What is Safe Routes to School?

• Safe Routes to School is the movement to create safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to bicycle or walk to and from school.

• Local Programs are built on collaborative partnerships between parents, educators, elected officials, planners, engineers, business and community leaders, and health officials.
From 1979 to 2009, the number of K-8 students who walk or bike to school has dropped from 48% to 13%. Now, approximately 40% of school trips are made on a school bus, and 45% of children arrive at school in private automobiles. The decline in daily physical activity in walking to and from school has coincided with the increased prevalence of childhood obesity.
Why is SRTS Important?

• Childhood obesity has tripled nationally in the last thirty years. In Alabama the obesity rate has risen from less than 10 percent in 1989 to 32 percent – the fifth highest in the nation (National Center for Disease Control)

• It provides children the opportunity to safely bicycle and walk to school. This improves community and personal health, benefits the environment, and helps to decrease traffic congestion around schools.
Why is SRTS Important?

• There is substantial evidence that physical activity can help improve academic achievement, enhance concentration and attention, and result in better classroom behavior.

• Many school districts bus children short distances due to hazardous walking conditions, forcing school districts to choose between safety and budget. Adding infrastructure like sidewalks can reduce long-term costs.
Supporting SRTS in the Community

1. Projects: Alter & improve the built environment for walking, cycling, and active living in general.

2. Programs: Build awareness, support, skills, & encourage active behavior

3. Policies: Educate and influence decision-making so regulations are changed and best practices become the standard
Safe Routes to School
Federal Funding

• The federal Safe Routes to School program was created in 2005 under SAFETEA-LU, and existed through 2012.

• The program was administered in Alabama by the Alabama Department of Transportation with joint agreements with the Alabama Department of Public Health and the State Department of Education.

• Through December 31, 2012, ALDOT awarded projects to 167 schools/programs totaling $17.3 million.
Under the new federal transportation bill (MAP-21) Safe Routes to School was consolidated into the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

The State of Alabama had the discretion to dedicate TAP funding specifically for SRTS, but did not do so. As a result, ALDOT will discontinue their state SRTS program and coordination.
Safe Routes to School
Federal Funding

• The Alabama Dept. of Public Health & the Alabama State Dept. of Education has previously offered statewide assistance for Safe Routes to School, but ALDOT’s contract with them ends in September 2013.

• TAP includes numerous other funding categories, which results in more competition and less total funding for Safe Routes to School. The program is now known as Safe Routes for Non-Drivers.
Infrastructure

- installing new sidewalks
- installing street striping (crosswalks, bike lanes)
- installing bicycle parking facilities
- installing signs
- providing facilities to slow traffic
- increasing connectivity between locations
- improving handicapped accessibility
- developing alternative drop-off sites
- developing off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities
Walkability Assessments-
Identifying Community Projects and Priorities
Engineering Support

Service project of the Alabama Section Institute of Transportation Engineers
Provided free of charge
Services include:
- traffic data collection
- project development
- ADA compliance
- safety and crash studies
- cost estimates
SRTS Opportunities

Improve Handicap accessibility and Crosswalk Striping and Signals
SRTS Opportunities
Extend sidewalk in central Civic area
SRTS Opportunities
Develop alternative drop-off sites
Project Location
Community Meeting for feedback on Safe Routes to School project
Funding Awarded
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Project ID</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>School System</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>AL 5865</td>
<td>$132,525</td>
<td>Jefferson County BOE</td>
<td>Sidewalks and crosswalks near Chalkville Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>AL 5871</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>Bessemer</td>
<td>Drainage improvements, curb and gutter, crosswalks near Abrams Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>AL 5876</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>All of Jefferson County</td>
<td>Activities including a SRTS Coordinator and walking school bus programming</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>AL 5863</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>Shelby County BOE</td>
<td>Sidewalks, crosswalks &amp; pedestrian signage near Montevallo Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>AL 5862</td>
<td>$148,983</td>
<td>Jefferson County BOE</td>
<td>Sidewalks along 2 streets near Pleasant Grove Elementary &amp; Pleasant Grove M.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>AL 3</td>
<td>$149,815</td>
<td>Hoover</td>
<td>Sidewalks, crosswalks &amp; pedestrian signage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>AL 20</td>
<td>$114,369</td>
<td>Midfield</td>
<td>Sidewalks, alternative drop-off site, crosswalks, bike lane striping, ADA accessibility ramps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>AL 18</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>Calera</td>
<td>Sidewalks, crosswalks, curbs, gutters, pedestrian bridge, striping, drainage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>AL 1</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>Trussville</td>
<td>Sidewalks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>AL 3931</td>
<td>$154,223</td>
<td>Hoover</td>
<td>Install sidewalks near Bluff Park Elementary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>AL 3936</td>
<td>$14,981</td>
<td>Birmingham</td>
<td>4 Thermoplastic crosswalks; 2 bike racks near Barrett Elementary School (CANCELLED)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>AL 3941</td>
<td>$12,047</td>
<td>Birmingham</td>
<td>Digital pedestrian signal; 1 crosswalk; 1 bike rack near Hill Elementary School (CANCELLED)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>AL 3937</td>
<td>$3,790</td>
<td>Birmingham</td>
<td>4 Thermoplastic crosswalks near Robinson Elementary School (CANCELLED)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>AL 3940</td>
<td>$3,698</td>
<td>Birmingham</td>
<td>1 Crosswalk; 1 bike rack near Booker T Washington K-8 (CANCELLED)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>AL 3947</td>
<td>$1,527</td>
<td>Birmingham</td>
<td>1 Crosswalk; 1 bike rack near Daniel Payne Middle School (CANCELLED)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>AL 3949</td>
<td>$13,900</td>
<td>Birmingham</td>
<td>Mapping software; educational training program benefiting Birmingham School System</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>AL 3945</td>
<td>$138,901</td>
<td>Fairfield</td>
<td>Install sidewalks; signs; pedestrian crossing light near CJ Donaldson Elementary &amp; Fairfield High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>AL 3934</td>
<td>$144,065</td>
<td>Hoover</td>
<td>Install sidewalks; handicap ramps, crosswalks; signage near Green Valley Elementary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>AL 3948</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>Leeds</td>
<td>Install sidewalks near Leeds Elementary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>AL 17</td>
<td>$302,988</td>
<td>Homewood</td>
<td>Infrastructure for Shades Cahaba Elementary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>AL 21</td>
<td>$779,435</td>
<td>Mountain Brook</td>
<td>Infrastructure for Cary Woods Elementary, Crestline Elementary, Mountain Brook Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>AL 26</td>
<td>$527,552</td>
<td>Vestavia Hills</td>
<td>Infrastructure for Cahaba Heights Elementary, Dean Road Elementary, Vestavia Hills Elementary School West</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Safe Routes to School

Infrastructure

Non-Infrastructure

Projects: Sidewalks, Traffic Calming, etc.
Plans and Policies
Programs, Events & Education
Enforcement
Non-Infrastructure

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Education
- Programs such as the Walking School Bus, Corner Captains, and School Pool
- Encouragement and Incentives
- School Travel Plans and Wellness Policies
- Enforcement of School Zone and other Traffic Laws
Program: Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities

• Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities is a cornerstone of RWJF’s $500 million commitment to reverse the country’s childhood obesity epidemic by 2015.

• HKHC targets improvements in local policies and our community environment—changes that research indicates could have the greatest impact on healthier eating, more active living and obesity prevention.

• Jefferson County is one of 50 sites selected.
An initiative of:

Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities of Jefferson County
United Way of Central Alabama
YMCA of Greater Birmingham
Jefferson County Department of Health
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Health Action Partnership
Alabama Department of Education
Alabama Department of Public Health
Alabama Department of Transportation
2010
Community Meetings / National Center for Safe Routes to School Trainings at 4 schools (Homewood, Birmingham)

2011
April: Walking School Bus Workshop
May: School Meetings/Kresge Arts in Birmingham
June: Wellness Policy Workshop
July: Walking School Bus Policy Workshop
August-Sept: Walking School Buses Launch
October-December: Continued Participation/Awards

2012
March: Spring Walking School Buses launch / SRTS Applications
What are Walking School Buses?

- Groups of children, led by a trained adult, walk to school on a predetermined route
- Engages people throughout a community
- Encourages physical activity for EVERY child
WSB # 1
Meets at the East Lake Park entrance near 4th Alley North

WSB # 2
Meets at the corner of 85th Street South 4th Avenue South

WSB # 3
Meets at the corner of 2nd Avenue South and 81st Street South
Participating students walked over 561 miles in 2011-12!

2011-2012 WALKING SCHOOL BUS

• Robinson Elementary
• Hemphill Elementary
• Hudson Elementary
Fall Results

• Robinson Elementary: 48 students participated, walking 81 miles
• Hemphill Elementary: 150 students participated, walking 472 miles
• Phillips Academy: 78 students participated, walking 141 miles
Safe Routes to School of Central Alabama

Is working with communities to make transportation to and from school easier and safer.

In the past, many children walked or rode bikes to school, which was safer and healthier than riding in cars. However, today's youth are walking less, which can lead to more physical activity in their daily routines.

Several communities have made efforts to protect and improve pedestrian safety, encouraging healthy living habits.

The Walking School Bus works just like a traditional school bus route, but it's on a walking path instead of riding. Adults "bus drivers" help children get to school, ensuring they walk in groups and stay together, promoting safety and social interaction.

Our Partners:
- Jefferson County Department of Health
- MDAH (Mentorship Development and Health)
- Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
- Jefferson County Health Coalition Partnership

Contact: satesroutesalabama.org
Policies

• School Travel Plans to support walking and biking to school as a method of transportation

• School Wellness Policies to include Safe Routes to School language & encouragement

• Complete Streets policies at the municipal level to ensure the construction and maintenance of appropriate bicycle and pedestrian facilities
WHAT MAKES A STREET COMPLETE?

LOOK FOR THESE AND OTHER COMPLETE STREET SOLUTIONS
1. SIDEWALKS  2. PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS  3. BIKE LAKES  4. CURB EXTENSIONS & CURB RAMPS  5. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION STOPS  6. SAFE CROSSING OPPORTUNITIES
Resolution **PASSED** the Birmingham Planning Commission

Resolutions **PASSED** by Montevallo, Midfield, Sylvan Springs, Pleasant Grove, Homewood, and Bessemer City Councils

Subdivision Regulations **REVISED** to include Complete Streets language in Birmingham and Clay

Comprehensive Plan **INCLUDES** Complete Streets language in Graysville