Florida’s Safe Routes to School Program

Pat Pieratte, Florida SRTS Coordinator
FDOT Safety Office
How Does the SRTS Program fit into the FDOT Safety Office?

The Five E’s of Traffic Safety:
• Evaluation
• Engineering
• Education
• Enforcement
• Encouragement

The FDOT Safety Office addresses these E’s in various ways
FDOT Safety Office:

The office as a whole works with the Strategic Highway Safety Plan to solve traffic safety problems using the 5E’s

- Crash Data Section
- Traffic Safety Section
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Section
Crash Data Section:

- **Evaluation:**
  the section locates crashes on and off the state highway system and evaluates trends

- **Engineering:**
  the section uses this data to address highway safety problems through engineering solutions
Traffic Safety Section:

• **Enforcement and Education:**
  the section administers grants from NHTSA to address highway safety problems through enforcement and education

• **Education and Encouragement:**
  the section funds the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Resource Center at UF:
  http://pedbikesrc.ce.ufl.edu/
Pedestrian and Bicycle Section:

• **All 5E’s:**
  - The section addresses pedestrian & bicycle safety problems through all E’s
  - The section administers the Safe Routes to School Program

• **Education:**
  - Coordinates ped/bike research
  - Provides ped/bike technical assistance
  - Administers the Florida Traffic and Bicycle Safety Education Program
  - Administers the Florida School Crossing Guard Training Program
We are in the middle of a Perfect Storm (convergence of many factors):

**Safety:**
- Pedestrian
- Bicycle
- Other traffic
- Personal

**Health:**
- Inactivity & resulting:
  - Obesity
  - Diabetes
  - Asthma
- Air Pollution & resulting:
  - Asthma
- Lack of independence

**Transportation:**
- Congestion
- Depletion of oil
- Rising fuel prices
- Rising school busing costs
- Cuts to school bus services
Safety Issues:

Personal Safety:
Abandoned buildings & urban decay can create fear

& Traffic Safety:
Lack of facilities makes pedestrians and bicyclists feel unwelcome & unprotected
Health: Obesity Trends Among U.S. Adults:

(*BMI ≥30, or ~ 30 lbs. overweight for 5’ 4” person)
Transportation Issues:

- Congestion
- Rising Costs
- and cuts to Busing
- Unsafe and
- Illegal Behaviors
The Federal SRTS Program was established in September, 2005:

$612 million to States

Program Guidance issued January 2006

Infrastructure (70-90%) & non-infrastructure (10-30%)

Requires State SRTS Coordinators

- All States have Coordinators
- $467 million committed

More Information:
- FHWA: http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes/
- SRTS Clearinghouse: www.saferoutesinfo.org
Florida’s Safe Routes to School program

$29.1 million through 2009; distributed to 7 Districts

Program managed by Districts under state Guidelines & SRTS Coordinator, Pat Pieratte

Infrastructure:
• 4 Calls for Applications completed

Non-Infrastructure:
• Open until District’s funds committed

• 144 SRTS projects & programs (21 completed; 43 in process)
• affecting about 1000 schools
• $53.6 million in Work Program

For more information:
www.srtsfl.org
SRTS Program:
Elements: 5 E’s

- Education
- Encouragement
- Enforcement
- Engineering
- Evaluation
Safe Routes to School Florida Network

A Project of the SRTS National Partnership*

& the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD)**

* a network of organizations, government agencies and professional groups working to set goals, share best practices, secure funding, and provide educational materials to agencies that implement SRTS programs: http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/

** a national public health association for chronic disease program directors of each state and U.S. territory, which advocates for preventive policies and programs: www.chronicdisease.org
NACDD

- Works with CDC and YMCA on ACHIEVE program (Action Communities for Health, Innovation, and EnVironmental change)

- Supports local health departments & communities to help them develop and implement policy, systems, and environmental change strategies that will help prevent or manage chronic diseases (heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer, obesity, and arthritis)
State Network Projects

- In 2007, the SRTS National Partnership initiated the State Network Project in the District of Columbia and nine states.

- In 2010 and 2011, the project is funded in the District of Columbia and nineteen states including Florida.
State Network Projects

• The project creates state networks that bring together advocacy groups, government agencies and other leaders to ensure that the SRTS federal program succeeds.

• Project also works to leverage additional resources, remove barriers to walking and bicycling to schools, and to create an institutional framework for generating long-term policy changes.
2010–2011
State Network Project Participants

The CDC also provides funding
Network Project Goals

• Increase physical activity in school-aged children grades K–8 by improving safety and increasing the number of children walking & bicycling to schools

• Help to ensure success of the federal SRTS program

• Institutionalize the SRTS program at the state level so that it is not dependent on (and does not end after) one short burst of federal funding
Network Project Methods

- Create a network of partners including government agencies, non-profits and policymakers
- Research state policies to identify best practices for the network
- Prioritize state policies based on opportunities and need
- Develop and implement a state action plan to address state policies and engage partners
- Ongoing - Evaluate progress by looking for new state policy and funding opportunities and revising the state action plan regularly
FL Network Project - Members

- 1000 Friends of Florida
- All Children's Hospital
- Alliance for a Healthier Generation
- American Planning Association Florida Chapter
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Advocates
- BikeWalk Lee
- East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
- FL Bicycle Association
- FL Department of Community Affairs
- FL Department of Education
- FL Department of Environmental Protection
- FL Department of Health
- FL Department of Transportation
- FL Division of Federal Highway Administration
- FSU College of Social Sciences
- Green Mobility Network
- Health Masters Club, Inc.
- Healthy Jacksonville
- Hoke Design, Inc.
- Jackson Memorial Hospital
- NACDD
- Pinellas County Health Department
- Rails to Trails Conservancy, Florida
- Sarasota County Health Department
- Sprinkle Consulting, Inc.
- St. Joseph's Children's Hospital
- Tallahassee-Leon Co Planning Dept
- The Corradino Group
- The Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, Inc.
- University of Florida
- UM School of Medicine, WalkSafe and BikeSafe Programs
- University of South Florida
- Volusia County Health Department
- Volusia County MPO
- Volusia County Schools
- Winter Park Health Foundation
FL Network Project – Priority Policy Areas

- Complete Streets
- School Siting and Site Design Guidance
- School Wellness Policies
- Legislation
- Curriculum and Training Programs
- Joint Use Agreements
- School Bus Cuts / Hazardous Walking Conditions
Florida Network Project

Monthly calls occur the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10am ET

For more information contact:
Heather Murphy, State Network Organizer
florida@saferoutespartnership.org
850-228-0028
Safe Routes to School
National movement to create opportunities for children to bicycle & walk to and from school safely.

**National SRTS Program**
Federal Transportation Bill appropriates funding to each state for SRTS. Funding goes to state DOTs in which all federal SRTS programs are housed.

**National Center for SRTS (NCSRTS)**
Receives federal funding and is the Federal program’s information clearinghouse. Works closely with State SRTS programs. Cannot lobby.

**Florida SRTS Program**
FL’s SRTS Coordinator works with SRTS contacts in the 7 FDOT Districts to implement the Florida SRTS Program using federal funding.

**SRTS National Partnership**
Privately funded network of 400 + organizations working to advance SRTS in the US. Some employees can lobby.

**State Network Project**
Brings together partners in Network states to advocate for SRTS, specifically focusing on policy change.

**FL State Network Project**
Promotes SRTS concepts in FL and works to remove barriers to kids walking/bicycling to school in Florida.
Florida Encouragement Programs:

I have been working with Florida Dept. of Health on a CDC stimulus grant:

13 Regional Coordinators working on 3 health topics:

• They will spend 1/3 of their time creating and supporting Walking School Buses in Florida
• I will help train them next week
Summary:

• Florida has made great strides in its SRTS program in the first four years
• It is possible to have a big impact with a small investment
• We are on our way to bringing back walking and bicycling to school as normal and fun activities.
Questions?

Contact:

Florida SRTS Coordinator
Pat Pieratte, 850-245-1529
Pat.Pieratte@dot.state.fl.us
Safe Routes To School (SRTS) in Florida
Florida Department of Transportation

See chart at www.srtsfl.org

Or your District Contacts
See chart at www.srtsfl.org