

City of Bloomington Safe Routes to School Deliverables

As part of the Safe Routes to School program, the City partners with each participating school to develop a custom Safe Routes to School Plan and provide practical tools, resources, and support that make it easier and safer for students to walk, bike, or roll to school. The City will complete a customized Safe Routes to School Plan. The City will provide a toolkit of materials for teachers, along with optional City staff-led training and lessons. Lastly, the City will provide an optional strategies catalog that interested schools can use to further their support for safe and active routes to school.

The program is scalable. Schools can participate in core components and choose additional strategies based on their interest, capacity, and readiness.

Part 1: Customized Safe Routes to School Plan Document

Each participating school receives a customized plan including:

A. Stakeholder Engagement & Capacity Building

- Coordination meetings with school and City staff
- Support to identify school champions (staff, parents, volunteers)
- A plan for ongoing Safe Routes to School participation

B. Surveys & Tallies

- Student travel tally materials to understand how kids currently get to school
- Student and caregiver surveys to identify barriers and opportunities
- Walkshed and mapping analysis to understand routes to school

C. Existing Conditions Report

- Review of traffic volumes, crashes, parking, and arrival/dismissal patterns
- Inventory of sidewalks, crossings, bike parking, signage, and nearby trails
- Identification of short-term fixes and long-term infrastructure needs

D. Engineering & Design Plans

- Identification of potential engineering solutions including [safety countermeasures](#)
- Identification of short-term fixes and long-term infrastructure needs
- Realistic timeline for safety improvements



Part 2: Safe Routes to School Core Strategies

All schools receive access to a Safe Routes to School Core Strategies Toolkit. This toolkit includes proven successful strategies for Safe Routes to School. Recognizing that schools are already busy, the City will actively provide materials for classrooms, coordination support, and (optionally) City staff-led lessons including road safety, bike repair, and other lessons.

- **Active Transportation Classroom Curriculum & Activities:** Age-appropriate lessons and materials teachers can use to teach road safety, walking, biking, and rolling skills.
- **Walking School Bus & Bike Bus Support:** Training materials, supplies, and coordination assistance to help schools start or strengthen group walking and biking programs.
- **Walk & Bike to School Day Support:** Event materials, promotion templates, and encouragement items to support participation for two events (Spring and Fall)
- **Parent Information:** Clear, family-friendly resources that explain benefits, safety tips, and how parents can get involved.
- **Signage, Wayfinding & Activation Materials:** City-installed wayfinding and activation materials that help guide students and encourage participation

Part 3: Optional Tools & Additional Strategies

Schools may also choose from a catalog of additional strategies. The City may have materials and resources for these strategies, but they are generally led by the school (teachers, parents, students, physical education classes, etc.)

- Event Ideas
- Encouragement programs
- Student activities
- Special events, assemblies, or hands-on safety trainings
- Creative and educational activities that connect transportation, health, and learning

These strategies are optional and flexible, allowing schools to build at a pace that works for them.



School Responsibilities

Overview

Our program recognizes that schools operate with limited time and financial resources. The program is designed to deliver concrete benefits to participating schools including safer arrival and dismissal, Identification and prioritization of infrastructure improvements around the school, events that motivate students, and safer, more joyful transportation options for students in exchange for a manageable time commitment that integrates into existing school programming.

1. Core School Responsibilities

A. Planning participation with City staff

- Provide an overview of pick-up/drop-off procedures, current concerns, and known issues
- Participate in a site walk or walk audit with City staff
- Participation in surveys and tallies
- Parent survey (distributed through school communication channels)
- Student travel tally (conducted in classrooms)
- Review the SRTS idea book and training offerings for additional (optional) strategies to implement

B. Steering committee participation

- Help identify interested stakeholders (parents, teachers, neighbors)
- Assign two to three staff members to attend approximately four meetings over the planning program

C. Review of SRTS plan drafts

- Review draft documents and provide feedback
- Provide feedback during the City Council adoption process through attendance, written comments, or letters of support



2. Additional Opportunities for Schools

The following activities are strongly encouraged and help schools get the most out of the program. Schools are not required to complete all of them in the first year, but are expected to incorporate them over time.

Participate in National Walk to School Day (October) and National Bike to School Day (May)

- Use school communication channels to promote the events
- Host an assembly, giveaway, or other incentive to mark the day
- The City of Bloomington provides supporting resources, including giveaways, assembly presentations, and special encouragement activities (such as "walk with an engineer")

Introduce the Bloomington SRTS curriculum in classrooms

- 4-5 lessons total, divided across grades K-2, 3-4, and 5-6 with optional extensions available
- Each lesson includes a short discussion, a brief presentation, a suggested book, and optional learning activities
- Designed to be taught during regular class time
- The full curriculum can be completed in a few hours per year

Share SRTS opportunities with families

- Help City staff identify channels to communicate with parents about SRTS
- Use school communication channels to inform parents about events, walking school buses, and bike buses

Plan for program continuity

- Identify staff leads to champion SRTS in subsequent years
- Develop a plan to continue events, curriculum, and communication of programs (walking school bus, bike bus, etc.)



Contact Us

Safe Routes to School is an initiative through the City of Bloomington Planning and Transportation Department. You can email the department at planning@bloomington.in.gov or call at 812-349-3423.

To stay informed about the City's planning work, visit the City's website at Bloomington.in.gov/planning