

# MENLO PARK SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

# Annual Report

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School Year 2024–2025



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# MENLO PARK SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

## PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Menlo Park Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program is a citywide program that encourages and enables students to walk, bike, or bus to school by making sustainable modes safer, easier, and more fun. The goal of Menlo Park SRTS is to support 23 private and public schools in four school districts across Menlo Park, unincorporated Menlo Park (San Mateo County), Atherton, East Palo Alto, and Redwood City to help students get to school safely.

The Menlo Park SRTS Coordinator leads focused efforts on SRTS initiatives and community-led activities and events, guided by the Menlo Park SRTS Strategy.

The San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) offers a countywide SRTS program that funds and provides technical assistance to local jurisdictions, school districts, and schools. The SMCOE SRTS program is funded by the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County and offers an annual grant to support local SRTS efforts. For many years, the school districts and other schools in Menlo Park used the grant to organize encouragement and education events like safety assemblies, bike rodeos, and Walk to School days.

### 2024-2025 School Year Overview

- Support for school-led activities, e.g. bike buses, bike rodeo, group rides, etc.
- Free bike repair clinics during two community events in Spring 2025
- Helmet giveaway, fitting, and decoration during one community event in Spring 2025
- Bike and scooter donation event at Laurel School in Spring 2025
- Continued support for parent champion led events and new volunteer training to support new and continued parent volunteers

### Developments from Previous Years



#### 2018-2019

- SRTS Strategy, SRTS Coordinator
- Suggested routes to school maps

#### 2019-2022

- SRTS Task Force
- Pedestrian Safety Curriculum for Elementary schools and training for PE teachers
- Shift to online SRTS activities during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Walk audits

#### 2022-2023

- Support the implementation SRTS education in the classroom
- 2023 SMCOE School Travel Fellowship
- Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Handbook
- Come back of the Spring Party in 2023

#### 2023-2024

- Support to school-led activities, e.g. bike buses, bike rodeo, group rides, etc.
- Bike to the Library in the Spring 2024
- Bike-Friendly Driver Section to the Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Handbook
- 2024 SMCOE School Travel Fellowship

# THE SRTS PROGRAM IDENTIFIES NEW CITYWIDE GOALS

A goal setting workshop was held at the September 5th, 2024 Task Force meeting to inform the SRTS Program with identifying measurable goals for the SRTS program. Twenty-three participants attended the workshop in-person or virtually.

## Strengths

- What the SRTS program does well?
- Accomplishments
- What can we build on?
- What makes the SRTS program unique?
- What resources do we have in Menlo Park?

Network-connecting people interested in SRTS

-The task force exists and has a lot of energy behind it, and many people from different roles collaborating

Shared SRTS resources

It's the one place /group to share what is happening

## Opportunities

- Partnerships
- Trends/Changes/Laws
- Community can do
- How to
- the ne

elevate SRTS topics to the district, e.g. board meetings raise awareness

data collection

broader community education

The maps that we have are a great start, we should continue to improve them, some routes are not in the maps

increase advocacy for SRTS

Driver education for bike safety.

Incentives and rebates for cargo bikes

accountability / deterrence for distracted driving, dangerous maneuvers

Parent parent community of bikers who could care but are too busy to be formally involved. Parent Bicycles Community. Parent on a cargo bike.

bus schedules that align with after school programs / after school care

More bus routes, longer routes

identifying hot spots for education (yard signs, safety campaigning?)

We should discourage class 3 bikes and moped like bikes

Invest more energy on days like the international walk/bike to school like having dedicated lanes

Watch others' Safe Routes efforts (HP Park and Laurel's parent led bike rodeo)

## Aspirations

- What differences the program can make?
- What do we care about?
- How to build on the top strengths and opportunities?

Change the incentives between driving & buses

better and safer infrastructures

working groups/Task Force subcommittees

More active transportation mode share for families who live close to school

More pedestrians cyclists to Oak Knoll (they live close enough)

Infrastructure that makes parents feel safe sending kids to school on foot or bike

Double the number of people that are getting to schools on anything but cars

equity between school districts

More citywide events

Driving not the easiest choice

<30% of kids being driven to school on a daily basis

"Bike to school day" closing off streets to cars. Preventing car drop-off except for handicap & buses

stronger incentives for ABC travels

facilitate access to all SRTS resources

## Results

- Practical changes
- What the success will look like?
- What will be different?

Suggest next steps

We need numbers and have a significant increase on using anything but cars

measurable outcomes of resources

Shorter car lines, less traffic complaints from parents

More active kids and parents in the community

Better safety along bike corridors. Barrier-free lanes for bicycles.

more data collection on mode shares

data dissemination

\*Actual\* safe routes to school from any given neighborhood

## Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results (SOAR) Analysis

During the goal setting workshop, attendees discussed the **Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results** of the Menlo Park SRTS program and brainstormed potential evaluation metrics.



### Strengths

- SRTS Task Force
- Resources created by the SRTS program
- SRTS network of engaged partners
- SRTS champions



### Opportunities

- Existing school bus programs ran by the districts
- The suggested routes to school maps
- The increased use of e-bikes
- Data collection on how families travel to and from school
- The existing ongoing SRTS efforts in the school community



### Aspirations

- Stronger incentives to use sustainable transportation for school travels and host ambitious encouragement events



### Results

- Increase the mode share of active transportation and more active families in the community
- Safe pedestrian and bicycle infrastructures
- Robust data collection on school commutes

## New Citywide SRTS Goals

The following goals, objectives, and metrics are based on the SOAR analysis conducted during the September 5th workshop and on discussions held at Task Force meetings. The proposed goals offer a framework to pursue the SRTS efforts in Menlo Park over the next five years. The goals and actions are not in a prioritization order. They are intertwined and complement each other to guide the development of a successful SRTS program in Menlo Park, focused on education and encouragement activities, events, and resources.

- **Goal 1:** Understand student, caregiver, and school staff transportation challenges to work toward sustainable solutions.
- **Goal 2:** Increase the number of families safely using sustainable transportation for school commutes through education and encouragement.
- **Goal 3:** Increase the visibility, awareness, and engagement in the SRTS program.
- **Goal 4:** Continue and expand the collaboration between schools and community partners to integrate SRTS into new and existing programs, initiatives, and events.
- **Goal 5:** Encourage schools to host encouragement and education events throughout the school year.
- **Goal 6:** Equitable distribution of STRS resources and support between all schools and districts.
- **Goal 7:** Improve safety and comfort along safe routes to school.

<b>GOAL 1 UNDERSTAND STUDENT, CAREGIVER, AND SCHOOL STAFF TRANSPORTATION CHALLENGES TO WORK TOWARD SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS.</b>	
<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>METRIC</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect data on how families travel to and from school each year and at all public schools.</li> <li>• Collect data on families' experiences and concerns around active and shared transportation and infrastructure.</li> <li>• Promote and collaborate with existing crowdsourcing platforms to collect data on Menlo Park streets, e.g. Street Story UC Berkeley to support the Menlo Park Vision Zero Plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of student tallies and participating schools</li> <li>• Number of responses to parent surveys</li> <li>• Number of entries for Menlo Park on crowdsourcing platforms (note that crowdsourcing platform is not concrete data but can support qualitative data on safety perception)</li> </ul>

**GOAL 2 INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES SAFELY USING SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION FOR SCHOOL COMMUTES THROUGH EDUCATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT.**

OBJECTIVE	METRIC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of families walking and biking that live less than a mile from school.</li> <li>• Continue to promote Suggested Routes to School Maps and update them with new routes and infrastructures.</li> <li>• Standardize back-to-school communications to caregivers, including information on active and shared transportation options, pledge to travel ABC, school commute safety tips, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mode share of families walking and biking in student tallies</li> <li>• Number of communications to caregivers digitally or at school events (e.g., back-to-school nights, PTO meetings, etc.)</li> <li>• Additional potential metrics: bike counts in bike racks, numbers of cars in drop-off lines</li> </ul>

**GOAL 3 INCREASE THE VISIBILITY, AWARENESS, AND ENGAGEMENT IN THE SRTS PROGRAM.**

OBJECTIVE	METRIC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase families' engagement in the SRTS programs at their school.</li> <li>• Build volunteer capacity by supporting champion recruitment and training.</li> <li>• Communicate on SRTS successes and challenges.</li> <li>• Explore new and ambitious ways to increase the visibility and the reach of encouragement events, such as school street events, demonstration projects, pledges, challenges, etc.</li> <li>• Continue and enhance the SRTS program technical assistance to school-led events.</li> <li>• Think of incentives to increase participation and awareness in encouragement events.</li> <li>• Include SRTS in existing citywide events, e.g., Halloween Parade, farmers' market, festivals, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of SRTS volunteers and champions</li> <li>• Number of encouragement events held</li> <li>• Number of participants at encouragement events</li> </ul>

**GOAL 4 CONTINUE AND EXPAND THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO INTEGRATE SRTS INTO NEW AND EXISTING PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES, AND EVENTS.**

OBJECTIVE	METRIC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build and maintain strong community partnerships through consistent communication and outreach.</li> <li>• Maintain collaboration between the schools.</li> <li>• Create Task Force subcommittees to address transportation challenges identified.</li> <li>• Work with the school districts, the City, and SamTrans to enhance the shared transportation options (bus and shuttle schedules and services).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of participants at Task Force meetings</li> <li>• Number of participants in the subcommittees</li> <li>• Number of meetings between partners (e.g., City, schools, SamTrans, etc.)</li> </ul>

<b>GOAL 5 ENCOURAGE SCHOOLS TO HOST ENCOURAGEMENT AND EDUCATION EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR.</b>	
<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>METRIC</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schedule SRTS encouragement and education events and promote them in the school community throughout the year.</li> <li>• Continue to provide and expand, school and community-based SRTS education and encouragement programs and materials.</li> <li>• Facilitate and increase the use of shared resources by the schools and SRTS champions for school-led activities and events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of encouragement and education events</li> <li>• Number of participating schools</li> </ul>
<b>GOAL 6 EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF STRS RESOURCES AND SUPPORT BETWEEN ALL SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS.</b>	
<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>METRIC</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide additional support to schools with no designated SRTS champions.</li> <li>• Proactively engage with schools that serve students from MTC Equity Priority Communities and with a high proportion of students eligible to Free and Reduced Price Meal, in neighborhoods disadvantaged in health, pollution and safety areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of encouragement and education events and participants in identified schools</li> </ul>
<b>GOAL 7 IMPROVE SAFETY AND COMFORT ALONG SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL.</b>	
<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>METRIC</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the collaboration and coordination between SRTS program and the city departments and commissions (Public Works, Library and Community Services, etc.).</li> <li>• Coordinate with the City's Vision Zero efforts.</li> <li>• Support advocacy for SRTS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of collisions involving a vehicle and a bicycle/pedestrian</li> </ul>



# SRTS TASK FORCE

The SRTS Task Force was established in fall 2019 to guide and implement the SRTS program, discuss issues and concerns, and craft recommendations to improve the program. In addition to sharing information and ideas on SRTS, the SRTS Task Force engages the community around SRTS, partners on events, and supports schools and school districts with strategy implementation. The SRTS Task Force includes approximately 16 members representing a variety of organizations and meets quarterly. The meetings have been virtual since spring 2020 and are open to the public. In fall 2023, the SRTS program hosted a hybrid meeting.

## Mission, Roles, and Goals

- Define and collaborate on objectives, goals, and milestones for the Menlo Park SRTS program
- Help organize and support different tasks and activities
- Be a liaison to share information and market the program to the school community

## Members and Organizations Represented

- Las Lomitas Elementary School District
- Menlo Park City School District
- Ravenswood City School District
- Sequoia Union High School District
- City of Menlo Park, San Mateo County, and Town of Atherton Public Works representatives
- Police department representatives: Menlo Park, Atherton, and San Mateo County
- Menlo Park Fire District
- Library and Community Services
- Parents
- High school student representatives
- Complete Streets Commission (SRTS subcommittee representative)

6



Task Force and Subcommittee meetings

16



Average number of attendees per meeting

## TOPICS

- New SRTS goals
- E-bike safety
- Data collection, travel tallies
- Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day
- Shared transportation
- Railroad crossing safety





## Task Force Subcommittees

In April 2025, the SRTS program held two Task Force subcommittee meetings to discuss program equity and shared transportation promotion. The meetings aimed to explore specific topics and brainstorm ideas for future SRTS programs.

### Program Equity

This group discussed the actions the SRTS program could take to ensure all students receive SRTS education, how the SRTS program can improve volunteer recruitment and best support the schools with no SRTS volunteers, and how to reach out to more families. The ideas proposed include:

- How-to guide for volunteers
- Safety equipment (helmet, bike lights) giveaway events
- Explore the possibility to involve other partners in SRTS programs such as the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, high school students, the school counselors and family liaisons
- Reduce the administrative burden for school to participate in SRTS events or apply for SRTS grants
- Citywide bike fleet for students

### Shared Transportation Promotion

This group examined the challenges and barriers for families to use shared transportation modes (public transit, school bus, carpooling) for school commutes and explored ways each partner (SRTS program, schools, SamTrans, districts) could increase the use and promotion of shared transportation modes. The groups identified recommendations to increase the school bus and public transit ridership:

- Improve communication on the school bus program
- Implement a buddy system for elementary and middle school students to ride the city bus
- Create a network of families interested in carpooling
- Incentivize carpooling
- Establish consistent communications between the school districts and the city and get the districts' buy-in with the SRTS program' shared transportation goals





# ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES 2024-25

## Volunteer Recruitment and Training

In August 2024, the SRTS program hosted a volunteer training to meet new and seasoned school SRTS champions; present an overview of the school year; support available and volunteer opportunities; and hear about interests, needs, and school priorities. Nine attendees participated in the discussion. They mentioned they were interested in implementing driver education at their school, bike buses, and expanding the SRTS Supporter Program. The SRTS program also created a Volunteer Recruitment Flyer to be distributed by the schools.

The continuity of parent volunteerism is important for the program's success. Volunteer recruitment and training will help to develop a new generation of parent SRTS volunteers.

### BECOME A MENLO PARK SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL VOLUNTEER!



**Did you know that the City of Menlo Park has a citywide Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program that supports children and families in walking, rolling, taking the bus, or carpooling to school?**

Safe Routes to School events make it safer, easier, and more fun for families walk and bike to school, improving their health, well-being, and safety.

**Parents, get involved!**

Your excitement and participation in planning SRTS activities for your school can make a difference to the community. To become active in your child's SRTS program, take the following steps:

1. **Learn more about Safe Routes to School in Menlo Park** on the [city website](#) and **subscribe to the monthly SRTS newsletter**.
2. **Fill out the Volunteer form** of interest [here](#) to support activities and events.
3. **Work with your school staff:** Schools in Menlo Park regularly organize fun events like Walk and Roll to School days, Walking School Buses or Bike Buses, Golden Sneaker Contest, etc. They need your help to make them a success.

**As a volunteer, you work together with school staff, other parents, families, and community members** to build a culture of walking and rolling at your school. Volunteers can participate in:

- Organizing and supporting SRTS events at your school.
- Supporting student travel data collection to understand how families travel to and from school.
- Representing your school at meetings, such as the quarterly Menlo Park SRTS Task Force meetings.
- Be a liaison between the City and your school.

**How does SRTS benefit your family?**

In addition to providing opportunities to be active while traveling to and from school, SRTS programs also:

- Teach students and families walking and biking safety tips and rules of the road.
- Inform community members about travel options to reduce traffic near schools.
- Increase safety for all by reducing traffic and raising driver awareness of families walking and rolling near schools.
- Improve health, well-being, and academic performance by promoting active and healthy transportation.
- Build relationships by creating opportunities for families to get to know each other while walking, biking, and carpooling together.

**To sign up, volunteer, and learn more about how you can support Safe Routes at your school,** please visit [menlopark.gov/saferoutes](https://menlopark.gov/saferoutes) or contact the Safe Routes to School Coordinator at [saferoutestoschool@menlopark.gov](mailto:saferoutestoschool@menlopark.gov).



## Helmet Fittings and Giveaways

A bike rodeo safety event, hosted by California Highway Patrol (CHP) Redwood City and Menlo Park Police Department, kicked off May is Bike Month. The Menlo Park Safe Routes to School program distributed free kids' helmets, donated by Safe Kids Santa Clara San Mateo, and provided free bike tune-ups offered by Bay Area BikeMobile. Children decorated their new helmets and learned helmet fitting tips.

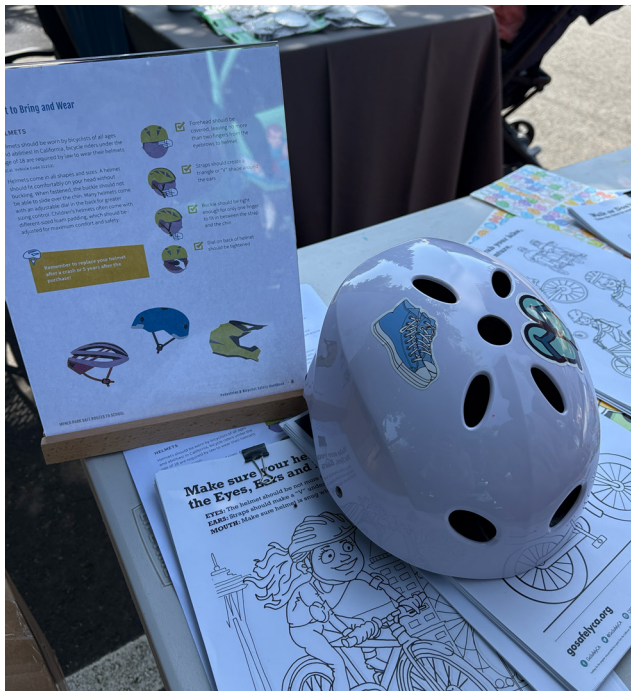


## Free Bike Repair Clinics

The SRTS program provided two free bike repair clinics with Bay Area BikeMobile during citywide events:

- **March 29th**, at the Community Resource Fair at the Belle Haven Community Campus
- **May 4th**, at the bike rodeo hosted by CHP Redwood City and Menlo Park Police Department

The BikeMobile can fix flat tires, adjust brakes and gears, and replace broken or worn-out parts like chains, seats, and tires. While the mechanics work on a bike they explain to the owner how to do basic bike maintenance at home. About 40 bikes were tuned up over the two events.



## Poster Contest

The SRTS program invited all elementary students to enter a poster contest and draw about for example their school commute, their Safe Routes hero or what make their travel safe. Winners won gift certificates to Kepler's Books.



## Monthly Newsletter

The SRTS program publishes a monthly newsletter to promote events, share safety tips and highlight local SRTS efforts. In 2024-2025, the Menlo Park Safe Routes to School team put extra efforts in advertising the SRTS newsletter to the community. There are currently 378 subscribers to the Safe Routes to School Newsletter. There have been 30 new subscribers in 2025 and 152 joined in 2024. All newsletters are available on the SRTS website.

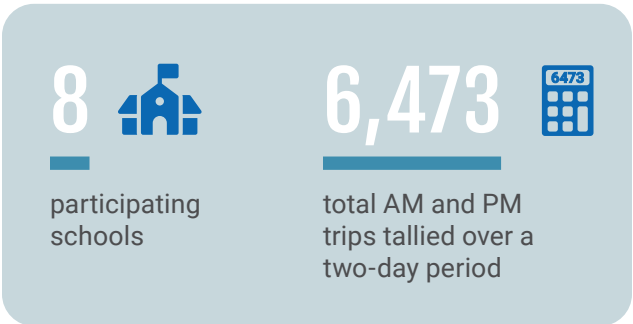


# TRAVEL MODES SHARE

## Travel Tally Data

Each year since 2019, the Menlo Park SRTS program has collected data on how students travel to and from school. Schools have been collecting data for longer than that as part of the San Mateo County Office of Education SRTS program. Travel tally data are usually collected in the classroom by the teachers. In 2024, the SRTS program added a new tally survey to collect high school student travel tallies. High school tallies were mainly distributed as an individual online survey, sent directly to the students by the school administration. Here are the fall 2024 key observations:

- **More than half (54%)** of **Menlo Park students** commute to school using a **mode other than the family vehicle** (dropped off or drove self).
- **Rolling (16%)** and taking the **school bus (15%)** are the most popular sustainable transportation modes with **elementary school** students.
- **Rolling** is the most popular sustainable transportation mode with **middle school students (43%)** and **increased 11%** between fall 2021 and fall 2024.
- **Public transit** is a considerable transportation option for **middle (9%)** and **high (20%)** students. This mode **increased 18%** between fall 2021 and fall 2024
- 8 participating schools
- **6,473 total AM and PM** trips tallied over a two-day period



	BEFORE 2020	FALL 2021	SPRING 2023	FALL 2023	FALL 2024
<b>Walk</b>	15%	17%	17%	15%	8%
<b>Roll</b>	12%	12%	8%	17%	23%
<b>School bus</b>	16%	21%	12%	13%	8%
<b>Carpool</b>	4%	3%	2%	3%	5%
<b>Public transit/ Taxi-type/ Other</b>	9%	2%	1%	4%	20%
<b>Dropped off/ Drove self</b>	52%	47%	60%	46%	46%

*Note: totals may not add up exactly to 100% due to rounding in presentation of data.*

# SUPPORTING SCHOOL-LED SRTS EFFORTS

The Menlo Park SRTS program continued to support school-led events and activities with materials, technical assistance, incentives, or staff time.

## Sustainable Commute Flyer

The SRTS program created a flyer to encourage families to adopt sustainable transportation modes to get to school. The flyer was shared during back-to-school events and communications.



**PARENTS:**  
**HOW WILL YOU TRAVEL TO SCHOOL THIS YEAR?**  
**TRY THE ABC WAY!**

**This year, challenge your family by traveling the ABC (Anything-But-Car) way regularly. It can be once a month, once a week or more often!**

**? Did you know?**

Since 2019, your school has participated in the Menlo Park Safe Routes to School Program. The Menlo Park Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program is a citywide program that encourages and enables children to walk, bike, or bus to school by making school travel safer, easier, and more fun.



**Get involved at your school!**

The Menlo Park Safe Routes to School Coordinator ([SafeRoutesToSchool@MenloPark.gov](mailto:SafeRoutesToSchool@MenloPark.gov)) can assist you with the organization of a Walk and Roll to School Day, starting a Walking School Bus, a Bike Bus, and many more activities!

Back-to-school time is the perfect period to build new habits. We encourage students to walk, roll, bike, and ride the bus to and from their school. Using these transportation options helps create healthier neighborhoods, less traffic congestion, a stronger sense of community, safer streets, and improved accessibility.

Events and activities will be organized throughout the school year to educate students and their families about safe walking and biking and encourage car-free ways to travel to school

Prepare your school commute! Review the resources below with your child and make a plan to walk or roll more often.

- [Suggested routes to school map](#): This map shows suggested walking and biking routes to school to help you plan your travel to school. Each school in Menlo Park has a suggested routes to school map, available online at [menlopark.gov/saferoutes](http://menlopark.gov/saferoutes)
- [Readiness Checklist](#) to walk or bike alone to school.
- [Walk and Roll Bingo](#) to play with your student, family and friends and learn more about walking and biking safety.

 **Stay tuned!**

Visit the **City of Menlo Park SRTS website** ([MenloPark.gov/SafeRoutes](http://MenloPark.gov/SafeRoutes)) for additional resources to learn about safety tips and how to get involved in the community.

 **Subscribe** to the [monthly newsletter](#) on the Program's website

## Pledge Card and Poster

Pledges are strategies that have been proven to support behavior changes. The SRTS program created a pledge card template and poster to promote using sustainable transportation to travel to school. In 2024-25, local schools used the pledge cards for their events.

In October, for Bike and Roll to School days, Laurel School Upper Campus had **71 bike pledges completed in total.**



### Menlo Park Safe Routes to School Pledge

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to try walking, biking, or taking the bus more often, beginning today.

I am \_\_\_\_\_ years old. I am in grade \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ I will use foot-powered modes like walking and biking \_\_\_\_\_ days per week.

☐ I will share the ride by riding the bus or carpooling \_\_\_\_\_ days per week.

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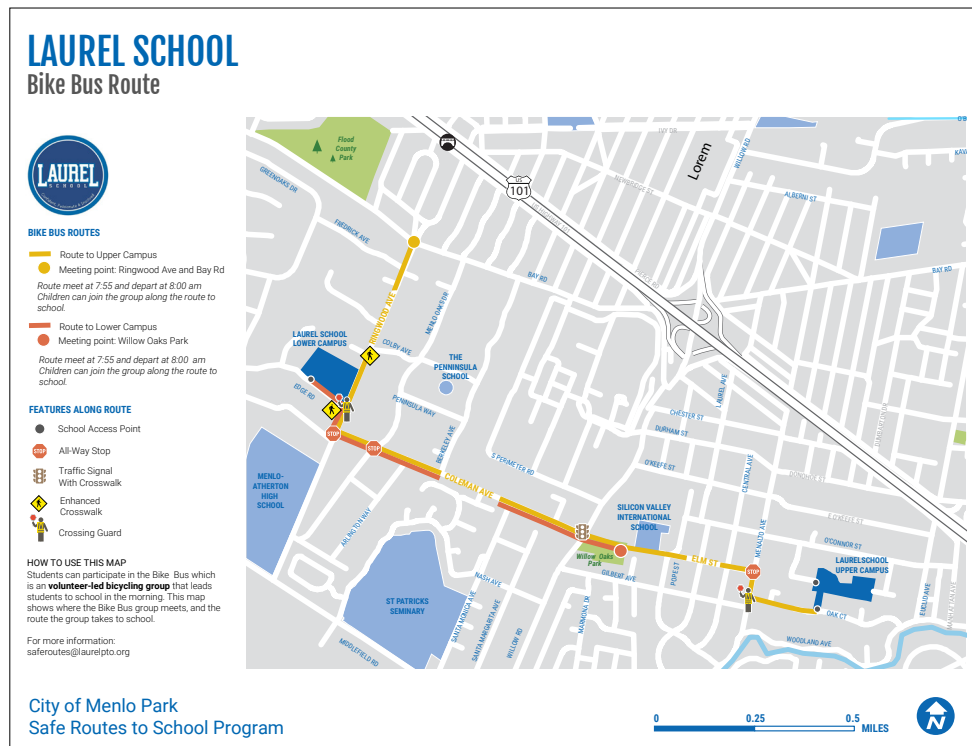
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## Bike Bus Map

The SRTS program created a bike bus map for Laurel School Upper and Lower campuses. A bike bus map shows designated routes that a group of students accompanied by trusted adults follow to get to school.





## Practice Group Ride to Middle School

In August 2024, a few days before the first day of school at Hillview Middle School, parents from Laurel, Encinal and Oak Knoll Elementary schools organized a group bike ride to Hillview Middle for new students to test their route to school, review rules of the road and share biking safety tips. Over 40 people rode in four groups from their local neighborhoods to Hillview Middle. Police Sergeant Mary Ferguson reviewed the rules of the road and safety on e-bikes and the SRTS Coordinator introduced the citywide SRTS program and the resources available for the school community.



## School Highlights: School-based Initiatives



### Bike Donation Event at Laurel School

Laurel School Safe Routes team held a one-time bike donation event in January to collect bikes and scooters.

They received over twenty bikes and scooters of different sizes, including accessories like training wheels and a bike trailer. The Laurel Safe Routes team coordinated with the local Menlo-Atherton High School bike club, M-A on the Move, who will work with the school counselors to redistribute the donated bikes to the Laurel families.

### Encinal Elementary Held their First Earth Day Bike Bus

Encinal Elementary hosted their very first bike bus on April 22, 2025 to celebrate Earth Day. Over 70 participants joined the bike bus. The Earth Day Bike Bus had two routes, coming from different parts of the city.

### Lower Laurel Helmet Giveaway

In Spring 2025 Lower Laurel, received a grant to purchase of helmets, scooters and bikes for the kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders to practice signaling, coming to a full stop, proper helmet fitting, and making eye contact with drivers. This was an important introduction for the students to prepare them for the bike rodeo experience in the 3rd grade.

# PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

Looking forward, the following opportunities and challenges for the future have been identified based on discussions from the Task Force meetings and the subcommittee meetings.

## SRTS Task Force

The Task Force is seen as an important space for the stakeholders and the school community to connect around SRTS and develop and implement tailored SRTS program. Increase Task Force's role in networking, resources sharing, volunteers training, and other events.

## Shared Transportation

Increasing the use of shared transportation (school bus, carpool and public transit) to travel to school was a recurring discussion topic in 2024-2025. It was the subject of a Task Force subcommittee. Shared transportation is considered an essential component of SRTS to achieve equity goals (considering students who can't walk or roll to school for various reasons) and reducing the number of single-family occupancy vehicle for school travels.

## E-bike Education

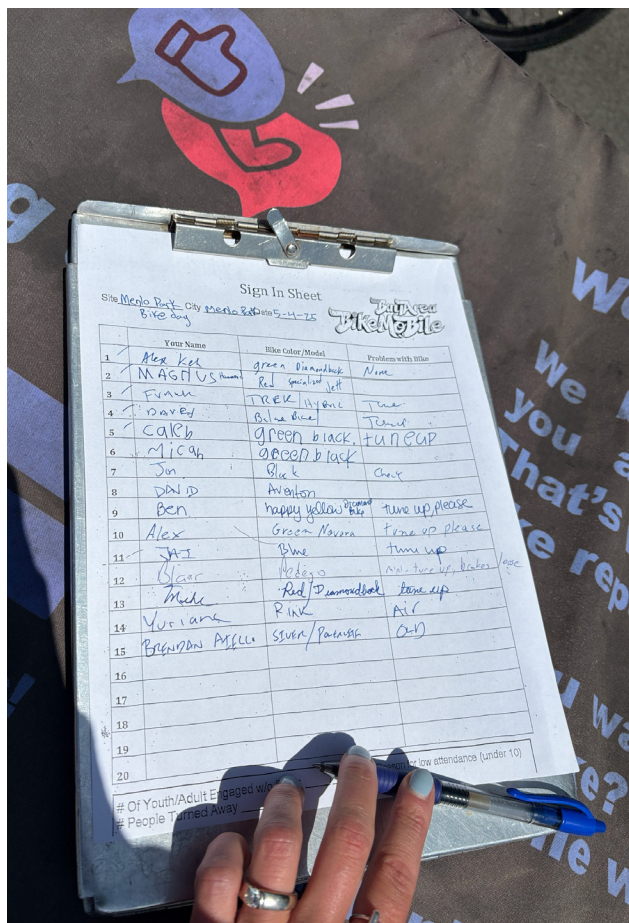
Partners like the San Mateo County Office of Education, Police Department, Safe Kids Coalition, school district and neighboring communities are exploring ways to provide e-bike safety for students and their families.

## Equity

Build on the current discussion to improve the support to school with no SRTS Champion and facilitate the engagement of different partners in SRTS programs.

## Data Collection

The Task Force underscore the importance of data collection on families' mode splits to create customized SRTS program to the context of each school.





# PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## Collaboration with the School Districts

Bring the Menlo Park citywide SRTS goals into district level goals to better align messages and priorities with each school district and school.

## Building Volunteer Capacity

Continue to develop tools and resources to facilitate and streamline SRTS volunteer work and engage parents, caregivers, school staff, community members in the SRTS program.

## Citywide Events

Continue to provide events including pedestrian and bicycle education and explore ways to have more impact with citywide events.

## Program Visibility and Outreach

Increase the visibility of the program and reach more families by joining city events not related to SRTS, e.g., Halloween Parade, Resources Fairs, Farmers Market, etc.





The Menlo Park Safe Routes to School Program is a partnership between the City of Menlo Park, Las Lomitas Elementary School District, Menlo Park City School District, Ravenswood City School District, Sequoia Union High School District, private schools, local community stakeholders, and Alta Planning + Design.