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# MN SRTS NETWORK

February 15, 2018

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## THE MINNESOTA SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL NETWORK...

...is approximately 190 dedicated professionals from organizations and agencies that are advancing Safe Routes to School (SRTS) in Minnesota...

...that builds skills in Minnesota communities to successfully implement SRTS, supporting partnerships between state and local agencies, municipalities, and advocacy organizations, and advocating for policy changes to support walking and bicycling to schools and improvements to the built environment...



...and makes Minnesota a state where all students, no matter their race, ethnicity, income level, age, ability, or geographic location, can walk and bicycle on routes that are safe, comfortable and convenient...

...because to be able to walk and bike safely makes health, learning, communities, and independence better for all of us.



# AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- Recap Winter Walk to School Day/MnDOT Update
- MN SRTS Evaluation Plan and Tools
  - Work Group Presentation
- Announcements



# WALK/BIKE TO SCHOOL DATES:

~~OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2017~~

FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2018

MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2018





# SRTS Evaluation Plan & Tools

Jennifer Pelletier and Tasha Ray  
Minnesota Department of Health



# Why Evaluation?

- Assist stakeholders in determining the effectiveness of SRTS programs and projects
- Increase support for SRTS programs
- Demonstrate that an effort is worthwhile
- Identify changes needed for improvement
- Identify efforts that should be discontinued

# Evaluation Questions

- How do students get to/from school? How is this changing over time?
- How safe are school arrival/dismissal areas?
- How are schools implementing SRTS programs and projects?



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## How students get to school

### TOOLS

- Student Travel Tally – [National Center for SRTS](#)
- Parent Survey – [National Center for SRTS](#)

## Safety of school arrival/dismissal areas

### TOOLS

- School Zone Hazard Observational Assessment – **NEW!**

## How schools are implementing SRTS

### TOOLS

- School Environment and Policy Self-Assessment – **NEW!**
- Implementation Progress Survey – [Under development](#)



# Local and Statewide Evaluation

- Local programs encouraged to use these tools to plan & evaluate their work
  - Recommendations provided in User Guide
- Central statewide database
- On-going analysis and reporting of statewide results



# School Environment and Policy Self Assessment

- Meant to be completed at your desk
- The person completing the assessment should be aware of the school **environment** and **policies**
- Questions Address:
  - Policies and practices around walking and biking
  - School property
  - Arrival and dismissal procedures
  - School zone environment



# Why Use This Tool?

- Planning and prioritizing changes to create a more appealing and safer walking environment in the school zone
- Measure progress over time in your Safe Routes to School Program
  - Infrastructure
  - Non - Infrastructure



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# Using the Assessment Tool

Question	Red	Yellow	Green
<b>This first set of questions asks about your school's policies and practices around walking and biking.</b>			
1. How does your school or district <b>wellness</b> policy address walking and biking?	<input type="checkbox"/> Prohibits walking and biking	<input type="checkbox"/> Walking and biking are not addressed	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotes walking and biking
4. Does your school have or participate in walking and biking events or programs such as Walk to School Day or Walking School Busses?	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

**Red:** \_\_\_\_\_ × 0 points each = 0  
**Yellow:** \_\_\_\_\_ × 1 point each = \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_ (Max. 42)**  
**Green:** \_\_\_\_\_ × 2 points each = \_\_\_\_\_



# School Zone Hazard Observational Assessment

- How safe are school arrival/dismissal areas?
- Requires in person observation with the help of volunteers
- Tracks different travel modes and selected unsafe behaviors using a tally system
  - Distractions
  - Illegal parking/pick up
  - Unsafe crossing
  - Helmet usage
- Not intended to track mode shift



# Why Use This Tool?

- Identify hazards that need to be addressed and plan infrastructure and/or non-infrastructure changes that will reduce hazards
- Measure changes in unsafe behavior and events in an individual school



# Conducting the Observation

- Observe all people entering a two-dimensional observation space, such as a half-block area
- Conduct both during arrival and dismissal time
- Pre planning for coordinator
  - Scout out location(s) beforehand
  - Recruit volunteers
  - Review tools, instructions and definitions prior to observation
  - Complete the first page of the observation sheet

Data Collector Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ M T W T H F

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ End Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

Where are you standing?  
 \_\_\_\_ MID-BLOCK \_\_\_\_ INTERSECTION

Is there a crosswalk present? \_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_ NO

Is there an appointed school staff member or volunteer directing traffic flow?  
 \_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_ NO

Is there a specified drop-off/pick-up area?  
 \_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_ NO

Is the drop off/pick up zone separate from other vehicles?  
 \_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_ NO

Is there a specified bike arrival/dismissal area?  
 \_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_ NO

Circle the traffic control device(s) present where students are crossing:  
**Traffic Light Pedestrian Crossing Signal**  
**Stop Sign Crossing Guard School Patrol**  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Draw the area you are observing here:



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# Using the Tool

Total Drivers	Distracted (e.g. using phone, texting, eating, etc.)	Not driving in designated space (e.g., driving wrong direction, in bike lane, etc.)	Stopping outside of designated space	Does not yield to pedestrian	Other:
Total Pedestrians	Using phone	Wearing headphones or earpiece	Unsafe crossing behavior	Other:	Other:
Total Cyclists	Using phone	Wearing headphones or earpiece	Not biking in designated area or correct side of road	Not wearing helmet	Other:





# After Observation

- Calculate number and percent of people engaging in an unsafe behavior by mode
- Additional guidance on calculation and interpretation provided in user guide



# That's A Lot of Data!

- Both tools will inform your local initiative
- Developing a system for information to be submitted to state organizations to look at results across the state – this is in development



# Purpose of the Pilot

- Test usability and effectiveness of the two new tools
- Clarify state level data collection, processing and storage
- Inform any final revisions prior to launch for 2018-19 school year



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# Scope of the Pilot

- Focus on two tools
  - School Environment and Policy Self-Assessment
  - School Zone Hazard Observation Assessment
- 6 to 12 schools
- Each school will test both by April 13
- Required training call March 8, 9 or 12
- Deadline to sign up for Pilot is **Feb 28**



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# Pilot Application

- Contact name, organization, and relationship to school
- School name, grades, location
- School experience with SRTS (brief description)
- Training date option
- Commitment to evaluation process
- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SRTSPilot>



# Discussion/Questions



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  - Dave Cowan
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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [SRTS Academy Application](#) – To host a spring workshop, application deadline February 28, 2018
- Bike + Walk MN Conference April 29 – May 1, 2018
  - SRTS Track and possible ancillary opportunity May 1





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## THE MINNESOTA SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL NETWORK...



### MONTH

January 18, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

### TOPIC

- SRTS Large District Strategies
- Minneapolis Public Schools New SRTS Action Plan

### MONTH

February 15, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

### TOPIC

- MN SRTS Evaluation Plan (NEW!)

### MONTH

March 8, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

### TOPIC

- Success with Bike Fleets (with Bike MN Call)

To join the Minnesota Safe Routes to School Network,  
email [center.communications@bluecrossmn.com](mailto:center.communications@bluecrossmn.com)



## THE MINNESOTA SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL NETWORK...

### MONTH

April 19, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

### TOPIC

- MN SRTS Resource Center: Interactive Community

### MONTH

May 17, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

### TOPIC

- TBD

### MONTH

June 21, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

### TOPIC

- TBD

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# 2018 MEETINGS

## 2018 Meeting Dates:

~~January 18~~

~~February 15~~

March 8 (revised from 15)

April 19

May 17

June 21

July 19

August 16

September 20

October 18/25

November 15

December 20

Call Time: 10:00 – 11:00AM



THANK YOU!