

SOLANO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT JULY 2023 – JUNE 2024

SOLANO TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
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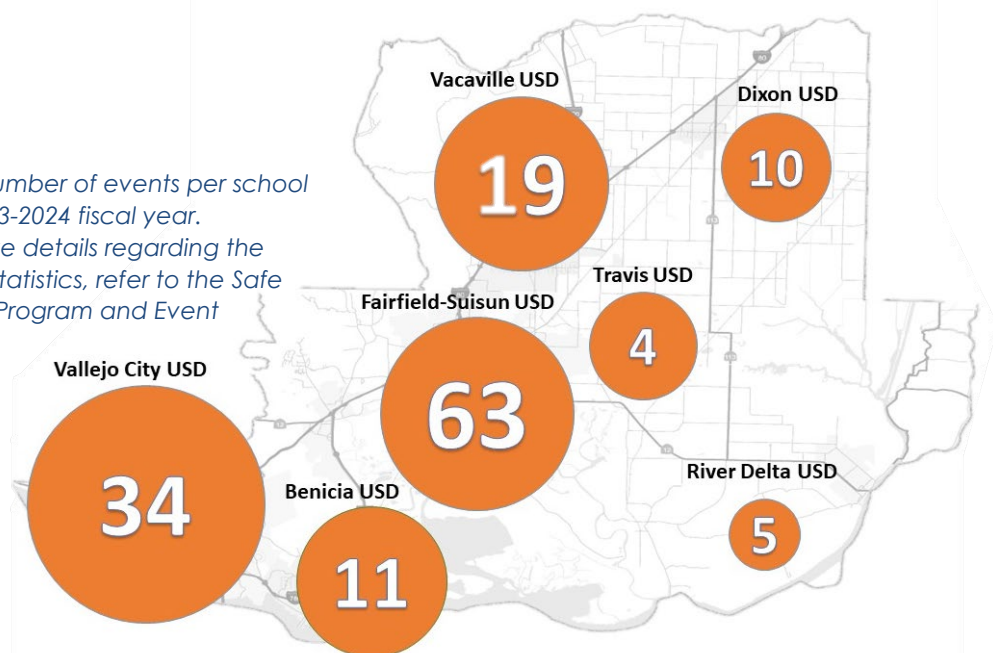
About Solano Safe Routes to School

In 2008, the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) launched the Solano Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Program in partnership with Solano County Public Health. The program was developed in response to rising concerns about increased childhood obesity, air pollution, and traffic congestion around schools.

The Solano SR2S Program aims to boost the participation of students in walking and bicycling to school, by ensuring a safe, enjoyable, and healthy journey. Employing an inclusive strategy, the program incorporates six key elements, often referred to as the 6 E'S: *education, encouragement, enforcement, engineering, engagement, and evaluation*. This initiative is accessible to all schools throughout the county and centers its efforts on implementing activities and programs that educate students about safety, promote health awareness, and identify opportunities for enhancements within communities countywide, ultimately fostering safer travel for students engaged in active modes of transportation.

Over the years, the SR2S program has collaborated with community leaders, city planners, traffic engineers, law enforcement, educators, students, and parents to address these issues and foster a culture of active transportation. To increase students' physical activity and reduce the dependency on cars, SR2S offers schools free, educational programs and events that encourage safe walking and biking to school. Additionally, the program provides technical assistance and support to help schools start and sustain their own walking and biking initiatives.

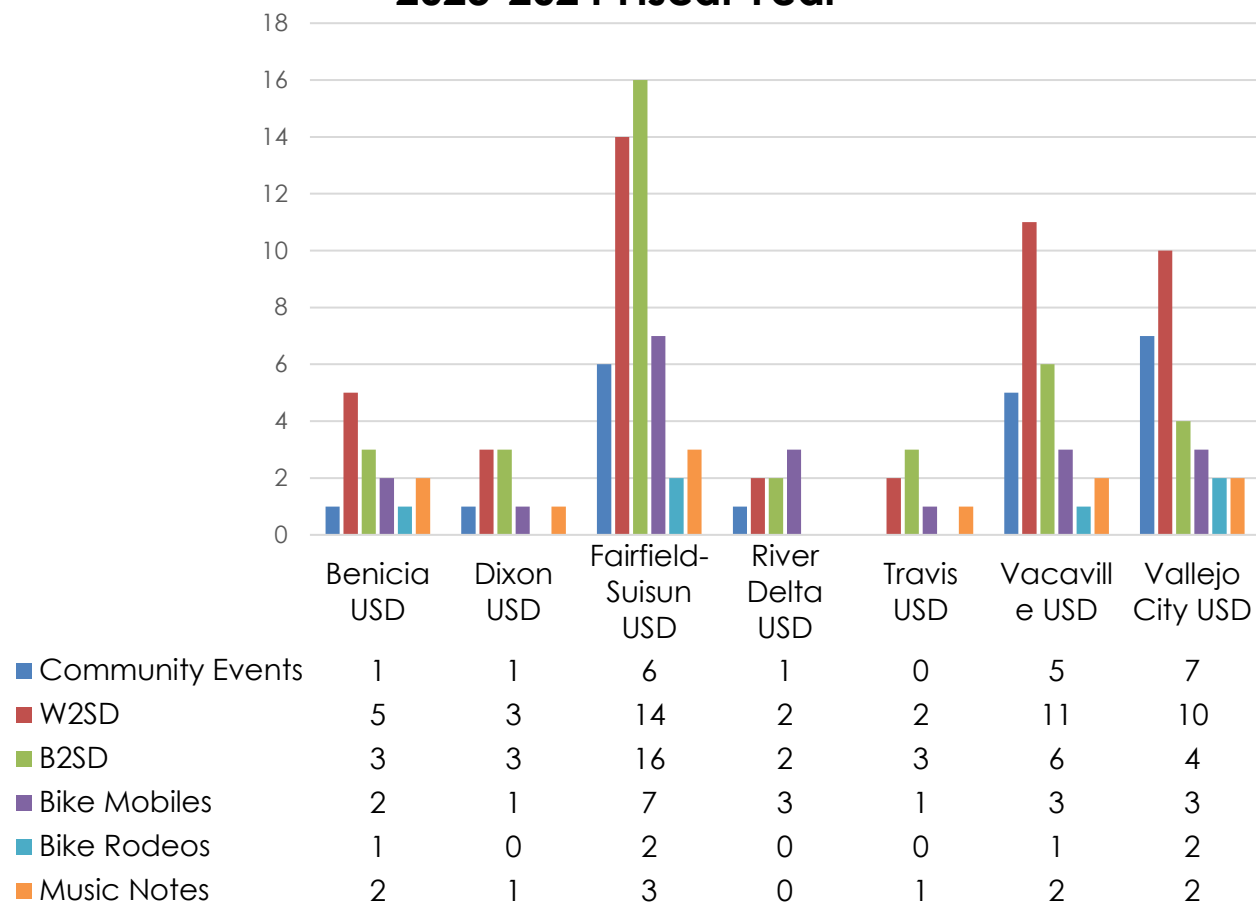
Map shows the number of events per school district for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. For comprehensive details regarding the 2023-2024 event statistics, refer to the Safe Routes to School Program and Event Highlights below.



Solano SR2S Program Updates

The Solano SR2S Program continues its expansion by consistently increasing the number of participating schools each year. During the 2023-2024 school year, SR2S coordinators attended 20 community events and 130 school events/meetings. The program organized free bike workshops, during which 305 bicycles were repaired, and 763 students were provided with brand-new, properly fitted helmets countywide.

Events per Unified School District (USD) 2023-2024 Fiscal Year

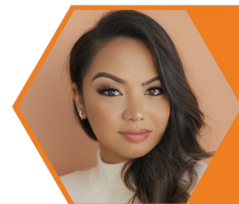


SR2S Staffing Updates

In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the SR2S Program welcomed three new coordinators: Janelle Gregorio, Leigh Moilanen, and Crystal Peacher, while established program coordinator, Suzanne Antone, was reassigned to different districts.

Program Coordinator I (full-time) – Janelle Gregorio

Janelle has worked with SR2S previously and was rehired in July 2023 as the full-time Program Coordinator. She is assisting the SR2S Program Manager and providing essential support for the district-assigned program coordinators.



Program Coordinator I (part-time) – Leigh Moilanen

Leigh joined the SR2S team in July 2023 and is responsible for the Rio Vista, Travis, and Vacaville Unified School Districts.



Program Coordinator I (part-time) – Crystal Peacher

Crystal joined the SR2S team in July 2023 and is responsible for the Fairfield-Suisun and Dixon Unified School Districts.



Program Coordinator I (part-time) – Suzanne Antone

Suzanne, previously assigned to the Rio Vista, Travis, and Vacaville Unified School Districts, was reassigned in July 2023. She is now responsible for the Benicia and Vallejo Unified School Districts.



Program Assistant Manager (full-time) – Amy Antunano

Amy completed her second year as the SR2S Assistant Program Manager and continues to grow the program and support the program coordinators.



Solano SR2S Program Updates (cont.)

SR2S Program and Event Highlights

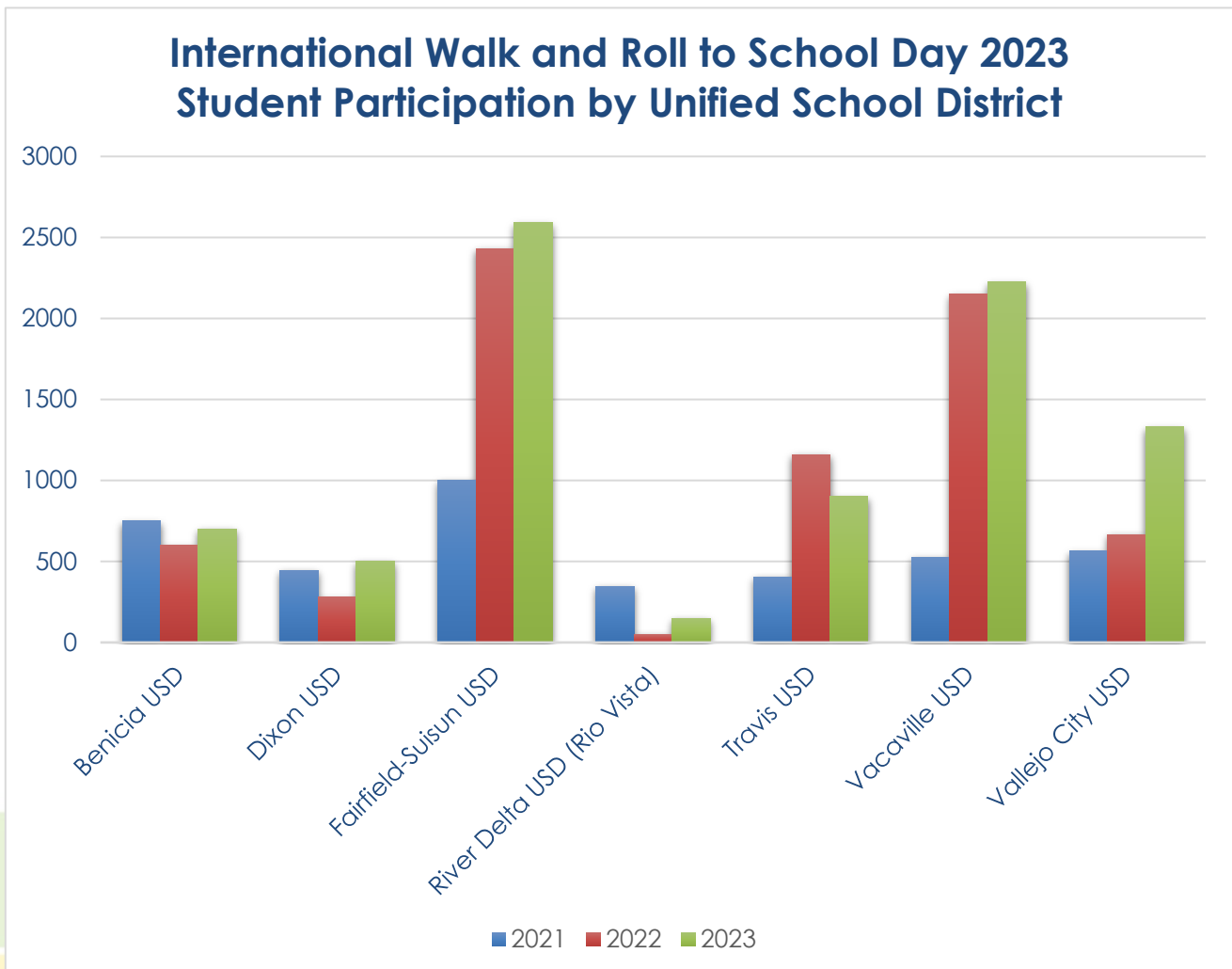
Education – Engagement – Encouragement

International Walk and Roll to School Day

On October 4, 2023, 46 schools across Solano County participated in International Walk and Roll to School Day (W2SD). W2SD continues to be the most participated-in SR2S event, with over 7,900 students participating this past school year.



A Fairfield Police Officer helps hand out incentives to students at Nelda Mundy Elementary (Fairfield) for W2SD.



National Bike and Roll to School Day

On May 8, 2024, 37 schools registered and participated through Solano SR2S for National Bike and Roll to School Day (B2SD), engaging over 6,000 students in this event.

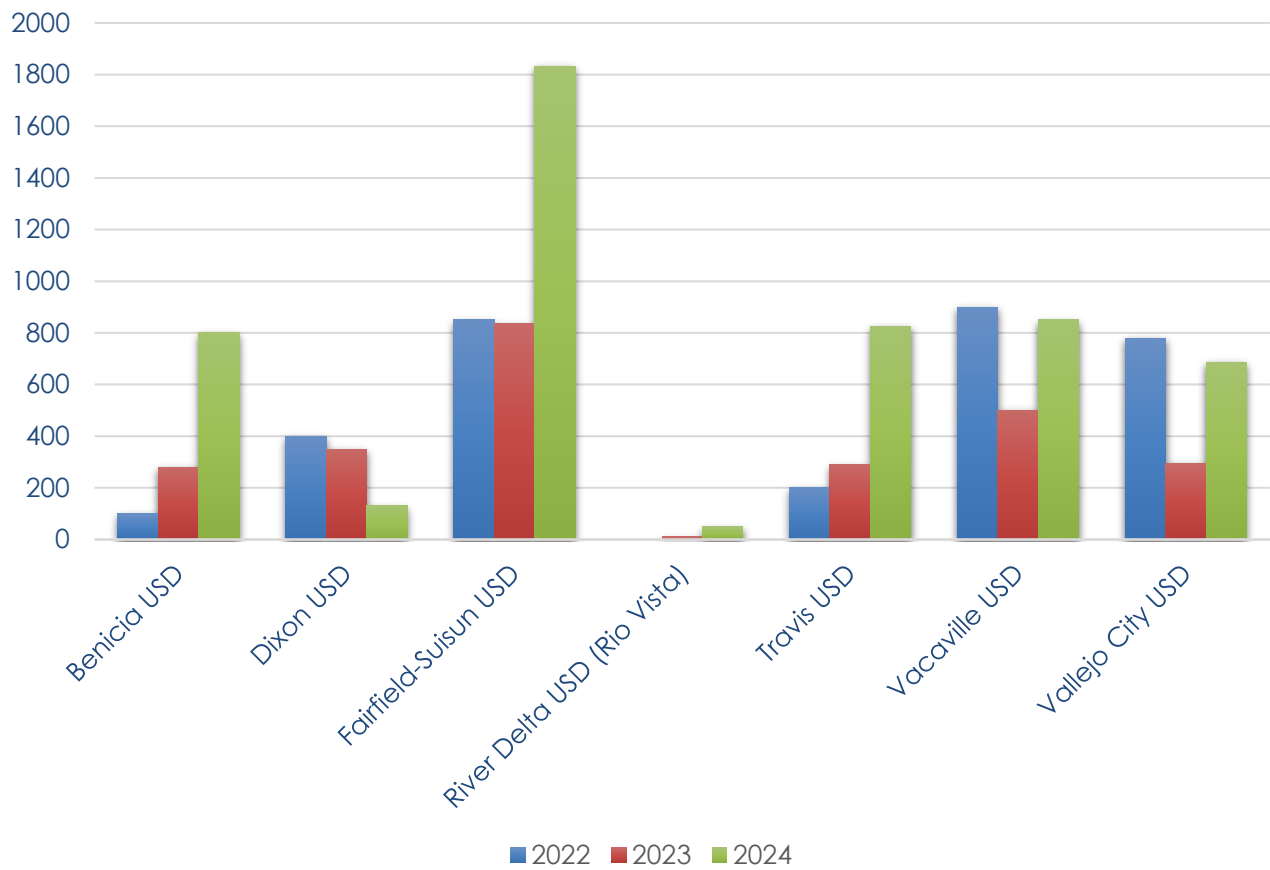


Students from Green Valley Middle School show off the SR2S incentives they received for participating in B2SD.



City of Benicia's Vice Mayor, Terry Scott, joins staff and students on B2SD.

National Bike and Roll to School Day 2024 Student Participation by Unified School District



Walk or Wheel Days

Walk or Wheel Days (WoW) is a recurring event that schools can incorporate into their calendars, either on a weekly or monthly basis, to encourage students to opt for active transportation methods such as walking, biking, or scootering to school. Schools have the flexibility to market their local event as either a “Walk or Wheel Day” or designate a specific day, like “Walking Wednesdays” or “Fit Fridays,” to promote active commuting.

As part of the SR2S program, a total of 6 schools have actively and consistently embraced the WoW Day initiative. Among them, two schools, Dixon Montessori Charter School in the City of Dixon and Kairos Public School in the City of Vacaville, have been consistently and proactively holding their WoW Days.

Additionally, Green Valley Middle School in the City of Fairfield launched their WoW Program during this academic year on Wednesdays to encourage and incentivize walking or wheeling. The WoW Program, which normally occurs in the morning for drop-offs, was tailored after feedback from schools revealed afternoon pick-ups caused the most congestion and/or traffic



Hundreds of Green Valley Middle School (Fairfield) students walk off campus at dismissal time to help alleviate traffic concerns in the surrounding area.

issues. Principal Trotter, parent volunteers, and SR2S program coordinators helped distribute incentives on the third Wednesday of March 2024 to over 500 students that walked or wheeled off campus.

The participation of parent volunteers has played a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth implementation of these Walk or Wheel events. Parent volunteers can assist in fulfilling crossing guard duties and distributing charms, provided by SR2S, to participants. These charms serve as tokens of encouragement and appreciation.

Safe Moves Bike Rodeos

SR2S is contracted with a non-profit organization called *Safe Moves*. The *Safe Moves* Bike Rodeo program is a comprehensive, educational initiative aimed at fostering traffic safety awareness among children. By simulating diverse traffic environments and scenarios found in cities, the program provides problem-solving experiences for each grade-level, allowing students to learn safe walking, biking, and riding practices.



Mary Farmar Elementary (Benicia) students watch a fellow student ride through the mock city for the bike rodeo.

Each rodeo is set up as a miniature version of a city with elements such as sidewalks, crosswalks, and railroad crossings – all carefully integrated into the educational process. The program is tailored to accommodate different age groups with specialized

lesson plans for each grade level. Each rodeo is handled by trained safety instructors that guide and facilitate the learning process. Their expertise and interactive approach contribute to an enhanced learning experience for each participant.

These bike rodeos serve as effective engaging methods for teaching children essential safety practices through hands-on and interactive learning experiences. Through participation, children learn how to navigate various traffic situations safely, thereby equipping them with valuable life skills.

During the academic year, the SR2S staff successfully coordinated a total of seven bike rodeos. Among these events, three were held at various elementary schools and four at community events. The school bike rodeo events were hosted by Fairview Elementary (Fairfield), Mary Farmar Elementary (Benicia), and Pennycook Elementary (Vallejo). Each of



Students ride through the mock city to learn the "Rules of the Road" in the Bike Rodeo at the Community Bike Fair hosted by Green Valley Middle School (Fairfield).

these events had over 100 enthusiastic students participate. The community events were held in the cities of Suisun City, Vacaville, Vallejo, and Fairfield.

Bay Area Bike Mobiles



Students line up at the Bike Mobile to get their bikes serviced for free.

With funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), the Solano SR2S Program offered free bike mobile events throughout the county. The dedicated team of skilled mechanics not only repaired bikes, but also empowered riders with the knowledge to maintain their bikes at home on their own. These events included bike repairs and interactive sessions to teach riders

essential care tips, all brought directly to school campuses. SR2S coordinators also attend the bike mobile events to provide helmet fittings for riders in need of one.

This fiscal year, SR2S coordinated a total of 19 bike mobile events – 11 school events and 8 community events. During these events, over 200 helmets were properly fitted for students in need, and 305 bicycles were serviced.

"It was wonderful. I do not know what I like most. That kids got their bikes fixed. That they learned how to fix their bikes. They learned how to maintain their bikes. That they got some mentorship.... that everyone from the event was just so wonderful to be around..... it was just a wonderful event.

*-Heather Sanderson, Executive Director
City of Fairfield Police Activities League Center*

Music Notes Assemblies

The SR2S program introduced an exciting, new program offering called *Music Notes*, a high-energy, concert-style assembly designed to teach safety through engaging hip-hop songs and videos. Music Notes is an education music enterprise co-founded by math teachers from the Los Angeles area, offering top-tier educational music and videos for educators and their students.



Mr. D and Mr. Q-U-E from Music Notes pose with a student after signing autographs.

In October 2023, Music Notes, along with SR2S coordinators, visited Browns Valley Elementary (Vacaville), Robert Semple Elementary (Benicia), Scandia Elementary

(Travis), and Mare Island Health and Fitness Academy (Vallejo). They also performed for over 20 students in the after-school program, Right At School, at Nelda Mundy Elementary School (Fairfield).



The MPR at Browns Valley Elementary School (Vacaville) packed with students enjoying a Music Notes assembly.

In March 2024, Music Notes and SR2S coordinators continued their visits to B. Gale Wilson Middle (Fairfield), David Weir Preparatory Academy (Fairfield), Dan Mini Elementary (Vallejo), Joe Henderson Elementary (Benicia) Padan Elementary (Vacaville), and Dixon

Montessori Charter (Dixon).

Throughout these visits, students enjoyed singing and dancing while learning important safety messages, making the Music Notes program a memorable and impactful component of the Solano SR2S program.

“The songs were amazing for our students to connect with! Many of them chimed in for a long time about safety!”

-Ivania Martin, Teacher
Joe Henderson Elementary (Benicia)

Youth Engagement Program

SR2S staff partnered with Solano Public Health (SPH) and local high schools to involve high school students in promoting pedestrian safety among their peers. This initiative utilized students' creativity and technical skills to produce impactful, education content aimed at fostering a safer and more informed community.

During the second year of this initiative, three student-produced videos were submitted: one from Rodriguez High School and two from Fairfield High School. In recognition of their hard work, the students were formally invited to the Solano Transportation Authority Board Meeting in June, where their videos were presented to the Mayors of Solano County. These videos have also been shared on the County's website, VibeSolano's Facebook and Instagram pages, and SR2S' Facebook page.

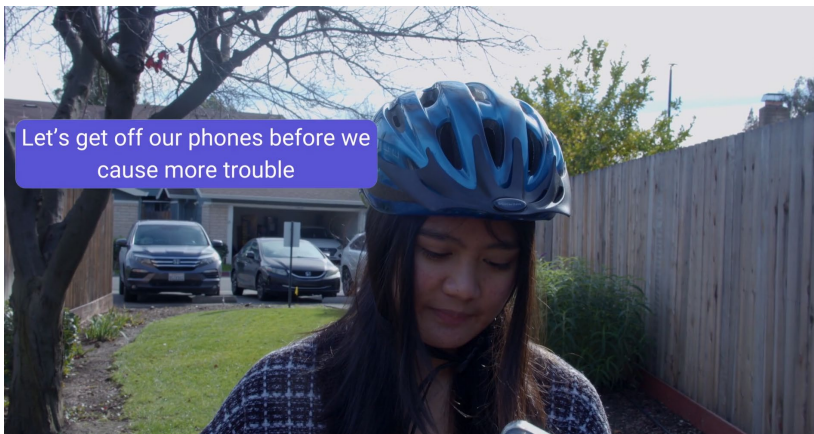
This collaborative effort underscored the importance of engaging youth in safety education and using modern platforms to effectively disseminate safety messages. The program has been named *Lights, Camera, Safety: Safe Routes to School Video Production Partnership*.



Bike to School Day 2024 Promotional Video

By Carl Estes,
Yashveer Ghuman,
Tyler Gilbert
(Rodriguez High School)

[Click here to watch.](#)



Eyes Up, Devices Down

By Jinny Ann Paule,
Charlene Jadee Dones,
Francisco Barragan
Chavez
(Fairfield High School)

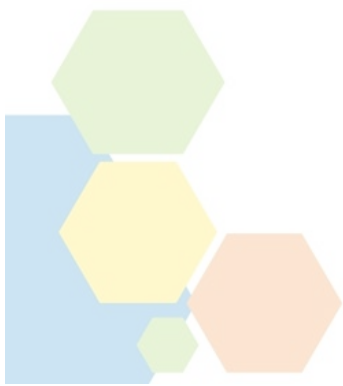
[Click here to watch.](#)



Proper Helmet Fitting PSA

By Katelyn Fortney,
Joshua Largaespada
(Fairfield High School)

[Click here to watch.](#)



Solano SR2S Program Updates (cont.)

Public Safety Enforcement Grant

Enforcement – Education – Engagement

The Public Safety Education and Enforcement (PSE) Grant program, initiated in 2014, has since empowered agencies to create innovative programs and fund dedicated staff to support the SR2S Program, focusing on traffic safety and education. In September 2023, the STA Board approved funds from the PSE Grant to be awarded to the City



SR2S staff, Benicia Bicycle Club volunteers, and Benicia PD Community Service Officers during a helmet fitting event at Benicia High School.

of Benicia and Suisun City Police Departments. This grant aimed to partner with local enforcement agencies to assist with enforcing traffic regulations while enhancing public safety to create safer routes for students traveling to and from school.

Additionally, these departments stationed their Community Service Officers at schools within their

districts to educate parents on the importance of driving safely in school zones and to encourage students to make good choices when biking or walking to school. This includes wearing proper headgear and staying off their devices when crossing the street.

SR2S Micro Grant Cycle 3

Engineering – Encouragement

In 2019, the SR2S Micro Grant Pilot Program was launched in Solano County to enhance pedestrian and bike safety around schools through small-scale projects and capital purchases. The program, funded with Transportation Development Act Article 3 (TDA 3) funds, completed its third cycle in early 2024, accepted applications from December 22, 2023, to February 2, 2024.

During this period, Solano County cities, schools, districts, community organizations, and stakeholders were informed about Cycle 3 through various channels including the SR2S website, emails, social media, and stakeholder meetings. A total of 12 applications were submitted by the deadline.

After evaluation, the Solano Transportation Authority's SR2S Program awarded the following applicants funds from the SR2S Micro Grant Cycle 3:

- **City of Benicia:** Replace two existing and non-compliant ADA curb ramps with a high-visibility crosswalk at Drolette Way and Corrigan Court
- **City of Fairfield:** Install crosswalk improvements at Cordelia Hills Elementary and Green Valley Middle; install crosswalk improvements and Rectangle Rapid-Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at Sullivan Middle; addition of crosswalk and RRFB installation at Cement Hill Road near Laurel Creek Park Trail/Laurel Creek Elementary



Completed RRFB installation at Cement Hill Road

- **City of Vacaville:** Install RRFBs at Youngsdale Drive for Foxboro Elementary, N. Orchard Avenue for Orchard Elementary, Ulatis Drive and Mills Road, and Ulatis Drive and Stoneybrook Lane for Cooper Elementary
- **City of Vallejo:** Traffic calming installations at Nebraska Street and Amador Street for Vallejo High
- **Fairfield Police Activities League (PAL) Center:** Purchase and install outdoor bike pump and repair station
- **Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District:** Installation of RRFBs at Gulf Drive and Peppertree Drive, at the crosswalk on Woolner Avenue closest to Allan Witt Park, and at Kidder Avenue and San Mateo Street
- **B. Gale Wilson Middle School (Fairfield):** Purchase of custom A-frame signs, hand-held "stop" sign paddles, safety cones, and safety vests to assist with traffic management
- **Dan Mini Elementary School (Vallejo):** Purchase of 30 bicycles for Safe Kids on Bicycles Program



Staff at B. Gale Wilson Elementary (Fairfield) with the safety equipment purchased with their awarded funds

- **Fairview Elementary School (Fairfield):** Purchase of A-frame signs, safety cones, and safety vests to assist with traffic management
- **Green Valley Middle School (Fairfield):** Purchase of incentives and marketing materials to incentivize students and promote participation in Walk or Wheel Program; purchase of custom A-frame signs to assist with traffic management
- **Hogan Middle School (Vallejo):** Purchase of bicycles for Safe Kids on Bicycles Program
- **Nelda Mundy Elementary School (Fairfield):** Purchase of traffic cones and signage to assist with traffic management; purchase of high-visibility rain gear for crossing guards



One of the methods Nelda Mundy Elementary (Fairfield) utilizes safety equipment, purchased with their awarded funds, is to help mitigate traffic concerns.

SR2S Advisory Committee

Engagement

The SR2S program is guided by the SR2S Advisory Committee comprised of community members from cities and various disciplines within Solano County. The committee is responsible for giving recommendations for funding projects and programs to the STA Board.

This year, the SR2S Advisory Committee held quarterly meetings and provided direction for development of the 2024 SR2S Plan Update. The SR2S Advisory Committee also approved the list of awardees for the SR2S Micro Grant Cycle 3.

SR2S Plan Update

Evaluation - Engagement

In June 2023, STA staff initiated the 3rd iteration of the Safe Routes to School Plan Update with selected consultants. Staff, along with its partner agency, Solano Public Health, reengaged with Community Task Forces in each city to discuss the Plan Update as well as the SR2S Program's 5-year vision, which includes evaluating the effectiveness of the program. During the Fall of 2023, SR2S staff and consultants

implemented a public communications and outreach plan to solicit feedback from the community on their vision for walking and biking in Solano County.

In May 2024, staff collaborated with Community Task Forces throughout Solano County to prioritize schools in their respective districts for walk audits. One school from each school district was selected for these audits: Vallejo High School in Vallejo, Will C. Wood High School in Vacaville, DH White Elementary School in Rio Vista, Cambridge Elementary School on Travis Air Force Base, Mary Farmar Elementary School in Benicia, Fairview Elementary School in Fairfield, and John Knight Middle School in Dixon.

Upon completion of these audits, a Recommendations Report, which includes a base map of each walk audit, will be shared with STA Partners and the assessed schools. Additionally, comprehensive evaluation metrics and performance measures are being developed to analyze the effectiveness of the Safe Routes to School program. This approach aims to ensure the program's continuous improvement and its positive impact on student safety and community engagement.

The updated SR2S plan is set to be completed by Spring of 2025.

To view past Plans and Reports, please [click here](#).