



2024 Summary of Activities

Safe Routes to School is a nationwide initiative to get more youth biking, walking and rolling to school for their health, academic achievement and the environment. The City's SRTS program has a goal of getting 50 percent of local K-12 students safely biking, walking, scootering or skateboarding to school on a regular basis. The program operates through major partnerships with Poudre School District, Bike Fort Collins and Safe Kids Larimer County.

Financials

The City continued its annual contribution of \$94,350 to Poudre School District for school crossing guards.

The program received a donation of \$5,000 from the FoCo Fondo cycling event, which will be used to purchase adaptive equipment.

The program applied for a CDOT SRTS grant in the amount of \$1 million for a project to improve biking/walking conditions in the area of Irish Elementary School.

Education and Encouragement

The program reached 9,883 students and 1,209 adults in 2024. Of those, 5,642 students received formal education in bike-ped safety, and 304 adults received training in how to teach bike-ped safety.

A total of 2,564 students' bikes were checked for safety and repaired, as warranted, by professional mechanics.

A total of 353 volunteers provided 917 hours of assistance.

A total of 22 schools and six youth/community organizations received SRTS programming.

A partnership with the City's Recreation Department continued to provide summer bike camps led by SRTS instructors.

The SRTS equipment fleet of three cargo trailers, 240 bicycles and 20 adaptive devices were used in support of 367 individual classes and events.

Engineering

SRTS coordinates with the Active Modes team and other City departments (Engineering, Traffic, Streets, Parks) to consider youth in all roadway and trail design, operations and maintenance. A major SRTS-specific project is under construction to provide two new bike-ped crossings of Kechter Road benefiting Zach Elementary students. The new Mail Creek Trail is being used by Bacon Elementary and Kinard

Middle School students, and a new bike-ped overpass of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks will connect the trail to the Power Trail. A bike-ped underpass of Harmony Road and completion of the Power Trail is also under construction, which will benefit Kruse Elementary and Colorado Early Colleges students.

Evaluation

Mode-of-travel tallies and parent surveys, previously provided by the National Center for Safe Routes to School, are now provided by CDOT SRTS (parent survey) and the City's SRTS program (mode-of-travel tally). Based on data collected through these tools, the estimated overall rate of biking/walking/rolling to school is approximately 30 percent, with some schools — including Shepardson Elementary and Kinard Middle School — reporting more than 50 percent of students regularly biking/walking/rolling to school.

School Transportation Safety Assessments are being conducted to determine safety improvements needed in school areas. Assessments were completed for Beattie, Dunn, Irish, and Tavelli elementary schools and Kinard Middle School in 2024. Based on recommendations in these reports, SRTS applied for a \$1 million grant from CDOT for a roadway project to improve conditions in the vicinity of Irish Elementary for students who bike/walk/roll to school.

Feedback from teachers, principals and parents was overwhelmingly positive, with 100 percent of participating teachers reporting high satisfaction with program content and delivery (SRTS educational program at schools).

Engagement

National Bike & Roll to School Day, National Walk & Roll to School Day, and a monthlong Walk/Bike-to-School Challenge were major community events.

The Safe Routes Partnership held its annual conference in Fort Collins Oct. 22-24, with more than 400 attendees. Several of the City's SRTS, FC Moves, and other departmental staff attended and/or presented at the conference. Two City Council members attended the conference, and the City's SRTS program manager received the Colorado SRTS Champion Award from CDOT.

Equity

The program's commitment to including students of all abilities has led to significant growth in adaptive-bicycling activities. A total of 95 students with disabilities participated in adaptive bicycling in 2024. The program received approval to hire a part-time Adaptive Program Specialist to assist with adaptive programming starting in 2025.

City Council listed Safe Routes to School as one of its Council priorities, which will catalyze new transportation improvements specifically for youth in coming years.

