



Greetings from the California Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Technical Assistance Resource Center (TARC)! TARC is a program of California Active Communities, a joint Unit of the University of California, San Francisco and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and is funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through a SRTS Non-Infrastructure award from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). This monthly electronic newsletter provides a summary of news; research and resources; funding opportunities; job opportunities; workshops, conferences, and summits; and webinars to support your SRTS work in California. For more information on SRTS in California, to view our monthly E-News archive, or to find out the date and time of the next TARC monthly networking teleconference call, visit our website at www.CAsaferoutestoschool.org.



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NEWS

Protected Bikeways Act

In September 2014, Governor Brown approved Assembly Bill (AB) 1193, the Protected Bikeways Act. The Protected Bikeways Act deletes a now outdated rule that effectively had prohibited local California agencies from building bicycle lanes with physical separation from car traffic. Instead, AB 1193 encourages the creation of modern, protected bicycle lanes that use planters, curbs, posts, or parked cars to separate bicycles from cars on busy streets. To read AB 1193, click [here](#).

Travel With Care Campaign

In an effort to prevent dangerous and discouraging incidents, PeopleForBikes has developed a national safety campaign entitled “Travel With Care.” Travel With Care is designed to inspire the general public to see every bicycle rider as a neighbor, friend, or family member—just a normal person who chooses to ride a bicycle. In addition to humanizing bicyclists, the campaign intends to improve behavior by both people in cars and on bicycles. Travel With Care is just one component of an ongoing effort to make bicycling safer and improve the bicycling experience in the United States. For more information, please visit the [PeopleForBikes website](#).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Bicycling to Work Influenced by Bicycle-friendly Infrastructure

In November 2014, the [Obesity Society](#), the leading scientific society dedicated to the study of obesity, released a paper entitled “[Minneapolis Greenway Tied to Increase in Active Commuting for Residents Living in Neighboring Communities](#)” that found an increase in bicycle commuting in cities is directly tied to more bicycle infrastructure. Researchers at the University of North Carolina followed bicycle commuting across Minneapolis over a 10-year period and found that bicycle commuting increased among people living near a city path called the Midtown Greenway, which opened in 2000. The data show that bicycle commuting by people living within three miles of the path increased 89 percent over the 10-year period—from 1.8 percent to 3.4 percent. Among people living between three to six miles of the path, bicycle commuting rose from 1.2 percent to 1.8 percent: a 50 percent increase.

Governors Highway Safety Report: Bicyclist Safety

The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) has released a report entitled “[Spotlight on Highway Safety: Bicyclist Safety](#).” The report looks at the issue of bicyclist safety, analyzing how fatality trends and crash patterns have changed since the mid 1970's. Two areas of focus are helmet use and alcohol use by fatally injured cyclists. The report also discusses actions to reduce collisions and injuries and outlines some current efforts in states and locations where bicyclist fatalities are occurring.

Analysis: Governors Highway Safety Report: Bicyclist Safety

The [Alliance for Biking and Walking](#) has released an analysis of the GHSA Safety Report (see link to report above). The analysis focusses on the report's claim that “the number of bicyclists killed on United States roadways is trending upward.” The Alliance maintains that to understand bicycle safety, it is not enough to simply look at the number of fatalities. The level of bicycling in an area must also be taken into account to determine risk. Data used from the [2014 Benchmarking Report](#) show that California had a lower than average bicyclist fatality rate based on three-year averages from 2009

to 2011. To view the analysis of the GHSA Safety Report, please visit the [Alliance for Biking and Walking website](#).

Informational Brief on the Role of Comprehensive Planning

The National Center for SRTS and the National Partnership recently released an information entitled "[Integrating Safe Walking and Bicycling to School into Comprehensive Planning](#)." The brief describes how integrating SRTS considerations into comprehensive planning can help define the local government's role in supporting safe walking and bicycling to school. For more information, please click [here](#).

Link Between Transportation and Chronic Absenteeism

In October 2014, [Upstream Public Health](#) released a report entitled "[The Connection Between Missing School and Health: A Review of Chronic Absenteeism and Student Health in Oregon](#)." The report examines the link between student health and chronic absenteeism in Oregon and the impact of transportation, physical activity, and obesity on student attendance. The report finds that as communities have become increasingly dependent on the family vehicle to transport children to school, a lack of reliable transportation is a primary factor in chronic absenteeism for students. It was found that this can be a particular barrier for low-income students, with long term repercussions for academic achievement and career success. These findings highlight the importance of programs like SRTS and walking school buses in offering safe and reliable transportation options for students.

National Prevention Strategy's Annual Report

In July 2014, the National Prevention Council released their "[National Prevention, Health Promotion, and Public Health Council Annual Status Report](#)." The report highlights progress in implementing the National Prevention Strategy and reaching its goal of increasing the number of Americans who are healthy at every stage of their life. The document describes many inspiring examples of how the 20 federal departments and agencies that make up the National Prevention Council are incorporating health into their programs and policies.

Neighborhood Characteristics and Children's Physical Activity

In October 2014, [Child Trends](#), a nonprofit, nonpartisan research center that provides information on the well-being of children and youth, released a report entitled "[Neighborhood Characteristics and Children's Physical Activity](#)." In this report, the relationship between physical exercise and neighborhood characteristics among children and youth is examined, using data from the 2011-2012 National Survey of Children's Health.

New Tools to Improve Community Health through Parks and Trails

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed a "[Parks and Trails Health Impact Assessment \(HIA\) Toolkit](#)" to help communities create parks with expanded health benefits. The Parks and Trails HIA Toolkit has six components to empower individuals and help community planners address health when designing parks and trails. This framework allows public health departments, city planners, project managers, community groups, and other stakeholders to work together to create healthier environments.

Rural Assistance Center Offers Guides

The Rural Assistance Center has developed offers guides on health care access and health disparities in rural communities. The new [Healthcare Access in Rural Communities Guide](#) provides an overview of challenges to healthcare access in rural America and ways communities and policymakers can address community needs. The [Rural Health Disparities Guide](#), recently updated with new frequently asked questions, discusses the causes of rural disparities and offers rural/urban comparisons of health status, mortality rates, and life expectancy.

SRTS Increases Walking and Bicycling

In September 2014, the Journal of the American Planning Association published a report entitled "[Impact of the SRTS Program on Walking and Bicycling](#)." The report confirms that SRTS programs are effective at increasing rates of walking and bicycling to and from school. The study analyzed travel data from 801 schools in Florida, Oregon, Texas, and Washington D.C. collected between 2007 and 2012, and found that each year of SRTS education and encouragement programming resulted in a five percent increase in walking and bicycling rates—adding up to 25 percent after 5 years. Click [here](#) for an in-depth analysis of the new research on the SRTS National Partnership (National Partnership) blog.

Walking is Going Places

In November 2014, America Walks partnered with Jay Walljasper, author and speaker, to offer access to his latest report "[Walking is Going Places](#)." The report examines how walking is now recognized as a health breakthrough, an economic catalyst, and a route to happiness.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Due January 7, 2015: Bicyclist Facility Preferences and Effects on Increasing Bicycle Trips Request for Proposals

The Transportation Research Board's (TRB) National Cooperative Highway Research Program has issued a request for proposals to promote research on bicycle facility infrastructure relative to its effects on ridership, on the operation of the bicycle network, and on the way it can engage broad segments of the general population in bicycling. A significant amount of research has been completed that assesses bicycle user preferences for bicycle facility types; however, additional research is needed to better inform decision making on the selection of bicycle facilities. For more information, please visit the [TRB website](#).

Due January 31, 2015: Office of Traffic Safety Grant Applications for 2016

The Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) is soliciting grant applications for funding in 2016. The priority areas for grant funding include Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety, Alcohol-Impaired Driving, Distracted Driving, Drug-Impaired Driving, Emergency Medical Services, Occupant Protection, Motorcycle Safety, Police Traffic Services Traffic Records, and Roadway Safety. For more information, please visit the [OTS Safety website](#).

Voices for Healthy Kids Grants

The American Heart Association and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation have launched a "Voices for Healthy Kids" initiative that aims to engage, organize, and mobilize people to improve the health of

their communities and reverse the childhood obesity epidemic. Voices for Healthy Kids currently has two funding opportunities, the goals of which are to make effective strategic investments in ongoing state, local, and tribal public policy issue campaigns in order to increase public policy impact on healthy weight and living among children. For more information about the grant opportunities and to apply, please click [here](#).

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The National Partnership, Executive Director

The National Partnership was launched in 2005 and is a fast-growing network of more than 700 hundred organizations, government agencies, schools, and professional groups working to set goals, share best practices, leverage infrastructure and program funding, and advance policy change to help agencies that implement SRTS programs and policies. The organization is seeking a new Executive Director who will lead an award winning advocacy organization and the only national nonprofit organization with the capacity, depth of knowledge, network and strategic influence that connects transportation with safe, healthy community design to benefit children, families, and schools nationwide. For more information or to apply for this position, please click [here](#).

WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, AND SUMMITS

January 2015: Active Transportation Program Workshop

The [California Transportation Commission](#) (CTC) will be holding a workshop in Southern California in early January 2015 to receive input on the Cycle 2 guidelines for the Active Transportation Program that will inform Cycle 2 of the Active Transportation Program. Details from CTC are forthcoming; please visit the [CTC website](#) for more information.

March 6-7, 2015: Third Annual Childhood Obesity Bay Area Conference

Slow Food San Francisco's 2015 Childhood Obesity Bay Area (COBA) Conference will take place at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center on March 6-7, 2015. COBA is an annual conference that brings together local stakeholders to promote innovation and provide insight into work being done on childhood obesity. This year's theme, "Building Our Community, Empowering Our Children" highlights the strength of vibrant professional communities working together to educate each other on the causes and solutions to childhood obesity to better serve and empower youth. For more information and to register, please visit the Slow Food San Francisco [website](#).

March 10-12, 2015: National Bike Summit

The National Bike Summit has united the voices of bicyclists on Capitol Hill for more than a decade. Attendance of bicyclists at the National Bike Summit has helped increase investments in bicycling at the state and local level. The 2015 Summit will be held on March 10-12, 2015, in downtown Washington, D.C. For more information, please visit [The League of American Bicyclists website](#).

June 29-July 2, 2015: Childhood Obesity Conference

The 8th Biennial Childhood Obesity Conference will take place on June 29-July 2, 2015, in San Diego, California. The conference will offer opportunities to share and discuss emerging research, best practices, community-based efforts, and effective policy strategies that promote and sustain healthy

eating and physical activity practices for children, adolescents, and their families. Please visit the [2015 conference webpage](#) for detailed conference information.

WEBINARS

December 15, 2014: “SRTS as a Tool to Address Chronic Absenteeism”

On December 15, 2014, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. PT, the National Partnership will host a free webinar entitled “SRTS as a Tool to Address Chronic Absenteeism.” The webinar will address the relationship between student transportation and attendance, explore how to help students get to school every day, discuss how transportation can be a barrier to school attendance, and highlight SRTS as a resource to help communities address chronic absenteeism. Panelists will share community-based solutions, best practices, and opportunities to partner with organizations and groups that can be allies in ensuring students have access to safe and reliable transportation to school. To register for this free webinar, please click [here](#).

December 16, 2014: “Maintenance Funding”

On December 16, 2014, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. PT, Advocacy Advance will host a free webinar entitled “Maintenance Funding.” Maintenance is an important part of a safe and efficient transportation system. When constructing pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, it is important to understand the maintenance costs of those investments and maintenance practices that will make them safe and comfortable. Join this webinar to learn about how cities and states maintain pedestrian and bicycle facilities. To register for this free webinar, please click [here](#).

December 17, 2014: “Getting to Better Outcomes from Public Engagement”

On December 17, 2014, from 12 to 1 p.m. PT, the Association for Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) will host a webinar entitled “Getting to Better Outcomes from Public Engagement.” The cost is \$50 for APBP members and \$85 for non-APBP members. For details and registration, please visit the [APBP website](#).

January 9, 2015: “SRTS from a Tribal Perspective”

On January 9, 2015, from 10 to 11 a.m. PT, the National Partnership will host a free webinar entitled “SRTS from a Tribal Perspective.” To register for this free webinar, please visit the [National Partnership’s website](#).

January 27, 2015: “SRTS TARC Monthly Non-Infrastructure Networking Call: Getting Your Foot in the Door with Principals and School Boards: Resources and Lessons Learned”

TARC’s networking calls are a valuable way to learn from other programs, share exciting news and resources, and network with and ask questions of SRTS peers. The next call will take place on January 27, 2015 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., during which TARC and the National Partnership will share resources and “lessons learned” about working with Principals and School Boards around SRTS. The call will also include a local school board member and a school principal who will share their experiences working with SRTS coordinators and local community members and will answer listener questions. To register for the call, please follow this [link](#).

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