



Greetings from the California Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Technical Assistance Resource Center (TARC)! TARC is a program within California Active Communities, a joint Unit of the University of California, San Francisco and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and is funded through a SRTS Non-Infrastructure award from the California Department of Transportation. This monthly email provides a summary of news, research, and training opportunities to support your SRTS work in California. For more information on SRTS in California, to view our monthly E-News archive, or to find out when your next regional network teleconference call is, visit our website at www.CAsaferoutestoschool.org.



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TARC SPOTLIGHT DOCUMENT

TARC was recently asked to profile its own development and progress as a unique Caltrans' Federal Safe Routes to School Non-Infrastructure Cycle 1 awardee. As a result, our friend and former TARC-colleague, Patti Horsley, authored "[TARC Spotlight](#)," a review of some of TARC's notable contributions and achievements in supporting the California Safe Routes to School movement over the course of our funding award. We are pleased to share this report with you. As we reflect upon this past year and TARC's varied activities to date, we feel honored to be part of California's efforts to improve children's wellness, health, and safety. We look forward to continued collaboration with our many innovative and dedicated partners. Best of health and happy holidays!

NEWS

Record Participation in Walk to School Day 2012

The National Center for Safe Routes to School reports that from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, 4,281 schools registered their Walk to School Day events, setting a new Walk to School Day record. This year's registration topped 2011's record total of 4,175. Walk to School Day registration has grown every year since the National Center for Safe Routes to School began coordinating the event in 2006. See full story [here](#).

Update on Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (Map-21): Federal Guidance Released on Transportation Alternatives

On October 22, 2012, the U.S. Department of Transportation released its interim guidance on MAP-21, which provides states with additional information on how to implement the new transportation bill. Overall the guidance should be helpful to states and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) as they implement the bill and there is some good news in the guidance. The Safe Routes to School National Partnership has highlighted some issues specific to Map-21 and Safe Routes to School at <http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/node/1034/>.

28 New Bicycle Friendly Community Awards

Three of the nation's largest cities joined the ranks of [Bicycle Friendly Communities \(BFC\)](#). Showcasing the progress and potential of U.S. cities to make bicycling safe and accessible for millions of Americans, Los Angeles and Windsor, CA are among the **28 new cities** to attain BFC status from the [League of American Bicyclists](#). Congratulations to Chico, Claremont, Folsom and Mountain View as well for improvements to BFC rankings! Through the BFC program, the League works directly with communities to continue to improve condition for bicyclists. Learn more about the program and view the full list of Bicycle Friendly Communities at www.bikeleague.org/communities.

Reflections from an Engineer on Advocacy for Transportation Reform

Shortly after the 2012 Pro Walk/Pro Bike Conference, Bryan Jones, a traffic engineer based in Carlsbad, CA, wrote to Project for Public Spaces (PPS) Senior Director, Gary Toth, expressing his thoughts on how

to better link bike/ped advocates and professional engineers. Please visit the PPS [website](#) to view Gary's blog.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

California Safe Routes to School Statewide Technical Assistance Coordinator

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Technical Assistance Resource Center (TARC), within California Active Communities, a joint Unit of the California Department of Public Health and the University of California, San Francisco, is seeking candidates for the TARC Team Lead who will be responsible for guiding the continued development and coordination of all aspects of TARC. Please find the full job description and application [here](#).

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership is Hiring

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership is looking for energetic and dynamic professionals to fill two new full-time positions which are expected to start January 2, 2013. The final deadline for applications is Friday, November 30, at 1 p.m. ET. Here are the links to the position announcements:

[School and Family Engagement Manager](#)

[Communications Manager](#)

Walking School Bus Coordinator

The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) is pleased to announce that they are currently accepting applications for the position of Walking School Bus Coordinator. The final filing date is Monday, December 3, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. Additional information can be found on the STA [website](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

\$10 Million in Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Grants Now Available

The California Natural Resources Agency and Caltrans are offering \$10 million in grants to local, state, and federal governmental agencies and non-profits for environmental enhancements and mitigation projects. [Click here for additional information and applications](#). Applications for funding must be received in the Office of the Natural Resources Agency by 4:00 p.m. Friday, January 4, 2013.

California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) Environmental Justice Small Grants

Cal/EPA is now accepting applications for funding under the Environmental Justice (EJ) Small Grants Program. Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars will be available during this grant cycle, with each project qualifying for a maximum of \$20,000 for an approximate one-year award period (April 2013 – April 2014).

Cal/EPA's EJ Program seeks to connect all Californians, including low-income and minority populations, to public health and environmental protection programs in a manner that promotes equity and affords fair treatment and protection, irrespective of race, age, culture, income or geographic location.

For more information, visit <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/Funding/>. To be eligible for an EJ small grant, the applicant must meet eligibility criteria which focus on non-profit entities and federal recognized tribal organizations. Applications must be received at Cal/EPA Headquarters Building in Sacramento by 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 5, 2012.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Award Program – Due Tuesday, December 11, 2012

The California Department of Education (CDE) will once again participate in the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools award program. The award is intended to recognize those schools taking a comprehensive approach to greening their campuses. The award application and resource information is available at the CDE webpage located [here](#).

EDUCATIONAL, NETWORKING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

AskCHIS Community Workshops

The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research is offering a series of trainings on [AskCHIS](#), the free online web tool that enables professionals in the health, non-profit and advocacy fields to search for health statistics on their county, region, or California, using data from the [California Health Interview Survey](#) (CHIS).

The AskCHIS Community workshops are offered in person and online. Please visit <http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/ProgramDetails.aspx?id=88> for details on dates, times and in-person training location.

Kidsdata.org Workshop

Learn how to find and use data on children's health and well-being by participating in a free workshop in Anaheim, CA on Wednesday, December 5, 2012. At this workshop, participants will learn how to formulate data questions, interpret results, export data for analysis and use findings in reports, presentations, proposals, and policy and program planning. Working directly with the [kidsdata.org](#) website, attendees will learn simple tips for obtaining health information for every city, legislative district, county, and school district in California. This workshop is hosted by the University of California, Los Angeles Center for Health DATA Program and the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, which supports kidsdata.org.

Date: Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: 1900 South State College Blvd., #150, Anaheim, CA

[Learn more](#) and/or [register](#).

December 6 - Partnering with K-12 Education in Building Healthy, Sustainable, and Competitive Regions, A California Policy Symposium

Join leaders from across California to discuss aligning important policy agendas: ensuring high-quality, opportunity-rich schools in healthy, sustainable communities. Attendance is free with registration and lunch will be provided. Limited travel scholarships will be available. Learn more and register [here](#).

NEW RESOURCES

National Center Releases Resource on Estimating Environmental Health Impacts of SRTS Programs

The National Center for Safe Routes to School has released a new resource that highlights methods for estimating the environmental health impacts of local Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs. “Methods for Estimating the Environmental Health Impacts of SRTS Programs” provides an overview of the connection between SRTS programs and environmental health, a formula for estimating the environmental health impact of a program’s activities, and examples of how real-life SRTS programs have estimated their environmental health impact. To view the resource, click [here](#).

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Launches New Website

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), in partnership with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District), announced the launch of a new website, sparetheairyouth.org, to teach students about the benefits of walking, bicycling, carpooling or taking transit to and from school.

The website provides resources for parents and teachers to teach kids and families about improving air quality around schools. Program providers will be able to access a wealth of information about best practices, idea sharing, available programs, as well as lesson plans, events and contests that teach youth about safety, clean air and transportation. Program providers also will be able to connect with others in their field through the website.

Launched to coincide with international “Walk to School Day,” the website is part of MTC’s Climate Initiatives Program, a partnership effort between MTC and the Air District to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.

Three New Research Briefs on Walking/Bicycling to School

Active Living Research recently released three new research briefs featuring evidence on policies, programs and practices that support walking and bicycling to school. When children can safely and easily walk or bicycle to school, they get more physical activity - something that can help prevent obesity and promote good health. To view each research brief, please click the following links:

- [The Impact of State Safe Routes to School-related Laws on Active Travel to School Policies and Practices in U.S. Elementary Schools](#)

- [Program Practices and Demographic Factors Associated with Federal Funding for the Safe Routes to School Program in the United States](#)
- [Impact of a Pilot Walking School Bus Intervention on Children's Pedestrian Safety Behaviors: A Pilot Study](#)

Steps to a Walkable Community: Guide for Citizens, Planners and Engineers

Steps to a Walkable Community: Guide for Citizens, Planners and Engineers, released by America Walks in partnership with Sam Schwartz Engineering, is a collection of innovative, multidisciplinary tactics that have successfully improved and encouraged walking in communities around the country. Over the past month, 1,700 copies have been downloaded. Spread the word and [download your free copy today!](#)

New Report Highlights Laws, Policies and Program Ideas for State Transportation Officials

As stated in the October 29, 2012, Smart Growth America post, "The National Conference of State Legislatures has released a new report, '[On the Move: State Strategies for 21st Century Transportation Solutions.](#)' The report is intended to serve as a guide for state legislators, and is filled with policies that promote fiscal and environmental sustainability; facilitate affordable, safe and accessible transportation choices; and achieve shared benefits such as improved public health and economic development...".

"The new report highlights many of the same policies outlined in Smart Growth America's 2012 handbook '[The Innovative DOT: A handbook of policy and practice.](#)' The Innovative DOT outlines 31 recommendations transportation officials can use as they position their agencies for success in the new economy, and documents many of the innovative approaches state leaders are using to make systems more efficient, government more effective and constituents better satisfied."

To view the article, please visit the Smart Growth America [website](#).

NARC Releases New Report: A Synthesis of Current Livability Practice

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) released their latest livability resource last month, Livability Literature Review: A Synthesis of Current Practice. This comprehensive report describes how livability is understood, provides examples of livable communities in practice and adds clarity to several concepts. This new report will help local governments and their regional planning organizations, both urban and rural, better understand the resources available to create more livable communities. To view NARC's report, click [here](#).

Why the Sedentary Life is Killing Us

The reason sedentary behavior is so worrisome is well-illustrated by a new study, published on October 15, 2012. The research, led by Dr. Emma Wilmot of the diabetes research group at the University of Leicester in Britain, analyzed 18 existing studies involving almost 800,000 people. The paper, published in the medical journal Diabetologia, compared disease rates between the most active and least active

among a broad cross-section of adults. To view the complete article, please visit The Globe and Mail [website](#).

CONFERENCES

New Partners for Smart Growth Annual Conference

The 12th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference is taking place February 7-9, 2013, in Kansas City, Missouri, with nearly 100 dynamic and exciting sessions, plenaries and local tours. Register [here](#).

Active Living Research (ALR) Annual Conference 2013

The 2013 [annual conference](#) will be held February 26 - 28, 2013, at the Paradise Point Hotel in San Diego, CA. This annual conference provides a forum for ALR grantees and other investigators to share findings and to learn about the latest thinking, methods, and research on policy and environmental issues related to active living. The conference also provides an opportunity for advocates, practitioners, policy-makers and others to gain information and resources that can advance their work in promoting physical activity and preventing obesity. Register [here](#).

Partnership for a Healthier America – Building a Healthier Future Summit

The Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA), which works with the private sector and PHA Honorary Chair First Lady Michelle Obama to solve the nation's childhood obesity crisis, will bring together more than 1,000 leaders from public, private and non-profit organizations, committed to solving the childhood obesity crisis in America. Building a Healthier Future Summit is taking place March 6-8, 2013, in Washington, DC. Click [here](#) for registration information.

Childhood Obesity Conference 2013

The California Department of Public Health, California Department of Education, the University of California, Berkeley, Dr. Robert C. and Veronica Atkins Center for Weight and Health, The California Endowment, and Kaiser Permanente are pleased to announce the [2013 Childhood Obesity Conference](#) scheduled for June 18-20, 2013, at the Long Beach Convention Center, California. Now in its 7th year, the biennial Childhood Obesity Conference is the nation's largest, most influential collaboration of professionals dedicated to combating pediatric obesity. Nearly 2,000 attendees from across the country are expected to attend in 2013. The Conference will showcase the latest research, evidence-based best practices, and policy/environmental change strategies.

2013 SRTS National Conference to be Held in Sacramento, CA

The 4th Safe Routes to School National Conference will take place in Sacramento, California on August 13-15, 2013, and will be hosted by the [Local Government Commission](#) (LGC) in partnership with the California Department of Public Health, California Department of Transportation, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates, and *WALK*Sacramento to build on the successes of past conferences and make

this an extraordinary learning opportunity for SRTS practitioners, advocates, school officials, policymakers, and government employees. Mark your calendars and sign up for updates from the conference organizers at www.saferoutesconference.org.

WEBINARS

December 4 – Fresh Ideas from the 2012 Oberstar SRTS Award Program – Surprising Partners and Program Approaches

The 60 minute program will highlight partner ideas from four outstanding programs that provide wonderful examples of building strong ties with other community organizations. This Safe Routes Coaching Action Network webinar is part of the SRTS Webinar Series, developed by America Walks and the National Center for Safe Routes to School. Learn more and register for the webinar [here](#).

December 10 - Fuel Up to Play 60: Become a Leader in Your School

Have you heard about *Fuel Up to Play 60* and wondered what the buzz is all about? Come learn about this program reaching nearly 73,000 across the nation. Join the ranks of over 20,000 *Fuel Up to Play 60* program advisors in leading your students and your school to better health. You'll learn about program basics, what it means to be a program advisor (along with the perks that accompany the role), and how to apply for *Fuel Up to Play 60* funds during this 30-minute Webinar. [Register now](#).

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****Please note that TARC will not be sending out an e-blast in December 2012.
On behalf of TARC, we wish you a happy holiday season!***