, 1:00-2:30, Community Visioning - Creating the Framework for Tomorrow's Florida:** This is part of a series of free monthly American Planning Association Webcasts. More info: http://www.floridaplanning.org/calendar/calendar_details.asp?EventID=677.
- ❖ **November 18, APBP webinar, 3:00-4:00 pm on How to Build Political Will for Strong Bike/Walk Programs Using the 3-Legged Stool Model,** with presenters Ian Thomas, PedNet Coalition (Advocate); Stacia Reilly, Columbia/Boone County Dept. of Public Health (Staff); Mayor Darwin Hindman, City of Columbia, MO (Elected). Cost is \$50/site for APBP members, \$60/site for non-members. Register at: <http://www.apbp.org/?page=Webinars&hhSearchTerms=webinars>
- **December 4, 1:00-2:30, Creating Sustainable Communities:** This is part of a series of free monthly American Planning Association Webcasts. More info: http://www.floridaplanning.org/calendar/calendar_details.asp?EventID=678.
- ❖ **December 16, APBP webinar, 3:00-4:00 pm on Connecting with Public Health Professionals on Bike/Ped Issues (includes Health Impact Assessments),** with presenters Karen Nikolai, Hennepin County; Brian Fellows, Arizona SRTS. Cost is \$50/site for APBP members, \$60/site for non-members. Register at: <http://www.apbp.org/?page=Webinars&hhSearchTerms=webinars>.

2010:

- ❖ **April 8, Florida Bike Summit:** Capitol Courtyard, Tallahassee. This will be the second Florida Bike Summit, an opportunity to gather and discuss with legislators, the issues which are important to bicyclists. More details will be shared as they develop.
- ❖ **May 11-13, ProBike/ProWalk Florida Conference:** Lakeland Center/Hyatt Place Lakeland Center. Save the date and plan to attend this excellent conference on all things relating to bicycling and walking in Florida, including SRTS. More details will be shared as they develop.
- ❖ **May 30-June 2, International Conference on Safety and Mobility of Vulnerable Road Users:** This international conference will be held in Jerusalem, Israel, and will focus on the safety and mobility of pedestrians, motorcyclists, and bicyclists. Info: <http://tinyurl.com/ny4j7c>
- ❖ **September 13-17, Pro Walk/Pro Bike®:** the Sixteenth International Symposium on Walking and Bicycling, Chattanooga, Tennessee. More details will be shared as they develop.

Ongoing:

- **Context Sensitive Solutions Webinars:** Past webinars which are archived on the CSS website at

<http://www.contextsensitivesolutions.org/content/webinar/> and may be of interest to SRTS advocates include:

- A Guide to Building CSS Knowledge and Skills for Successful Project Delivery
- Using Design Flexibility to Achieve Context Sensitive Solutions
- Complete Streets and Context Sensitive Solutions

- **America Walks/NCSRTS Webinar series:** If you missed any of these webinars, please go to http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/training/can_webinars.cfm to download and view the webinar.

- **New Partners for Smart Growth 2009 Powerpoints:** More than 230 PowerPoint presentations from the 2009 New Partners for Smart Growth Conference are now available on Smart Growth Online, courtesy of the Local Government Commission (LGC). The 2009 New Partners for Smart Growth Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, hosted attendance of more than 1000 people from across the country for three full days of presentations, discussions, and information sharing. Browse the complete list of presentations at: <http://www.smartgrowth.org/newpartners/NPSG2009.asp>

- **Canadian Operation Lifesaver Website for Children:** in English or French, featuring a variety of train safety activities for children at: <http://www.olkids.ca/>. Several of the activities show children who have to cross train tracks while walking to school.

- **Pedestrian Focus States Webinar on Pedestrian/Bicycle Law Enforcement:** This December 17, 2008 webinar can be viewed at: <http://fhwa.na3.acrobat.com/pedfocus/>. Sign in as a guest (first name and last name). In the bottom right hand corner, click on the *Enforcement Workshop for Webinar* files and select "Save to My Computer".

- **National Pro Walk/Pro Bike Presentations Now Available On-Line:** Some of the presentations from the Pro Walk/Pro Bike National Conference in Seattle, Washington are now posted at: <http://www.bikewalk.org/2008conference/vconference/schedulefull.html>; look for live links in red.

- **The National Highway Institute (NHI) Offers Free Web-Based Training:** Courses of interest to SRTS partners include *Introducing Highway Federal-Aid* and *Introduction to NEPA and Transportation Decision-making*, as well as a variety of courses on planning and engineering topics. See the course listings at: http://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/training/list_catalog.aspx?cat=&key=&num=&loc=&tit=&sta=%25&typ=3&lev=%25&ava=1&str=&end=&drf

- **T-Square's 2009 Professional Training Portfolio:** The *2009 Professional Training Portfolio* of the Florida Transportation Technology Transfer Center (T-Square), based at University of Florida, is available at: <http://t2.ce.ufl.edu/nl/2008-11-catalog.pdf>.

- **MP3 and MP4 versions of completed Transportation for America free webinars are available on these topics at:** <http://t4america.org/webinars>:
 - Transportation and Social Equity
 - Transportation, Energy and Climate
 - Transportation, Housing and Development
 - Transportation, Health and Public Safety
 - Transportation and Economic Opportunity

- **The Association Of Metropolitan Planning Organizations' 2008 National Conference**, held in October 2008, included presentations on SRTS and other Bike/Ped issues: View these & others at the links below:
 - **Safe Routes to School Washington State Planning and Funding Assistance**, Charlotte Claybrooke, Washington DOT, SRTS Coordinator: http://www.ampo.org/assets/719_claybrook.pdf
 - **Safe Routes to School – Practical Solutions on a Small Budget:** Andy Hume, Las Cruces Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO): http://www.ampo.org/assets/725_hume.pdf
 - **Safe Routes 2 School**, Lee Kokinakas, Michigan Fitness Foundation: http://www.ampo.org/assets/726_kokinakas.pdf
 - 3 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning presentations from Anchorage, Atlanta and Omaha at: <http://www.ampo.org/content/index.php?pid=197>



Florida SRTS Updates

By Pat Pieratte

Florida SRTS Coordinator

(pat.pieratte@dot.state.fl.us, 850-245-1529)

September 18, 2009

SafeRoutes
Florida Safe Routes to School



www.srtsfl.org

Florida Updates: State

Walk to School Day Update: I'm pleased to see that more Florida Walk to School Day events have been registered at <http://www.walktoschool.org/who/index.cfm> in the last week. We are now up to 81 events throughout Florida, 30 more than last week, but still way below last year's total of 227. I'm sure there are more events being planned which haven't registered yet. So if you hear of a planned event, ask if they have registered yet. Let's keep those registrations coming for this important event coming up on October 7!

10th American Academy of Health Behavior Annual Scientific Meeting: This national conference will be held in Clearwater Beach, Florida from February 7-10, 2010. The theme of the conference is *Implementation Science: Translating Evidence-Based Health Behavior Research to Practice*. The Call for Abstracts ends next week, on September 25, 2009. Since SRTS programs seek to improve children's health habits, your SRTS project might make a good presentation at this conference, and you won't have to travel far! If you feel your project qualifies, I encourage you to submit an Abstract. More Information is available at: <http://www.aahb-temp.net/index.php>.

Florida Updates: Local

FDOT District Seven Receives National NHTSA grant for Pedestrian Education and Enforcement: Despite a very short application timeframe, lack of information about whether they were qualified to apply, and the absence of District Safety Engineer Peter Hsu (who was on vacation at the time), District Seven FDOT pulled together an excellent application for this funding opportunity, which was rewarded with funding! Much of the work was done by Jeanette Rouse, District Seven CTST Coordinator and SRTS Non-Infrastructure contact, along with a District consultant, and some input from our office.

The grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will provide \$431,000 to address pedestrian safety education & enforcement within Pinellas & Hillsborough Counties, both of which have been working on their Pedestrian Safety Plans. As announced in previous Updates, District Seven has also recently launched a pedestrian safety campaign. The work which has been done by the District and locals will contribute funds and services worth an estimated \$233,000 to this project. District Seven plans to establish a Pedestrian Safety Committee to oversee the work of this grant and ensure its success. While this grant will cover all ages of pedestrians, it will certainly benefit children and the SRTS program. Congratulations to all involved in this exciting new project!

FDOT District One Plans More Training Courses: Sarita Taylor, SRTS contact for FDOT District One, Sarita gets the prize for the most training courses in her District! Besides all the courses she held last year, she has been busy planning six more training courses with the Florida Traffic and Bicycle Safety Education Program, and a helmet training. If you are in the southwest part of the state, check with Sarita at sarita.taylor@dot.state.fl.us for the updated training schedule. Here is a tentative schedule she sent awhile back:

- 9/29 Helmet Training The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club
- 9/29 FTSBEP Bike Sarasota
- 10/1 FTSBEP Bike Polk
- 10/2 FTSBEP Bike Charlotte
- 10/6 FTSBEP Bike Highlands

Courses for Lee and Collier counties will probably be in October or November.

Dommerich Elementary School Kicks off Second Year of Walk n' Roll Program: Dommerich Elementary school, located in Maitland (Orange County) is beginning their second year of the popular Walk n' Roll program. On their recent walk, they had 274 students participating: 101 pedestrians, 167 bikers, 6 scooter riders, and many parents! Participants received brain erasers compliments of FDOT District Five's SRTS program, to remind students to protect their brains by wearing a helmet.

The school usually sponsors the event on the second Wednesday of the month, but they will change to the first Wednesday in October, so their walk coincides with International Walk to School Day. This year new yard signs and banners saying "Walk n' Roll THIS WEDNESDAY" help to publicize the events, and they are using new tie-dye themed Frequent Walk n' Roller punch-cards and stickers. Congratulations to Dommerich Elementary on their successful, ongoing Walk n' Roll events!

Alliance, Planet Bike Grant Goes To Miami Group: As reported by the Florida Bicycle Association's e-newsletter:

The Alliance for Biking & Walking has awarded a \$30,000 matching grant to Miami-based [Green Mobility Network](#). The grant was made possible by Planet Bike and is the first in a series of special grassroots bicycle advocacy grants to be given by Planet Bike in 2009.

Green Mobility Network is a young non-profit with the mission to make Miami-Dade County a healthier, more livable community by promoting bicycling, running, and walking for daily transportation, leisure, and fitness. In its short history, Green Mobility Network has been a key leader in Miami's efforts to improve conditions for bicyclist and pedestrians by crafting the city's first bicycle master plan, orchestrating six successful 'Bike Miami Days,' and beginning the development of a Safe Routes to School initiative.

The grant will help fund Green Mobility Network's 'Complete the M-Path' campaign. The Mobility Path, or M-Path, is Miami-Dade County's most important multi-use path. Currently, however, there exists a 1.25 mile 'Dadeland Gap' which prevents bicyclists and pedestrians from safely and easily connecting with the area's wider network of paths. Once the goal of closing the gap is realized, there will exist a seamless 30-mile bicycle-pedestrian corridor running from downtown Miami to the county's southern border.

News from Other States and Countries

Traffic Enforcement for Bicyclist: This excellent training video was created for Chicago Police Officers in a partnership between the Chicago Police Department & the Chicago Department of Transportation. It was funded with a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety. Although the laws in Florida may be slightly different, the principles are the same, and the video is well worth watching. Apparently others agree, as it has spread from its original location: http://www.chicagobikes.org/video/index.php?loadVideo=policetraining_2009 to many other websites, including <http://tcstreetsforpeople.org/node/970>, <http://www.bikerumor.com/2009/09/15/traffic-enforcement-for-bicyclist-safety/> and <http://commuteorlando.com/wordpress/2009/09/13/law-enforcement-video/>.

If you need a reminder of what Florida's bicycle laws are, see the Florida Bicycle Law Enforcement Guide at: http://www.dot.state.fl.us/Safety/ped_bike/brochures/pdf/Bicycle%20LEGuide-08.pdf. For the Florida Pedestrian Law Enforcement Guide, see: http://www.dot.state.fl.us/Safety/ped_bike/brochures/pdf/Pedestrian%20LEGuide-08.pdf.

National News

Parent Survey Now Available Online in English and Spanish: Austin Brown, Program Manager for the National Center for SRTS reports that an online, Survey Monkey version of the Parent Survey is now available:

We have developed an online version of the Parent Survey, in both English and Spanish, which can be used for collecting parental responses electronically. The survey contains the same questions as the paper based questionnaire you are probably familiar with. If you would like to learn more about this option and to determine if using the online questionnaire is appropriate for your school(s) please visit www.saferoutesinfo.org/resources/evaluation_parent_survey-instructions.cfm.

The website listed contains questions and answers to help you determine which survey type is best for your school. Although there is a cost associated with using the online version, there may be cases where the cost is worth it for program efficiency.

Pilot Evaluation of A Walking School Bus Program In a Low-Income, Urban Community: This recent research

involved three urban, socioeconomically disadvantaged, public elementary schools (1 intervention vs. 2 controls) in Seattle, Washington. Participants were ethnically diverse students in kindergarten-5th grade (aged 5–11 years). The intervention was a Walking School Bus (WSB) program consisting of a part-time coordinator and parent volunteers. Students' method of transportation to school was assessed by a classroom survey at baseline and one-year follow-up. The Results section says:

Comparing baseline to 12-month follow up, the numbers of students who walked to the intervention school increased while the numbers of students who used the other forms of transport did not change ($p < 0.0001$). In contrast, the numbers of students who walked to the control schools decreased while the numbers of students who used the other forms of transport did not change ($p < 0.0001$).

The Conclusion states:

A WSB program is a promising intervention among urban, low-income elementary school students that may promote favorable changes toward active transport to school.

Read more at: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/9/122/abstract>.

Updates from the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association (STIPDA):

- **Preventing Injury & Chronic Disease through Smart Growth Policy:** a free webinar with this title is scheduled for next Thursday, September 24, from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. It is part of an Injury Prevention webcast series sponsored by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO), and the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association (STIPDA).

Continuing the theme for this year's series, this webcast will focus on integrating injury and violence prevention with other public health areas. This webcast will be the first in a two-part series that will focus on the relationship between injury and chronic disease prevention, Smart Growth, and community design. During this webcast, participants will learn more about Smart Growth policies and the proactive steps that public health practitioners can take to influence transportation and land-use decisions. Participants will also learn additional strategies they can use to ensure that public health is a primary consideration in community design.

The featured speaker will be Mary Lee, a practicing attorney and expert on housing, land-use, and community economic development. Register at: <http://www.stipda.org/displayemailforms.cfm?emailformnbr=122206>. The webcast will later be archived on the websites of ASTHO, NACCHO, and STIPDA.

- **STIPDA Joins Leading Health Organizations to Urge Congress to Include Injury Prevention in Health Reform:** STIPDA and a group of 17 other leading health organizations, including research universities, professional organizations, and advocacy groups have come together for the first time to urge Congress to consider injury prevention in the health care reform debate.

During the month-long congressional recess, an estimated 4 million Americans received medical care for injuries, generating 9 billion dollars in lifetime medical expenses. According to the 18 leading health and injury organizations that partnered on this initiative, injury prevention should be part of the discussion as Congress continues the health care reform debate.

To raise awareness, the group has produced an advertisement which appeared in the September 8th issue of *Roll Call*, the Capitol Hill newspaper. The theme of this issue is entitled, "Health Care Hits the Road." The development of this advertisement marks the first time that these groups have come together to educate policymakers on the significant burden injuries pose to the health care system and society.

Challenge To Transportation Enhancements Defeated: There have been two recent amendments introduced in the Senate which would have negatively impacted the Transportation Enhancements program, a major source of bicycle and pedestrian project and program funding. Senate Amendment 2370, which prohibited funding for transportation enhancements if the Highway Trust Fund does not contain amounts sufficient to cover unfunded highway authorizations, was withdrawn. The Centerlines e-newsletter reported:

Senate Amendment 2371, which would have allowed states to opt out of the 10 percent set aside rule that require states to spend at least 10 percent of their surface transportation funding on transportation enhancements, was defeated on the Senate floor by a 59-39 vote. The amendment, which was introduced by Senator Coburn (R-OK), was one of three amendments introduced by the Senator; all of the amendments would have severely impacted the Federal

Transportation Enhancement program.

Those who had the opportunity to view or listen to the debate on the Senate floor were no doubt struck by the fact that bicycling and walking were barely mentioned. Senator Coburn took issue with the spending of Highway Trust Fund revenues on transportation museums and wildlife hazard mitigation.

Senators Murray (D-WA) and Boxer (D-CA) defended Transportation Enhancements as a jobs and safety program. Senator Boxer then added preventing roadside runoff and collisions with wildlife (Elk, specifically) as additional vital activities that are funded by Transportation Enhancements. Omitted from the debate was any mention of the health and environmental benefits yielded by more people bicycling and walking.

Rail Trails: Why They Matter: An article by this name in the September, 2009 newsletter of the National Parks Service explains why the U.S. needs to retain and expand funding for Transportation Enhancements. The article quotes former Floridian Jeff Ciabotti of the [Rails to Trails Conservancy](#) who says the coming rail trail projects are more complex and important than those already built. They will connect high population areas to existing trails. The article continues:

The [Transportation Enhancements](#) program in the federal transportation bill has provided funding for many rail-trails -- but demand for trails has far outstripped the supply of dollars. States and local communities have filled some of the funding gap, but Ciabotti says, "we need to double or triple federal investment in biking, trails and walking."

Read the rest of the article at: <http://tinyurl.com/mogjwu>.

New Research on Smart Growth and New Urbanism: Much research has shown that an increasing demand for New Urbanist communities, where there is more of a sense of community, as well as more walking and bicycling. These two new research reports add to our knowledge of the benefits of these communities:

- ***New Urban Community Promotes Social Networks and Walking:*** This recent research report by Robert Steuteville compares the amount of social interaction and walking in four neighborhoods in Portland, Oregon. The New Urbanist community, Orenco Station, showed a much higher level of both community and people walking, than the other three neighborhoods. According to an article in the September edition of New Urban News, one of the findings was:

Ten times more Orenco Station residents regularly walk to a store than do the inhabitants of the Beaverton suburb. Fifty percent of Orenco station residents report walking to a local store five or more times a week, compared to 5 percent in Beaverton. Only 7 percent of Orenco residents report never walking to the store, compared to 68 percent in Beaverton. This achievement likely contributes not only to environmental sustainability but to personal health in Orenco Station as well...

Read more at: <http://www.newurbannews.com/emails/sep09newurban2.html>

- ***Where We Want To Be: Home Location Preferences and Their Implications for Smart Growth:*** This new report is by Todd Litman of the Victoria Transport Policy Institute, who writes in the abstract:

This analysis indicates that smart growth tends to benefit consumers in numerous ways. Market research indicates that most households want improved accessibility (indicated by shorter commutes), land use mix (indicated by nearby shops and services), and diverse transport options (indicated by good walking conditions and public transit services) and will often choose small-lot and attached homes with these features.

In a discussion of past development trends, Todd writes:

Smart growth critics are wrong to claim that sprawled development and automobile-dependent lifestyles are normal and socially desirable. These development patterns reflect unique circumstances that occurred between 1950 and 1980: growing vehicle ownership, Baby Boom generation family formation, low fuel prices, increased female employment, middle-class flight from cities, highway expansion, and the excitement and prestige that resulted from rapid technological development. Virtually all of those factors have peaked. Driving will probably never be as cheap or as exciting as it was during that period.

- Todd has lived in Victoria, British Columbia, a Smart Growth community, for many years, and who has lived car-free for the last year. Read more at: <http://www.vtpi.org/sgcp.pdf>.

Traffic Congestion Around Schools: This excellent document was created by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Although the best way to prevent congestion is to start with a good school design, this document deals with conditions around existing schools. The general description of the problem includes:

School-related traffic congestion and the risks such congestion poses to the safety of the students, teachers, parents, residents, and motorists in and around school locations is a significant problem in communities both throughout the United States and abroad. The most obvious cause of traffic congestion around schools is vehicles, and the biggest source of those vehicles is parents' dropping off and picking up their children from school. In the United States, roughly three-quarters of school-aged children are taken to school by car.

The section *Factors Contributing to Traffic Congestion Around Schools* says:

When asked, parents who choose to take their children by car cite distance, traffic hazards, time constraints, and bad weather as the most common reasons for selecting this transportation mode. Other research has asserted that both road safety and "stranger danger" are the key explanations for why parents are increasingly taking their children to school by car. One can view such threats to child safety as both a cause and a symptom of school congestion. On the one hand, parental concerns about traffic hazards could lead more parents to drive their children to school, thereby increasing congestion. On the other hand, traffic congestion could lead to more child pedestrian accidents, with backed up cars' blocking the views of small children crossing the street to enter school.

The section *Changing Transportation Modes* begins:

Many responses to the problem of school traffic congestion are designed to reduce the number of children taken to school in private vehicles. These efforts are often presented as environmentally friendly programs that increase physical activity among children, resulting in benefits far beyond that of reduced traffic congestion. With any of these programs designed to change parents' and students' behavior, incentives for participating as well as changes designed to make it easier to participate can go a long way toward achieving congestion reductions.

The report encourages gathering data, considering both physical conditions and attitudes, and involving all the stakeholders to find the best solutions. It gives many helpful suggestions, including many SRTS activities, to reduce congestion around schools. Read the report at: <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/files/ric/Publications/e080724100.pdf>.

CDC Releases \$373 million in ARRA funds for Chronic Disease Prevention in Communities: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is releasing \$373 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to fund the first part of a new \$650 million public health initiative, *Communities Putting Prevention to Work*. This initiative will help communities, states, and territories achieve the goals of reducing risk factors for chronic diseases and promoting wellness. The initial funding will support grants to communities to support evidence-based prevention strategies for youths and adults and to promote partnerships across communities and sectors.

Funded projects will emphasize high-impact, broad-reaching policy, environmental, and systems changes in schools (K-12), communities, and states. States and communities will be encouraged to provide quality physical education in the nation's schools, to make unhealthy foods and beverages less available in schools and other community sites, and to use media to promote healthy choices. Approximately 30-40 community awardees will be selected. Eligible entities include: large cities, urban areas, tribal communities, and State-coordinated small cities and rural areas.

Of most interest to SRTS proponents is *Obesity/Physical Activity/Nutrition*. Approximate ranges for this category are:

- Large city applicants: \$10 million - \$20 million
- Urban area applicants: \$4 million - \$10 million
- Tribal applicants: \$500,000 - \$1.2 million
- State coordinated small city and rural area applicants: \$3 million - \$8 million

Funded entities will have two years to complete their work. Communities that wish to apply for awards can find more information at <http://www.grants.gov/>. The application deadline for the community projects is December 1, 2009.

An additional \$277 million will be made available in the coming weeks to states, territories, and other organizations and networks to support and extend the reach and impact of the community projects. The deadlines for the second round of funding will be announced soon. For more information, see <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/>, <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/09/20090917a.html>, and <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/cdc/chronicdisease.html>.

Florida & National Calendar of Events & Training Opportunities

❖ Indicates new items

Items repeated until events are held

All times are Eastern unless noted

September, 2009:

- **September 18, 2009, PARK(ing) Day:** PARK(ing) Day is an international day to reclaim vehicle PARK(ing) spaces as park spaces. Started in San Francisco in 2005 by the REBAR arts collective, it has spread around the world. For more information and ideas on how to participate, see the Trust for Public Land website at: http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=22093&folder_id=3428. This idea could be tied into an existing or new SRTS project stressing the importance of children experiencing the outdoors, as in No Child Left Inside.
- ❖ **September 23, 12:30 – 2:00 pm, PBIC Webinar: *Fundamentals for Connecting Transit and Pedestrian/Bicycle Facilities*:** This is the first in a series of Livable Communities Webinars sponsored by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center, to encourage safe walking and bicycling as a viable means of transportation and physical activity. Presenters will be Dan Nabors, Senior Transportation Engineer, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. and Daniel Rodriguez, Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning, UNC-Chapel Hill. Nabors and Rodriguez will review critical research findings on the relationship of pedestrian and bicycle facilities and infrastructure to transit use, and offer practitioner-oriented tips and tools for transit agencies and pedestrian and bicycle professionals. Register at: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/911822570>. More info: www.walkinginfo.org/training.
- ❖ ***Preventing Injury & Chronic Disease through Smart Growth Policy*:** a free webinar with this title is scheduled for next Thursday, September 24, from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. It is part of an Injury Prevention webcast series sponsored by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO), and the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association (STIPDA). Register at: <http://www.stipda.org/displayemailforms.cfm?emailformnbr=122206>.
- ❖ **September 20-26, 2009, National Turn off the TV Week.** For Information, see: <http://tinyurl.com/d4o6km> or contact: Center for Screen-Time Awareness, 1200 29th Street, N.W., Lower Level # 1, Washington, DC 20007; phone: (202) 333-9220; fax: (202) 333-9221; email: <cfstaemail@screentime.org>
- ❖ **September 24, 2:00-3:30 pm, Free Webinar *Forum on Livability*, sponsored by Context Sensitive Solutions and USDOT.** The Forum on Livability will be the first national-scale opportunity for dialogue with some of the key U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) leaders and staff engaged in the new transportation and livability initiatives of the Obama administration. Register [here](#).
- ❖ **September 30, 1:00-2:30 pm, Free Webinar *Taking Proper Care of Pedestrians in Work Zones*:** The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices requires that work zone traffic control measures meet the needs of all road users on a facility, including pedestrians. The presenters are from Texas Transportation Institute. Gerald Ullman will present *Designing and Maintaining a Pedestrian-Friendly Work Zone*, and Brooke Ullman will present *Assisting Handicapped Pedestrians through Work Zones: Meeting the ADA Requirements*. The webinar will later be archived in the video vault section of www.workzonesafety.org. Professional development hours are also available. Register at: <http://www.workzonesafety.org/training/record/9856>.

October-December, 2009:

- **October 6-7, California School Board Association School Wellness Conference, Anaheim, California:** Featuring leaders from state agencies, the California School Boards Association and the community, who play a role in creating sustainable healthy school environments and more physical activity. More info: <http://swc.csba.org/>.
- **October 7, International Walk to School Day:** Register at <http://www.walktoschool-usa.org/register/index.cfm> to receive access to downloadable materials, a chance to win prizes for your school, and a weekly e-newsletter leading up to Walk to School Day with valuable tips for holding a great event.
- **October 7-9, Association of Pedestrian Bicycle Professionals (APBP) Professional Development Seminar and Walk21 New York City Conference:** Conference themes are *More footprints, less carbon*, *Paving with gold*, *There is more to walking than walking* and *Fit cities*. Read more at: <http://walk21nyc.eventbrite.com/>
- ❖ **October 8-10, 4th Annual Campus and Community Sustainability Conference, hosted by the University of**

South Florida, will be held in Tampa. The event will feature five conference tracks and an exciting off-campus dinner on a farm is being planned. The event is designed for public and private sectors to network and learn how to improve their efforts toward sustainability. More info: <http://www.sustainablefloridaconference.org/>

- ❖ **October 21, APBP webinar, 3:00-4:00 pm on the MUTCD, with presenter Michael Moule.** Cost is \$50/site for APBP members, \$60/site for non-members. Register at: <http://www.apbp.org/?page=Webinars&hhSearchTerms=webinars>.
- ❖ **October 25-27, Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference, Kalamazoo, MI.** For more info, see: <http://www.michigantrails.org/news/mid-america-trails-greenways-conference/> or contact Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, PO Box 27187, Lansing MI 48909; phone: (517) 485-6022; email: info@michigantrails.org.
- ❖ **October 29-November 1, 2009, Rail-Volution: Building Livable Communities with Transit, Boston, MA.** For more info, see: <http://www.railvolution.com/>.
- **November 6, 1:00-2:30, Community Visioning - Creating the Framework for Tomorrow's Florida:** This is part of a series of free monthly American Planning Association Webcasts. More info: http://www.floridaplanning.org/calendar/calendar_details.asp?EventID=677.
- ❖ **November 18, APBP webinar, 3:00-4:00 pm on How to Build Political Will for Strong Bike/Walk Programs Using the 3-Legged Stool Model,** with presenters Ian Thomas, PedNet Coalition (Advocate); Stacia Reilly, Columbia/Boone County Dept. of Public Health (Staff); Mayor Darwin Hindman, City of Columbia, MO (Elected). Cost is \$50/site for APBP members, \$60/site for non-members. Register at: <http://www.apbp.org/?page=Webinars&hhSearchTerms=webinars>
- **December 4, 1:00-2:30, Creating Sustainable Communities:** This is part of a series of free monthly American Planning Association Webcasts. More info: http://www.floridaplanning.org/calendar/calendar_details.asp?EventID=678.
- ❖ **December 16, APBP webinar, 3:00-4:00 pm on Connecting with Public Health Professionals on Bike/Ped Issues (includes Health Impact Assessments),** with presenters Karen Nikolai, Hennepin County; Brian Fellows, Arizona SRTS. Cost is \$50/site for APBP members, \$60/site for non-members. Register at: <http://www.apbp.org/?page=Webinars&hhSearchTerms=webinars>.

2010:

- ❖ **February 7-10, 10th American Academy of Health Behavior Annual Scientific Meeting, Clearwater Beach, FL.** The theme of the conference is *Implementation Science: Translating Evidence-Based Health Behavior Research to Practice*. The Call for Abstracts ends September 25, 2009. More Info: <http://www.aahb-temp.net/index.php>.
- ❖ **February 24, ITE/NCSRTS webinar Site Transportation at Schools:** The emphasis will be on traffic planning that will make it easier and safer for walkers and bicyclists. More information will be forthcoming.
- ❖ **April 8, Florida Bike Summit:** Capitol Courtyard, Tallahassee. This will be the second Florida Bike Summit, an opportunity to gather and discuss with legislators, the issues which are important to bicyclists. More details will be shared as they develop.
- ❖ **May 11-13, ProBike/ProWalk Florida Conference:** Lakeland Center/Hyatt Place Lakeland Center. Save the date and plan to attend this excellent conference on all things relating to bicycling and walking in Florida, including SRTS. More details will be shared as they develop.
- ❖ **May 30-June 2, International Conference on Safety and Mobility of Vulnerable Road Users:** This international conference will be held in Jerusalem, Israel, and will focus on the safety and mobility of pedestrians, motorcyclists, and bicyclists. Info: <http://tinyurl.com/ny4j7c>
- ❖ **September 13-17, Pro Walk/Pro Bike®:** the Sixteenth International Symposium on Walking and Bicycling, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Watch this website for information: <http://www.bikewalk.org/2010conference/index.html>.

Ongoing:

- **Context Sensitive Solutions Webinars:** Past webinars which are archived on the CSS website at <http://www.contextsensitivesolutions.org/content/webinar/> and may be of interest to SRTS advocates include:
 - A Guide to Building CSS Knowledge and Skills for Successful Project Delivery
 - Using Design Flexibility to Achieve Context Sensitive Solutions
 - Complete Streets and Context Sensitive Solutions
- **America Walks/NCSRTS Webinar series:** If you missed any of these webinars, please go to http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/training/can_webinars.cfm to download and view the webinar.
- **New Partners for Smart Growth 2009 Powerpoints:** More than 230 PowerPoint presentations from the 2009 New Partners for Smart Growth Conference are now available on Smart Growth Online, courtesy of the Local Government Commission (LGC). The 2009 New Partners for Smart Growth Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, hosted attendance of more than 1000 people from across the country for three full days of presentations, discussions, and information sharing. Browse the complete list of presentations at: <http://www.smartgrowth.org/newpartners/NPSG2009.asp>
- **Canadian Operation Lifesaver Website for Children:** in English or French, featuring a variety of train safety activities for children at: <http://www.olkids.ca/>. Several of the activities show children who have to cross train tracks while walking to school.
- **Pedestrian Focus States Webinar on Pedestrian/Bicycle Law Enforcement:** This December 17, 2008 webinar can be viewed at: <http://fhwa.na3.acrobat.com/pedfocus/>. Sign in as a guest (first name and last name). In the bottom right hand corner, click on the *Enforcement Workshop for Webinar* files and select "Save to My Computer".
- **National Pro Walk/Pro Bike Presentations Now Available On-Line:** Some of the presentations from the 2008 Pro Walk/Pro Bike National Conference in Seattle, Washington are posted at: <http://www.bikewalk.org/2008conference/vconference/schedulefull.html>; look for live links in red.
- **The National Highway Institute (NHI) Offers Free Web-Based Training:** Courses of interest to SRTS partners include *Introducing Highway Federal-Aid* and *Introduction to NEPA and Transportation Decision-making*, as well as a variety of courses on planning and engineering topics. See the course listings at: http://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/training/list_catalog.aspx?cat=&key=&num=&loc=&tit=&sta=%25&typ=3&lev=%25&ava=1&str=&end=&dr
- **T-Square's 2009 Professional Training Portfolio:** The *2009 Professional Training Portfolio* of the Florida Transportation Technology Transfer Center (T-Square), based at University of Florida, is available at: <http://t2.ce.ufl.edu/nl/2008-11-catalog.pdf>.
- **MP3 and MP4 versions of completed Transportation for America free webinars are available on these topics at:** <http://t4america.org/webinars>:
 - Transportation and Social Equity
 - Transportation, Energy and Climate
 - Transportation, Housing and Development
 - Transportation, Health and Public Safety
 - Transportation and Economic Opportunity
- **The Association Of Metropolitan Planning Organizations' 2008 National Conference,** held in October 2008, included presentations on SRTS and other Bike/Ped issues: View these & others at the links below:
 - **Safe Routes to School Washington State Planning and Funding Assistance**, Charlotte Claybrooke, Washington DOT, SRTS Coordinator: http://www.ampo.org/assets/719_claybrook.pdf
 - **Safe Routes to School – Practical Solutions on a Small Budget:** Andy Hume, Las Cruces Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO): http://www.ampo.org/assets/725_hume.pdf
 - **Safe Routes 2 School**, Lee Kokinakas, Michigan Fitness Foundation: http://www.ampo.org/assets/726_kokinakas.pdf
 - 3 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning presentations from Anchorage, Atlanta and Omaha at: <http://www.ampo.org/content/index.php?pid=197>



Florida SRTS Updates

By Pat Pieratte

Florida SRTS Coordinator

(pat.pieratte@dot.state.fl.us, 850-245-1529)

September 25, 2009

SafeRoutes
Florida Safe Routes to School



www.srtsfl.org

Florida Updates: State

100 Florida Schools Now Registered for Walk to School Day: Florida registrations continue to trickle in for International Walk to School Day on October 7, 2009, and we have now reached 100 events. But we are still way behind last year's total of 227 events. Please keep those registrations coming, and let's try to beat last year's total. With the size of Florida and everything we have going on for SRTS, we should be able to host more than the current 3.9% of Walk to School Day events in the U.S! To register, go to: <http://www.walktoschool.org/>.

Safe Routes to Schools: An Important Component of School Transportation: An article with this title by yours truly was printed recently in Florida School Bus magazine. The article was based on a presentation I gave in February to the county School Transportation Directors, when they met in Crawfordville, just south of Tallahassee. In my presentation and the article, I challenged them to think "outside the bus" and get involved in SRTS so that all children can have a safe trip to school. My presentation was received positively, and I was later asked to write a similar article for the magazine. The article begins on page 9 of the magazine; a pdf of this issue is attached to the transmittal e-mail for this Update. The photos came out much clearer in the actual magazine, so you might want to ask your county School Transportation Director if you can look at his copy of the magazine.

2009 Campus and Community Sustainability Conference and Expo Includes SRTS Presentation: This conference focusing on sustainability will be held in Tampa at the University of South Florida (USF) from October 8-9. One of the speakers will be Jason Jackman, from USF's Center for Urban Transportation Research, presenting his work with several Tampa schools to form Walking School Buses and Bike Trains. Jason's presentation will be on Thursday, October 8 at 2:00 pm. The conference also includes a variety of presentations on community issues, land use planning and transportation, as well as a keynote presentation by Ed Begley, Jr. Check out the schedule at <http://www.sustainablefloridaconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/Conference-Agenda.pdf> and register at: <http://www.sustainablefloridaconference.org/>.

Florida Updates: Local

Marion County to Host Eleventh Annual Walk to School Day Event: Marion County Public Schools (the Ocala area) have issued a media release announcing plans for their 11th annual Walk to School Day Event, to be held on Wednesday, October 7 at Horizon Academy at Marion Oaks. The event, sponsored by the Marion County Community Traffic Safety Team, will teach children and their parents about pedestrian safety, stranger danger, physical safety, and the walking environment. The walk also encourages positive relationships and communication between parents and their children. Local community leaders and representatives from public and private entities will walk with dozens of students and parents.

Marion County has been working on a couple of SRTS projects over the last few years. One is the purchase and installation of bike racks at a number of elementary schools. You saw a photo of one of these in a recent issue of the SRTS Update. Another project involves an elementary and middle school working with a technical magnet high school to develop a media campaign, bicycle and pedestrian curriculum and website. We look forward to seeing the final products of this project.

For more information on the Marion County Walk to School event, contact Anita Kinsler, Chairperson, Walk Our Children to School Day (352.438.2352), or Dennis Yonce, Community Traffic Safety Team (352.369.7000).

News from Other States and Countries

Commuter School: This article in Bicycling Magazine features a program in Bay Village, Ohio which rewards students for biking to school. The article says:

When students at Bay High School, in Bay Village, Ohio, organized their Bike to School Challenge in spring 2008, no one anticipated the response. "On the first day, 363 kids signed up and we were scrambling to keep up," says Scott Cowan, owner of Century Cycles in Ohio and the event's mastermind. "By the end of the three-week period, 550 students had participated." The program expanded this year to include the middle school; 960 students biked the first day. "We're effecting a cultural change," Cowan says.

The program is using the Freiker system, which has been discussed in previous issues of the SRTS Update. The article explains the system this way:

...A solar-powered device dubbed a Freikometer, mounted on a pole in the schoolyard, reads RFID tags—small electronic chips that some retailers use to track inventory—affixed to the helmet or backpack of every rider or walker who passes beneath it. The contraption then relays students' ID numbers to a data base that tallies the number of times a student bikes to school. Central to Freiker's success are the prizes kids can earn...

The system allows for easy data collection. Not only is the identity of each cyclist and the total number of participants tracked, but this data makes it easy to calculate how much is saved in money, gallons of gas and pollution, by the children cycling to school vs. being driven to school. Read the story at: <http://www.bicycling.com/article/0,6610,s1-3-12-20544-1,00.html>.

MDOT Hosts Safe Routes To School Event: This news story from WNEM in Saginaw, Michigan, describes a SRTS back to school event held on a high school football field:

The Michigan Department of Transportation will host a Safe Routes to School event for approximately 200 third-grade students from Kempton, Stone, Herig, and Jerome elementary schools in Saginaw.

Besides presentations on pedestrian safety and traffic safety are a variety of presentations which might relate to the trip from home to school, including dealing with stray animals, downed electrical wires and strangers. Two other events are Walk-able Saginaw, which will feature a display of city of Saginaw attractions within walking distance of local schools, and Bicycle Safety, which will include a bicycle helmet giveaway by area organizations. The event is sponsored by the East Michigan Council of Governments and four major companies, in partnership with a host of area organizations. For more information, see: <http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151--221127--,00.html> and <http://www.wnem.com/news/21101100/detail.html>.

Family defies no-bike policy at Maple Avenue Middle School: A middle school student in Saratoga, New York has run into some problems with a 15-year old "no bicycling" policy at his middle school, despite the fact that the road he and his mother ride on is designated by the New York State Department of Transportation as a bike route. His mother says:

I think it's my parental right to transport my child to school in the way I deem is appropriate. I think the district is usurping its authority by telling me that I can't.

The school board started reviewing the issue in May, but has yet to revise the policy. Now members of the transportation advocacy group Saratoga Healthy Transportation Network are asking for their members to join the mother and son on their ride to school, to draw attention to the need to allow children to get the exercise in the way their families believe is best. Read the article at: <http://www.saratogian.com/articles/2009/09/14/news/doc4aada71020507442523775.txt>.

If your school has a similar policy against walking or bicycling to school, see the tip sheet developed by the National Center for SRTS and the SRTS National Partnership, entitled *School Bicycling and Walking Policies: Addressing Policies that Hinder and Implementing Policies that Help*. The tip sheet can be downloaded from: http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/resources/collateral/barrier_policy_tip_sheet.pdf.

U.S. House of Representatives Passes Three-Month Extension of SAFETEA-LU; Senate Action Pending: Here is the latest on the status of the federal Transportation Bill. According to the website of the League of American Bicyclists:

Three Month Extension of Federal Transportation Bill Passes House (9.24.09) On Sept. 23, the House passed a [three-month extension of the federal surface transportation bill](#) by a vote of 335 to 85, despite attempts by Republican leadership to derail it. The final vote of 335 (247 D and 88 R) is significant in that earlier in the day, the Republican leadership decided to back a 18-month extension proposed by the Senate and the Obama Administration. The strong support for the three-month extension in the House should force the Senate to reconsider their stance.

Free Pedestrian Safety Resources Available for Download: Child Safety Solutions, which have created many good bicycle, pedestrian, and SRTS resources which can be purchased, also have made some free pedestrian safety resources available for download. Besides print materials, you can download the music and lyrics to the cute “Walking School Bus” song to use for Walk to School Day or other events. Check out these resources at: <http://www.imsafe.com/pedestrian-safety-resource-download>.

New Willie Whistle CD Available from NHTSA: Willie Whistle has starred in at least two other videos through the years. He is an animated whistle who teaches young children (best for ages K-2) how to cross the road safely. The video stresses the important basics—stop at the curb or edge, look left, right, left, and wait till there are no cars coming. When using this video, the instructor should discuss the next important step—to keep on looking as you cross. The latest update to Willie Whistle was recently completed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. You can view a low-resolution version of the video at: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/willie/video.html>. Then either download the video from the same website, or order your copies from the NHTSA warehouse.

Preventing Injury and Chronic Disease through Smart Growth Policy: I participated in this webinar yesterday, sponsored by Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO), and the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association (STIPDA). The presenter was Mary Lee, a practicing attorney and expert on housing, land-use, and community economic development and the Associate Director for PolicyLink, a non-profit national research and action institute advancing economic and social equity.

The sponsoring groups all have backgrounds in public health, and are just beginning to discuss how smart growth policies can influence health issues. I picked up one or two newer ideas during the webinar. Ms. Lee discussed a question which she said is commonly used in relation to land use: “what is the highest and best use of the land?” She said that traditionally this has meant: “what use would generate the most revenue?” She challenged us to get involved in land use decisions, and ask our communities to broaden the definition in order to arrive at the actual highest and best use of the land. It may not be the one which would raise the most money, but one which would benefit those in the community who are underserved, or bring the community together in a more cohesive way. I thought that was an excellent challenge for all of us.

One of the items she discussed in relation to this question was Health Impact Assessments, which are methods to figure out before a project is built, what impact it would have on various health indicators. Over the past year, I have participated in the work of a national group which is drafting a Health Impact Assessment for the siting of new schools. This Assessment would assign points based on various criteria which affect whether or not children could walk or bike easily to school. The hope is that communities will use the Assessment to compare different locations which are being considered, and build more schools which allow more walking and bicycling in the future.

The webinar will be archived on the STIPDA website: www.stipda.org, and will be followed by another webinar which also focuses on the relationship between injury and chronic disease prevention, Smart Growth, and community design.

National Leaders in SRTS: If you have ever been curious about the state SRTS Coordinators, personnel from the National Center for SRTS and their consultants from Toole Design, see the photo attached to the transmittal e-mail for this Update. The photo was taken after our recent meeting in Portland, Oregon, on the stairway in the hotel. This is a great group of people, all of whom are very knowledgeable and dedicated to the cause of SRTS. It is a pleasure to work with them all.

I am standing in the front row. In the back row are (from the left) Diane Lambert from Toole Design, Paula Bawer from NHTSA and Nancy Pullen-Seufert from the National Center for SRTS. In front of Diane and Paula is Lauren Marchetti, the Director of the National Center for SRTS. In the third row from the bottom, on the left is Jennifer Toole from Toole Design. You may have met or had contacts with these national leaders in the past. About eight FHWA personnel from Divisions around the U.S. joined our meeting, but they didn't pose for the picture.

Safe Routes to School National Partnership Extends Deadline for "Dear Congress" letters: I just received the following e-mail from the SRTSNP. Since this is important, I will reprint it in its entirety:

Three weeks ago, the Safe Routes to School National Partnership called on parents, children, school officials, and community leaders to write "Dear Congress" letters to demonstrate the importance of the Safe Routes to School program. We're now extending the campaign deadline until Friday, October 23.

So far, we have received over 150 meaningful and powerful letters from around the country. A few examples include: whole classes of students in Milwaukee, WI and Las Cruces, NM showing through words and pictures why they love to walk and bicycle to school; several city leaders in Tonganoxie, KS describing the numerous SRTS infrastructure needs remaining in their community; and parents and grandparents in Santa Cruz County, CA explaining why it's important that children be able to safely walk and bicycle to school. We are grateful to each and every individual that has taken the time to participate in the "Dear Congress" campaign.

Even so, we know there are thousands more SRTS supporters out there who can lend their voices to this campaign. And now that Congress is delaying consideration of the six-year transportation bill for several months, we have some additional time to continue building support for Safe Routes to School.

Therefore, we are extending the "Dear Congress" campaign an additional month, until October 23, 2009. We hope you will write a letter, spread the word to other people and organizations, and consider incorporating a "Dear Congress" activity into your Walk to School Day activities on October 7.

The easiest way to get letters on Walk to School Day is to use our new "Dear Congress" [letter template](#) -it takes less than three minutes for a parent or attendee to fill in a few sentences about why they support SRTS, and to add their mailing address. Here are some instructions:

- *Print out at least 50 copies of the ["Dear Congress" letter template](#) and put them at the check-in area of your Walk to School Day event;*
- *Make sure you have several pens, crayons, and clipboards there;*
- *Have friendly volunteers ask adults to take a few minutes to fill out the letter and to encourage parents to have their children add a little drawing or note in crayon; and*
- *Collect all the completed letters and mail them to the Partnership after your event.*

We thank SRTS supporter Dawn Groth from Anchorage, Alaska for this great idea-she gathered over 60 letters from community members using this approach!

If you are not planning a Walk to School Day event in October, please consider writing your own letter for the "Dear Congress" campaign. For additional information, including ideas on what you can include in your letter, visit our website at <http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/national/299443>.

All letters should be sent to Margo Pedroso with the Safe Routes to School National Partnership by October 23, 2009. You can scan and email electronic versions to margo@saferoutespartnership.org. Or you can mail letters to: Margo Pedroso, Safe Routes to School National Partnership, P.O. Box 442328, Fort Washington, MD 20749.

Please do not send your letters directly to your Members of Congress. We want to bundle the letters so they have a greater impact, so it's important that you send them to the Safe Routes to School National Partnership by October 23.

Thank you very much to everyone who has participated in the Dear Congress campaign so far - your letters are exactly what we need to make sure that Congress strengthens and expands the federal Safe Routes to School program, which will improve safety, health, and the livability of communities throughout the nation.

If you are allowed to lobby, please consider joining this campaign. The idea of combining it with Walk to School Day is an excellent one. You can either use the suggestion above, or do it as a classroom activity or homework assignment during the week of Walk to School Day.

Webinar to be held September 29 on *Safe Routes to School: Teens Go Green Program*: This important webinar will discuss ways to get teenagers interested in the SRTS program. This free webinar will be held from 2:00-3:00 pm on Tuesday, September 29. The presenters will be Aviva Joseph & Gwen Froh from the Marin County Bicycle Coalition. The *Teens Go Green Program* empowers teens from numerous Middle and High Schools to promote and sustain green ways to schools. Learn how the Teens Go Green club has enabled students to spread awareness of the impact of transportation choices by performing in school-wide assemblies; forming a bicycle recycle program giving refurbished bikes to families of modest means; creating special events to celebrate and inspire green transportation; and identifying and promoting a school's infrastructure changes to improve bike and pedestrian walkways.

This webinar is part of the Safe Routes Coaching Action Network Webinar Series, developed by America Walks and the National Center for Safe Routes to School. Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/708028536>.

Distracted Driving: In the last Update, we discussed the recent Safe Kids report showing the high numbers of people driving distracted in school zones. This is clearly an issue that needs to be addressed. The good news is that at the Governor's Association has recently called for a national ban on texting and driving, one of the main components of distracted driving. Also, the Washington, D.C.-based Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers said recently that it would support measures that would ban texting while driving. In Florida, a bill to ban texting while driving was filed this summer by Sarasota Representative Doug Holder.

Here is a video news clip discussing a possible national ban on texting while driving: [Video: Would a texting ban be enforceable?](#) This video clip shows U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood announcing a Distracted Driving Summit to be held in Washington, D.C. on September 30 and October 1. Andy Clarke from the League of American Bicyclists will join other safety advocates for this summit. People who are interested in this topic can join the live, interactive webcast by signing up at: http://www.rita.dot.gov/distracted_driving_summit/. No pre-registration is required.

Florida & National Calendar of Events & Training Opportunities

❖ Indicates new items Items repeated until events are held All times are Eastern unless noted

September, 2009:

- ❖ **September 29, 2:00-3:00 pm, free webinar on *Safe Routes to School: Teens Go Green Program*:** This important webinar will discuss ways to get teenagers interested in the SRTS program. The presenters will be Aviva Joseph & Gwen Froh from the Marin County Bicycle Coalition, who will explain how their program got middle school and high school students interested in SRTS. This webinar is part of the Safe Routes Coaching Action Network Webinar Series, developed by America Walks and the National Center for Safe Routes to School. Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/708028536>.
- **September 30, 1:00-2:30 pm, Free Webinar *Taking Proper Care of Pedestrians in Work Zones*:** The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices requires that work zone traffic control measures meet the needs of all road users on a facility, including pedestrians. The presenters are from Texas Transportation Institute. Gerald Ullman will present *Designing and Maintaining a Pedestrian-Friendly Work Zone*, and Brooke Ullman will present *Assisting Handicapped Pedestrians through Work Zones: Meeting the ADA Requirements*. The webinar will later be archived in the video vault section of www.workzonesafety.org. Professional development hours are also available. Register at: <http://www.workzonesafety.org/training/record/9856>.
- ❖ **September 30, 8:30-5:00 and October 1, 7:30-1:15: Distracted Driving Summit:** You are invited to join a live, interactive webcast of this summit being convened by U.S. Secretary of Transportation by signing up at: http://www.rita.dot.gov/distracted_driving_summit/. No pre-registration is required.

October-December, 2009:

- **October 6-7, California School Board Association School Wellness Conference, Anaheim, California:** Featuring leaders from state agencies, the California School Boards Association and the community, who play a role in creating sustainable healthy school environments and more physical activity. More info: <http://swc.csba.org/>.
- **October 7, International Walk to School Day:** Register at <http://www.walktoschool-usa.org/register/index.cfm> to receive access to downloadable materials, a chance to win prizes for your school, and a weekly e-newsletter leading up to Walk to School Day with valuable tips for holding a great event.
- **October 7-9, Association of Pedestrian Bicycle Professionals (APBP) Professional Development Seminar**

and Walk21 New York City Conference: Conference themes are *More footprints, less carbon, Paving with gold, There is more to walking than walking and Fit cities*. Read more at: <http://walk21nyc.eventbrite.com/>

- ❖ **October 8-10, 4th Annual Campus and Community Sustainability Conference, hosted by the University of South Florida, will be held in Tampa.** The event will feature five conference tracks and an exciting off-campus dinner on a farm is being planned. The event is designed for public and private sectors to network and learn how to improve their efforts toward sustainability. More info: <http://www.sustainablefloridaconference.org/>
- ❖ **October 21, APBP webinar, 3:00-4:00 pm on the MUTCD, with presenter Michael Moule.** Cost is \$50/site for APBP members, \$60/site for non-members. Register at: <http://www.apbp.org/?page=Webinars&hhSearchTerms=webinars>.
- ❖ **October 25-27, Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference, Kalamazoo, MI.** For more info, see: <http://www.michigantrails.org/news/mid-america-trails-greenways-conference/> or contact Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, PO Box 27187, Lansing MI 48909; phone: (517) 485-6022; email: info@michigantrails.org.
- ❖ **October 29-November 1, 2009, Rail-Volution: Building Livable Communities with Transit, Boston, MA.** For more info, see: <http://www.railvolution.com/>.
- **November 6, 1:00-2:30, Community Visioning - Creating the Framework for Tomorrow's Florida:** This is part of a series of free monthly American Planning Association Webcasts. More info: http://www.floridaplanning.org/calendar/calendar_details.asp?EventID=677.
- ❖ **November 18, APBP webinar, 3:00-4:00 pm on How to Build Political Will for Strong Bike/Walk Programs Using the 3-Legged Stool Model,** with presenters Ian Thomas, PedNet Coalition (Advocate); Stacia Reilly, Columbia/Boone County Dept. of Public Health (Staff); Mayor Darwin Hindman, City of Columbia, MO (Elected). Cost is \$50/site for APBP members, \$60/site for non-members. Register at: <http://www.apbp.org/?page=Webinars&hhSearchTerms=webinars>
- **December 4, 1:00-2:30, Creating Sustainable Communities:** This is part of a series of free monthly American Planning Association Webcasts. More info: http://www.floridaplanning.org/calendar/calendar_details.asp?EventID=678.
- ❖ **December 16, APBP webinar, 3:00-4:00 pm on Connecting with Public Health Professionals on Bike/Ped Issues (includes Health Impact Assessments),** with presenters Karen Nikolai, Hennepin County; Brian Fellows, Arizona SRTS. Cost is \$50/site for APBP members, \$60/site for non-members. Register at: <http://www.apbp.org/?page=Webinars&hhSearchTerms=webinars>.

2010:

- ❖ **February 7-10, 10th American Academy of Health Behavior Annual Scientific Meeting, Clearwater Beach, FL.** The theme of the conference is *Implementation Science: Translating Evidence-Based Health Behavior Research to Practice*. The Call for Abstracts ends September 25, 2009. More Info: <http://www.aahb-temp.net/index.php>.
- ❖ **February 24, ITE/NCSRTS webinar Site Transportation at Schools:** The emphasis will be on traffic planning that will make it easier and safer for walkers and bicyclists. More information will be forthcoming.
- ❖ **April 8, Florida Bike Summit:** Capitol Courtyard, Tallahassee. This will be the second Florida Bike Summit, an opportunity to gather and discuss with legislators, the issues which are important to bicyclists. More details will be shared as they develop.
- ❖ **May 11-13, ProBike/ProWalk Florida Conference:** Lakeland Center/Hyatt Place Lakeland Center. Save the date and plan to attend this excellent conference on all things relating to bicycling and walking in Florida, including SRTS. More details will be shared as they develop.
- ❖ **May 30-June 2, International Conference on Safety and Mobility of Vulnerable Road Users:** This international conference will be held in Jerusalem, Israel, and will focus on the safety and mobility of pedestrians, motorcyclists, and bicyclists. Info: <http://tinyurl.com/ny4j7c>

- ❖ **September 13-17, Pro Walk/Pro Bike®:** the Sixteenth International Symposium on Walking and Bicycling, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Watch this website for information: <http://www.bikewalk.org/2010conference/index.html>.

Ongoing:

- **Context Sensitive Solutions Webinars:** Past webinars which are archived on the CSS website at <http://www.contextsensitivesolutions.org/content/webinar/> and may be of interest to SRTS advocates include:
 - A Guide to Building CSS Knowledge and Skills for Successful Project Delivery
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 - **Safe Routes 2 School**, Lee Kokinakas, Michigan Fitness Foundation: http://www.ampo.org/assets/726_kokinakas.pdf
 - 3 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning presentations from Anchorage, Atlanta and Omaha at: <http://www.ampo.org/content/index.php?pid=197>