



Greetings from the California Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Technical Assistance Resource Center (TARC)! TARC is a program within California Active Communities, a joint Unit of the University of California, San Francisco and the California Department of Public Health and is funded through a SRTS Non-Infrastructure award from the California Department of Transportation. This monthly email provides a summary of news, research, and training opportunities to support your SRTS work here in California. For more information on SRTS in California, to view our monthly E-News archive, or to find out when your next regional network teleconference call is, check out our website at www.CAsaferoutestoschool.org.



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NEWS

Earth Day is April 22nd

Environmental benefits are one of many great reasons to walk and bicycle to school. Read our [article](#) about ways to promote active transportation in concert with this annual event and how it helps reduce one's ecological footprint. Learn more about Earth Day at the [Environmental Protection Agency's website](#).

National Bike to School Day is May 9th

The first National Bike to School Day is May 9th! This inaugural national event is organized by the [National Center for Safe Routes to School](#) and follows the successful [Walk to School Day](#) model. Visit our [webpage](#) to help you prepare a successful Bike to School Day event with an emphasis on helping children stay safe on the road, through skills training and by using a properly fitted helmet.

May is Older Americans Month

Older adults can be a great asset to SRTS programs. Join communities across the nation in celebrating the annual Older Americans Month in May 2012. This year's theme is "Never Too Old to Play" which encourages older Americans to stay engaged, active, and involved in their own lives and in their communities. Visit the [U.S. Administration on Aging's website](#) for resources and tools to help plan and promote events and activities honoring older Americans.

International Bicycle Fund Student Essay Contest

The International Bicycle Fund (IBF), a nonprofit advocacy organization that promotes sustainable transportation, is sponsoring a student essay contest for children up to 16 years of age. The essay may be on any aspect of bicycling including history, touring, racing, commuting, role in society, learning, or teaching. Essays must be postmarked by May 1st. Learn more about this opportunity at [IBF's website](#).

Middle Schools Needed for Bike Safety Program Research

The Oregon Center for Applied Sciences (OCAS) is conducting a nationwide search for middle schools interested in participating in a research project to evaluate the effectiveness of OCAS's Wise Rides program. The Wise Rides program teaches middle school students bicycle safety, rules of the road, and "street smarts" in an engaging, interactive web-based format. Criteria for participating in the Wise Rides research project is: 1) middle schools with minimum grade 5 and maximum grade 8, and 2) minimum of 15 bicycles at school bike racks on a regular basis. Selected middle schools will receive a grant of up to \$3,000 towards their general fund. There are no restrictions on the use of these funds. The Wise Rides program is funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. To learn more, and if you know of middle schools that might be interested in this opportunity, contact Kevin Prier at (541) 349-4864 or kprier@orcasinc.com.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Roadmaps to Health Community Grants - Due June 7th

The Roadmaps to Health Community Grants honor work to create positive policy or systems changes that address the social and economic factors that impact the health of people in communities and to inspire and stimulate similar activities across the country. The grants, which support two-year state and local efforts among policymakers, business, education, health care, public health and community organizations, are managed by [Community Catalyst](#), a national consumer health advocacy organization. A brief notice of intent to apply is due May 31, 2012 and the full application is due June 7, 2012. Up to six \$25,000 winning communities will be announced in early 2013. For more information visit the [Roadmaps to Health Prize webpage](#).

NEW RESOURCES

National Conference of State Legislatures Report: Traffic Safety and Public Health: State Legislative Action 2011

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) has released a report that examines the following issues: occupant protection, distracted driving, driver licensing, impaired driving, aggressive driving, speed limits, motorcycle helmets, automated enforcement, school bus safety, and pedestrian and bicycle safety. Tables and charts detailing state traffic safety laws are included, as are contacts and links for further information. All bills discussed in this report can be found in the [NCSL National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Traffic Safety Legislative Tracking Database](#), and the free report can be downloaded [here](#).

PreventObesity.net Seeking Leaders to Create Kids' Healthy Environments

PreventObesity.net is recruiting new leaders to add to their network of people across the country who are working on childhood obesity. The Leader Network is a comprehensive representation of those making changes across issue areas to create healthy environments for kids. They also provide communication, promotion and technical assistance to registered Leaders. To connect with others and achieve your goals, complete the free registration form [here](#). For more information or questions, please contact [Zach Brooks](#), Customer Relations Manager at (202) 659-7710 ext. 15.

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

May 3 and 4 – Pedestrians Count! 2012 Workshop

Join California WALKS and their partners for *Pedestrians Count! 2012* in Los Angeles on May 3rd and 4th. *Pedestrians Count! 2012* promotes pedestrian safety, transit access, healthy environments and sustainable communities. Professionals, academics and community leaders will share cutting edge research and the latest best practices in pedestrian data collection and analysis. For more information and to register, please visit the [California Walks website](#).

June 7 and 8 – Healthy Environments Across Generations Conference

The Collaborative of Health and the Environment (CHE) is accepting submissions of creative expressions of how parking lots and other paved areas could be transformed into healthy, sustainable environments for the "Healthy Environments Across Generations" Conference. The deadline for submission is May 15, 2012. Please see the CHE [flyer](#) for more information or visit the [CHE website](#).

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