



Sample Non-Infrastructure Program Descriptions

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programs should be individualized to your school, school district, or broader school community based on your identified barriers to program participation, safety concerns, and the issues you want to address.

The following are a few examples of education, encouragement, and enforcement programs. These examples are incomplete but may help generate ideas for your program. For additional information about implementing a Safe Routes to School program, view [Minnesota's SRTS program matrix](#).

- **Bicycle or Pedestrian Audit:** It's best to complete an audit before drafting your application. They help identify the project and action plan. This exercise will help identify problems or provide a baseline to determine changes resulting from the project. Local officials, planners, interested adults, consultants, and children can conduct this sidewalk and roadway assessment. [Minnesota Department of Health's \(MDH\) Walk Audit Guide](#).
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Books for the School Library:** A collection of books for all ages for your school library that reinforce the safety, fun, and health and wellness concepts of bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Education Program:** Classes or assemblies that teach students and parents safety practices relating to bicycling and pedestrian behavior, such as the proper way to cross streets, use sidewalks, avoid darting out from between parked cars, helmet use, bicycle skills, etc. E-newsletters, handouts, school bulletin posts, etc., help reinforce messages. MDH and MnDOT created the [Walk! Bike! Fun! Curriculum](#) to provide various resources. People often teach the program during physical education classes or after-school bike and walk clubs.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Core Subject Lesson Plans:** [Walk! Bike! Fun! Curriculum](#) is for kindergartners through 8th graders and teaches core plans that align with the state's standards for education. Recommended by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), these lesson plans are easy to integrate into any classroom setting and are proven effective and fun.
- **Bicycle Rodeo:** Usually a bicycle safety clinic featuring bike safety inspections (and, optionally, quick tune-ups), skills assessment, and information about safe bicycle behavior. Rodeos include riding on a miniature "chalk street" or obstacle course where young cyclists apply their knowledge and test their skills. Optional activities include helmet fittings, prizes and drawings, and in some cases, commercial activities such as booths set up by bike shops, parents and students, etc. Reference the [Bicycle Rodeo 101 guide](#).
- **Bicycles:** Consider purchasing bicycles for your SRTS program. The fleet allows your school(s) to offer skills training for students to become riders. Don't forget the storage for the bikes. Storage containers and trailers can serve this need if you don't have capacity within your building. Reference the [Bike Fleet Guide](#) for additional guidance

- **Bike Clubs:** After-school clubs and camps can provide more in-depth instruction on bicycle skills, safe roadway behavior information, and bicycle maintenance. The lessons for bike camps and clubs derive from the Walk! Bike! Fun! Curriculum. The students develop the confidence and skills to improve riding their bicycles for transportation to and from school.
- **Bike Racks:** Students won't bicycle to school if there isn't a place to safely store their bicycles. Creating space and securing funding or a donation for school bike racks ensures bike safety while children are in class. Work with the school and school district to make sure bike racks are secure, in a visible place, and easily accessible from school entrances. Examples may include bike racks, bike shelters, and appropriate signage.
- **Community Coalition Building Toolkit:** This toolkit can help you build a SRTS coalition in your community. It is a step-by-step guide to help you identify community partners, gather information, identify issues and solutions, develop an action plan, and provide tips on funding plants. Reference the [MnSRTS Handbook](#).
- **Crossing Guard Program: Utilize** MnDOT's free [Crossing Guard Training](#) or [Student Safety Patrol Training](#). This resource provides training and coordination to individuals who instruct and direct students when crossing streets and highways at or near the school. A stipend may be available to pilot a crossing guard program and purchase appropriate safety supplies.
- **Encouragement Programs:** "Walking and Wheeling Wednesdays" or "Tires 'n Tennes Tuesdays" (TnT Tuesdays) are types of encouragement programs that promote weekly, or even daily, active school transportation. Prizes or incentives for students who remain active throughout the year may be at the individual level, classroom level, or among schools.
- **Parent Volunteers:** Consider getting parents and families involved in SRTS through data collection, school and neighborhood improvements, policy change, and programs to enable and encourage more walking and bicycling. Recruit parents to serve on your wellness or SRTS coalition. They provide perspectives on increasing parental support for their children, bicycling, and regularly walking to and from school.
- **Photovoice:** Ask students, parents, teachers, community leaders, etc., to represent their community or point of view by taking photographs. People's narratives with accompanying photos may encourage others to take action and improve conditions.
- **Public Awareness Campaign:** Promotional activity encouraging bicycling and walking for transportation. This campaign can include several tools such as flyers, print and media advertising, social media, poster contests, special events, etc.
- **Stipends:** Stipends are available to support people working in schools or districts. Support staff (teachers, school employees, or parents) may fulfill the role of an SRTS coordinator. The stipends must align with goals and educational outcomes, such as event days, educational efforts, and evaluations.
- **Remote Drop Off:** Some students live too far from their school to walk or bicycle. Several strategies to reduce traffic congestion at the school and adjacent streets are available for parents who must drive their children to school. These strategies include park and walk programs, which use an off-site location (such as a nearby church or park) as a parking area for parents who walk their child to school or join a regularly scheduled walking school bus to complete their journey. Reference the [Bus Stop and Walk guide](#).
- **SRTS Maps:** Develop maps of suggested walking and bicycling routes to and from school using resources like Google Maps. You can design maps that show safe routes or indicate

attributes along the routes to school, such as where there are sidewalks, crosswalks, pedestrian signals, crossing guards, and more. Reference the [MnSRTS Mapping resources](#).

- **Safety of Children and Vision Zero Initiatives:** The National Center for SRTS has advanced the idea that SRTS can serve as a foundation for Vision Zero (a worldwide movement to eliminate traffic deaths and severe injuries by making cities safe for all road users). It is imperative and wise to prioritize children's safety when communities are considering and implementing Vision Zero. Starting with children is essential to build community and political support for more significant Vision Zero work. Reference [Focusing on the Safety of Children Can Propel Vision Zero Initiatives](#).
- **Train the Trainer:** If you need more expertise in your school or community to provide bicycle and pedestrian safety and skills education, consider bringing in experts to train your physical education teacher and other community members to deliver a program in your community.
- **Walking School Bus or Bike Train:** This is considered an "escort" program. It involves adult volunteers accompanying children to school, stopping at designated locations where children can join the "bus" or "train" at pre-arranged times. This program allows children to bike or walk to school without fearing traveling alone. These programs can be informal or structured. The SRTS National Partnership has [Walking School Bus resources](#) designed to help plan and organize a walking school bus utilizing adult volunteers. They have also developed a [Bike Train Toolkit](#). Equipment and supplies to build the program are allowable expenses in an MnSRTS grant.
- **Walk to School Day and Bike to School Day:** Many schools and communities use annual events (Walk to School Day in October, Winter Walk to School Day in February, and Bike to School Day in May) as the first step to change community culture and to create options for getting to and from school. These energizing events remind parents and children of the simple joy of walking and biking to and from school. And they are often catalysts for ongoing efforts to increase walking and biking all the time. Information is available at walkbiketoschool.org, and you can also register for your events on this website.