

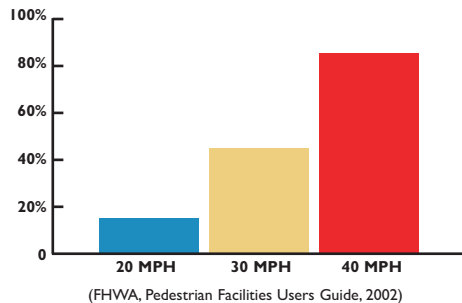
## Safe Routes to School and All About the Town

Safe Routes to School is all about encouraging and enabling children to walk and cycle to school safely as part of their regular routine. SRTS is also part of a bigger movement, which is to create child-friendly and activity-friendly communities. The Borough of Wharton is on its way to becoming a model community in NJ where children can walk to school and a whole slew of destinations fueled by the most efficient and clean energy we know -- kid-power. With summer approaching, this newsletter is devoted to tips on how to encourage and insure happy and safe travel for all.

### What's your speed?

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, a pedestrian struck by a car traveling at 40mph has a 15% chance of survival. At 30mph there is a 55% chance of survival. At 20mph there is an 85% chance of survival.

Chances of being killed (car vs. person)



### Guidelines for Good Pedestrian Behavior

- Look both ways before crossing (left, right, left again)
- Walk, don't run across the street
- Cross only at safe corners
- Choose the route with the fewest streets to cross
- When possible, cross streets at the crosswalks and where there are traffic signs and signals
- Face traffic when walking on roads without sidewalks

# Wharton Borough Safe Routes to School

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- Watch and listen for turning cars (headphones can be dangerous)
- Keep from walking between parked cars
- Never ride with strangers

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation

### Guidelines for Bicyclists

- Helmets save lives! Bike helmet use can reduce the risk of head injury by 85% when worn correctly.
- Each year more than 700 people are killed in bike crashes in the United States and up to 50% of those deaths could have been prevented if bike riders had worn helmets.
- Helmets must be snug and level and cover the upper part of the forehead; you should have room for no more than two fingers between the straps and your chin.
- Under New Jersey law; bicyclists, skateboarders and in-line skaters have all the same rights and responsibilities as moving motor vehicles.

- Bicyclists may use traffic lanes to turn left as a vehicle would.
- Bicycles ridden after dark must have front and rear lights and a rear reflector.
- Bicyclist, skateboarders and in-line skaters may ride on the right edge of the turn lane.

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, AAA, NJ Motor Vehicle Commission.

### Guidelines for Parents and Caregivers

- Group children along school routes for better visibility and driver awareness. When large numbers cross together it makes motorists more aware of kids crossing, increases driver compliance with stopping for crosswalks, and helps justify the installation of more extensive crossing protection devices.
- Children are not small adults. They often act before thinking and may not do what parents or drivers expect. They assume that if they see the driver, the driver sees them. They have one-third narrower side vision, can't judge speed and are less able to determine the direction of sounds.

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

### Bike Rodeos



Successful Bike Rodeos have been held in Wharton Borough for the past two years. Being educated on how to bike safe on the Borough

streets, displaying their skills to local police officers, learning how to properly adjust a helmet and having their bikes looked at by professionals are just a few of the many benefits gained by the children at this type of event.

### Keep Kids Alive Drive 25®


KEEP KIDS ALIVE DRIVE 25® is a slogan, campaign and call to action. If you want more information about how you and your neighbors can band together to create safer neighborhoods streets go to [www.keepkidsalivedrive25.org](http://www.keepkidsalivedrive25.org)

### Announcement

The New Jersey Department of Transportation issued a call for applications in the winter of 2006 for Safe Routes to School grants. According to Elise Bremer Nei, NJDOT SRTS Coordinator, "274 applications were submitted with a total request for \$75 million. This is well in excess of the federal funding NJ will receive for SRTS over five years but it proves that the residents of NJ understand and appreciate the importance of safe routes to school."

For more information on the NJDOT's SRTS program go to [www.state.nj.us/transportation/community/srts](http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/community/srts)

Got something to say, email Deena Cybulski at: [dcybulski@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:dcybulski@co.morris.nj.us)

Consultant Team: 

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



More information about Safe Routes to School initiatives in NJ and elsewhere can be found at: [www.mcdot.org](http://www.mcdot.org) • <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes> • <http://www.cdc.gov/hccddp/dnpa/kidswalk>

