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 Stockton’s SRTS Regional Program, implemented by the non-profit organization Safe Moves, was designed to integrate safety, health, and fitness with the promotion of walking and bicycling as alternative modes of transportation. The City worked in collaboration with four school districts (Lincoln Unified, Stockton Unified, Manteca Unified, and Lodi Unified) to select the pilot schools for the program, and have continued to work together to help shape this SRTS regional program.

The program’s education components include establishing parent transportation advisory committees at each school site, as well as conducting
Implementing Agency
Safe Moves

Location
Stockton, San Joaquin County
Caltrans District 10
CA Assembly District 5
CA Senate District 17

Funding
Federal SRTS Non-Infrastructure – Cycle 1

Participating Schools
60 to 99 percent of students at participating schools are eligible for the Free and Reduced Price Meals Program

Contact
Pat Hines, Executive Director
SAFE MOVES
phinesafety@yahoo.com
(818) 625-4637
www.SafeMoves.org

PROGRAM SUCCESSES

• The SRTS Regional Program has benefitted over 6,700 students in the Central Valley, a region which tends to have high rates of childhood obesity and low rates of physical activity.

• Preliminary data found a 37 percent increase in the number of students walking and an 11 percent increase in the number of students bicycling to school over a two-year period.

• Safety Improvements Between 2010 and 2012:
  » The number of students using crosswalks on the way to school increased by 28 percent and the number of mid-block crossings in front of schools decreased by 17 percent.
  » “Near-misses” of potential injuries at school drop-off and pick-up areas decreased by 32 percent.
  » Almost 1,000 parents received either pedestrian or bicycle safety education in the form of community workshops, including crossing guard, walking school bus, and bicycle train trainings.
  » An additional 3,000 family members were reached with safety and encouragement efforts.

• The project has proved to be a successful avenue for distributing and fitting over 100 bicycle helmets in two years, which was provided by local partnering agencies.

• Designated SRTS staff has been instrumental in securing on-going media attention to pedestrian and bicycle safety within the designated project region.


The California Safe Routes to School Technical Assistance Resource Center is a program of California Active Communities, a joint Unit of the University of California San Francisco and the California Department of Public Health, and is funded through a statewide non-infrastructure SRTS award from the California Department of Transportation.