

Greetings from the California Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Technical Assistance Resource Center (TARC)! 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](http://www.CAsaferoutestoschool.org).



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## NEWS

### **National Bike to School Day in May 9, 2012!**

Join TARC and communities from around the nation as we celebrate National Bike to School Day on May 9, 2012! This year's inaugural national event is organized by the [National Center for Safe Routes to School](#) and follows the successful [Walk to School Day](#) model.

Visit TARC's new [Bike to School webpage](#) to download tips, organizer guides, bicycle helmet fitting videos, and more to help you create a successful Bike to School Day event!

### **Non-Motorized Highway Users Gain Seats on California Department of Transportation Committee**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) solicited self-nominations from representatives of non-motorized highway users to fill two new vacancies on the California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC) last September. The CTCDC sets standards for traffic signals, signs and pavement markings such as bike lanes and crosswalks, and reviews experimental designs such as [retroreflective green bicycle lane markings](#). The two new vacancies were created to represent bicyclist and pedestrian interests on the CTCDC as it recommends to Caltrans new or modified traffic control device policies or standards for use in California. In December, Caltrans appointed transportation planner John Ciccarella with Bicycle Solutions and Bryan Jones, deputy director of the City of Carlsbad Transportation Department. You can learn more about this important Caltrans committee at the [CTCDC website](#), and review future and past agendas [here](#). The next CTCDC meeting, which is open to the public, is scheduled for February 16 in San Diego.

## FUNDING

### **Funding Opportunity for California Bike to School Day Events**

The California Kids' Plates Program is offering qualified organizations the opportunity to request up to \$4,999 to prepare and encourage student and school participation in the inaugural National Bike to School Day on May 9, 2012. **Applications are due February 17, 2012!** Download the application and frequently asked questions [here](#).

### **Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant Program**

Transportation Planning Grant funds are available for planning projects that improve mobility and lead to the planning, programming, and implementation of transportation improvement projects. Caltrans is now accepting applications for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. Applications are due via email by 5:00 p.m., Monday, April 2, 2012. Learn more about this funding opportunity at [Caltrans' Division of Transportation Planning website](#).

### **Active Schools Acceleration Project Innovation Competition to Promote Physical Activity for Children**

First Lady Michelle Obama announced a new national competition that will identify and reward the most creative, impactful, and scalable school-based programs and technological innovations that promote physical activity for children. Sponsored by the [Active Schools Acceleration Project \(ASAP\)](#), in collaboration with the [Partnership for a Healthier America \(PHA\)](#), the contest will award a total of \$500,000 in prizes, with awards to individual schools of up to \$100,000. Top winners will participate in funded pilot studies aimed at expanding the reach and impact of the projects. The deadline for applications is April 2, 2012; learn more on [ASAP's website](#).

## NEW RESOURCES

### **UPDATED SRTS Pedestrian and Bicycle Collision Maps Now Available**

TARC recently completed an update of the [SRTS Pedestrian and Bicycle Collision Maps](#)! Updated maps for every city and county in California are now available that include 2010 Free and Reduced Price Meal data, street-level pedestrian and bicycle collisions from 2007 – 2009, and state and federal SRTS award data through 2011. A [free 12-minute online video](#) is also available to walk you through the interactive features of the maps.

### **Mineta Transportation Institute Report: How Crime Influences the Way We Travel**

The [Mineta Transportation Institute](#) (MTI) has published a free report that studies how neighborhood crime affects the way people travel and recommends ways to encourage alternatives to driving. The complete report, including methodologies, models, and other findings, is available for free download at the [MTI website](#).

### **Study Identifies 4 Key Strategies of Successful SRTS Programs**

The National Center for SRTS has released a new report highlighting key strategies of SRTS programs that increase walking and bicycling. These strategies include: identifying an in-school leader to champion SRTS; conducting activities that reinforce walking and bicycling; generating parent support

for SRTS; and establishing policies that support SRTS. To view the report, please visit the [National Center for SRTS website](#).

### **Active Transportation Beyond Urban Centers: Walking and Bicycling in Small Towns and Rural America**

The [Rails-to-Trails Conservancy](#) has released a new report demonstrating that active transportation is a part of life far beyond urban centers. From tiny Burlington, Wyoming (population 250), to Tupelo, Mississippi (population 39,000), kids, seniors, and working people walk and bicycle at rates that are not very different from those found in metropolitan areas. Please visit the [Rail-to-Trails Conservancy website](#) to download the report.

### **Bicycling and Walking in the United States: 2012 Benchmarking Report**

The Benchmarking Project is an on-going effort by the Alliance for Biking & Walking to collect and analyze data on bicycling and walking in all 50 states and the 51 largest U.S. cities. This third biennial report includes data on bicycling and walking levels and demographics; bicycle and pedestrian safety; funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects; public health indicators; and the economic impact of bicycling and walking. Visit their [website](#) to download the report.

## **WORKSHOPS**

### **May 3 and 4 – Pedestrians Count! 2012 Workshop**

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

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