

# safe routes to school

IN SOLANO COUNTY



April 2014

**Your Kids.**

**Your School.**

**Your Community.**

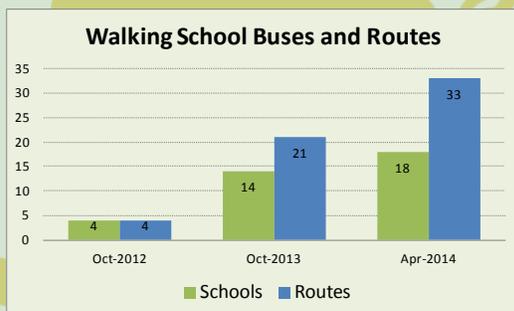
The Solano County Safe Routes to School (SR2S) program was launched in 2008, with an aim to increase the number of students that walk, bike, rideshare or take transit to school. The Solano SR2S program attributes its success to our city, county and school partnerships. There are substantial benefits to increasing active transportation to and from school including:

Increased physical activity

Reduction in air pollution

Less cars on road = increased safety

**Walking School Bus Program  
18 Schools with 33 Routes!**



## The 5 “E’s”

A comprehensive Safe Routes to School program contains a wide range of elements and strategies to ensure success. Here is just some of what SR2S is achieving in Solano County:

### Education

**9,622 students** were reached during FY 2012/13 through Traffic Safety Assemblies, Bike Rodeos, and Walk & Roll Events. Events are continuing through FY 2013/14.

### Encouragement

**Over 6,000 students from 27 schools** participated in International Walk to School Day on October 9, 2013. Excitement is generated in order to encourage participation.

### Enforcement

STA released a call for projects on March 13, 2014 for a Public Safety Enforcement Grant totalling \$150,000 to be used for best practice SR2S enforcement activities. Eligible applicants include any city or county department in Solano County involved in public safety.

### Engineering

**\$1.2M in OBAG funds** will be distributed to each city/school district to make improvements identified in the SR2S plan beginning in FY 2013/14. The following cities have allocated their funding: Benicia, Dixon, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville and Vallejo.

### Evaluation

Hand tally surveys are conducted in classrooms each May and October to evaluate modal split. 25 schools participated in the survey in October 2013.

### The 6<sup>th</sup> “E” ... Engagement

In the 2013 SR2S Plan Update, a sixth “E” of engagement was included to emphasize the importance of communication with school parents and other key stakeholders. Engaging with key stakeholders is a top priority for STA’s SR2S program.

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## IN SOLANO COUNTY

"Making it easier for students to walk and bike to school safely means being healthier and creating cleaner air by reducing car trips. Join Solano County's Safe Routes to School Program in their efforts to create safer, less congested routes to school. Let your feet and wheels be a voice in your school community."

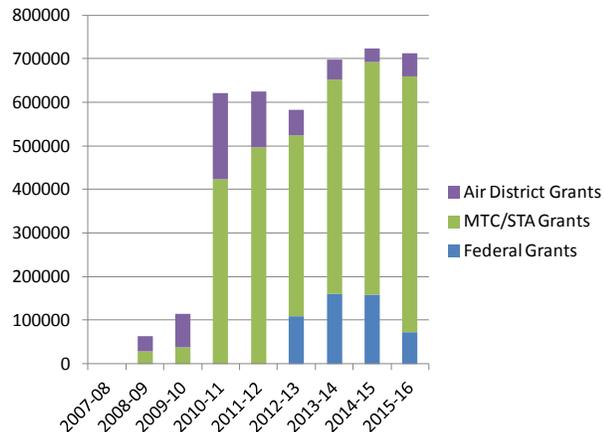
-Mayor Elizabeth Patterson, Benicia, CA

## Future Goals

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 to:

- Expand the Walking School Bus Program to focus on long-term sustainability
- Develop a robust evaluation program to guide future goals for SR2S
- Hold Community Task Force meetings at least twice a year to ensure SR2S remains a priority program
- Continue implementing promising strategies that will encourage walking and bicycling to school
- Partner with enforcement agencies to increase awareness and improve driver behavior
- Partner with cities and school districts to integrate SR2S into school wellness policies and city general plans
- Continue to increase physical activity and educate children on how to adopt a healthy lifestyle and behavior

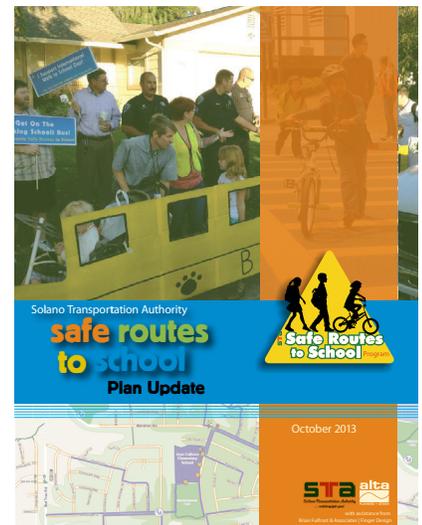
## Funding



Funding for STA's SR2S Program comes from grants which will expire by the end of FY 2015-16. STA is seeking to secure future federal funds from the State of California's Active Transportation Program competitive grant to continue and expand the SR2S program in Solano County.

## Safe Routes to School 2013 Plan Update

The original SR2S plan was completed in 2008. On October 9, 2013, the STA Board adopted the 2013 Safe Routes to School Plan Update. The plan update process included multiple rounds of stakeholder input from each of Solano County's seven cities and eight individual school districts. 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.



Safe Routes to School Program  
Solano Transportation Authority  
One Harbor Center  
Suisun City, CA 94585  
(707) 424-6075



[www.solanosr2s.ca.gov](http://www.solanosr2s.ca.gov)