



# City of Tigard Press Release

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**Contact: Buff Brown**

Senior Transportation Planner  
City of Tigard  
503-718-2557  
[buff@tigard-or.gov](mailto:buff@tigard-or.gov)

## **Tigard on the Move, Walking and Biking to School this Wednesday**

To help celebrate National Bike to School Day, dozens of Tigard students and their parents will put their feet and bike wheels to the pavement on May 6.

Templeton and Metzger elementary schools will participate in biking and walking to school events. Activities at the two schools kick off at 8 a.m., involving students, parents, Tigard-Tualatin School District employees and Tigard staff. Tigard Councilor John Goodhouse also plans to join students and parents.

“Safe Routes to Schools is all about improving the health of our young people and making it safer and easier for them and their parents to use active transportation,” said Buff Brown, senior transportation planner with the Tigard Community Development Department. “We know from research that when our young people walk and bike to school, they are healthier, and healthier students tend to be better learners.”

The activity builds on Tigard’s recent \$150,000 grant awarded by Metro to launch a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program, housed in the Community Development Department.

Nationally and statewide, SRTS activities help to reduce the number of driving trips to schools, educate families why active transportation is healthy for kids and improve traffic safety and circulation around often congested schools.

The grant award to Tigard will fund a STRS coordinator for two years, while supporting the city’s larger efforts to create a more walkable community where residents of all ages and abilities—including children and parents—enjoy healthy and interconnected lives.

Prior to Wednesday’s events, school staff and Tigard planners assessed the best walking routes near Templeton Elementary School and conducted a survey at Metzger Elementary School. For Wednesday, however, expect noise, movement and Tigard residents connecting with their neighbors.

Tigard staff will use the opportunity to learn how families make transportation decisions and get information from parents on the best walking and biking routes students may use to and from school. For more information go to: [www.tigard-or.gov/community/safe\\_routes.php](http://www.tigard-or.gov/community/safe_routes.php).

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