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**

Since the inception of the SRTS program at Lakeview Elementary, the school is now focused on the health and safety of the students. The SRTS program includes:

- Education (bicycle rodeos, pedestrian safety trainings);
- Encouragement (incentives for walking to school);
- Enforcement (partnerships with local law enforcement and a school run safety patrol);
Implementing Agencies

County of San Diego
Walk San Diego
Lakeview Parent Teacher Association

Location

Lakeside, San Diego County
Caltrans District 11
CA Assembly District 77
CA Senate District 36

Funding

Federal SRTS Infrastructure – Cycle 3
State SRTS Infrastructure – Cycles 9, 10
Parent Teacher Association

Participating School

Lakeview Elementary School
33.7 percent of students at the school are eligible for the Free and Reduced Price Meals Program

Contact

Kelly Bailey, SRTS Coordinator
PTA Volunteer and Parent
Lakeview Elementary
baileyorganizing@yahoo.com

- Evaluation (parent surveys, student surveys, and town hall meetings); and
- Engineering (new sidewalks).

PROGRAM SUCCESSES

- 1.5 fold increase in daily walking and bicycling on Walk to School Days over a two year period.
- 4.5 increase in monthly Walk and Bike to School Days.
- The I Drive 25 campaign at Lakeview Elementary has over 300 participants per year that pledge to drive 25 miles per hour in school zones.
- A SRTS Plan was developed for Lakeview Elementary as a result of all SRTS efforts at the school.