

Walking and Wheeling Newsletter

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SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

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SRTS Funding Available

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) has announced the availability of applications for "Safe Routes to School Program" funding in Arkansas, according to AHTD Director Dan Flowers.

"Safe Routes to Schools" is specifically directed toward enabling and encouraging students in Kindergarten through 8th grade to walk or bicycle to school. Areas within two miles of a K-8th grade school are eligible for 100 percent Federal funds to be disbursed in two categories, infrastructure improvements and educational programs. Improvement projects can include planning grants, sidewalks, school crossings, bicycle facilities, as well as traffic diversion and speed reduction improvements. Educational programs can include walking school bus programs, public awareness campaigns, and traffic education and enforcement activities.

The deadline for applications to be received by the AHTD is 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1, 2011. Applications can be downloaded from: www.arsaferoutes.org.

For further information contact Kim Sanders, Arkansas Safe Routes to School Coordinator at 501-569-2020 or e-mail Kim.Sanders@arkansashighways.com.



Registration Open for 3rd Safe Routes to School National Conference August 16 - 18, 2011, in Minneapolis, MN

Whatever your experience level with SRTS, you're invited to attend this dynamic conference, advance your important work and build the connections-in your schools, streets and communities. You can learn more about the conference at www.saferoutesconference.org/. Register before May 31, 2011 to receive the \$300 early bird registration fee.



BUILDING CONNECTIONS
SCHOOLS + STREETS + COMMUNITIES

**3RD SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
NATIONAL CONFERENCE**
August 16 - 18, 2011
Minneapolis Convention Center



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Fun Activity to Get Students Moving

SRTS programs nationwide are invited to participate for free in an event organized by The P.A.C.E. Fitness Foundation (P.A.C.E. being "Promoting Active Children Everywhere") and details can be found at www.pacetrek.com/srts.htm. Paul Staso is an ultra-endurance runner from Missoula, Montana and each year he runs across states and countries solo, virtually bringing along with him thousands of school children who track his progress online and run/walk/bike to, at, and from school to get more fit. He's run solo across the United States, Germany, Alaska and Montana and in April will be doing a 506-mile, 17-day solo run across the Mojave Desert on a route never before attempted by a solo runner. He's hoping that you'll help spread the word of this free SRTS opportunity so that they can have as many children as possible involved this April. In past years they've had school classrooms and P.E. programs register teams, but this year they wanted to also open it up to SRTS.

This opportunity is 100% free. There is no cost, no fundraising, and nothing to purchase. Kids just need to move their bodies to get to and from school each day between April 14-30 and they can form a "Mojave Adventure Team" to try and keep pace with Paul. Everything a school needs to be involved is at www.pacetrek.com/srts.htm.

You can learn more about P.A.C.E. Trek at www.pacetrek.com and see the "online classroom" for the Mojave Desert challenge at www.pacetrek.com/mojave/.

To date, 52,524 school children worldwide have run 266,132 miles through P.A.C.E.

America Walks Webinar Series

America Walks, in partnership with the National Center for Safe Routes to School, developed the Safe Routes Coaching Action Network to share their expertise on starting and running Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programs. The free hour long webinars are designed to educate parents, students, teachers, agency staff, community members, and professionals.

The January webinar discussing technical possibilities was a very informative episode that many grassroots programs could use to their advantage. SRTS Going High Tech first aired on January 25th, but it's now available for download on the America Walks website. This one-hour webinar covered how "high-tech" solutions can help advance the success of SRTS programs. The webinar explored how to use technology to assist with recruitment, walk & bike to school counts, evaluation, and mapping.

Topics started with Boltage, a system that combines incentives and technology to encourage kids to walk and bike to school while providing hard data for walk and bike counts. For more information on the Boltage system, visit www.boltage.org/index.html. Then, they discussed Michigan's Safe Routes to School Make Trax program and took the audience through an online mapping exercise. For more information on the Make Trax program, visit www.saferoutesmichigan.org/maketrax/. Michele Barrett from Walk Bike Berks also provided insight into how to utilize social networking tools to advance and expand Safe Routes to School Programs. If you are looking for creative ways to use social networking to market, expand or just get your SRTS program started, this is a great webinar to watch.

All webinars are held on Tuesday at noon, a schedule of upcoming programs is listed and previously aired webinars are available for download at www.americawalks.org/programs/srts/.



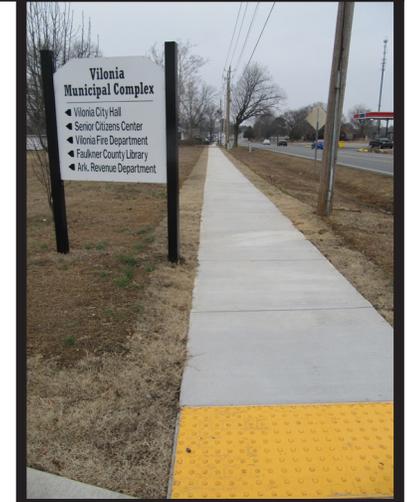
Safe Routes to School Plan Done Right: Vilonia

In 2007, Vilonia School District was awarded three Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Start-Up grants and one Infrastructure grant totaling approximately \$164,000. These grants allowed the City as well as the School District to actively plan and develop an extensive infrastructure by linking several neighborhoods to the elementary and middle schools.

In 2008, the school district was awarded an Education grant totaling \$25,500. The district partnered with the Faulkner County Cooperative Extension Service to provide bicycle and pedestrian educational materials and hands on bike rodeos to their students.

In 2011, the City completed their infrastructure project consisting of approximately 1,070 linear feet of sidewalks, a pedestrian bridge and a pedestrian crossing light at the Highway 64 and 107 intersections. Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds were also used by the City to construct an additional 1,202 linear feet of sidewalks to the Safe Routes project. STP-Attributable funds are programmed by Metroplan and set aside for the Little Rock, North Little Rock, and Conway metro area. Vilonia Schools Superintendent, Frank Mitchell says, "The pedestrian bridge was an essential part of their plan to allow connectivity for all of the Vilonia students." He also says, "Crossing the creek where the bridge now resides was a very dangerous portion of the trip for many. Before children had to cross just at the edge of a busy state highway now they have a safe place to cross and the children and community members love it."

The years of planning and educating students, along with STP funds to supplement their existing SRTS project, allowed Vilonia to create an environment that is safe, accessible and encouraging to walking and wheeling students. Superintendent Mitchell attributes their success to two dedicated community members, City Engineer Fred Fowlkes and Charlie Weaver Weaver-Bailey Construction. He says, "They didn't just build sidewalks--they made the project look nice for the town as they completed it with all the finishing touches." Vilonia already has a new Fred's and McDonalds coming soon and Mitchell is hoping all of these upgrades to their city will attract even more people.





Injury Prevention Center
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Contact us for more information or to subscribe to the Safe Routes to School Newsletter:

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