

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



Walking and Wheeling Newsletter

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SAFE ROUTES TO HIGH SCHOOLS PENDING

House Bill 4021, The Safe Routes To High Schools Act, is the U. S. House version of the bill to extend SRTS funding eligibility to high schools. This year's National Bike Summit marked a milestone. Not only was this the 10th summit, with over 700 advocates from around the country, but there was an unprecedented level of commitment to bicycling from both Congress and the Administration. The summit resulted in almost doubling the number of House Bill co-sponsors to 37, but did not include a single Arkansas congressional member!

“The civilized man has built a coach, but has lost the use of his feet.”

~Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1841

CROSSING GUARD UPDATES

On December 16, 2009 the final adoption of the 2009 Edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) was published in the Federal Register. This mandates that states adopt the 2009 National MUTCD as their legal State standard for traffic control devices within two years.

This new publication contains some important new facts about crossing guards and programs available to your community. There are three major changes to the crossing guard section. First, the operating procedures listed in the new version have changed from being guidance for your program to being a national standard that makes the procedures requirements rather than recommendations. Second, is the change regarding student patrol in crosswalks. Although the Federal Highway Administration fully supports student patrol at school crosswalks, they feel they cannot adequately control vehicular traffic, so they recommend having a duly authorized adult crossing guard manage vehicular traffic and assist children through the crosswalk. A student patrol should only manage student traffic at a safe distance of 2-4 feet from the curb. Guidance on student patrol can be found though the American Automobile Association's "School Safety Patrol Operations Manual." The last change requires adult crossing guards and law enforcement officers to wear Class 2 high-visibility safety apparel labeled as ANSI 107-2004. For more detailed information on this apparel visit http://multimedia.3m.com/mws/mediawebserver?SSSSSu7zK1fslxtUMx_en8mZev7qe17zHvTSevTSeSSSSSS--.

To view the 2009 MUTCD and other related information, go to <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/>. All procedures for crossing guards can be found in *Chapter 7D: Crossing Supervision*.

ARKANSAS SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL STATE NETWORK PROJECT

The Arkansas SRTS State Network Project is gaining momentum daily with over 20 partners statewide (and still growing!). One of the main objectives of SRTS is to create a strong network, so we invite anyone interested to join us at any time. A quick and easy way to get involved is to take about five minutes to answer our 3-question online survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GYZHCL3>.

Arkansas SRTS continues policy evaluation with the goal of systematic policy prioritization. Foremost is the need for a continued increase in education and awareness of the existence and purpose of SRTS. Further education and publicity are needed to establish the definition of complete streets as those designed with all users (from disabled individuals to motorists) in mind, and to promote the connection between health, physical activity, education and the state's economy.

Of 11 SRTS policies, the following are emerging in Arkansas as issues that will be incorporated into a statewide action plan: 1) grant application guidelines and federal funding obligations (prioritized by the national office in all 20 project states), 2) complete streets, 3) wellness policies, 4) curriculum and training and 5) joint use agreements. Policies involving low-income communities, school siting and legislation also ranked very high as critical issues to be addressed, and will also be included in the Arkansas action plan.

If you would like to join the SRTS network, please contact Julie Hendrix at arkansas@saferoutespartnership.org or 501-350-0713. If you would like more information on the policy issues concerning low-income communities, please contact Michael Drake at mdrake@northlittlerock.ar.gov or 501-975-8777.



Free Webinar on New Traffic Control Guidelines for Pedestrians & Bicyclists

The **Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC)** announces the next *free* Webinar in its Livable Communities Webinar Series:

**Impact of the New MUTCD on
Pedestrians and Bicyclists**
Thursday, April 15, 2010
2:00pm-3:30pm E.T.

To register, please visit,
<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/529240787>.

For more information on SRTS, please contact:



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