

**SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SR2S-AC)
MEETING**12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 20, 2013Solano Transportation Authority, Conference Room 1
One Harbor Center, Suite 130
Suisun City, CA 94585-2473**ITEM****ADMINISTRATOR**

1. **CALL TO ORDER/SELF-INTRODUCTIONS**
2. **CONFIRM QUORUM**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
4. **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**
5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Mike Segala, Chair

Recommendation:

Approve the following consent item.

A. Minutes of the SR2S Meeting of June 12, 2013.

Sheila Jones

Recommendation:

Approve the SR2S minutes of September 4, 2013.

(1:30 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.)

Pg. 1**6. ACTION NON-FINANCIAL ITEMS****A. Officer Election**

Danelle Carey, STA

1. Recommendation:

Elect a Chair for one term.

(1:40 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.)

2. Recommendation:

Elect a Vice-Chair for one term.

(1:50 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

Pg. 5**Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee Members**

<u>Mike Segala</u> Chair STA BAC	<u>Mel Jordan</u> Vice-Chair VCUSD	<u>Jim Antone</u> YSAQMD	<u>Garland Wong</u> City of Fairfield	<u>Jay Speck</u> Solano County Superintendent of Schools
<u>Tim Mattos</u> Suisun City Police Department	<u>Scott Przekurat</u> Benicia Police Department	<u>Mike Hudson</u> STA PAC	<u>Ozzie Hilton</u> City of Vacaville	<u>Robin Cox</u> Solano County Public Health

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – DISCUSSION

A. SR2S Program Update

Discussion

(2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)Age

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Danelle Carey, STA
Karla Valdez, STA
Karin Bloesch, STA
Tracy Nachand,
Solano County Public Health

B. Enforcement/Public Safety Grant Update

Discussion

(2:35 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.)

Danelle Carey, STA

C. Document Delivery for Future Committee Meetings

Discussion

(2:40 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.)

Mike Segala, Chair

D. Membership and Attendance

Discussion

(2:50 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.)

Mike Segala, Chair

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO DISCUSSION

E. International Walk to School Day Update

No Discussion

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Danelle Carey, STA

F. Adoption of the SR2S Countywide Plan

No Discussion

Danelle Carey, STA

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

(2:55 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

Mike Segala, Chair

9. ADJOURNMENT



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting minutes of
September 4, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee (SR2S-AC) was called to order at approximately 1:38 p.m. in the STA Main Conference Room.

SR2S-AC Members Present:

Robin Cox	Solano County Dept. of Public Health
Jim Antone	Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management. District
Mike Segala	Chair/Bicycle Advisory Committee
Mel Jordan	Assistant Superintendent, Vallejo USD
Jay Speck	Solano County Office of Education
Mike Hudson	Pedestrian Advisory Committee Representative
Scott Przekurat	City of Benicia Police Department
Ozzie Hilton	City of Vacaville, Public Works Department
Tim Mattos	Suisun City Police Department

STA Staff Present:

Karen Bloesch	STA
Danelle Carey	STA
Sheila Jones	STA
Karla Valdez	STA
Daryl Halls	STA
Judy Leaks	STA

Others Present:

Casey Hildreth	Alta Planning & Design
Ward Stewart	Soltrans
Christina Castro	City of Dixon
Kim Van Gunay	Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District
Natalee Dyudyuk	Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District
Tracy Nachand	Solano County Public Health
Christina Castro	City of Dixon
Angela Clapp	County of Solano

SR2S-AC Members absent:

Garland Wong	City of Fairfield, Traffic Engineering
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2. CONFIRM QUORUM

A quorum was confirmed.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: September 4, 2013

With a motion from Mel Jordan and a second from Jay Speck, the SR2S-AC unanimously approved the agenda.

4. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 12, 2013

With a motion from Jay Speck and a second from Robin Cox the SR2S-AC unanimously approved the June 12, 2013 meeting minutes.

6. ACTION NON FINANCIAL ITEMS

A. Officer Election

Chair Segala stated that the new vice chair will take part in development of the next agenda.

On a silent paper vote, Mel Jordan was selected as Vice-Chair for a one year term.

Recommendation:

Elect a Vice-Chair for one term.

With a motion from Jay Speck and a second from Mike Hudson the SR2S-AC unanimously approved the recommendation.

B. 2013 SR2S Countywide Plan, Revised

Casey Hildreth stated that Alta Planning has been focusing on the countywide plan framework and overall recommendations. He stated that a new report was produced in January, including some policy framework and funding. He stated that in April 2013, a draft of the SR2S countywide plan moved its way through the SR2S Summit for public input which followed with refining some comments. He stated that there was minimal feedback during the public input period received from both Jim Antone and Robin Cox. He concluded that under chapter 3 in the policy framework under sections 3.4 and 3.5 there were changes that were refined.

Jim Antone commented that under the Federal Funding sources "*Solano Transportation Authority*" *should replace "Solano County"*.

Mel Jordan commented that *Vallejo should be "Vallejo City"*.

Mike Hudson stated that the STA website is confusing and difficult to use.

Recommendation:

Forward a recommendation to the STA Board to approve the SR2S Plan 2013 revision.

With a motion from Robin Cox and a second from Mel Jordan the SR2S-AC unanimously approved the recommendation as amended above in *bold and italics*.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS - DISCUSSION

A. SR2S Public Safety Enforcement Grant Subcommittee Recap

- Danelle provided an overview of the lessons learned by the SR2S Public Safety Enforcement Grant Subcommittee which included effective use of the crossing guard training manual in Fairfield-Suisun schools. She stated that having one officer in charge of one project worked well, and that development of a data comparison component would be useful to measure the success of the enforcement program. She discussed the suggestions for future grants. She stated that a long term design should be crafted to focus more on education to students and parents. She noted that crossing guard trainings should

be provided countywide and the officer in charge should focus on education and incentives opposed to enforcement. She recommended hiring a Youth Resource Officer or a part-time School Safety Officer. She concluded that the STA be the main contact for inquiries regarding program events, and will provide crossing guard training information on our website. She stated that an RFP may be released in November for the enforcement program with expectations of implementation in January 1, 2014.

Tim Mattos provided an overview of the grant used towards bike incentives to target the students and the parents. He stated that since enforcement is already a part of what an officer does combining the grant with more education towards Safe Routes to School would be beneficial to the schools on the outside and within. He suggested getting someone into the school system would help identify peak times and problem areas to unsure time and resources are used directly and more efficiently.

Mike Segala commented that more precautions should be taken against parents double parking and not using the crosswalks.

Jay Speck concurred with Tim Mattos regarding using the grant towards education programs. He suggested framing a proposal that supports walking school buses, mapping and general safe routes or the crossing guard program to develop a successful education template to pass on to other cities/jurisdictions.

Mike Segala suggested that a PSA be created to reach out to parents countywide.

Mel Jordan commented that the program needs to be sustainable.

Tim Mattos concurred and suggested focusing on long term effectiveness by reducing positions and hours; as opposed to having one full time employee for one year, have a half time employee for two years to build more momentum and steam to meet goals.

Robin Cox commented that having occasional enforcement present at park/walk locations and bike/safety rodeos should be explored to promote safety awareness from the start.

Tracy Nachand suggested that police departments interact with the principals on an auto dialer method to communicate school issues.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO DISCUSSION

B. SR2S Program Update

Judy Leaks provided an SR2S Program. She stated that 747 students have participated in (12) bike rodeos; 4,320 students participated in (8) safety assemblies. A total of 436 helmets were distributed throughout our 20 completed events. She stated that 4,759 students participated in (20) walk & roll events.

Karin Bloesch provided an update on the Safe Routes to School Walking School Bus Program. She stated that during the summer she worked on a punch card incentive program for the students and attended the Solano County Fair, the Fairfield Tomato Festival to promote community outreach and handed out maps and other informational tools and fliers.

C. Responsive Grant Application

Danelle Carey stated that she submitted a Responsive Grant Application for Positive Interactions for Middle Schools Students (PIMSS). The purpose of the grant is to encourage middle school aged students to use active transportation through hands on learning, in-class education and on-road safety training promoting health, safety and physical fitness.

D. Bike Mobile Partnership

Danelle Carey announced that Bike Mobile is a bike repair company out of Eastbay that has reached out to STA to extend bike repair services at school events within Solano County.

E. SR2S-AC Engineering Appointment

The group welcomed Ozzie Hilton.

F. Membership and Attendance

Danelle Carey discussed the importance of attending the meetings and how to notify us if a member is not going to be present.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Tracy Nachand announced that Rio Vista is having a Kids Safety Fair on the 9-14-13.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the SR2S-AC will be October 23, 2013 in the STA Conference Room.



DATE: November 8, 2013
TO: SR2S Advisory Committee
FROM: Danelle Carey, Asst. Program Manager
RE: Chair/ Vice-Chair Officer Election

Background:

Michael Segala has reached the end of his term as Chair of the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee. In April 2013, Jeff Knowles former vice-chair of the SR2S-AC retired. At the June 2013 meeting, Mel Jordan was elected as Vice-Chair of the committee to replace Jeff Knowles. According to the bylaws of the committee, the SR2S-AC shall, at the last meeting of each calendar year, nominate and elect the Chair and the Vice-Chair for one (1) calendar year term. No officer shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in a given office.

According to the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee by-laws, the role of the Chair and Vice Chair are as follows:

- “The Chair shall preside over all SR2S-AC meetings, coordinate the meeting agendas with STA staff, represent the SR2S-AC’s actions to appropriate agencies or designate a representative(s) to do so, and have general direction and control over the activities of the SR2S-AC.”
- “The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair in the execution of the duties of the Chair office. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall preside over the meetings, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of the Chair.”

Discussion:

The AD HOC nomination committee will present their chair and vice-chair recommendation to the advisory committee and will open a forum for a full discussion. Any additional recommendations from voting members for Chair and Vice Chair seats will be considered. All voting members will submit their votes and the new advisory committee positions will be announced at the meeting.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Recommendation:

Elect a Chair and Vice-chair for one calendar term.

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DATE: November 8, 2013
TO: Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee
FROM: Danelle Carey, Assistant Program Manager
RE: Informational Items – Discussion and Non-Discussion

A. SR2S Program Update (Judy Leaks, Karla Valdez, STA and Tracy Nachand SPH)

Staff will provide an update on the SR2S program progress such as partnerships with Solano County Public Health. An update will be provided by our walking school bus staff about their outreach efforts to schools, training/recruiting volunteers and surveying. Staff will provide an overview of activities and outreach strategies used to engage schools.

Program elements, partnerships and events include:

Education & Encouragement Events

Walking School Bus Program

Attachments: (pg. /36)

- A. Program Progress Report
- B. Walking School Bus Program Report
- C. Education & Encouragement Events Report

B. Enforcement/Public Safety Grant Update, (Danelle Carey, STA)

During the last SR2S-AC meeting, a recap from the SR2S safety enforcement grant subcommittee was shared and a discussion occurred on how to develop and/or shape the safety enforcement grant. Based on the discussion, SR2S Staff requested that feedback from the committee be emailed to the program by September 30, 2013. SR2S Staff is working with consultants, Alta Planning + Design to incorporate the feedback requested from the committee and will bring a draft request for proposals (RFP) during the February 2013 meeting.

Attachment: None.

C. Document Delivery for Future Committee Meetings (Michael Segala, Chair)

In an effort to reduce the amount of paper that is circulated for future meetings, SR2S Staff would like to discuss a more efficient and environmentally conscious alternative to printing agendas and attachments for meetings. Currently, the agenda packet is emailed to all members with attachments with the complete agenda available for download on the STA's website (www.sta.ca.gov).

Staff will discuss with the committee how we will deliver materials for future meetings.

D. Membership and Attendance

The Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee (SR2S-AC) membership is as follows:

Attendance will be tracked as such for the 2013 calendar year:

Jurisdiction	Member	Jun.	Sept.	Nov.
Suisun City	Mike Segala, Chair	X	X	
Vallejo	Mel Jordan, Vice Chair	X	X	
Yolo-Solano	Jim Antone	EA	X	
Fairfield	Garland Wong	X	A	
Solano County	Jay Speck	X	X	
Suisun City	Tim Mattos	A	X	
Benicia	Scott Przekurat	EA	X	
Suisun City	Mike Hudson	X	X	
Solano County	Robin Cox	X	X	
Vacaville	Ozzie Hilton	N/A	X	

X = Present

A = Absent

EA = Excused Absence

SR2S-AC Bylaws state that “Members of the SR2S-AC that do not attend three scheduled meetings in succession and do not contact staff to indicate that they will not be present is considered to be an ‘un-contacted absence’ which may have their position declared vacant by the STA Board.

F. International Walk to School Day Update, Danelle Carey, STA- No Discussion

International Walk to School Day was celebrated on October 9, 2013. This year’s events were a success for Solano County. Twenty-Seven (27) schools participated 13 more schools than last year, reaching just under 6,500 students. As a result, parents and school administrators are excited to get their students walking more often. To keep up the momentum, 'Walking Wednesdays' will be launched to keep students excited about active transportation. Communication was sent to all schools on October 23, 2013 providing an update on International Walk to School day, a follow-up survey to assist with preparation for next year’s events, as well as a flyer regarding Walking Wednesdays.

Attachment: Daily Republic Article

G. Adoption of the SR2S Countywide Plan, Danelle Carey, STA- No Discussion

On October 9, 2013, the STA Board adopted the 2013 Safe Routes to School Plan. The plan provides new goals for the program and will assist the program in future years to achieve desired change in travel habits of students, parents and other travelers within school zones.

A complete copy of the SR2S Countywide Plan is available for download on our website at www.solanosr2s.ca.gov. For any members that are interested in a hard copy, please notify SR2S Staff.

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Solano Transportation Authority
Safe Routes to School-Walking School Bus Program Update
September 01, 2013-November 8th, 2013

Fall 2013:

Program Community Outreach:

The Walking School Bus coordinators have attended the following Community Events:

September 19, 2013 Fairfield Farmer's Market

October 5, 2013 Vacaville KidFest

October 9th, 2013 International Walk to School day

October 30th, 2013 **Breath America meeting**

November 7th, 2013 AAOA Program Presentation

School Outreach:

They WSB Coordinators have attended the following Back To School Events:

- Back to School Night Lincoln Elementary, Vallejo.
- PTO Parent Meeting Presentation Browns Valley, Vacaville.
- Elementary Principal Meeting Presentation, Vallejo.
- Parent Assembly Markham Elementary, Vacaville.
- International Walk to School Day, STA staff throughout different cities.
- PTA Parent Presentation Cooper Elementary, Vallejo.
- PTC Parent Presentation Fairmont Elementary, Vacaville.
- Parent Walking School Bus Presentation Laurel Creek, Fairfield.
- Walk Audit Vaca Peña Middle School, Vacaville.
- Principal Presentation Rolling Hills Elementary, Fairfield.

WSB Training:

1:1 Mapping Tool Training

New 2013-2014 Walking School Buses:

Between both WSB coordinators there have been 17 new trained volunteers and 9 new routes establish with in the county.

Fall/Winter Goals:

- Deliver parent surveys at Fairmont Elementary School (Due Back Nov. 22) to identify possible volunteers as well as participants
- Parent Nigh Presentation at Dan Mini Elementary Dec. 10th 2013

- Continue reaching to target school like, Joe Henderson, Cooper, Loma Vista, Dan O Root, Foxboro, Anderson and Tremont.

Findings:

To address the challenge in finding and recruiting volunteers, WSB coordinators are reaching out to local agencies like AAOA, Toro University, Solano Community College and Sacramento State University. AAOA inform team of possible WSB presentation that can help in our effort to recruit new volunteers.

**Solano County Public Health
Narrative Report re:
Safe Routes to School Program, Education and Encouragement Components
July 1, 2013 – September 30, 2013**

Accomplishments/Successes:

- Participated in bi-monthly SR2S staff meetings.
- Designed, developed and distributed program informational flyers to various schools (Spanish and English)
- Presented one safety assembly at Travis Elementary with 447 students distributing 2 safety helmets.
- Participated in the Rio Vista Children's day providing a bicycle rodeo course. There were 93 participants distributed 84 helmets.
- Held one bicycle rodeo at B. Gale Wilson Elementary in Fairfield. There were 47 participants and distributed 29 helmets.
- Prepared bicycle rodeo trailer for use by STA staff at the ground breaking ceremony for the Dixon under crossing.
- Updated reporting format to better reflect events and schools attended.
- Assisted STA staff in ordering WSB incentive items.
- Participated in 3 Webinars concerning Safe Routes to School programs.
- Attended the National Safe Routes to School conference in Sacramento.
- SPH Bureau manager provided additional input to *2013 SR2S Plan Update*, including recommendations for overview and description of 5 E's, enhancing description of work completed to date on engineering "E"; adding information about the Walking School Bus pilot program and future for WSB; adding policy related goals, objectives, and benchmarks to the plan such as: developing policies regarding school siting issues, joint use of school facilities, incorporation of a standing WSB committee within the schools' PTA's and PTO's for sustainability, and encouraging City General Plans and school district Wellness Policies to include SR2S elements.
- SPH Bureau manager met with Vallejo City Unified School District Assistant Superintendent Shackelford to discuss adopting SR2S wellness policy.
- SPH Bureau manager utilized funding from the Community Transformation Grant (CTG) to develop three 60 second Public Service Announcement (PSA'S) promoting International Walk to School Day, Walking School Buses, and the Safe Routes to School program. The PSA's developed were promoted during the Drive at 5 spot the week and day before international Walk to School Day; the week after promoting parents who live further from school to drive part of the way, park the car, and walk the remaining distance to school.
- Staff met with Vallejo City Unified School District Assistant Superintendent Shackelford to discuss districts future potential participation in SR2S activities.
- Presented to Vallejo City Unified School District principals to participate in SR2S activities specifically International Walk to School Day.

- Prepared bicycle rodeo trailer for rental and usage by City of Fairfield for Rockville park event.
- Staff prepared and contacted principals, school district contacts, and prior volunteers to promote International Walk to School Day.
- Staff prepared and delivered incentive items to be distributed to students during International Walk to School Day.

Future plans:

- Staff will develop Rodeo Trailer maintenance plan.
- Staff will research new ideas for bicycle rodeos and safety assembly.
- Staff will research in class curriculums.
- Staff will research policy development for districts wellness plan.

DAILY REPUBLIC

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

FAIRFIELD-SUISUN, CALIFORNIA

99 CENTS

Safe Routes to School effort continues



Rolling Hills Elementary School students and parents walk on the sidewalk of Hilborn Road as part of the Solano Transportation Authority's Safe Routes To Schools program, Wednesday morning. The event was held in conjunction with International Walk to School Day. (Brad Zweerink/Daily Republic)

By Barry Eberling

From page A1 | October 10, 2013 | 9 Comments

FAIRFIELD — Six-year-old Leah Patel told her mother Neha Patel that she wanted to give the new “walking school bus” to Rolling Hills Elementary School a try Wednesday morning.

“Because I thought it would be healthier to,” Leah said at 7:35 a.m., as she waited for the short journey to start.

A walking school bus consists of parent volunteers who meet children at a certain place for a walk to and from school. The volunteers keep order and make certain the children are acting in a safe manner. The goal is to get parents more willing to let their children make the journey by foot or bike.

Usually, Neha Patel would drive her daughter to the school. This morning, they joined a group with more that 100 children for a third-of-a-mile walk from the Rolling Hills Neighborhood Park entrance to Rolling Hills Elementary School.

The Solano Transportation Authority wants to bring walking school buses to all 56 public elementary schools in the county as part of its Safe Routes to Schools program. It has so far established 13 walking school buses at 10 schools to get cars off the road and kids on their feet.

On Wednesday, the agency tried to put the program in the spotlight with some extra promotion to mark International Walk to School Day. It also debuted the Rolling Hills Elementary School version, with Solano County Supervisor Jim Sperring and Solano Transportation Authority Executive Director Daryl Halls on hand to watch.

Recent Articles

- ▶ My husband is a monster and I don't know how to get away
- ▶ Horoscopes for Nov. 12, 2013
- ▶ Local sports for Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2013
- ▶ Sports on TV for Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2013
- ▶ Vacaville honors, thanks veterans
- ▶ Vanden High students make holiday stockings for military
- ▶ Weather for Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2013
- ▶ Hot-shooting BYU beats Stanford, 112-103
- ▶ Youth soccer: NBEFC to hold open tryouts
- ▶ Youth softball: Team Game Day to hold softball tryouts
- ▶ Youth baseball: FEBA to hold tryouts Saturday, Sunday
- ▶ Prep cross country: Vanden, Fairfield qualify runners for SJS meet
- ▶ Prep girls tennis: Vanden falls to McClatchy in SJS quarterfinals
- ▶ Bucs hold off Dolphins 22-19 for first victory
- ▶ Stockholm submits bid to host 2022 Winter Olympics
- ▶ Italian soccer game off after fans' death threats
- ▶ Djokovic beats Nadal to win ATP Finals
- ▶ Federer hoping for brighter spell in 2014
- ▶ Messi set to miss rest of 2013 to another injury
- ▶ Photo: Stanford UConn Basketball

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2,810

Organizers had no idea how many children would turn out at the park entrance at Glenwood Drive. They'd promoted the event at the school, but didn't take registration. Parents could drive to the site, let their children walk the remaining distance and avoid the traffic mess in front of the school.

Lorraine Nitto and her two children were among the first to show up.

"I've never done it before and I want to see what it's like," 7-year-old Alexis Nitto said.

Lorraine Nitto usually drives her children the mile or so from their house to the school. She was glad to get out of the car. The street at the school is crowded with cars and it's hard to find a parking spot, she said.

To the pleasure of organizers, the trickle of children coming to the park turned into a flood. Soon, they had enough children to fill a real school bus and then some.

A school bus needs a driver, even a walking school bus. Parent Steve Feudner took the role of making sure the children made it to school safely.

"There are cars," he told the gathering at the park entrance. "Cars are very dangerous. You have to listen."

Soon they were off, down the sidewalk along Glenwood Drive, past two peacocks in the park, then onto the sidewalk along Hilborn Road.

"Watch the mud," Feudner said. "Stay to your left."

A walking school bus helps alleviate traffic in front of schools, as well as air pollution, said Karin Bloesch, who helps organize the program for the Solano Transportation Authority. It gets the children moving, she said.

"They arrive at school alert and ready to learn," she said.

The Safe Routes to School program goes beyond walking school buses. It includes doing such things as putting in crosswalks and sidewalks, trimming trees that block driver visibility, conducting traffic safety assemblies at schools and putting coverings over bike parking areas.

Feudner has his own item for the Safe Routes to School wish list. He said a crosswalk is needed on Glenwood Drive near the entrance to the park.

"It's important, before a tragedy happens," he said.

Creating a walking renaissance is bucking a trend. In 1968, 48 percent of children in grades kindergarten through eighth walked to school. That dropped to 13 percent in 2009, according to a report for the National Center for Safe Routes to School.

In addition, 89 percent of the children in 1969 living within a mile of school usually walked or biked to school. In 2009, only 35 percent did so even once a week, the report said.

Congress in 2005 passed the national Safe Routes to School program. The Solano Transportation Authority in 2008 launched the local version.

Twenty-two percent of Solano County students walked or

biked to school in 2008. That percentage slightly declined by 2011, most likely because of school consolidations and bus service cuts, the draft Solano Safe Routes to School update said. The percentage of student walking or biking today is 24 percent.

The local Safe Routes to School program surveyed about 800 parents, asking what concerns exist about letting children walk and bike to school. Danger from strangers ranked No. 1 at 71 percent, followed by speeding traffic at 66 percent, too much traffic at 62 percent, bad weather at 62 percent and unsafe intersections at 60 percent, among other concerns.

In 2011, the Solano Transportation Authority received a \$500,000 federal grant to use on establishing walking school buses at local schools. Money goes toward education, training and support for staff and parent volunteers, the draft Safe Routes to School update said.

Go to www.solanosr2s.ca.gov to learn more about the local Safe Routes to School program. People interested in starting a walking school bus at their school can call 399-3222 for more information.

Reach Barry Eberling at 427-6929 or beberling@dailyrepublic.net. Follow him on Twitter at www.twitter.com/beberlingdr.



Barry Eberling

Barry Eberling has been a reporter with the Daily Republic since 1987. He covers Solano County government, transportation, growth and the environment. He received his bachelors of art degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara and his masters degree in journalism from the University of California, Berkeley.

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▶ LEAVE A COMMENT

Discussion | 9 comments

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Mr. Smith October 10, 2013 - 7:13 am

We had something similar to this in San Antonio, Texas, back in the late 1940's. We called them "School Marches." No adults were