Safe Routes to Schools

School Based Traffic Calming for Safe Streets

In developing countries, well over two-thirds of traffic accident injuries are suffered by pedestrians, of which one-third are children.

Across the globe, dangerous traffic puts children at risk.

With Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS), communities give children what they deserve: safe access to education.

Safe Routes to School is a process that empowers community members to create safer streets: by educating the public, linking concerned groups and providing the community with planning tools. It gives all involved a chance to envision what their community could be: *a community safe for children which allows children safe access to school*

What is Safe Routes to School?

- A collaborative planning process that builds on the diverse knowledge of everyone who shares a concern for the safety of children and the safety of the streets
- A participatory process that fosters sense of ownership and responsibility
- Public education campaign that raises the awareness on pedestrian and bicyclist traffic issues and illustrates the impact of transportation upon quality of life

Strengths of SRTS
- Collaborative
- Participatory
- Efficient
- Scalable
- Draws on Experience
- Pro-Active

Goals

- Provide a safer, better environment for students to get to school
- Encourage more people to walk and cycle to school safely
- Reduce number of children injured or killed in traffic accidents
- Reduce traffic congestion and air pollution
- Increase community awareness and empowerment

While each city is different, with its own local problems and solutions, SRTS builds on the following steps: allowing for flexibility and different approaches as needed.

Potential Steps

- Identify and select schools
- Conduct school outreach
- Map the routes taken and hazards encountered by parents, students, & teachers
- Put all the route maps together
- Map police data on traffic accidents in area
- Map existing pedestrian facilities
- Identify dangerous locations
- Map areas most in need of improvement
- Tour the site
- Design improvements

Possible Solutions

- Develop a network of pedestrian routes
- Develop a network of bicycle ways
- Build bike lanes and provide bike parking
- Use signage to indicate safe routes
- Build medians to help pedestrian crossing
- Build raised crossings for pedestrians
- Use traffic calming measures to slow cars down, like landscaping, speed humps, signaling, etc.
- Create school safety zones
- Create walking buses