Safe Routes to School
Our vision, mission, and core values

**Vision:** Seattle is a thriving equitable community powered by dependable transportation

**Mission:** to deliver a transportation system that provides safe and affordable access to places and opportunities

Committed to **6 core values:**
- Equity
- Safety
- Mobility
- Sustainability
- Livability
- Excellence
Presentation overview

- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Overview
- SRTS & the Levy to Move Seattle
- Updated SRTS Action Plan
- Key Engineering Tools
What is Safe Routes to School?

- Safe Routes to School is a national movement to increase safe walking and biking to school.

- Benefits to children include:
  - Having fun
  - Strengthening connections to their communities
  - Improving physical and mental health
  - Arriving to school in time for breakfast and ready to learn

- We are focused on extending SRTS benefits to these groups:
  - Communities of color
  - Low-income communities
  - Immigrant and refugee communities
  - People with disabilities
  - People experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity
  - The LGBTQIA+ community
  - Girls
SRTS & the Levy to Move Seattle

Levy Commitment: Complete 9-12 Safe Routes to School projects each year along with safety education to improve walking and biking safety at every public school in Seattle.

- 9-12 school safety projects per year
- At least one safety project for every public school
- $5.6M total Levy funding ($600k-$800k/year)
- $1M-$6M per year of School Safety Traffic and Pedestrian Improvement Funds (SSTPIF)
- SRTS deliverables are scalable
- Delivering SRTS projects uses both Levy and SSTPIF
# SRTS & the Levy to Move Seattle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of SRTS Projects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL THROUGH 2021</strong></td>
<td><strong>155</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2022 - 2024</td>
<td>9-12 planned (to meet Levy goal each year)</td>
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SRTS Action Plan Update

• First Action Plan launched in 2015
• Launched the *Let’s Go* program that serves every 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade student in Seattle Public Schools, including students with disabilities
• 130 engineering improvements at priority schools
• Awarded 115 Mini Grants
• Gave out free incentives 35 times
• Held 21 Banana Brakes
• Conducted driver safety campaigns at 7 schools
• Updated school bike parking requirements
• Racial Equity Analysis
SRTS Racial Equity Analysis

• SRTS is a gateway to walking and biking and a gateway to a passionate group of people (parents!) who may not attend public meetings

• Conducted 2-year Racial Equity Analysis (2017-2019)

• Engaged 1,000s of residents at nearly 70 community events at schools and community organizations as well as a citywide survey
SRTS Action Plan Framework

• 7 E’s of Seattle’s Safe Routes to School program
  1. Equity
  2. Environment
  3. Education
  4. Empowerment
  5. Encouragement
  6. Engineering
  7. Evaluation

The Safe Routes to School program is committed to reaching the City's equity, safety, and climate change goals.
ENVIRONMENT
Reduce the impact of school travel on the environment and climate change.

• To support carbon sequestration and reduce the impacts of increased temperatures, focus our tree planting program along Neighborhood Greenways in the hottest parts of the city which are also within communities of color.
• Expand the *Let's Go* program to middle school, including students with disabilities, for six consecutive years of walking and biking safety education.
• Provide up to $1,000 to schools and community groups for activities that encourage safe walking and biking to school through our Mini Grant program

• Partner with Seattle Public Schools to promote EarthGen School Certification in the Transportation category
ENCOURAGEMENT
Promote walking and biking in the school community.

• Share walking and biking route maps online for every public school in Seattle

• Explore opportunities to provide resources to communities of color that would mitigate barriers to walking and biking to school, such as helmets, bike locks, bike lights, and cold/rainy weather gear
EVALUATION
Track progress toward our shared safety goals.

• Report annually on progress toward implementing actions

• Conduct a citywide survey to understand trends in walking and biking to school and evaluate perceptions of safety
• Help expand the Neighborhood Greenway and Stay Healthy Streets network, which provides routes that prioritize people walking and biking, by specifically providing these along routes to school.
**ENGINEERING**
Design streets for safety and predictability.

- **Sidewalks**
  - Concrete sidewalk including curb and gutter, planter strip with street trees

- **Walkways**
  - Cost effective option, primarily for non-arterial streets
  - Can include painted walkways or asphalt, with wheel stops
  - May include street trees
Curb bulbs
• Floating bulbs and median islands
• Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons
• Pedestrian half signals
• 20mph Flashing Beacons
Traffic Calming

- 20mph Flashing Beacons
- Speed Cushions
- Speed Humps
ENGINEERING
Design streets for safety and predictability.

• School Streets
  • Close 1-2 blocks adjacent to school to through traffic and parents
  • Open up to families walking and biking
Need for Investments in Infrastructure

- To reach SRTS goal of increasing walking and biking to school, we need significant investment in walking infrastructure within 1 mile of schools.
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Better walking environment

More kids walking
Need for Investments in Infrastructure

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• Schools in the red oval are more affluent, have better walking environments, and have higher walking/biking rates.
Equity Challenges & Opportunities

• Levy requires a safety project at every public school – not equitable

• SRTS prioritizes program resources (funds and staff time) in communities of color

• Prioritization based on Pedestrian Master Plan, Collisions, and School Race/Ethnicity Data
Questions?

Ashley.Rhead@seattle.gov | (206) 684-7577
www.seattle.gov/transportation/srts

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