



Tigard Safe Routes to School – A year in review

The Tigard SRTS Program is just finishing its first full school year on the job and it has been quite the year! In summer 2015 the city was awarded a \$150,000 Regional Travel Options grant through Metro to fund a full time Safe Routes to School Coordinator for two years. The coordinator began work last July to initiate and sustain SRTS programs at all the Tigard-area schools (six elementary and two middle schools). Since we are nearing the end of the school year, it is a great time to take a look back at all that has been accomplished to support and promote the use of safe, healthy and active transportation to and from school.

Encouragement events:

- All eight schools participated in one or both of the large Walk & Bike to School Day events held in October and May each year. Over [1,800 students](#) participated over these two events and demonstrated just what is possible when kids get excited about walking and rolling to school!
 - Templeton won the Golden Sneaker for the May 4th Walk & Bike to School Day event with a 53% participation rate of students walking, biking, and rolling to school.
- Two schools were so inspired by the October International Walk & Bike to School Day that they established more regular occurring walk & bike to school day events. These more regular days help move the needle forward on getting more students to use active transportation to get to and from school:
 - Templeton Elementary set the first Wednesday of every month as its Walk & Bike to School Day.
 - In April 2016, Mary Woodward established their own Walking Wednesdays where every Wednesday is walk & bike to school day.
- The first [Tigard Youth Bike Fair](#) was held in April 2016. This Saturday event was a bike safety and skills fair for elementary age students. The first event reached 44 Tigard students and the hope is to continue this event on an annual basis.

Bike Safety Education in the classroom:

- The City of Tigard and Tigard-Tualatin School District (TTSD) were awarded the Bicycle Transportation Alliance (BTA) Jumpstart Grant for the 2015-2016 school year. As part of the grant a few TTSD teachers were trained in the bike safety education curriculum and the city received a fleet of bikes to be used at the schools to teach bike safety. A total of 434 Students at Twality Middle School and Metzger Elementary School received this hands-on bicycle safety education.

Setting a data baseline:

- Data collection is a key component of any program and the year was spent on gathering baseline data from all the schools to better develop a specific SRTS program at each school.



School Action Plans and projects:

- [Action Plans](#) are the primary tool for each school to develop a comprehensive SRTS Program. An Action Plan identifies the key barriers to walking and biking and then prioritizes strategies to address these barriers. Strategies can be encouragement events, education, engineering/ infrastructure, and enforcement. Over the last year a number of schools have worked to develop Action Plans:
 - Templeton Elementary has completed its [SRTS Action Plan](#).
 - Durham, Metzger, and Mary Woodward are all in the process of drafting an Action Plan.
- A couple of completed projects:
 - [Leading Pedestrian Interval signals](#) were installed at a couple of Durham intersections. These signal timing changes give pedestrians a 5 second head start to cross the street before the corresponding light turns green. This low cost treatment increases the visibility of the pedestrian in the crosswalk and improves safety.
 - A No Parking Zone was established at Mary Woodward driveway to improve the flow of buses in and out of the driveway and increase the visibility of the crosswalk across Katherine St.
 - [A new trail](#) will be added this summer near Metzger Elementary, connecting SW Oak St. to SW Lincoln St in front of the school. This connection will provide a safe, designate space for students and parents to walk to school.

What is on deck for next year?

While the Tigard SRTS Program has made great strides over the year there is much more work to be done especially around more fully integrating a SRTS program in each school. An Action Plan is one step in this process, however identifying and establishing a SRTS champion or task force will be essential in order to carry the program forward in each school. This champion is a parent, teacher, principal or a combination of these representatives that leads the program at a school in partnership with the city's SRTS Coordinator. Finally, over the next year work will continue on the implementation of infrastructure and programmatic strategies to improve the safety of walking and biking to school.

Thank you to all the parents, volunteers, school staff, community members, city staff and the students for making it a successful year for the Tigard SRTS Program, we are looking forward to continuing this important work in Tigard!

