



Progress and Activity Report - Georgia Safe Routes to School: Task Order 10

May 2013

This Progress Report reflects activities ending May 31st under Task Order 10. Through this billing period, the Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource (SRTS) Center project team continued to provide services and outreach for schools and community stakeholders throughout the state. The Resource Center has a network of 432 schools signed on to the Georgia Safe Routes to School Partnership Program. One new school signed on in May. Staff also made three presentations and supported 26 Bike to School Day events statewide this period.

School Outreach Coordinator Highlights

During May, the GA SRTS Resource Center promoted National Bike Month. Also, staff encouraged Partner and community participation in the second annual National Bike to School Day, held on May 8th. Twenty-six schools registered events. Additionally, during May, the Resource Center announced the Outstanding Partners of the Year for the 2012-2013 school year. SOCs continued to encourage Partners to pursue SRTS strategies that would promote the school from Bronze to Silver and, ultimately, Gold status within the partnership program.

Outstanding Partners of the Year 2012-2013

Central - Peeples Elementary School, Fayette County, Bronze



Peeples Elementary School is committed to promoting a healthy lifestyle through programs such as Safe Routes to School, Get Fit - Get Active Program, and Running Club. This bronze level partner began its SRTS program with a community outreach survey of school families to determine the level of interest and to solicit ideas and volunteerism. With the survey results in hand, a committee of parent volunteers planned, mapped, and promoted safe walking/biking routes while along existing cart path systems and pedestrian crossings. The school purchased and installed new bike

racks at the school, just in time for its first Walk and Bike from School Day event in October 2012 (for International Walk to School Day). The event was a huge success, with 30% of the school population participating. A spring event was just as successful.

Coastal - St. Frances Cabrini Catholic School, Private, Gold



St. Frances Cabrini School is a small Catholic pre-kindergarten to eighth grade school in Savannah. The school became a Resource Center partner in 2011 with the support of the Home and School Association. Though few students live nearby, the school has embraced Safe Routes strategies. In October 2012, the school hosted International Walk to School Day with a

park and walk event. Over 100 students, parents and volunteers participated, assisted by volunteers from the local Safe Kids Coalition and cheered on by the mascot from Armstrong Atlantic State University. All students have received bicycle and pedestrian safety education. Students subsequently led walk and bicycle audits. The school's weekly bike train rides over two miles, and these students provide bike safety education to fellow students as part of May's Bike Month events.

Metro Atlanta - Clairemont Elementary School, Decatur City, Gold Partner



Clairemont Elementary School's outstanding program is a result of strong partnership between parents, school, and community. The school has a vibrant SRTS program, due to years of development through their Walk and Roll to School Day program. This program was established by a resident of Decatur and volunteer walking school bus leader in 2008. In 2012-13, the 'Clairemont Crew' will have completed ten Walk and Roll to School Days, each with a distinctive theme to energize participants. One especially successful event was Walk, Roll, and Recycle, where children were encouraged to recycle litter found along their route. Participants in each Walk and Roll Day events receive marbles for display at the school entrance. "Bike Dude" and extra recess time for outstanding participation motivates students to Walk and Roll regularly. This Gold level partner school was also the recipient of the prestigious "Silver Slipper Award" from the SRTS Resource Center for the highest percentage of participation in a Georgia Walk-to-School Day competition among the seven Decatur City Schools.

Northeast - Arcado Elementary School, Gwinnett County, Gold Partner



Arcado Elementary School joined the Resource Center in 2009 and continues to be a showcase school for Gwinnett County. Arcado participated in International Walk to School Day, Georgia Walk to School Day, and a Bike Rodeo this school year. The school increased the number of daily walkers and Walking School Bus participants and used the Resource Center's frequent walker cards and incentive items to encourage participation. Bike and pedestrian safety is integrated into PE and into the health curriculum for all students. Through coordination with the Environmental Committee, Student Green Team, and Clean Air Schools, the school participated in Clean Commute Week.

Northwest - Blue Ridge Elementary School, Dalton City, Gold Partner



Blue Ridge Elementary School has been a Partner of the Resource Center since 2010 and reached Gold-level during the 2012-2013 school year. The number of daily walkers increased to 200 after Dalton City Schools cut bus routes within a mile and a half of all schools in 2010. The school and community have embraced this change and made safety a priority by improving sidewalks and crosswalks near the school. Blue Ridge also celebrated International Walk to School Day and Georgia Walk to School Day this school year. Additionally, the School Counselor and Physical Education Teacher have received pedestrian safety training from the Resource Center and now regularly incorporate walking safety into the school's health and PE curriculum. The school also has a Wellness Design Team that works to design experiences for staff and students that

encourage a healthy lifestyle, including SRTS.

South - J.D. Davis Elementary School, Muscogee County, Gold Partner



J.D. Davis Elementary has been a Partner since 2010. School faculty, staff, parents, and community partners join together to support multiple events throughout the year, including International Walk to School Day and Georgia Walk to School Day. Students in 3rd-5th grades strive to become members of the school's Safety Patrol. These role model students practice and demonstrate safe pedestrian behavior while assisting students across the school parking lot to the crossing guard. All students receive pedestrian safety education each year and participate in pedometer-based walking activities during Physical Education classes. SRTS is integrated into a variety of school goals, including safety, combating childhood obesity, reducing pollution, promoting healthy habits,

encouraging community involvement, and strengthening family ties.

Other Highlights

Radio Disney Interview

Nykia was interviewed by Radio Disney, an AM radio station in the metro Atlanta area, for a special "Kids Concern" segment. Bicycle and pedestrian safety are major concerns for parents and kids, especially in the Atlanta area. In addition to providing safety tips and information, Nykia promoted Georgia Safe Routes to School programs, events, and resources. Nykia discussed strategies to include all children, partner with SRTS, and participate in annual SRTS events like International Walk to School Day in October. This segment will air this summer.

Glennwood Academy, City Schools of Decatur (Gold Partner)



Each of the seven City Schools of Decatur participated in the Second Annual, National Bike to School Day on May 9th. An inter-school competition for the "Golden Pedal Award" was the highlight of the city-wide event. With approximately 25% of students bicycling, Glennwood Academy was recognized as the winning school! Decatur Active Living has an on-going partnership with SRTS and the schools to provide snacks and volunteers for each major event. An additional community partner and City of Decatur Commissioner, Fred Boykin (also the Owner of Bicycle South), provided and presented the one-of-a-kind trophy to the principal and school champions.

SafeKids Coalition, Fulton County

The Fulton County SafeKids Coalition recently re-launched with a strong focus on pedestrian and bicycle safety. Nykia met with the coalition coordinator to identify potential partnership opportunities. In addition to the statewide SafeKids request for training on the NHTSA Child Pedestrian Safety Curriculum, the Fulton County coalition has expressed interest in the Resource Center's bicycle rodeo and pedestrian safety events expertise. As a Friend of the Resource Center, the coalition is interested in supporting International and Georgia Walk-to-School Day and National Bike-To-School Day events in Fulton County. The coalition may also support efforts to build SRTS programs in the Pittsburgh community. Nykia will continue to build a partnership with the Safe Kids Fulton County coalition in an effort to expand SRTS outreach and resources across the county.

Hull Park Bike to School Day, Jacob G. Smith Elementary and Charles Ellis Montessori School, Chatham County



Jacob G. Smith Elementary (Gold Partner) and Charles Ellis Montessori (Silver Partner) in Savannah held a second annual National Bike to School Day event on May 8th. The two schools are located just one mile from each other. Hull Park, a city-maintained community park, is located about halfway between the two schools. Children were encouraged to meet at the park and then ride bikes or walk to their school. Staff, parents, Safe Kids Savannah volunteers, and Savannah Bicycle Campaign members rode and walked with the students. Over 75 children turned out for the event this year. They all received educational and incentive packets that included Resource Center reflective zipper pulls and bike safety bookmarks. One second-grader's mother noted, "This is the first day in a while that my daughter has been excited to go to school in the morning. We should do this more often."

SRTS Marketing (Toole Design Group and Outreach Staff)

Website, Hotline, and Social Media:

The website was updated during May with the Outstanding Partners of the Year and Bike to School Day information.

The Hotline received one call this period. A Champion inquired about Georgia Walk to School Day 2014 to plan the school's 2013-2014 school calendar.

The Resource Center's Facebook Page encourages users to visit the program's website and other relevant SRTS webpages and information sources. The Resource Center staff made four posts to Facebook during May that included a notice about the School Outreach Coordinator positions open within the Resource Center and National Bike to School Day highlights. The Facebook Page has 53 "likes."

Looking Ahead

The current Master Contract ends on May 31st. URS has received and signed the new contract to continue work on the Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center project. A Notice to Proceed is expected on or before June 3rd. In anticipation of a new contract, URS has advertised positions and interviewed candidates for two new School Outreach Coordinators and expects to fill those positions upon receipt of the Notice to Proceed. New and existing staff will be trained during June.