

safe routes to school

IN SOLANO COUNTY



The **Solano Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Program** attributes its success to our city, county and school partnerships. Our community's willingness to continuously support our program has benefited the health and safety of our kids, our schools and our communities. There are several long term benefits to the sustainability of our program and a need for additional resources. Here's our program, at a glance...

FREE PROGRAM EVENTS

Throughout the school year the Safe Routes to School Program encourages walking and bicycling to school while enhancing the safety of these trips. During the 2012-13 school years, the SR2S program reached 9,622 students through our free program events.

Traffic Safety Assemblies

Bike Rodeos

Walk & Roll Events

Events are coordinated in partnership with Solano County Public Health.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The SR2S program has worked with each city in Solano County to organize and/or re-engage multi-disciplinary community task forces to address Safe Routes to School related concerns, ideas and improvements for their community. Each community task force is comprised of professionals representing law enforcement, school districts, public works, bicycle and pedestrian advocates. After working very closely with each city to identify priorities for our 2013 SR2S Plan Update, each city had the opportunity to present their efforts and future plans at our first Safe Routes to School Summit on May 23, 2013. The purpose of the SR2S Summit was to create greater program awareness, while educating the public on the health and safety issues that affect our students. Summit attendees got the opportunity to hear about what the SR2S program and cities are doing collaboratively to improve these conditions.



The Solano Safe Routes to School Summit was hosted by Solano Transportation Authority and Solano County Public Health. Each city and school district in Solano County contributed time to our summit.

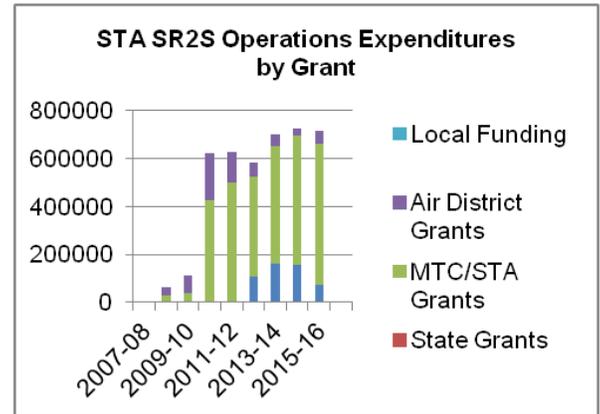


“When students walk or bicycle to school, they receive the physical activity needed for good health. They also learn valuable pedestrian and bicycle safety skills, lessons on the environment, and the importance of community.”

–Mayor Steve Hardy, Vacaville CA

FUNDING

In October 2011, Caltrans awarded the STA with a \$500,000 Federal SRTS grant funds to implement a Walking School Bus Program. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) designated Cycle 2 Regional SR2S (OBAG) funds to each bay area county based on school enrollment. Solano County will receive a total of \$1.256M for SR2S that will fund core program activities through FY 2015-16. On May 8, 2013, the STA Board approved \$1.2M of OBAG CMAQ funding for the STA’s Safe Routes to School Program, to fund engineering projects in each of the seven (7) cities of Solano County.



All of the STA’s SR2S Program’s funds come from grants which will expire by the end of FY 2015-16. We do not have a local tax measure and MAP 21 eliminated SRTS as a separate funding program. Federal/State funders do not anticipate future Safe Routes to School Call for projects.

Goals for Solano SR2S Program

Through lessons learned, the SR2S program understands the need and importance of having a community program that can be sustained through proper training and education. As we’ve had much success, we’ve also had some challenges and issues that we would like to continue to address. With additional funding, we can extend our program and continue to:

- Implement promising strategies that will encourage walking and bicycling to school, such as our walking school bus program, free program events and in-class curriculum.
- Partner with enforcement agencies to increase awareness and improve driver behavior.
- Help families overcome challenges in their communities, increase active transportation and address personal safety fears.
- Partner with cities and school districts to integrate SR2S into school wellness policies and city general plans.
- Improve school communities by installing complete streets to create a safer walking environment for our kids.
- Continue to increase physical activity and educate children on how to adopt a healthy lifestyle and behavior.

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