



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

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Texarkana SRTS Trail

The City of Texarkana held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the Trice Elementary trail and sidewalk. The newly constructed trail is a wonderful example of how Safe Routes to School funds were used to connect a larger city plan. Through funding from the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department and Partnership for the Pathway, a local foundation, the city was able to begin the sidewalk at an existing elementary school and connect several neighborhoods. At this time, the trail will give the children a safe place to travel and serve as a future link to the proposed trail system.

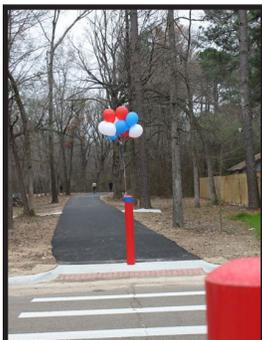
Texarkana Mayor, Wayne Smith, thanked several city, state and school officials for their efforts on the project and acknowledged the strong collaboration between the city, school district and a local foundation as the key to the success of this project. He thanked the Partnership for the Pathway for their generous dedication to the project and acknowledged the trail coordination led by Texarkana Parks and Recreation coordinator Ross Cowling. Mayor Smith was joined by Trice Elementary Kindergartners at the end of the ceremony, who happily joined him in cutting the ribbon to officially open the trail.

"Now shall I walk or shall I ride?"

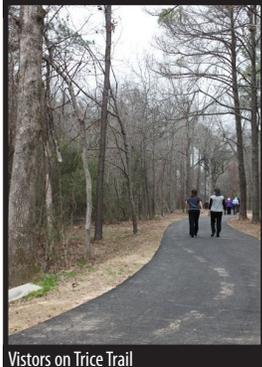
'Ride,' Pleasure said;

'Walk,' Joy replied."

- W.H. Davies



Trice Trail Entrance



Visitors on Trice Trail



Texarkana Master Trail Plan



Students on Trice Trail



Trice Trail Ribbon Cutting



Elements of Successful SRTS Programs

The National Center for Safe Routes to School, in an effort to better understand what factors might contribute to increases in walking and bicycling, examined programs for elements linked to measured walking and bicycling outcomes. Two prerequisites for increasing walking and bicycling percentages are: (1) having safe places to walk or bicycle, and (2) having students who live close enough to school to walk or bicycle, but for reasons unrelated to traffic safety, do not. The programs examined by the National Center met these basic prerequisites.



An examination of the SRTS programs included in the study revealed that at schools here walking and bicycling increased, programs shared at least three of the four following elements:

They identified an in-school leader.

Someone who championed SRTS boosted a program's ability to encourage more walking and bicycling between home and school.

They conducted activities that reinforced walking and bicycling.

Conducting activities specifically targeted to increase walking and bicycling to school helped change students' behaviors.

They generated parent support for SRTS.

Involving parents in planning and carrying out activities was a good way to get their support for SRTS.

They established policies that supported SRTS.

Something as simple as allowing walkers and bicyclists to leave school a few minutes early seemed to serve as a powerful incentive for students to walk and bicycle to/from school.

To read the complete study, please visit the [National Center for Safe Routes to School](#) website.

2011 Arkansas Safe Routes to School Grant Awards

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) has announced the fourth round of funding for the Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) projects in Arkansas. The program is a 100 percent Federally-funded initiative of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) 2005-2009.

"This program is specifically directed toward enabling and encouraging students in Kindergarten through 8th grade to walk or bicycle to school," said AHTD Director, Scott Bennett. "We were overwhelmed with 34 applications seeking over \$4.8 million during the fourth application period for this program. The Highway Commission was able to award approximately \$1.5 million in funds toward 20 very deserving projects."

Areas within two miles of a K-8th grade school are eligible for funds to be disbursed in two categories – infrastructure improvements and educational programs. Improvement projects can include the planning, design and construction of sidewalks, crossings, and bicycle facilities as well as traffic diversion and speed reduction improvements. Educational programs can include public awareness campaigns, traffic education, enforcement and outreach activities. The AHTD will now work with the successful applicants to develop their proposals into completed projects.

Current project selected for funding are: City of Wynne, City of Magnolia, City of Hamburg, City of Ashdown, City of Mulberry, City of Hartford, City of Barling, Southside School District, City of Haskell, City of North Little Rock, Pulaski Heights Elementary, City of Conway, Northwest Arkansas Resource Conservation and Development Council, Bike Bentonville Advocacy Group, City of Gosnell, City of Jonesboro and Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute. If you are interested to learn more about the Arkansas SRTS Program, please contact Mechelle Winslow at 501-364-4954.



First Annual National Bike to School Day 2012

REGISTER NOW!
MAY 9, 2012



The National Center for Safe Routes to School, in partnership with the League of American Bicyclists, is pleased to be organizing the first-ever National Bike to School Day on May 9, 2012. Let the bike bells ring – event registration is now open at www.walkbiketoschool.org!

The inaugural National Bike to School Day will be the first opportunity for communities across the country to join together to bicycle to school on the same day. The event builds on the excitement surrounding National Bike Month, led by the League of American Bicyclists each May, as well as the popularity of Walk to School Day, coordinated by the National Center for Safe Routes to School every October.

Bike to School Day event registration is free and available to individuals and/or organizations planning a 2012 Bike to School Day event in the United States. Events that register at www.walkbiketoschool.org will appear on the site as “Bike to School Day Pioneers.” Registering a Bike to School Day event provides organizers access to a variety of downloadable materials, including stickers, certificates, badges and classroom activities and provides the opportunity to win a bike rack.

The National Center also launched a newly redesigned website – www.walkbiketoschool.org – to support celebration of Bike to School Day in May, and walking and biking to school every day. The updated website includes new Bike to School Day and Walk to School Day event planning resources as well as a brand-new, GIS-powered mapping tool. Map-a-Route allows users to create and share bicycling or walking routes to school via easy-to-use maps.

Need an extra incentive to participate in this inaugural event? Registered schools and communities will be entered into the Bike to School Day Bike Rack Giveaway! Each Wednesday beginning April 18, two registrants will be selected to win a Saris bike rack for the school of their choice. A total of 10 bike racks will be given away. At the end of Bike Month, a registered resource person will win a bike rack for their school or community.

National Bike to School Day is an exciting first both for those who are new to the experience and for those who have been celebrating a trip to school on two wheels for years. Stay tuned at www.walkbiketoschool.org/go/whos-biking/2012 to see “Who’s Biking” in 2012.

Free SRTS Webinars

Leaving No Stone Unturned: Finding Funding for Your SRTS Program

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

One of the greatest challenges that Safe Routes to School organizers face is obtaining funding for their programs. Whether it is for small incentives for the students, healthy snacks for walk or bike to school days, flyers and advertisements for events, or eventually hiring a staff member, finding funding is an important part growing your program. Unfortunately, it can often seem like a daunting task.

In this sixty minute webinar, we will help make fundraising for your SRTS program less intimidating by providing tips and tricks on where to find funding and how to go about obtaining it. First, Scott Bricker, Executive Director of America Walks will provide an overview of the issues surrounding fundraising and advice on how to hash out your goals and objectives. Next, Ian Thomas, Executive Director of the PedNet Coalition, will go into an in-depth discussion of what type of budget your program may need, potential sources of funds, and tips for successfully raising money from those sources. Finally, Kathy Smith, a Program Officer from the Partners for Health Foundation, will provide a Foundation’s perspective on grant applicants and provide tips on how you can “look” ready for funding.

To register for this event, please visit <http://bit.ly/GMeBVN>.



Injury Prevention Center
archildrens.org

It only takes a moment.



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

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