



Southern California Regional Platform Fall 2012

About the Regional Network and Our Goals

The Southern California Safe Routes to School Regional Network, a project of the Safe Routes to School National Partnership, was formed in the spring of 2010 and is currently funded through the generous support of Kaiser Permanente and a Community Transformation Grant. The goal of the Southern California regional network is to build partnerships, leverage resources and improve public health in the seven-county Southern California region by improving policies as well as the built environment to support and encourage physical activity through walking and bicycling to school and in daily life. The National Partnership also works at the local level to provide technical assistance to six Kaiser Permanente Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) zones in the region.

State of Active Transportation in Southern California

In Southern California, a significant portion of the population is already walking and bicycling to school, work and play. Unfortunately, policy, funding and existing transportation infrastructure do not necessarily support and encourage walking and bicycling. However, current research and trends show that the demand for walkable and livable neighborhoods is growing. To improve safety, air quality and public health, the Southern California Safe Routes to School Regional Network is working with county transportation commissions (CTCs), councils of government (COGs), metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), community-based organizations (CBOs) and regional partners to change policies and funding opportunities to accelerate the construction of walking and bicycling networks.

Two MPOs regionally coordinate Southern California transportation planning: the [Southern California Association of Governments](#) (SCAG) and the [San Diego Association of Governments](#) (SANDAG). These MPOs adopt federally mandated regional transportation plans (RTPs) and sustainable communities strategies (SCSs) which bring together policies and future investments to integrate transportation and land use over the next 25 years. Within the six-county SCAG region, CTCs are responsible for programming and distributing federal and state funding in coordination with local cities and CTCs by county, specifically: the [Imperial County Transportation Commission](#), [Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority](#), [Orange County Transportation Authority](#), [Riverside County Transportation Commission](#), [San Bernardino Associated Governments](#) and [Ventura County Transportation Commission](#). SANDAG is both the San Diego region's MPO and CTC.

Take Action for Safe and Healthy Communities

Communities can take action to create safer and healthier communities by adopting smart policies and building sustainable Safe Routes to School programs. Actions for each Southern California region are detailed on subsequent pages.

- **Southern California Association of Governments:** SCAG's primary objective is to support implementation of the 2012 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) and create a strong framework for the 2016 RTP.
 - Work with SCAG staff to develop a robust active transportation program devoted to improving data collection, coordination and funding in Southern California.

- Support the inclusion of a Regional Complete Streets Plan, a Regional Safe Routes to School Plan and an Active Transportation Strategic Funding Plan at SCAG.
- Support SCAG's Active Transportation Subcommittee, the Transportation Finance Committee, the Sustainability Committee and the Public Health Subcommittee by providing public comment and resources.

■ **Imperial County:** The primary objective in Imperial County is to support the growth of the county's Safe Routes to School Coalition and partner with relevant agencies to develop a countywide Safe Routes to School plan.

- Support the Imperial County Safe Routes to School Coalition, key elected officials and local partners to advance Safe Routes to Schools in Imperial County. (Local partners include school districts, law enforcement, Imperial County Transportation Commission.)
 - Provide guidance, contacts and best practices from Southern California.
 - Compile examples and best practices for rural communities.
 - Assist in fostering local champions across the county to lead work at the local level.
- Work with ICTC, the Imperial County Safe Routes to School Coalition, public health practitioners and other partners to develop a countywide Safe Routes to Schools plan.
 - This plan will develop a methodology for prioritizing schools for future Safe Routes to Schools funding cycles and encourage collaboration with ICTC to apply for countywide planning grants.

■ **Los Angeles County:** The primary objective in Los Angeles County (Metro) is to foster the implementation of robust active transportation and Safe Routes to School policies and increase funding with evidence-based research and community input.

- Analyze existing Metro policy and funding to increase investments in active transportation.
 - Promote select cities with successful multi-modal planning, supportive elected officials and CBOs that prioritize resources to create a safer and more walkable and bikeable Los Angeles County.
 - Build relationships with policymakers, school districts and community leaders through education on the needs and benefits of active transportation.
- Develop Complete Streets criteria for Metro's Call for Projects, Short Range Plan and other funding opportunities.
- Support standardized bicycle and pedestrian data collection and modeling throughout the county on a consistent basis.
 - **HEAL Zones: North Long Beach**

■ **Orange County:** The primary objective in Orange County is to work with partners to strengthen support for active transportation throughout the county.

- Build on the [Alliance for a Healthy Orange County](#) coalition of CBOs to form a strong voice around active transportation, Safe Routes to School and leveraging funding dollars.
- Connect [Orange County Health Care Agency](#) efforts with transportation decision-making agencies.
- Support and encourage Orange County Transportation Authority, Orange County Council of Governments and county leadership to incorporate and support the community health benefits of active transportation and Safe Routes to School in future policy decisions.

- Develop a countywide Complete Streets plan or policies to improve the safety of all users.
 - Extend existing countywide bikeways planning to include pedestrian planning and ensure connectivity of local bicycle and pedestrian networks.
 - Encourage metrics that support and prioritize active transportation projects in high-needs neighborhoods, including low-income communities.
 - Educate local leaders on the benefits of Complete Streets policies and design.
 - HEAL Zone: Activate Anaheim - Edison school/park and Sycamore Jr. High

■ **Riverside County:** The primary objective in Riverside County is to develop working relationships between key agencies in the county to increase active transportation funding, interagency communication and community collaboration.

- Develop relationships between the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) and the County of Riverside Department of Public Health.
 - Aid in the incorporation of public health metrics and policies to encourage active transportation in RCTC, WRCOG and CVAG policies.
 - Build off the extensive Safe Routes to School efforts currently underway in Riverside County to highlight successes and build support for expanding these programs.
- Collaborate with Riverside County’s Active Communities Health Coalition to find opportunities and discuss next steps for active transportation and Safe Route to School policies.
 - Research Riverside County’s policies and planning on active transportation.
- Identify different key leadership and funding opportunities for active transportation within the RCTC.
 - HEAL Zone: Eastside Riverside County - Longfellow Elementary School and Emerson Elementary School

■ **San Bernardino County:** The primary objective in San Bernardino County is to build upon unique coalitions in the region and foster closer relationships between key county agencies to support added investments in active transportation and Safe Routes to School.

- Develop relationships between transportation agencies, the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, regional coalitions and CBOs.
 - Document and feature champion cities currently engaging in healthy cities and Safe Routes to Schools work.
- Evaluate existing San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) data and funding for bicycle and pedestrian transportation policies and expenditures.
 - Encourage active transportation planning to focus on a broad range of transportation needs, including those for school, work and recreation.
 - HEAL Zone: Ontario-Euclid Elementary School

■ **San Diego County:** The primary objective in San Diego County is to support the San Diego County Safe Routes to School Coalition by participating in strategic planning and existing efforts. Help with the implementation of SANDAG's Safe Routes to School strategic plan by increasing active transportation policies and data collection.

- Support existing efforts to create a regional Complete Streets Policy and performance metrics at SANDAG to ensure that future projects accommodate all users.
- Support the development of regional bicyclists and pedestrian counts, modeling and evaluation.
 - Support and monitor the Bicycle Early Action Plan and the Active Transportation Early Action Plan, which will include Safe Routes to Transit and Safe Routes to School activities, now underway at SANDAG.
 - HEAL Zone: City of Lemon Grove

■ **Ventura County:** The primary objective in Ventura County is to build upon unique coalitions in the region and foster closer relationships between key county agencies to support added investments in active transportation.

- Work with the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) and Advocates for a Lifestyle of Exercise and Nutrition in Ventura County (A LEAN VC) to develop and implement a countywide Safe Routes to School plan to prioritize high-need schools for future Safe Routes to School grant cycles.
- Work with A LEAN VC to expand knowledge of Safe Routes to School and educate health professionals and elected officials about the benefits of Safe Routes to School programs.
- Analyze VCTC funding policies and work with local partners to increase funding for active transportation.
 - HEAL Zone: West Ventura - De Anza Academy of Technology and the Arts, E.P. Foster Elementary School and Sheridan Way Elementary School

For more information contact:

Rye Baerg | SoCal Regional Policy Manager | rye@saferoutespartnership.org
Pauline Chow | SoCal Regional Policy Manager | pauline@saferoutespartnership.org
Jessica Meaney | SoCal Regional Policy Director | jessica@saferoutespartnership.org
Website | www.saferoutespartnership.org/california
Facebook | [Safe Routes to School in California](https://www.facebook.com/SafeRoutesToSchoolCalifornia)