



## Florida SRTS Updates

By Pat Pieratte

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**SafeRoutes**  
Florida Safe Routes to School



[www.srtsfl.org](http://www.srtsfl.org)

### Florida Updates: State

**International Walk to School Day October 7:** I'm sure most of you are busy making your final plans for International Walk to School Day next Wednesday. I'm pleased that the number of participating schools has continued to rise. As of this morning, we have 125 schools registered to participate in the Walk. Nationally there are 3,021 schools participating! If you still haven't registered your event, please do so at: <http://www.walktoschool.org/>. In fact, since October is Walk to School Month, please register your event even if it will be later this month, so we know who is participating.

I know the event will be exciting and fun for everyone involved. A statewide press release will be issued on Monday, and your District Public Information Officer will have a copy. But it is even better to work with your local newspaper, television or radio station to get publicity for your local event. If you need a sample press release to modify, see: <http://www.walktoschool.org/resources/index.cfm>. Please send me links to any articles published about Walk to School Day in Florida.

Also, please send me good photos from the Walk. I hope to do some updates on our website in the next few months, using some of the new photos. And I always need new photos for my presentations. Although most people love to see their pictures used, this isn't always true, so it's best to get a photo release if people's faces are identifiable. Please use the Florida DOT photo release form is attached to the transmittal e-mail. You can fill in the description, date and photographer ahead of time so this process will be easier.

### Florida Updates: Local

**Largo Walking School Bus Project Featured on National Public Radio:** The Walking School Bus project at Belcher Elementary School in Largo was funded by a Tufts University grant, not a SRTS grant. The program was featured in an excellent NPR story and blog on September 21: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=113039310> and [http://www.npr.org/blogs/thetwo-way/2009/09/school\\_bus\\_walking\\_obesity\\_chi.html](http://www.npr.org/blogs/thetwo-way/2009/09/school_bus_walking_obesity_chi.html). Note that the survey on the second link shows that 99% of the 287 people voting answered yes to the question: *Should more communities be encouraging kids to walk?* While the poll may not be entirely scientific, this still shows that there are many people who agree with our cause!

The stories point out that in many cases, it is much quicker, as well as more fun, for those walking to school, instead of those waiting at the drop-off and pick-up lines. While this project was funded by a different source, Jeanette Rouse from District Seven has been helping them with their project, and even arranged a visit from Ped Man at a recent event. As you may recall, Ped Man is part of the Stop and Look Tampa Bay educational campaign: <http://www.stopandlooktampabay.com/html/home.html>.

**New Volusia County Pedestrian and Bicycle Child Safety Video:** Volusia County recently completed a new safety video funded by SRTS funds, with reviews by District Five's Joan Carter and myself. As anyone who has created a video can attest, this is not an easy task. Overall it is a good video, although some topics included, like bicycle registration, may not apply to your area. But the video does cover many basic pedestrian and bicycle safety topics, and it may be useful to SRTS programs in other parts of the state. You can see the new video at: <http://www.volusiacountypmo.com/>. Click on the orange title on the left side of the page. Congratulations to Volusia County for completing this project.

### News from Other States and Countries

**IDAHO WALK SMART: Walk Safe, Walk Smart, Walk Often:** Check out this excellent, detailed 20-page booklet on pedestrian safety created by the Idaho Office of Highway, assisted by the Idaho Highway Safety Coalition and numerous Idaho walking advocates. The booklet was funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). There is a four-page **Kids Walk Smart** section in the middle with pedestrian activities for children, which you may want to use for your programs. The first four chapters are especially applicable to SRTS:

- Chapter One — Benefits of Walking
- Chapter Two — Pedestrian Roadway Safety
- Chapter Three — Pedestrian Crossing Safety
- Chapter Four — Pedestrian Safety for Children

Appendix A includes many helpful websites. See the booklet at: [http://itd.idaho.gov/ohs/docs/WalkSmart\\_digital.pdf](http://itd.idaho.gov/ohs/docs/WalkSmart_digital.pdf).

## National News

**Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day is Tomorrow, Saturday, October 3, 2009:** I'm not sure if it was planned this way or not, but here's a good opportunity for your child to get some bicycling practice in before International Walk to School Day—yes, it's okay for your child to bike to school on that day if they prefer! The International Mountain Bicycling Association will celebrate its sixth annual International Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day on Saturday, October 3, 2009. This is a great opportunity for you to interest children in bicycling. Find an event near you at: <http://www.imba.com/TKMBD/map.html>. It looks like there are at least six events taking place in Florida. You might want to take a look at some of these other resources for kids and biking, from their website:

- [Taking Kids Mountain Biking](#)
- [Trips For Kids](#)
- [10 Tips for Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day](#)
- [Helpful Resources for Kids and Cycling](#)
- [Children & Nature Network's Nature Clubs](#)
- [Nature Rocks](#)

**New York Times Article *Why Can't She Walk to School?*** This recent article addresses fears of abduction which seem to paralyze many parents these days and prevent them from allowing their children to walk to school. Although abduction by strangers is quite rare, these events get a lot of publicity, which makes parents fearful. The article quotes a mother allows her 7 year old daughter to walk the block and a half to school, instead of waiting to be transported by bus the same small distance. Saying she wants to encourage her daughter's independence, the mother adds:

*Somehow, walking to school has become a political act when it's this uncommon. Somebody has to be first.*

SRTS programs are working to make walking to school a much more common phenomenon. Parents can decide whether children are old enough and mature enough to walk by themselves (this is not usually recommended until about age 10), or whether a Walking School Bus would better fit their needs. Read the article at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/13/fashion/13kids.html?emc=eta1>.

**Funding Opportunities Announced:** This week two great funding opportunities were announced, which may have great relevance to SRTS advocates. Note: both of these opportunities have an October 30 deadline and are for Non-Infrastructure type activities:

- **National Center for Safe Routes to School Mini-grants:** The NCSRTS is now accepting applications for 20 mini-grants, up to \$1,000 each. The aim of the mini-grants is to use student creativity and leadership skills to increase safe walking and bicycling to school. Successful applications will include one or more of the following: student-led activities, concern for the environment, and/or promotion of physical activity. Funded activities must be part of a new or existing Safe Routes to School program. For more information, see [www.saferoutesinfo.org/minigrants](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/minigrants). The application deadline is October 30, 2009.
- **Hundreds of Millions Available through CDC Prevention Grants:** A September 30 Field Action Alert by the SRTS National Partnership provides us with details of this opportunity for state and county health departments. Applications can be made in conjunction with bicycle and pedestrian programs. I will quote extensively from the Alert:

**Summary:** *On September 17, 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced a new*

program: *Communities Putting Prevention to Work*. Thirty to forty communities will receive a total of \$373 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus) dollars through this competitive grant program to support interventions that reduce obesity (through improved physical activity and nutrition) and/or reduce tobacco use. Communities can apply for either focus area or both. This landmark opportunity is aimed at mobilizing community resources toward broad-based policy, systems, organizational and environmental changes. The application places an emphasis on communities demonstrating effective coalitions, and notes that special consideration should be given to the inclusion of populations disproportionately affected by chronic diseases.

On September 29, 2009 the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the release of \$120 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for prevention and wellness programs for U.S. states and territories, building on the recent announcement of the \$373 million funding opportunity for communities and tribes around the country. In all, the comprehensive *Communities Putting Prevention to Work* initiative will make \$650 million available for public health efforts to address obesity, increase physical activity, improve nutrition, and decrease smoking.

**Lead Applicants:**

Local and State Health Departments

**Deadlines:**

Letter of Intent Deadline: October 30, 2009

Application Deadline: December 1, 2009

**The Opportunity for Bike/Ped and Health Officials:** *Communities Putting Prevention to Work* provides an important opportunity for bicycle and pedestrian professionals, enthusiasts, and advocates, as well as health officials, to act quickly to get your city or state to:

1. Apply for the funding;
2. Educate the health department about the [range of bike/ped interventions that can be included in their application and action plan](#); and
3. Include your organization as a partner in the effort.

America Bikes and the Safe Routes to School National Partnership have prepared [a list of sample bike/ped activities that fit within the five categories of evidence-based interventions](#) that are required as part of this CDC application. We encourage you to review these sample activities and assess which would work well in your community. Funds are available to make these projects a reality-so it is in your interest to work with your health department to develop the bike/ped aspects of the CDC application for obesity prevention, and to demonstrate how your organization can be a resource to them...

Note that state or county health department will be the lead, depending on the population size of the applicant area. If you are interested in this opportunity, you should research the opportunity and then contact your county health department right away. Encourage them to apply, and share your ideas on bicycle and pedestrian interventions. See the website at the bottom for more details. More from the Alert:

**Application Focus:** *The CDC Request for Proposals notes that the “key to the success of this initiative, Communities Putting Prevention to Work, will be to implement community-wide policies, systems, and environmental changes that reach across all levels of the socio-ecological model and include the full engagement of the leadership in city government, boards of health, schools, businesses, community and faith-based organizations, community developers, transportation and land use planners, parks and recreation officials, health care purchasers, health plans, health care providers, academic institutions, foundations, other Recovery Act-funded community activities, and many other community sectors working together to promote health and prevent chronic diseases. Funded programs need to build on, but not duplicate current Federal programs as well as state, local, or community programs and coordinate fully with existing programs and resources in the community.”*

Please note that construction and research are not eligible activities.

**Resource Links:**

Grant Information details available at [Grants.gov](#)

[CDC's Community Health Resources](#)

## [Sample Bike/Ped Interventions for Communities Putting Prevention to Work](#)

Potential Partners: [Bicycle and Pedestrian Organizations Operating at Local and State Levels](#)

### [Health Officials Action Alert](#)

In a separate communication, The National Center for Bicycling & Walking and the Active Living Resource Center volunteered to help with the application process:

*...with our long history of serving at the nexus of public health, community advocates, and transportation professionals, stand ready to assist community groups that are interested in ensuring that bike/ped master plans, Complete Streets, Safe Routes to Schools, parks, transit facilities as well as safe routes for seniors will be included in any health department's application for CPPW funding. For those who will be applying for the CPPW grants, NCBW's staff is ready and eager to assist you with developing plans for physical activity/obesity interventions.*

For more details about the CDC's "Communities Putting Prevention to Work" grant program please visit our website <<http://www.bikewalk.org>>. While there, we invited you to browse our resources, including the "Increasing Physical Activity Through Community Design Guide," which represents one the best, most concise publications to date on the many ways that public health practitioners can engage in the fields of planning and transportation. The IPA Guide can be downloaded at: [http://www.bikewalk.org/pdfs/IPA\\_full.pdf](http://www.bikewalk.org/pdfs/IPA_full.pdf)

**Safe Routes to School: A Targeted Approach to Our Built Environment Woes:** An article with this title appeared in a recent StreetsBlog.org posting. The author, Rebecca Jacobs, attended the recent SRTS National Conference in Portland and summarized the presentations of several keynote speakers. Of the presentation by Richard Jackson, chair of the Environmental Health Sciences Department at UCLA, she says:

*...One-third of Americans live in neighborhoods without sidewalks, half without access to public transportation. Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for every age group from 3 to 33. Meanwhile, the costs to our healthcare system from diseases related to obesity are enormous: We spend 1.5 percent of our entire GDP on treating diabetes alone. ...It can all seem overwhelming. But as Jackson pointed out, there are plenty of ways to make these problems feel more manageable. As he said, it really comes down to asking yourself: "Can I walk to buy milk?"*

Howard Frumkin, director of the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health, continued the discussion by stressing that we need to be very specific in our solutions to solving these problems, so people don't just give up. Ms. Jacobs continues:

*That's where "Safe Routes to School" comes in: It's a solution that's easy to grasp and feels like something we are capable of achieving. We can demand sidewalks; we can set up "walking school buses" to get kids to school. These are doable steps with benefits ranging from improved cardiovascular health to reduced carbon emissions. And it will help raise a new generation to appreciate the experience of walking, biking, and meeting your neighbors.*

Read more at: <http://www.streetsblog.org/2009/09/24/safe-routes-to-school-a-targeted-approach-to-our-built-environment-woes/>.

**New Web-Based Video Library:** The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) is in the process of developing a Web-based Video Library to create a searchable collection of pedestrian and bicycle-related educational videos. The Video Library will be housed on both the [walkinginfo.org](http://walkinginfo.org) and [bicyclinginfo.org](http://bicyclinginfo.org) web sites. Katy Jones at PBIC is heading up this effort. She reports:

*The PBIC is currently seeking and compiling videos to be included in this library. If you have publicly available videos that you have developed and would like to be included in the Video Library, please contact Katy Jones at [jones@hsrc.unc.edu](mailto:jones@hsrc.unc.edu) or 919-843-7007. All videos must either be in digital or DVD format, be educational and non-commercial and be relevant to pedestrian and bicycle safety issues. If you have videos in other formats that you think are highly relevant to the collection or if you have any questions about the library, please contact us.*

Let's help the PBIC help everyone, by letting them know of videos which they could put on their website.

**FHWA Looking For Bike/Ped/Health Research Ideas:** According to a Sept. 24th PBIC news release,

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Team at FHWA is seeking input and suggestions for the lines of research that should be pursued within this emphasis area. "To submit comments, please visit (<http://tinyurl.com/yehwnva>) and click on 'Bicycle/ Pedestrian and Health' underneath the 'Environment' heading. Please fill out the one-page form with short, succinct comments. The deadline is December 3, 2009.

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/yb8qzfh>.

## Florida & National Calendar of Events & Training Opportunities

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

### 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](mailto: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](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](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](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".
- **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](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](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](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](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>



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October 9, 2009

**SafeRoutes**  
Florida Safe Routes to School



[www.srtsfl.org](http://www.srtsfl.org)

### Florida Updates: State

**Happy International Walk to School Week!** Most of the news in this issue is about Walk to School Day. The official tally of Florida events was 136 on the website: <http://www.walktoschool.org/who/index.cfm>! Even though that number is down from last year's 227 events, there was a lot of excitement and publicity generated by the events. I was interviewed by telephone for radio shows in Miami and Tampa, and I heard of several television stations around the state which were going to cover one of their Walk to School events. See the section below for more specifics on Walk to School Day events in Florida.

I suspect that the number of events in Florida was really higher, and that some events never registered. If your event didn't get registered before the event, or if your event is later in October (Walk to School Month), you can still register your event. If you are planning an event around Halloween, see the Safe Kids USA website for general and Halloween-specific pedestrian tips: <http://www.napsnet.com/articles/62386.html>.

### Florida Updates: Local

**Info on Some of Florida's Walk to School Day Events:** Besides the statewide press release, we have heard about several local press releases, in Orange and Seminole Counties, Marion County and Brevard County. Here are some excerpts from these press releases:

- **Orange and Seminole Counties:**

*On this international day of celebration, more than 500 students from Altamonte, Apopka, Dream Lake, Hungerford, Citrus, Ocoee, Ivey Lane, Lake Silver, Lake Weston, Nap Ford Community, Rolling Hills, and Wheatley Elementary Schools will be walking to school along with parents, teachers, and community leaders including City and County Commissioners, School Board Members and celebrity guests... The walk to school parades will begin at 8 A.M. with students, parents, and community leaders walking from a designated location near their school. Other special activities associated with the event include a ten day countdown of safety lessons and activities, arts & crafts, songs, essay writing, bikes and bike helmet giveaways. The event is being organized by Health Masters Club "Safe Routes to School" Program, a nationally recognized best practice model to promote healthier lifestyles.*

To read more, [Click here](#)

- **Marion County:**

*This year, the community-wide event takes place Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:45AM, at Horizon Academy at Marion Oaks ... Staging for this event takes place just west of the school at Fire Station #42 at 102 Marion Oaks Lane... Sponsored by Marion County's Community Traffic Safety Team, the event teaches 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.*

- **Brevard County:**

*[Walk to School Day] is an energizing event, reminding everyone of the simple joy of walking to school, the health benefits of regular daily activity and the need for safe places to walk and bike. The idea is to walk to school together with a purpose – to promote health, safety, physical activity, a sense of community and concern for the environment... Brevard's Walk to School events are conducted as part of Safe Routes to School programs – sustained, community efforts to improve the health and well-being of children by making walking and bicycling to*

*school safer, easier and more enjoyable...The cities of Titusville, Palm Bay and West Melbourne (pending) have received infrastructure grant monies from the program. The Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization has also received two non-infrastructure grants.*

**News from Florida Walk to School Day Events:** If your event is not covered here, send me the information and I'll include it in the next Update:

- **Brevard County:** This year, Brevard County had 28 schools participating in International Walk to School Day, their highest number ever! They also issued the excellent press release, quoted above.
- **Orange County:** Dommerich Elementary and Maitland Middle School reported that they only had half the number of cars arriving at their schools on Walk to School Day, so they obviously had a very good walker and biker turnout. The event was also filmed by Channel 9 news.
- **Collier County:** 5,000 children walked to school in various Collier County events! This must be a record, and is a wonderful accomplishment! The events were coordinated by the Collier County Community Traffic Safety Team, with lots of help from others. Participants were given backpacks and other safety items and school supplies. One of the Collier County events was featured on Fox 4 Morning Blend. Check out the story and video (including footage of Collier County's new bike trailer purchased with SRTS funds) at: <http://www.fox4morningblend.com/tabid/3530/story/36875/Default.aspx>.

- **Manatee County:** More than 300 students walked to school at Braden River Elementary and about 200 at Orange Ridge-Bullock Elementary. An article in the Lakewood Ranch Herald reported:

*New experiences awaited students who walked or rode their bikes to school Wednesday. Sights and sounds, for instance, that they might have missed if they rode the school bus...While there was the benefit of unexpected sights and sounds, plus exercise in the fresh air, the event was mostly about teaching school children to travel safely, school officials said.*

Read the rest of the story and check out the photos of educational events and the Walk at:

[http://www.bradenton.com/news/local/lakewood\\_ranch\\_herald/story/1762859.html](http://www.bradenton.com/news/local/lakewood_ranch_herald/story/1762859.html).

- **Pinellas County:** Jean Shoemaker from Safe Kids has announced that the **Judge Karl Grube "Extra Mile"** award will be given annually to a school that demonstrates outstanding achievement in its participation in the Safe Kids **Walk This Way**, Walk and Roll to School Day initiative. In general, a successful candidate for the "Extra Mile" award **must** meet the **first two** of the following criteria and as many of the remaining criteria as possible:
  - ★ Participates in the **Walk This Way** program, and completes the event evaluation by deadline;
  - ★ Routinely commits to participating in the **Walk This Way** program annually;
  - ★ Implements a Walking School Bus, Bike Train, or similar program that continually promotes bicycle and pedestrian safety education - or demonstrates an intent to do so;
  - ★ Implements increased bicycle/pedestrian safety education programs, or incorporates bicycle/pedestrian safety into existing/additional school functions;
  - ★ Implements bicycle/pedestrian safety related activities or programs that are student-initiated or student-directed, such as a student-produced school media campaign, student-directed PSA, etc.;
  - ★ Provides opportunities for follow-up activities related to bicycle and pedestrian safety;
  - ★ Demonstrates outstanding ability to relate bicycle and pedestrian safety information to its student body in an engaging manner for lasting benefit.

We will announce the winner of this Pinellas County award when we receive news of the winner, probably sometime in November.

- **Polk County:** Instead of holding a Walk to School, Bruce Wagner Elementary School in Lakeland did an awesome educational event organized by the PTA and the school. PTA volunteers helped design a three-zone simulated walking environment, and students practiced the safe way to cross the street or walk through a parking lot, given different scenarios. See the Bay News 9 story and video on WTS Day in Polk County: <http://www.baynews9.com/content/119/2009/10/7/530532.html?title=Students+learn+street+smarts+on+Walk+to+School+Day> and [Watch the story](#).
- **Miami-Dade County:** Many Walk to School events were held in Miami-Dade County. Dina Weinstein, a

journalist and mother, wrote two great articles about the event for the Miami Herald. The first featured two participating schools, and quoted a PTA member at Temple Beth Am Day School as saying:

*It's a great way to get exercise...It's an opportunity to teach kids about traffic safety and have people walk the walk when it comes to going green.*

The school celebrated Walk to School Day with its own unique twist by also incorporating the Jewish harvest holiday of *Sukkot*. As part of the holiday, a temporary shelter called a *sukkah* is built. After participants walked to school, they were provided refreshment in the *sukkah*. The school also sponsored a can drive where proceeds will go toward the kosher food bank of Miami.

The event at the Irving and Beatrice Peskoe Elementary School in Homestead was assisted by the University of Miami's WalkSafe program. Following the walk, Gillian Hotz, research associate professor of neurological surgery at UM's Miller School and director of the WalkSafe Program, led an assembly Wednesday at the school, which featured UM athletes and local community leaders.

Read more at: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/miami-dade/communities/south/story/1264409.html>.

In the second article, *Ride a Bike to School*, Ms. Weinstein tells more about her involvement in planning the event at her son's school, Temple Beth Am Day School in Pinecrest. She says:

*My motivation for organizing bike-and-walk day at my sons' school? To build community by increasing interactions between parents and students that driving prevents. It is a chance to get more exercise, teach safe walking and biking skills to children, raise awareness about whether the neighborhood has a safe route to walk and bike and where improvements might be needed. It shows our concern for the environment, reduces traffic congestion and pollution and brings children, parents and community leaders together.*

Read more at: <http://www.miamiherald.com/opinion/other-views/story/1264284.html>.

**Celebrate Florida Greenways and Trails Month in October:** This is an excellent way to introduce children to the joys of walking and bicycling, which can carry over to their using these skills on their trips to school. According to the Florida Bicycle Association newsletter:

*Governor Charlie Crist and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways & Trails invite residents and visitors to celebrate Greenways and Trails Month this month. Events throughout the state including bicycle rides on paved state trails, paddling excursions, equestrian events, trail walks, mountain biking events and wildlife festivals, showcase Florida's natural beauty and the many ways to enjoy healthy outdoor activities.*

*Greenways and trails provide residents and visitors of all ages and abilities with year-round access to a wide variety of free health and fitness opportunities, conserve native landscapes and ecosystems and link communities with natural areas. Florida's commitment to developing a statewide system of greenways and trails recently earned Florida the "Best Trails State" award, presented by American Trails, another reason to celebrate greenways and trails and the many partnerships that make them possible.*

*DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails manages eight state trails, in addition to the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway. Visit [www.FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com](http://www.FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com) to find an event in your area, to register an event or to learn more about Florida's greenways and trails.*

## National News

**Press Release by National Center for Safe Routes to School, for Walk to School Day:** As part of the national celebration of International Walk to School Day, federal officials joined in the fun:

*In Alexandria, Va., George Mason Elementary students, parents and teachers will be joined by city, state and federal officials to celebrate the occasion. Joseph S. Toole, Associate Administrator, Office of Safety, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Rebecca Crowe, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program Manager, FHWA, plan to walk to school with a group of George Mason students as part of a "walking school bus" — a group of children supervised by adults while walking to school.*

*"All of us in the U.S. Department of Transportation very much support building more healthy and livable communities nationwide," said Mr. Toole. "I can think of no better way to promote this cause than by joining the millions of parents,*

children and communities celebrating a child's active and safe trip to school on International Walk to School Day.”

**New Record Set for Walk to School Events:** According to the Walk to School website, 3,317 Walk to School events took place around the U.S., up quite a bit from last year's 2,888 events. News is starting to trickle in on these important events, which help to build excitement about walking, biking and SRTS. I will feature some of these programs in the next SRTS Update.

**U.S. Secretary of Transportation Writes about Walk to School Day:** Secretary Ray LaHood writes a blog about various transportation issues. At the urging of the SRTS National Partnership, Secretary LaHood wrote an article about International Walk to School Day, entitled *Walk to School Day offers Glimpse of Tomorrow's Livable Communities*. Since the article is short, I will reprint the entire article:

Today is [Walk to School Day](#), and school kids everywhere will be out in force. I, for one, am glad to see it.

Now, lots of kids all over the world walk to school every day; what makes today's trip to school such a special event?

1. Today's big walk calls attention to safety issues that are so important. These kids need safe streets--roads in passable condition and drivers who are attentive to the kids' presence.
2. The large turnout of kids walking instead of being driven by their parents means that the Walk to School takes cars off the street. From this, kids learn about responsible environmental stewardship.
3. These kids are engaging in healthy physical activity.

Today's events are part of the [Safe Routes to School](#) program, funded by DOT's [Federal Highway Administration](#). We need walking and bicycling to be safe transportation options for our kids. This means creating safe environments:

- sidewalks or bicycle-paths that connect homes with schools
- child-friendly opportunities to cross streets; and
- slow vehicle speeds through roadway safety measures and law enforcement.

Of course, there is one thing we can all do easily: reduce our driving speeds. In communities with kids biking, walking, and scootering to and from school, there is no question that driving slower saves lives.

Today, our kids are showing us the more walkable, sustainable world we need. Let's hope we're all paying attention.

The website includes a cute photo of children holding a sign which they hand-drew for the occasion. Check it out at: <http://fastlane.dot.gov/2009/10/walk-to-school-day-participants-model-tomorrows-communities-today.html>.

**SAFETEA-LU Extended for One Month:** Since Congress was not able to move forward to complete a new Transportation Bill before the end of the fiscal year, the old bill was extended for one month, until the end of October. It is likely that there will be further extensions before the new bill is completed, since there are many issues to work out. The League of American Bicyclists reported:

*On September 30, the current federal surface transportation law SAFETEA-LU was set to expire. In order to prevent a halt in transportation spending and allow time for the Senate to debate a 3-month extension for SAFETEA-LU, Congress added a one-month continuing resolution (CR) to a last minute legislative branch appropriations... bill.*

See LAB's FAQ section for additional update. [http://www.bikeleague.org/news/safetea\\_lou\\_faq.php](http://www.bikeleague.org/news/safetea_lou_faq.php)

**NHTSA Resource List:** Paula Bawer is the Bicycle and SRTS Program Manager at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, or NHTSA. She is always hard at work developing new bicycle and pedestrian materials for all ages. At our recent SRTS Coordinator meeting in Portland, she gave us a list of resources which may be of interest to SRTS programs. This list is attached to the transmittal e-mail for this Update. For other bicycle and pedestrian resources:

- Got to [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)
- Click on Traffic Safety
- Click on bicycles or Click on pedestrian

If you need to contact Paula directly, she can be reached at: [Paula.Bawer@nhtsa.dot.gov](mailto:Paula.Bawer@nhtsa.dot.gov).

## Florida & National Calendar of Events & Training Opportunities

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

- **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](mailto: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](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 1, 2009: Deadline for the Call For Papers for ProBike/Prowalk Florida 2010:** This conference will be held in Lakeland from May 11-13, 2010. The conference theme is "The Dollars and Sense of Bicycling and Walking".
- **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](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](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".
  - **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=&dl](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=&dl)
  - **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](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](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](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

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October 23, 2009

**SafeRoutes**  
Florida Safe Routes to School



[www.srtsfl.org](http://www.srtsfl.org)

### Florida Updates: State

**Filming Begins for New Crossing Guard Training Video:** Last Wednesday, Florida School Crossing Guard Program Administrator Carol Pulley and I began serving as technical experts for the new Crossing Guard Training Video, and we will help with the second session this Friday. The first filming session featured two excellent, experienced Crossing Guards. But even with all their experience, it was evident that Crossing Guards have very difficult jobs, and they have a lot to remember, in order to follow the correct procedures every time they enter the street. We also witnessed some inconsiderate and illegal driver behavior, including one driver who zoomed around the corner on a red light, when the crossing guard was in position in the middle of the street! We wished we had a police officer with us to see that maneuver!

Let's all remember what a hard and vital job our crossing guards do, and thank them for their assistance. You can nominate a guard for Crossing Guard of the Year at [http://www.dot.state.fl.us/Safety/ped\\_bike/training/ped\\_bike\\_training.shtm](http://www.dot.state.fl.us/Safety/ped_bike/training/ped_bike_training.shtm). The deadline is November 30; watch this website for nomination criteria.

**Happy National School Bus Safety Week!** This week is National School Bus Safety Week, and as people who are working to make every trip to school a safe one, we join the county Transportation Directors in celebrating and hoping that everyone is learning more about school bus safety this week. Even children who normally get to school under their own power or another way, occasionally will ride a school bus to a field trip or other destination, so everyone needs to know school bus safety rules.

This year's theme, *Avoid Harm, Obey the Stop Arm*, emphasizes the importance of motorists following the rules of the road and stopping when the red lights flash on school buses and the stop signs deploy to indicate that children are getting on and off the bus. The stop arms require drivers to stop, except when they are going the opposite direction from the school bus on certain divided highways.

#### Helpful Tips for School Bus Riders:

- Be alert to traffic. Check both ways for cars before stepping off the bus.
- Make eye contact with the bus driver, and wait for the bus driver's signal before crossing the street.
- Walk in front of the bus; never walk behind the bus to cross the street.
- While waiting for the bus, stay in a safe place away from the street.
- Never go under the bus to retrieve something you've dropped.

For more information, click on "National School Bus Safety Week" on the left side of the page at: [www.FAPTFlorida.org](http://www.FAPTFlorida.org).

**Remembering Budd Bell:** Florida lost a long-time child advocate a week ago, when Bess "Budd" Bell passed on October 16 at the age of 94. Budd pulled together a coalition of safety advocates in 1995 to try to pass a bicycle helmet law for the protection of children. It took three years, but the bill finally became law in 1997, saving the lives of countless children since that time. I participated in that coalition, providing information which the advocates could use to educate legislators on the need for the law. There were several counties which were not in favor of the bill, so in order to get the bill passed, it had to be weakened to allow for counties to opt out. Three counties originally opted out. If my memory is correct, they were Citrus, St. Lucie and Brevard Counties. All three counties later opted into the law, so we now have a statewide bicycle helmet law for children under age 16.

Budd was a formidable woman who was known as the "conscience of the state". She was responsible for getting many laws passed to protect groups such as children, women, the poor, elderly and the disabled. She was an unpaid advocate for these groups, and began the Florida Center for Children and Youth and the Clearinghouse on Human Services. Florida is truly a better place because of the work she did.

There were many newspaper articles honoring her work. Here is a link to one of the most comprehensive overviews of

her life's work: <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/CTD/docs/Budd%20Bell%20Oct%2015%202009%20life%20summary.pdf>.

**Research on Florida's Bicycle Helmet Law:** I just became aware of this interesting research on our helmet law, entitled *Effectiveness of a State Law Mandating Use of Bicycle Helmets among Children: An Observational Evaluation*, and published in the American Journal of Epidemiology. The abstract says:

*In spring 1999, the authors evaluated the effectiveness of a 1997 Florida law requiring helmet use by all bicyclists younger than age 16 years. Sixty-four counties in Florida had enacted the bicycle helmet-use law, while the other three counties had opted out. Using a cross-sectional study design, the authors conducted unobtrusive observations at bicycle racks at public elementary schools statewide. Florida children riding bicycles in counties where the state helmet-use law was in place were twice as likely to wear helmets as children in counties without the law. In counties where the state law was in place, 16,907 (79%) of 21,313 riders observed wore a helmet, compared with only 148 (33%) of 450 riders in counties where no such law was in place (crude prevalence ratio = 2.4, 95% confidence interval: 2.1, 2.8). Helmet use by children of all racial groups exceeded 60% under the law. No significant difference in use by gender was found. These data support the positive influence of a law on bicycle helmet use among children. The data reinforce the Healthy People 2010 objective that all 50 states adopt such a law for children in order to increase helmet use and consequently reduce brain injury.*

I have always felt that Florida's bicycle helmet law helps ensure that more children are wearing helmets, and thereby prevents serious injuries or deaths, but it's nice to have research to confirm this. Of course, enforcement of the law and helmet distribution programs also make a big difference in how many children are wearing helmets. I'm sure we still have a ways to go, but we have come a long ways from the low helmet usage levels which existed before the law was passed. Read more of the research at: <http://aje.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/154/11/1072>.

**Florida Bicycle Association (FBA) News:** FBA announces the following events:

- **2010 Florida Bike Summit:** Thursday, April 8, 2010, Florida Capital Courtyard, Tallahassee, FL, Stay tuned for more information
- **2010 ProBike ProWalk Florida Conference: "The Dollars and Sense of Bicycling and Walking",** May 11-13, 2010, Lakeland Center, Lakeland, FL. This is the fifth session of this excellent conference focused on all things related to bicycling and walking. Save the date, and note these opportunities:
  - The deadline for the Call for Papers related to the topic is December 1. Please direct your questions and submit session summaries with the following information to Dan Moser, FBA Program Manager, at [dan@floridabicycle.org](mailto:dan@floridabicycle.org): Contact Information, Session Topic, Topic Significance to Conference, Outline of Presentation/Session, Other Proposed Speakers to Compliment Topic, and Date Submitted.
  - There are opportunities for conference sponsorships, ranging from \$250 to \$5,000. If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Laura Hallam at [laura@floridabicycle.org](mailto:laura@floridabicycle.org)

**Florida Keys Scenic Highway is now an All-American Road:** According to Jane Tallman, the Florida Keys Scenic Highway Coordinator, The Florida Keys Scenic Highway has just been recognized as an All-American Road. Read more at: [Florida Keys Scenic Highway](#). This highway joins these other Florida official By-ways with this designation:

- [A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway](#)
- [Big Bend Scenic Byway](#)
- [Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway](#)
- [Indian River Lagoon Scenic Highway](#)
- [Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail](#)

See <http://www.byways.org/explore/states/FL/> for more on these Byways and other Florida byways and backways. All of these would be great places to introduce children to the joys of cycling, which may encourage them to ride to school once they get more comfortable.

## Florida Updates: Local

**Collier County Walk to School Day Photos:** To share in the excitement of Collier County's successful Walk to School Day, see the great photos and yellow backpacks which participants received, at: <http://collierctst.weebly.com/event-photos.html>. (You may have to copy and paste this into your browser).

**Miami School Conducting Weekly Walk Green Day:** Anamarie Garces de Marcilla, Program Manager for the

WalkSafe Program in Miami reported that Flagami Elementary School is conducting a Walk Green Day every Friday. They are using pedometers to assist in monitoring their progress on an individual basis. For more information on this program, contact Anamarie at [agarces@med.miami.edu](mailto:agarces@med.miami.edu).

## News from Other States and Countries

**Delaware Walk to School Week Highlights:** Sarah Coakley, SRTS Coordinator for Delaware reports:

*On Tuesday for Walk to School Week, one of our elementary schools, Benjamin Banneker in Milford, DE, hosted an all day safety expo with various stations on safety skills. DeIDOT staff and staff from DE Riskwatch and University of DE Cooperative Extension, as well as students from PolyTech High School in Kent County, provided pedestrian and bicycle safety lessons. We also provided reflective snap bracelets to students who walked to school that morning. The highlight though was Governor Jack A. Markell serving as a crossing guard for walking students. He also presented a Walk to School Week proclamation to the Assistant Principal.*

**Washington, D.C. Bike Train Featured on Local News Channel:** According to Jennifer Hefferan, the SRTS Coordinator for Washington, D.C.:

*A local news channel posted a video about the bike train at one of the schools that is participating in the DC Safe Routes to School Program. I think they did a great job with it!*

See the story at:

[http://www.wusa9.com/video/default.aspx?maven\\_playerId=immersiveplayer&maven\\_referralPlaylistId=9142a21d31bef6379dd41b5eea96867d739f06f0&maven\\_referralObject=1290159202](http://www.wusa9.com/video/default.aspx?maven_playerId=immersiveplayer&maven_referralPlaylistId=9142a21d31bef6379dd41b5eea96867d739f06f0&maven_referralObject=1290159202)

## National News

**PBIC Offers Halloween Safety Tips:** The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center sent out a recent news release entitled *Pedestrian Safety Tips for Halloween*. Below are excerpts from these important reminders:

**1. Parents and Adults should be involved:** *Young children need a parent or other adult to go trick or treating with them. There is no magic age when children are old enough to walk alone. Parents need to judge when their children are mature enough to go without an adult...*

### 2. Cross Safely

**Choose the safest routes to walk.**

- *Pick places where there are sidewalks or paths separated from traffic if possible.*
- *Look for well-lit streets with slow traffic.*
- *Remind children to watch for cars turning or pulling out of driveways.*

**Limit the number of street crossings.** *Avoid crossing busy or high-speed roads*

### 3. Be Visible

**Think visibility.** *Wear bright colors, use retro reflective materials. Carry flashlights. In bad weather, visibility is even more important...*

To read more about these important tips, see <http://www.walkinginfo.org/newsroom/2009-10-21.cfm>.

**APBP Announces Annual Award Winners in NYC:** At the recent Walk 21 Conference in New York City, the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals announced their annual award winners, which included a young lady from Miami, Kathryn Reid Moore. Here is the write-up about Kathryn and her award:

### **2009 Young Professional of the Year Award**

*Kathryn Reid Moore, B.A.*

*Aide, Office of The Mayor Manny Diaz*

*City of Miami, Florida*

*This award recognized Kathryn for her contribution to the field demonstrated by fast-paced work to make the City of Miami more bicycle friendly. Examples include eight monthly "Bike Miami Days" (cicloviá events), four "Bike Miami Rides" (community education rides), Miami Bicycle Coalition, Miami Bicycle Action Plan, Miami Bicycle Summits, Traffic Skills 101 class, and a youth bicycle club. Kathryn inspires us with her achievements and her passion for*

collaborative bicycle planning and community involvement.

Congratulations, Kathryn, and keep up the good work!

### SRTS National Partnership News:

- **Partnership Looking For Two State Network Managers:** Two openings are being advertised by the Partnership for full-time managers for the SRTS State Network program, with applications due by 5 pm on November 4. According to the Partnership's website:

**State Network Project Goal:** *The state network project leverages resources to maximize the investment in SRTS by facilitating SRTS state networks in 15 to 20 key states through uniting leaders associated with health, education, smart growth, youth, and bicycle/pedestrian issues. Each state network is managed by a contracted organizer associated with a non-profit organization or university within that state. The goal is to ensure that SRTS funding is spent on successful programs in states that have the greatest needs, and that [statewide policy initiatives](#) are developed to remove barriers associated with walking and bicycling to school.*

Read more at: <http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/about/4058/324847>.

- **Partnership Invites Applications for the 2010 and 2011 SRTS State Network Project:** The Partnership is also seeking applications from states interested in working on the SRTS State Network Project. **If you are interested in participating in an application for Florida, or any resulting Network Project, please contact me at: [pat.pieratte@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:pat.pieratte@dot.state.fl.us).** The Partnership only wants one application per state, because more applications would indicate a lack of coordination. Additional details:
  - 15-20 State Networks will be awarded (depending on anticipated funding)
  - the funding is for a person to work 16 hours a week on this project
  - applications must come from non-profits or Universities
  - they want only one application per state
  - special consideration will be given to the 15 states where the incidence of or risk for childhood obesity is the greatest, and Florida is one of these states
  - applications are due by 5 pm November 20

To quote from the Partnership's e-mail:

*The Safe Routes to School National Partnership is soliciting applications from states that would like to participate in the Safe Routes to School State Network Project during 2010 and 2011. Approximately 15 to 20 states will be selected to build or enhance State Networks that will focus on statewide implementation of the Safe Routes to School program, as well as [statewide policy changes](#) that will support more walking and bicycling to schools, such as complete streets, school siting, joint-use, and wellness policies. The State Network Project links existing nonprofit and government leaders associated with health, bicycle, pedestrian, youth, education, and smart growth to create and implement state actions plans that will allow children to be more physically active and help reduce and prevent childhood obesity. This project includes a focus on implementing policies that will serve the most vulnerable low-income communities in the state.*

For more on these two opportunities, see: <http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/state/4373>.

## Florida & National Calendar of Events & Training Opportunities

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

### October-November, 2009:

- **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](mailto: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](http://www.floridaplanning.org/calendar/calendar_details.asp?EventID=677).

- **November 17, 2:00-3:30 pm, Webinar *Maintenance Practices for Traffic Sign Retroreflectivity*:** Join the Signing and Marking Materials Committee (AHD55) of the Transportation Research Board to hear and discuss four different maintenance practices for traffic sign retroreflectivity. Free for FDOT employees, FHWA employees and other TRB sponsors listed at: <http://www.trb.org/Finance/Public/Sponsors.aspx>. The fee for others is \$99. Space is limited. More info and register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/776378744>.
- **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 1, 2009: Deadline for the Call For Papers for ProBike/ProWalk Florida 2010:** This conference will be held in Lakeland from May 11-13, 2010. The conference theme is "The Dollars and Sense of Bicycling and Walking".
- **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](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](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".
- **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](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](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](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](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>