There was a time when the sight of children walking and bicycling to school was a familiar scene in communities across California. In fact, in 1969 approximately 50 percent of children walked or bicycled to school. Today, fewer than 15 percent of children do and rates of childhood obesity and overweight are overwhelming.1,2 Concerns about traffic safety are often cited as one of the main reasons children do not walk or bicycle to school.3 And for good reason, as in 2010 alone, over 21,000 California school children were sent to an emergency department and over 1,500 were hospitalized due to pedestrian or bicycle injuries.4

Creating safe opportunities for walking and bicycling is critical to improving the safety of young pedestrians and bicyclists and to reducing overweight and obesity among California’s youth. Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs are key to reversing these trends. SRTS programs increase the number of children who safely walk and bicycle to school through education and encouragement programs, enhanced enforcement, engineering improvements, and strong program evaluation.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The City of Bishop received a State SRTS Infrastructure project in 2009. This award provided construction of continuous safe shoulder and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks along an urban residential street in one of the city’s older neighborhoods.
Students, as well as other pedestrians and bicyclists, gained approximately 2,000 feet of sidewalk with new curb and gutters. This allowed students, some of whom had been walking in the street, to have a safer and more accessible safe route to school.

**PROGRAM SUCCESSES**

- This SRTS program has been highlighted as a success in Caltrans District 9.
- Caltrans District 9 staff visited the project site after the construction phase was complete. The visit occurred at the end of the school day, and photos and observations suggested that the new sidewalk is well used by students of various ages (elementary, middle, and high schools).
- Estimates suggested that approximately 400 students will benefit from the new sidewalk.

**Implementing Agency**

City of Bishop

**Location**

Bishop, Inyo County  
Caltrans District 9  
CA Assembly District 34  
CA Senate District 18

**Funding**

State SRTS Infrastructure – Cycle 7

**Participating Schools**

Elm Street Elementary, Pine Street Elementary, Home Street Middle School, Bishop High School, and other area private schools

30 to 62 percent of students in the participating schools are eligible for the Free and Reduced Price Meals Program

**Contact**

David Grah, Director  
Department of Public Works  
City of Bishop  
davegrah@ca-bishop.us  
(760) 873-8458

Sardar Khan, MS, PE  
Office of Local Assistance  
CalTrans District 9  
sardar_khan@dot.ca.gov  
(760) 873-4862


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