Safe Routes Tampa started promoting the National Bicycle Art Poster Contest presented by the Saris Cycling Group as a 5th grade bicycle art contest in December 2012 through their Twitter and Facebook accounts to get an early start for the contest.

The contest asked students across the state of Florida to create a piece of artwork about the bicycle as a way of getting places (for fun or for transportation). They were asked to create a poster that revealed his or her understanding of the many different values of bicycling (it is fun, healthy and green). Students had to follow strict rules and guidelines to be eligible for the contest.

The first place winner from Palm Lakes Elementary Hialeah, FL created a wonderful masterpiece with great colors, bicycle lanes, safety helmets and more. The family was so excited to hear the news. The student won a bike, light and a helmet. In addition to these prizes, the state winner now has chance to compete for the National contest.

First place National will receive a three day/two night trip for two (parent or guardian and child) to Washington DC during the 2014 National Bike Summit (airfare and lodging included). The national winning school will receive bike parking for 20 bikes and The Hub System. If you haven’t seen the Hub System please google it or check it out on YouTube.

Florida peeps will be able to vote for this student (or another state’s poster) during May online. A special notice will go out letting you know so that you can vote for your favorite (FLORIDA) poster. There were many fantastic student poster entries, but judges could only select the top three in Florida.

A big thank you to the art teachers across Florida at participating schools for encouraging so many students to participate. Thank you the Department of Transportation and the many Safe Routes Tampa’s Twitter followers for helping get the word out to the teachers across the state.

A special THANK YOU to Jason Jackman with CUTR, for organizing this campaign in Florida.

Be the Change You Want to See in the World — Mahatma Gandhi
Walk & Bike to School

Wednesday, May 8th is National Bike to School Day. This Celebration is part of 2013 National Bike Month. Organize a fun bike to school event in your neighborhood. These are easy to organize with help from the [national website](http://www.tampabayrideshare.org/schoolpool.html) and build great local enthusiasm.

The national website includes great tools and resources not to mention a really cool [GIS-powered walking and biking route mapping tool](http://www.tampabayrideshare.org/schoolpool.html). There’s also a National Bike to School Day 2013 Bike Rack Giveaway where winning schools will be selected each week. The contest ends at 5 p.m. EDT on May 31, 2013. (That date allows schools who register events after they have taken place to enter.)

Don’t forget to get your promotional items from the [Ped/Bike Safety Resource Center](http://www.tampabayrideshare.org/schoolpool.html).

Hurry! Bike to School Day is almost here.

Go to [Get Pumped Up](http://www.tampabayrideshare.org/schoolpool.html) for a helpful webinar of planning bike events.

School Pool Program Now Offered Online

TBARTA’s Regional School Pool Program is going high-tech! This summer, TBARTA will kick off its online ride/walk/bike matching program in advance of the 2013-14 school year. Parents will be able to register for “schoolpooling” (carpooling), as well as the “Walking School Bus” and “Bike Train” programs.

Here’s how it works. The School Pool webpage will serve as a portal for online registration, program information and updates. Once parents register for the program, they will receive immediate match results based on their location and commute. Google Maps helps pinpoint potential matches, can expand the search to a wider area and plot the commute to and from school. Parents can check for matches at their convenience, as well as print or email match results.

To date, more than 1,400 parents participate in schoolpooling in 37 Hillsborough and Pinellas county schools. The number of parents registered for the School Pool Program has doubled from the last school year. Funding for the initiative is provided through the Florida Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program. This supports strategies and improvements for children to walk and/or bicycle to school. Future plans are to expand the existing program in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties and introduce the program into Pasco, Hernando and Citrus school districts. To learn more, call 1-800-998-7433 or visit [http://www.tampabayrideshare.org/schoolpool.html](http://www.tampabayrideshare.org/schoolpool.html).

*Published in the TBARTA Connection-February 2013*
Interested in a Biking or Walking Program?

Have theme days and make your own titles such as:
- Marvelous Moving Mondays
- Talk and Trek Tuesdays
- Wild Walking Wednesdays
- Thoughtful / Thrilling / Theatrical Thursdays
- Finally Fridays/ Fuel-Free Fridays / Fabulous Fitness Fridays/ Footloose Friday
- W.A.R.T.S. Day (Walk and Roll to School Day)

Dress up on special occasions:
- Hat day, Sneaker day, School colors day, Sports team day
- Rainy weather? Have a Rubber Boot Parade or an Umbrella Train

Awards?
- Golden Sneaker
- Golden Bike Helmet

Bike Safety Rodeo at Douglas Jamerson

A local law firm took part in All Children’s Hospital, Pinellas County’s SRTS bicycle safety rodeo on April 20th. The children were properly fitted with bike helmets before the event began. They rode through 5 different volunteer stations, where they were taught different safety skills.

“Volunteers helped the students learn the proper steps to crossing the street, how to watch for cars backing in and out of driveways and how to properly fit a bicycle helmet,” said Tiffany Sabiel, the community educator for Pinellas SRTS. Students also learned how to signal turns and stops with hand signals and how to scan for cars while riding in the bike lane.

The Jim Dodson Law firm donated over 150 bike and pedestrian safety coloring books for the rodeo. “As a bicycle injury lawyer and bicycle advocate, I am happy to start young riders on a safe path to bicycling,” Jim Dodson said.

The event had a cookout, prize giveaways and the rodeo for the parents and their children to enjoy. All in attendance had a great time and learned a lot.

Bike Helmet Training

Saturday, April 27th, 2013
10:00am to 12:00pm
West Manatee Fire Rescue
6417 3rd Ave. W.
Bradenton, FL 34209

Tuesday, April 30th, 2013
9:00am to 11:00am
Sarasota County Fire Dept. Station #2
2070 Waldemere St.
Sarasota, FL 34239

CONGRATULATIONS! 2 new Regional Helmet Trainers: Justin Kwiatkowski and Julia Thillet!
About Florida’s SRTS Program

Seventh Call for Infrastructure Applications - The latest Infrastructure Applications cycle is in process. Here’s a brief update on changes to the program. Applications are due to the local Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)/Transportation Planning Organizations (TPOs)/Board of County Commissioners (BOCCs). The official version of this is posted on the FDOT Forms website: http://www2.dot.state.fl.us/proceduraldocuments/forms/forms.asp The Application number is 500-000-30. Please coordinate with FDOT District Liaisons on exact date needed to locals for prioritization.

Below are the major changes that have made

Section 1 – School, Applicant & Maintaining Agency Information:
High schools are now eligible—not under TA funding but other funds
CTSTs are no longer eligible applicants. They can partner with an eligible applicant (school, school district & maintaining agency)
Maintaining agencies are an eligible applicant
Signature of School Board or Principal is now mandatory

Section 2 – Eligibility and Feasibility Criteria: Section A – C must be fulfilled before applying

Section A
Only 1 SRTS Committee meeting must be held.
There must be public notification of the SRTS meeting.

Student In-Class Travel Tally: Only Student In-Class Travel Tallies, before and after, are required. Applicants must enter the information at http://www.saferoutesdata.org/ The Travel Tally summary will need to be attached to the application.
While trying to find justification for funding some of the new projects, we needed to incorporate the results, not just crash data. Unfortunately, many applicants have not followed through with survey requirements. In order to fund future projects, survey data must be entered. This includes past projects also.

Right of Way: There have been a few instances where the applicant has checked that the necessary right of way is available, when that is not the case. Surveys/as-builts or right of way documentation must be provided showing adequate ROW.

Public Support/Public Outreach: This issue is closely related to the issue of who is on the SRTS Committee. If the Committee does not have the correct makeup, information will not reach some of the key people and groups who need to be involved in the decision-making process.

While meetings of Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committees, City Commissions, County Councils and MPO’s are considered public meetings, they often do not attract the people who will be directly affected by a new sidewalk or other Infrastructure project. Public Support and Outreach must include:

• meetings with the PTA/PTO’s and other parent groups and
• meetings of Neighborhood Associations or other meetings with neighbors.

Section 4 – Problem Identification: New to the application – 5 years of crash data for the project location is required.

Section 7 B – Cost Estimate Narrative: Mandatory Breakdown of Project by pay items and quantities

Section 8 – Submission Checklist: Checklist of required attachments.

Last Section – For FDOT District Use Only: If a project is funded, please complete this information before sending to CO Safety Office.

I’m excited! Applications have gone out without too much of a hiccup. While there have been hurdles and detours along the way, we are navigating through them. I remain extremely optimistic that Florida’s Safe Routes to School Program will continue to be a success.

Keep sending in your success stories or definite “what not to dos” to Sarita.taylor@dot.state.fl.us

Thanks Sarita