

Safe Routes to School: Best Practices for School Officials



What Can We Do?

This fact sheet provides a non-exclusive list of improvements that would directly or indirectly encourage more New Ulm students to walk or bike. These best practices are recommended by many different agencies or school boards across the US to support Safe Routes to School programs.

Infrastructure

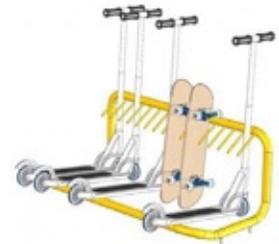


■ Sheltered Bike Racks

Installing shelters over bike racks, schools can create a meeting place and extend biking by almost one month on each side of the season.

■ Scooter/Skateboard Racks

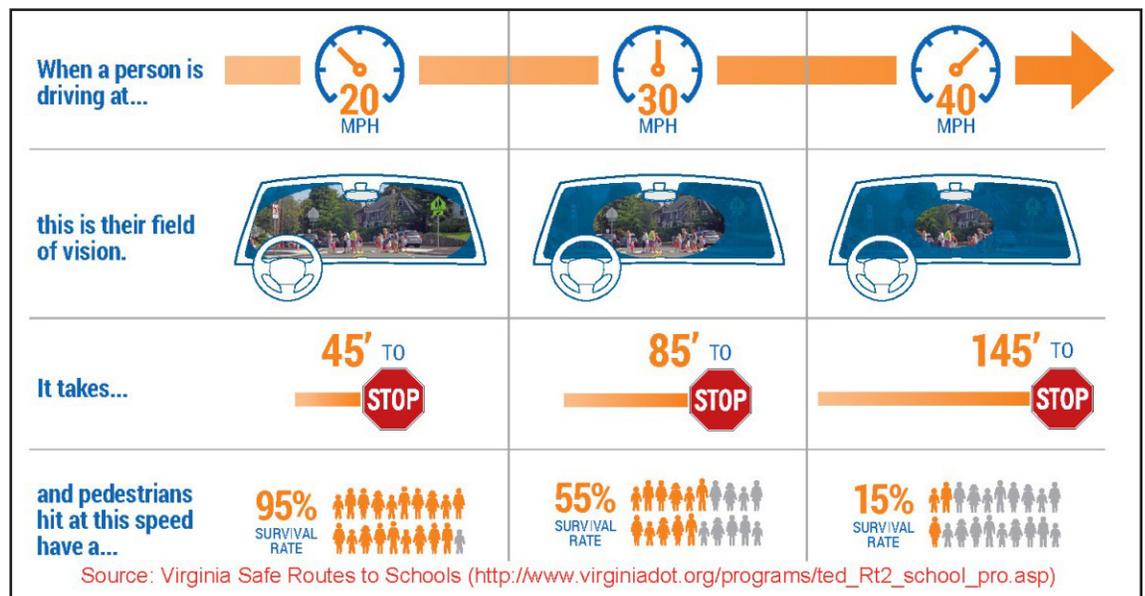
Providing racks for other modes of transportation can encourage more students to reap the benefits of active transportation.



Advocacy

■ **25 mph Speed Limit**
Reducing speeds to 25 mph greatly improves pedestrian safety and reduces crashes.

■ **Higher Visibility Crosswalks**
Current parallel line crosswalks are less visible than barred or zebra-striped crosswalks, according to transportation studies.



Programs, Planning and Policies on next page

Programs

■ Walking School Busses

Either as a one-time event, or on a weekly basis, walking school busses can prove to kids and parents the value of walking while educating them on safety and which routes to take to school.

■ Bike Trains

Similar to walking school busses, bike trains are a good way to teach safety and allow kids to receive benefits of activity.



■ Walk! Bike! Fun! Curriculum

The Minnesota Walk! Bike! Fun! Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Curriculum is a modular curriculum designed specifically for Minnesota's schools and youth education programs and meets MN Physical Education Standards and Benchmarks. Walk! Bike! Fun! lessons teach school-aged kids about pedestrian and bicycle safety to walk and ride confidently in their community.

■ Incentive/Engagement programs

Incorporate walking and biking with existing good behavior programs. Individual, classroom, and school scale programs could encourage more participation in active transportation and SRTS activities.

Planning and Policies

■ Dedicated Walking/Biking Routes

Distribute established dedicated routes maps to school so children and parents can plan safer trips. This action has been associated with increased walking and biking rates.

■ Safe Routes to School Policy

In the future, school decisions can factor in the needs of walkers and bicyclists. Standardized, and clear, expectations can encourage more interest in walking and bicycling for years to come. Example: Ensure future improvements to school grounds include the needs of walkers, bicyclists and others while encouraging increased active transportation.

■ Join the SRTS Action Team

Selecting a teacher, parent, or concerned faculty to represent the school on the citywide SRTS action team can help organize actions on a higher level; solving issues all schools face together.

■ Create a School SRTS Team

Identify a group of teachers, parents and staff that is willing to volunteer time to SRTS-related events or initiatives.

References

Safe Routes to School National Partnership - Fact Sheets:

<http://saferoutespartnership.org/sites/default/files/pdf/Primer-for-School-Boards-and-Principals.pdf>

https://saferoutespartnership.org/sites/default/files/resource_files/sr2s_rural_making_sr_work_20150331.pdf

Walk! Bike! Fun! Curriculum

<https://www.walkbikefun.org>