



Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center Monthly Progress Report February 2016

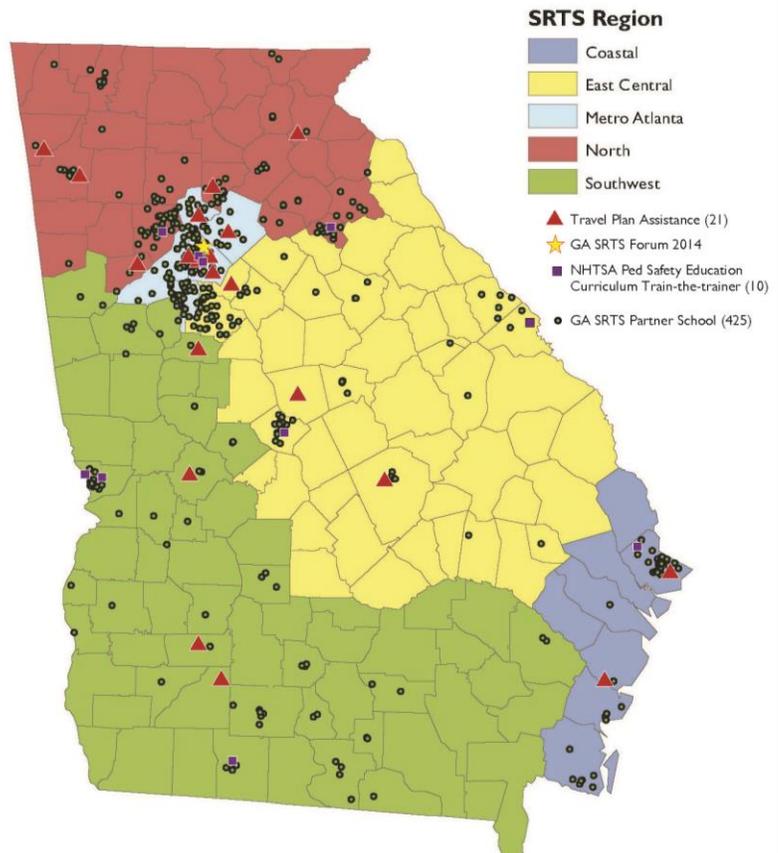
The Resource Center serves the State of Georgia by delineating outreach efforts into five geographic territories and serving 446 School Partners across the state. Additionally, the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Resource Center has 290 Friends, or community stakeholder partners that support the state’s mission. A map of the five outreach territories and the distribution of SRTS Partner Schools (denoted by dots), is shown on the right. The map also displays locations for National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Child Pedestrian Curriculum trainings, the sites of the Forums, and sites of SRTS Travel Plans administered by the Resource Center since the project’s start in 2009.

During February the Resource Center School Outreach Coordinators (SOCs) attended 146 meetings, facilitated 21 presentations, attended 15 events and conducted seven SRTS training.

The Resource Center outreach team met in Atlanta on February 5th for the first quarter team meeting and training. A presentation was provided to Katelyn DiGioia from GDOT, and the team discussed Task Order 4, the Statewide Forum planned for June, and the National Center for SRTS’s data system.

A Regional Commission Safe Routes to School web conference was facilitated by the Resource Center on February 17th. The project team met with Regional Commission staff members assigned to the SRTS activities in their GDOT contracts. The emphasis was on planning support and the SRTS Forum.

All GA SRTS School Partners are listed on the complete Partner list at the back of this report. [Click here](#) for more information about the Resource Center’s Partnership program.



Outreach

Metro Atlanta Territory – Nichole Hollis, School Outreach Coordinator

Nichole serves 132 partner schools in the Metro Atlanta territory.

The resource center welcomes **Mary McLeod Bethune Middle School (DeKalb County)**! In February, Nichole provided technical assistance and incentives to schools for Georgia Walk to School Day and participated in kick-off events for Georgia Walk to School Day with the **DeKalb County Board of Health Safe Routes to School Committee**. She also participated in pedestrian safety events with the **Fulton County Sheriff Department** and collaborated for their upcoming Bike Rodeo in April, assisted the **United States Public Health Service** officers identify schools to volunteer within for Georgia Walk to School Day, and continued planning for the Safe Routes to School statewide forum.

Columbia Elementary School (DeKalb County) kicked off their Safe Routes to School Program on February 26th with a school wide pep-rally! 537 students were excited to participate in the event which included members from the **DeKalb County Board of Health, Nichole, and Georgia Commute Options Ride Share Bear**. Nichole also presented at the event and discussed the importance of walking and biking to students and staff members for their upcoming walking event in March. The administration and staff are excited to start their new program and hoping that it will create more parental involvement within their school.

Over 150 students, which included 3rd and 4th graders, at **Palmetto Elementary School (Fulton County)** received pedestrian safety education from the Fulton County Sheriff Department on February 10th. The students learned the fundamentals of “*being safe and being seen*” and received a safety vest from the department after the education. Palmetto Elementary School is also an infrastructure awardee school that has received new crosswalks and sidewalks. They have over 30 students that walk to school on a regular basis. **Burgess Peterson Academy (Fulton County)** also held a pedestrian safety event on February 11th with the Fulton County Sheriff Department. They were able to provide 300 safety vests to students from grades kindergarten to fifth grade. *The picture on the right shows students taking a picture with Fulton County representatives with their new safety vests.*



Nichole also met with Nedra Dwyler from **Georgia Bikes** and discussed plans for collaborating efforts with the Fulton County Sheriff Department for their upcoming Bike Rodeo Event in April and the Safe Routes to School Statewide Forum. Nedra is excited to combine efforts and looking forward to providing bike safety education to students and adults.

In March, Nichole plans to attend walk to school day events in each county within her territory and will also provide assistance to the Kindezi School on their Safe Routes to School Safety-focused travel plan.

East Central Territory – Corey Crumbley, School Outreach Coordinator

Corey currently serves 94 School Partners in the East Central Territory.

During February, Corey continued to set measurable goals, which will enhance his responsibilities and obligations as the School Outreach Coordinator. On February 3rd, Corey attended the Safe Kids Toombs & Surrounding County Meeting, which was held at **Meadows Regional Medical Center** under the direction of Bonnie Brantley. See photo at right with Ms. Brantley, Corey, and a Safe Kids Coalition member from the Georgia State Patrol.



On February 16th, Corey and Nichole met with Nedra Dwylar; new representative for **Georgia Bikes** in regards to providing bicycle education throughout Georgia.

On February 18th, Corey attended the **Safe Kids Central Georgia Coalition Re-launch**, which was held at **Macon-Bibb County Department** under the direction of Stephanie Hyman, Safe Kids Central Georgia Coordinator. The coalition has not been active, so the Resource Center is excited to work with this community partner on upcoming bicycle and pedestrian safety initiatives. On February 23rd, Corey collaborated with Elizabeth Jones, **SRTS Outreach Coordinator**; providing assistance for the **Comprehensive Travel Plan Meetings at Mountain View Elementary School**. Corey will be filling in for Elizabeth for the Travel Planning assistance starting in March while she is on maternity leave.

Corey was very busy this month and attended **65 meetings** throughout his territory, which included **Marietta (Cobb County)**, **McDonough (Henry County)**, **Covington (Newton County)**, and **Macon (Bibb County)**, **Milledgeville (Baldwin County)** and **Atlanta (Metro Area-Midtown.)**

In March, Corey will collaborate with Kyle Collins, **District Two Communications Officer**, in orchestrating a Groundbreaking Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the SRTS infrastructure project in **Baldwin County**. Corey will also promote and participate in **Georgia Walk to School Day (Gwalk)** events in that area. Corey will also assist Gina Ashley, **CSRA Regional Commission**, in orchestrating a Walk Audit on March 29th at **Greenbrier Elementary School**.

North Georgia Territory – Elizabeth Jones, School Outreach Coordinator

Elizabeth currently serves 105 School Partners in the North Georgia Territory.

Throughout February, Elizabeth focused on preparing for Georgia Walk to School Day (gWalk), providing walk audits, and presenting the benefits of walking and biking to school.

While January was the month to reach out to partners, February was the month to make sure these partners registered for gWalk! Elizabeth personally contacted school partners who had not registered for gWalk and secured their registration. As of the close of the month, the North Georgia Region has a strong representation of registered schools for gWalk.

Elizabeth and the SRTS Resource Center were selected Partners in Education with **Douglas County School District**. Elizabeth attended the Partners in Education breakfast this month and has been invited to participate in a number of events throughout the school district for the remainder of the school year. This partnership will not only

strengthen partnerships with existing Douglas County Schools but will also create a District level recognition of the SRTS program, as well as encourage more schools to partner with the Resource Center.

Parents from **Vickery Elementary and Middle Schools** in Forsyth contacted Elizabeth with concerns of high traffic and excessive speeders in school zones. Elizabeth was able to complete a Walk Audit with school officials, parents, school champions and GDOT this month. The group came away with some great solutions for reducing traffic and reducing speeds. The Walk Audit report, along with assistance from local law enforcement and GDOT's agreement to refresh pavement markings, may provide some comfort parents and will continue to encourage students who walk and bike to school.

Two schools in Cobb County School District, **Tritt Elementary** and **Nicholson Elementary**, contacted Elizabeth about participating in gWalk as well as Bike Safety month activities. Both schools are eager to partner with SRTS and are working on their partnership enrollment forms. The schools are located in walkable communities with great sidewalks, crosswalks and crossing guards. With a little help from SRTS, these two schools will make excellent partners.

Finally, Elizabeth participated in an early gWalk event at **Turner Middle School** this month. One of the 8th grade after-school classes showed interest in organizing a Bike Rodeo for fellow school mates and the community. The team of 11 students met with Elizabeth and began the planning process for their Bike Rodeo which will take place on April 29th. The students also did a round table discussion about pedestrian and bike safety. The event was unique and went really well. The entire group, including their teacher is extremely excited about making this event a huge success.

Southwest Georgia Territory – Chelsea Carter, School Outreach Coordinator

Chelsea currently serves 70 School Partners in the Southwest Georgia Territory.

The Southwest Territory has continued to support 70 partners in the month of February. The promotion of Georgia Walk to School Day has been the focus during the month of February and as a result, 25% of the territory has been registered to host some type of **Georgia Walk to School** event in the month of March. Chelsea plans to attend all events and will be hosting the events at 90% of the registered schools.

The Regional Commissions in the Southwest Territory have been working in tandem with Chelsea to accomplish a number of new ideas. With the help of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission, the first **Safe Routes to School Mini-Forum** took place with the annual **Youth Summit** in Camilla where attendees from the region were educated on Safe Routes to School and **Teens in the Driver's Seat**. Regional Highlights and Data Information were also among the sessions. **Hand-in-Hand Primary Elementary School** was highlighted for their outstanding participation in SRTS and examples of their events and activities were showcased in order to explain how the program could thrive in a school located off of a highway bypass. Chelsea is in conversation with the **South Georgia Regional Commission** to potentially host the next Mini-Forum, as well as the next **Regional Commission Collaborative Meeting**.

The **Heart of Georgia Regional Commission** requested Chelsea's aid in their efforts to provide **Screven Elementary School** with a Walk Audit this semester. The school is an active SRTS partner; the support of the Resource Center is gladly given to the Regional Commission as they perform their audit. Also requesting the support of the Resource Center for a Walk Audit, is the **South Georgia Regional Commission**. After a successful meeting with the County Commission and community members of **Brooks County** (Quitman), the town expressed interest in a Walk Audit to assess the safety of their schools located in close proximity near a highway. A new **Boys and Girls Club** is in the planning process to be constructed directly behind a Brooks County School. Hopefully this Walk Audit will bring key members together in order to increase the campus's walk-ability between school and organization.

New contacts were made in the Southwest corner of the territory. Resulting from the relationship with friend organization, **Alliance for a Healthier Generation**, Decatur County School **Elcan King Elementary** has reached out to Chelsea in efforts to learn more about Safe Routes to School and the Resource Center's offering. Also, in Mitchell County, Chelsea recently presented to the **Pelham Rotary Club**. Contact with the local mayor was made during a presentation at the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. The Pelham Mayor, being part of the Rotary Club, invited Chelsea to speak about the upcoming events and activities being planned in neighboring areas. Connections have been made regarding potential Walk Audits and Partner Schools.

Coastal Georgia Territory – Patti Sistrunk, School Outreach Coordinator

Patti currently serves 44 School Partners in the Coastal Georgia Territory.

In February, Patti provided bicycle safety education to more than 120 Kindergarten students at **Pulaski Elementary School** in Savannah. Partnering with **Safe Kids Savannah**, Patti utilized the coalition's helmet materials. The students enjoyed a short video from the Federal Highway Administration's Bicycle Safer Journey program and received helmet coloring sheets and pencils from the Resource Center.

Patti continues to support and serve as part of the **Savannah Mobility Advisory Committee** ("Big MAC") and the **Pedestrian Sub-committee**. The sub-committee met on February 9th to discuss focusing efforts on the Martin Luther King Jr. Street corridor through downtown. Near the corridor and within the school's walk zone is **Garrison K8 School**. The school has been an inactive partner with the Resource Center, but Patti will work with the MAC subcommittee to provide resources and support to the school. Additionally, a few blocks west of the corridor, is **Gadsden Elementary**, another SRTS Partner.

Patti promoted Georgia Walk to School Day throughout February and encouraged schools and community organizations to register events.

Travel Plan Assistance

Travel Plan walk audit and follow-up committee meetings were scheduled for mid-March. However, because of budget restrictions at the end of Task Order 3, the project team is going to postpone meetings to mid or late-April. During February, the outreach teams conducted Meeting 1 and research/data collection with the schools chosen for Travel Plan Assistance.

[Safety Focused Report](#)

Kindezi School, Atlanta

[Travel Plan Assistance](#)

Mountain View Elementary School, Marietta

Jeff Davis Elementary School, Hazelhurst

Thirty Day Look Ahead

The current Task Order 3 ends on February 22nd. A four-week, no-cost extension was granted by GDOT. The Resource Center's Outreach team will continue to work through March 16th. Budget restraints prevent continued work on Travel Plans and marketing tasks until Task Order 4 Notice to Proceed is received.