# Orange County Safe Routes to School

Orange County Transportation Authority



### What is Safe Routes to School (SRTS)?







A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT TO MAKE WALKING AND BIKING TO SCHOOL SAFE, CONVENIENT, AND FUN. IMPROVES STUDENT HEALTH, ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE, AND COMMUNITY SAFETY. FOCUS ON ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND BUILDING LIFELONG HEALTHY HABITS.

## History of SRTS in Orange County

#### 2020

As of 2020, 15% of Orange County schools had SRTS programs.

#### Fall 2023

In fall 2023, OCTA Launched the OC SRTS program.

- Stakeholder Committee
- New initiatives like Next Safe Travels Education (STEP) program.

In 2020, OCTA's SRTS Action Plan identified resources gaps and proposed countywide strategy.



### SRTS Partnership



### **Collaboration between:**

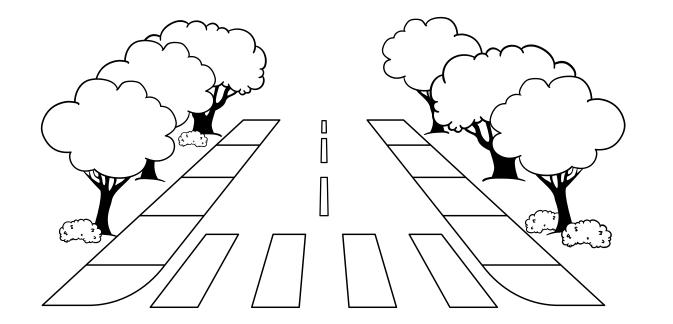
Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Orange County Healthy Care Agency (OCHCA) Schools, City Staff, and Law Enforcements



**Goals:** 

Promote safety, equity, and access Strengthen community engagement Provide education

### **Benefits of SRTS**



#### Environmental Impact

- Fewer cars = cleaner air around schools
- Supports climate-friendly transportation choices
- Especially helpful in disadvantaged areas with poor air quality

#### Stronger Community Connections

- Increases family and community involvement (e.g., walking school buses)
- Builds trust and teamwork between schools, cities, and residents
- Promotes equitable access for all students

#### Traffic Relief & Cost Savings

- Reduces congestion during drop-off/pick-up
- Saves families money on gas and transit
- Opens access to grants and long-term infrastructure investments



#### Health & Wellness

- o Encourages daily physical activity
- o Improves mental health, reduces stress and anxiety
- o Builds lifelong healthy habits, lowers obesity risk

#### Safety Improvements

- Safer crosswalks, signage, and traffic-calming
- o Promotes safer behavior through education
- Greater driver awareness = safer school zones

#### Academic & Cognitive Boost

- Physical activity enhances focus and learning
- Improved attendance and punctuality
- o Fun events increase student engagement

## Next STEP Program Overview

### Next Safe Travels Education Program (STEP) supports 25 public elementary schools

### Activities:

- Walk audits
- Education and encouragement
- Infrastructure recommendations



### **OCTA SRTS Program: Quarterly Program Activities**



Walk/Bike to School Kickoff Events Bike Month (May)-National Bike & Roll to School Day

2

Summer Planning

3

4

School Year Education & Engagement

### **SRTS** Resources





#### Visit octa.net/SRTS

Toolkits Route maps Event planning ideas

#### Safe Routes to School Partnership

Policy support Toolkits Webinars



#### **Funding Opportunities:**

Caltrans ATP SS4A LRSHP/HSIP and more

## How to Get Involved with SRTS

Learn about SRTS (visit OCTA SRTS website) and contact us

Become an SRTS stakeholder, get involved!

Connect with your school

Ask your city/school if they've done a walk audit

Host an event

Promote SRTS in your community

\* Help connect local efforts to countywide initiatives

