



Education activities teach walking and bicycling safety skills and promote the benefits of active transportation and complete streets. These activities can be adapted for different ages, abilities, settings and contexts.

Types of active transportation education activities include:

CLASSROOM/PHYSICAL EDUCATION LESSONS

Using a classroom curriculum either in school, in an after-school program, or in a community setting can help standardize what and how students and/or adults learn and practice pedestrian and bicycle safety. Integrating active transportation lessons through curricula is a great way to educate students while ensuring sustainability of this education. Classroom lessons help students comprehend safety guidelines and assist with internalizing behavioral expectations for real-life use. Downloadable or online streaming active transportation games or videos provide a fun way to teach pedestrian and bicycle safety.



SCHOOL-WIDE ASSEMBLIES/COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

Assemblies and presentations provide an opportunity to educate a large audience in a limited timeframe. School assemblies are festive whole school or grade gatherings held in a large common space like the auditorium, gym, or cafeteria. They provide a key venue to share information and build community momentum to work towards a common goal. Local law-enforcement will sometimes provide this community service at low- or no-cost to schools. Other potential presenters include local walking and/or bicycling advocacy groups or local public health departments. Assemblies make great kick-off events for larger ongoing initiatives.

MOCK CITIES AND TRAFFIC GARDENS

Mock Cities are smaller/miniature versions of towns in which children can safely learn and practice pedestrian and bicycle traffic safety through hands-on experience. Children and their caregivers can learn, practice, and reinforce important lessons about the rules of the road, right of way, and the importance of respectfully sharing the road with others.

Similarly, a traffic garden may have small roads winding around green space and trees, traffic signals, road markings, sidewalks, crosswalks, bike paths, bus stops, and driveways to simulate the experience of walking and biking on roads.

BICYCLE RODEOS

Bicycle rodeos provide a safe way for students to learn about roadway safety in a car-free environment. They are bicycle skills events where children practice and develop skills that will help them become better bicyclists, such as controlled riding, starting and stopping, yielding, and signaling. Some rodeos are designed as large, municipal events with skills activities, exhibits, and games, while others are much smaller in format.

WALKING FIELD TRIPS

Walking field trips combined with transit can help highlight the facility and economy of non-automobile travel. Involve students or a community group on a walk to nearby community locations or events to reinforce safe pedestrian behaviors. Emphasize the positive benefits (to health and the environment) from walking for transportation.

RADAR SPEED TRAILERS and ACTIVE SPEED MONITORS

Moveable radar speed trailers can be used as part of community education programs, providing immediate feedback to speed violators. Data that are collected and aggregated can then be used in future neighborhood communications, as well as for safety prioritization and planning. Portable speed trailers can be moved to multiple locations, including schools within a given district.

GROUP SKILLS RIDES

Group skills rides are usually led by an experienced bicycle group ride leader and provide opportunities to both demonstrate and practice safe bicycling within a group of bicyclists. Important skills to practice include riding in a straight line, controlling speed, anticipating possible problems, watching the road ahead, and being alert for activity in peripheral vision. In addition, group skills rides allow for less experienced bicyclist to learn about lane positioning and different turning options based on skill and confidence levels.

WALK OR BIKE AUDITS

Walk or bike audits involve the systematic gathering, documentation, and assessment of data about environmental conditions (social, built, and natural) that affect walking and bicycling. Audit results will document factors that help or hinder safe walking and bicycling to identify problem areas and make recommendations for improvement. There are a variety of existing walk and bike audit checklists for reference and ease of use.

DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Demonstration projects are a public education and engagement strategy to showcase potential engineering facilities through temporary installations. These projects showcase complete streets elements such as buffered bikeways, shortened crosswalks, curb extensions, traffic calming circles and other measures.

SAFETY PATROL

Establishing a student safety patrol involves education for those conducting the patrol but is ultimately an Enforcement strategy to protect their peers while walking and bicycling across a road or driveway. After training and under supervision, students assist other children with traffic safety at school. They are an important role model for other children, keeping them safe by demonstrating and teaching them important traffic safety concepts.



BICYCLE TICKET DIVERSION CLASSES

Some local jurisdictions have adopted and implemented a Bicycle Ticket Diversion Program where bicyclists who are stopped for traffic violations may be 'diverted' to a class on bicycle safety instead of receiving a bicycle violation citation and fine. These programs are aimed at striking a balance between addressing cycling violations and offering an alternative to fines that may discourage bicycling and disproportionately impact low-income individuals who are more likely to rely on bicycling for everyday transportation.

CROSSING GUARD TRAINING

Training is an essential part of ensuring that crossing guards are performing properly. The goal is to help Crossing Guards learn how to perform their duties, foster safe crossing environments for school-aged children, understand their roles and responsibilities, learn about relevant laws and traffic regulations, and practice proper crossing techniques all in a standardized, convenient, and cost-effective way. Training guidelines and materials are available on the ATRC website. (<https://caatpresources.org/1503>)

PEER-LED/SERVICE-LEARNING INITIATIVES

These are activities for older students that incorporate a service learning and leadership component, and for which students might receive recognition. For example, middle-schoolers are taught bicycle safety concepts as a first phase, followed by teaching and encouraging their peers to practice concepts they've just learned as a second phase. Older students can mentor younger students on safe routes to destinations and bicycle storage.

These definitions are provided as a resource for planning or implementing a non-infrastructure (NI) project. For questions, please contact us at ATSP@cdph.ca.gov.