

SRTS At A Glance

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) refers to programs that promote walking and bicycling to school for a wide range of benefits to students, school and community. These benefits include traffic reduction, improved pedestrian/bicycle safety and increased physical activity among students, contributing to healthy lifestyles. Participating kids and parents say the programs are fun, economical, non-polluting and a good way to make friends. SRTS programs are taking place throughout the world. New Jersey actively supports SRTS programs and recently named a statewide SRTS coordinator, Ms. Elise Bremer-Nei, at the Department of Transportation.

Wharton Borough Safe Routes to School



Benefits of Walking to School

- Health
- Active Lifestyles
- Traffic Safety
- Air Quality
- Fuel Consumption
- Social Interaction
- Community Awareness
- Community Accessibility

3/06

What is the SRTS Plan for Wharton Borough?

Wharton Borough was selected by the Morris County Division of Transportation to pilot a SRTS program. The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority is providing funding for the program. Lessons learned from this program will be shared with other school districts in the county and the region. An experienced SRTS consultant team led by The RBA Group of Morristown is customizing Wharton's program to determine the safest routes to walk and bike to school, suggest safety improvements to these routes, develop fun ways to encourage more

children to use these routes, and recruit parents and neighbors to accompany children to school. Additionally, the students, teachers, administrators and parents of Duffy Elementary School and MacKinnon Middle School will be introduced to school and classroom activities, and lesson plans built around the themes of SRTS. There will be parent and student surveys, contests and interactive meetings. Experience has shown that the best and longest lasting programs are those that managed to involve the most people – so expect to be asked for input along the way.

More information about Safe Routes to School initiatives in NJ and elsewhere can be found at: www.bikemap.com/srts • <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes> • <http://www.cdc.gov/hccdphp/dnpa/kidswalk>

What does SRTS entail?

A variety of improvements can be implemented as SRTS efforts to create safer walking and bicycling environments, including improving roads, sidewalks and crosswalks; enforcing speed limits; educating students and enhancing personal safety. Successful programs usually incorporate one or more of the following five components, known as the 5 E's.

Engineering – focuses on creating physical improvements and establishing safer and fully accessible crossings, walkways, trails and bikeways.

Education – teaches students and parents safety skills and launches driver safety campaigns children .

Enforcement – uses local law enforcement to ensure traffic laws are obeyed and initiating community enforcement such as crossing guard programs.

Encouragement – uses events and activities to promote walking and bicycling.

Evaluation – monitoring and documenting program results and trends over time through the collection of data, including before and after data..

Important Upcoming Dates

- Public Visioning Meeting4/25/06
- Bicycle Rodeo4/19/06
- Walk to School Dayfall 2006

Got something to say, email Patrick Franco at: pfranco@co.morris.nj.us.com

Consultant Team:

National Center for Bicycling and Walking, Eng-Wong, Taub & Associates, AmerCom Corp., Vertices, and Steve Spindler Cartography

