



Orange County Safe Routes to School Action Plan

OCTA Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee Meeting

September 15, 2020

Today's presentation

1. Background
2. Engagement
3. Needs assessment
4. Action Plan
5. Next steps

1: Background

Action Plan purpose

The Action Plan will be a **path forward** to create and deepen Safe Routes to School for every school in Orange County.

1: Background

Action Plan building blocks



2: Engagement

Targeted and public

Stakeholder engagement

Working group

- Reps from agencies, institutions, schools, districts, others
- Strong support for countywide program led by OCTA + OCHCA.

School and district surveys

- Schools do SRTS work even without formal program.
- Coordination and capacity building are most needed.



Public engagement

Open house



Community organizations



Public engagement

Walk to School Day events



School walk audits



Public engagement

Keep an eye out for a Fall
social media campaign!

Follow @GoOCTA and @OCHCA

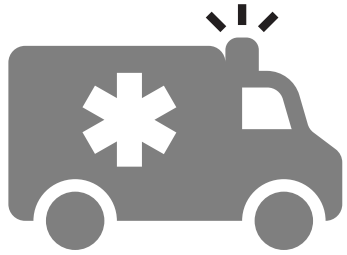
Follow #OCSSafeRoutes



3: Needs assessment

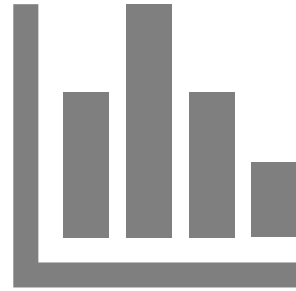
Tiering schools for critical need.

Schools with less supportive context for walking/biking to school scored higher.



Safety

- Many bike/ped collisions
- Wide roadways
- High traffic volumes



Equity

- High obesity rate
- High Healthy Places Index score
- Many people of color



Community need

- Few existing/planned bicycle facilities
- Limited sidewalk networks
- Many children under 18

Tiers help identify sliding scale of resources needed.

- **Tier 1 – Sensitive**

- Schools are in the highest-need contexts and requiring most intensive SRTS support. (174 schools)

- **Tier 2 – Swing**

- Schools with moderate need that may require general SRTS support. (264 schools)

- **Tier 3 – Supportive**

- Schools with the lowest level of need that would benefit from basic SRTS resources. (184 schools)

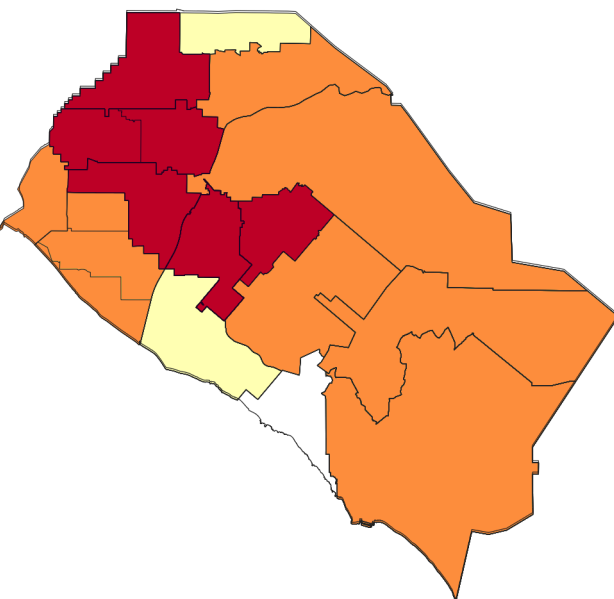
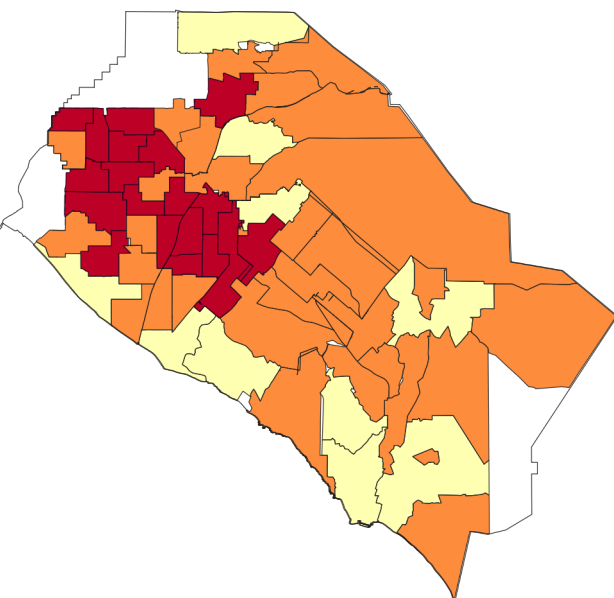
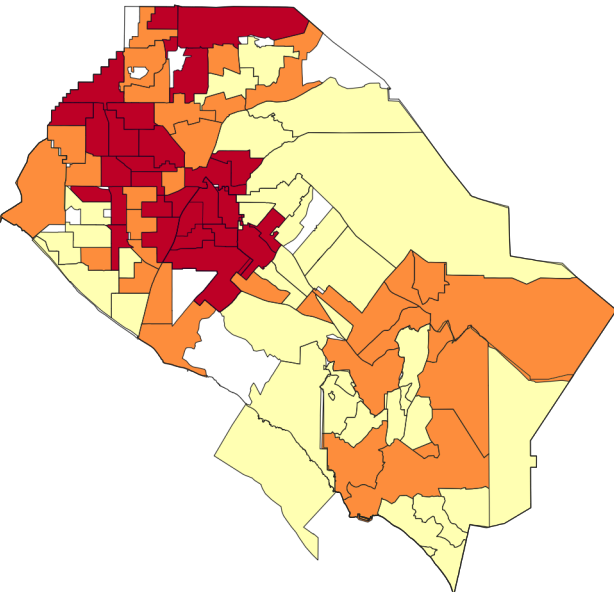
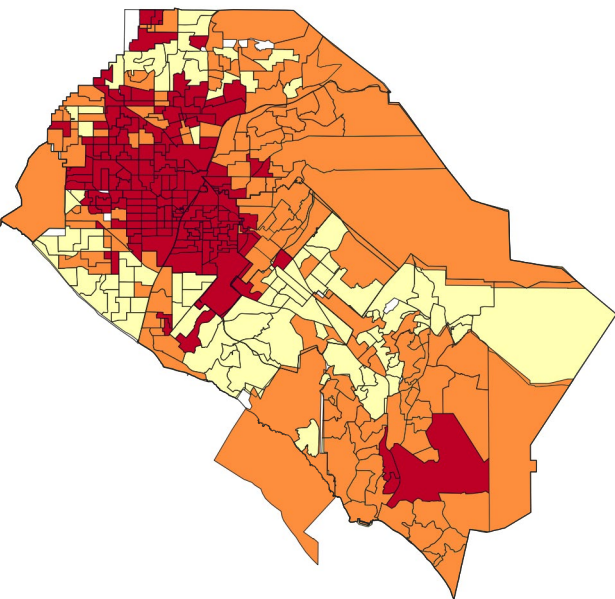
Tiers help identify where help is most critically needed.

Elementary Schools

Middle Schools

High Schools

Other Schools



Tier 1: Sensitive (67th-100th percentile)
Tier 2: Swing (34th-66th percentile)
Tier 3: Support (1st-33rd percentile)
Tiers are assigned within each school type

4: Action Plan

Key concepts and actions

Framework

- 4 recommendations
- 11 supporting strategies
- 23 actions, including 4 priority actions



Recommendation 1/ **Establish a countywide Safe Routes to School Program.**

Strategies

- Establish ongoing **program funding.**
- **Evaluate progress** toward achieving goals.

Priority action

Identify program managing agency and coordinators.

Recommendation 2/ **Create and sustain lasting partnerships.**

Strategies

- Build and sustain **support coalitions.**
- Empower schools to take on **new programming.**

Priority action

Provide assessment tools to schools and districts to help determine their readiness, capacity, and needs.

Recommendation 3/ **Develop a culture of safety.**

Strategies

- **Student** safety education and encouragement
- **Community-wide** behavior change

Priority action

Compile a record of institutional knowledge to date and ensure that SRTS program staff are aware of local and national best practices.

Recommendation 4/ **Fund and build safe streets.**

Strategies

- Identify infrastructure **improvements**
- Direct infrastructure **funding** to schools
- Include SRTS in **local and countywide plans**

Priority action

Provide districts and individual schools with a funding toolkit containing funding opportunities and directions to apply for that funding.

5: Next steps

Next steps

