



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Message from our Board Chair

In 2023, we centered advancing our mission while navigating transitions, including bidding farewell to our Executive Director, Cass Isidro, who departed for a new organization. We thank Cass for her leadership and wish her all the best in her new role. Amidst this transition, the Safe Routes Partnership continued to promote safe walking and rolling to and from schools and in everyday life – improving health, equity, and well-being for people of all races, income levels, and abilities, while fostering thriving communities for everyone.

As we have from our founding, data guides our efforts. This year that manifested in researching the impact of statewide Safe Routes to School coordinators and in piloting innovative technology to document “near misses”. We remain proud to serve as the national “home” for the Safe Routes to School movement bringing together the people that power this movement to learn and grow together. In 2023, our learning center was filled with webinars, open Zoom networking calls, resources and tools – all free and available to the public. We also hosted our second virtual Safe Routes to School summit 2023, bringing together over 400 leaders in the Safe Routes to School field to share inspiring success stories of supporting kids and community members to walk and bike.

On the policy front, we continue to strengthen the capacity of states to implement new provisions of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and support communities all across the country to access these funds to build safe, connected, and equitable places to walk and bike.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are excited for new leadership and a return to an in-person Safe Routes to School National Conference.

Thank you for being part of this movement,

Erika Ewing



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Who We Are

The Safe Routes Partnership Staff Members



Vanessa Cascio

Program and Policy Manager



Michelle Lieberman

Consulting and Program Support
Director (Interim Executive Director)



Kori Johnson

Program & Engagement Manager



Jonathan Matz

California Senior Policy Manager



Brittany Jones

Communications Manager



Natasha Riveron

Healthy Parks and Places Manager



Marisa Jones

Policy and Partnerships Director
(Interim Executive Director)



Margo Pedroso

Finance Director

Who We Are

The Safe Routes Partnership Staff Members



Ivey Allen

Board Member



Erika Ewing

Board Member



Jeff Anderson

Board Member



Carol Goss

Board Member



Ann Blakey

Board Member



Gillian Hotz

Board Member



Destiny Deguzman

Board Member



Brianne Whitcraft

Board Member



Supporting Safe Routes to School

Central to achieving our mission is the overall health of the Safe Routes to School movement. One way we achieve that is through providing professional development and capacity building to the parents, professionals, and practitioners implementing Safe Routes to School strategies in their communities.

Resource Spotlight – Dedicated Staff Power up State-Level Safe Routes to School Programs

This resource highlights best practices related to state-level Safe Routes to School staffing. It provides a snapshot of which states have at least one full-time staff member dedicated to Safe Routes to School and describes key attributes of programs with at least one full-time staff member. This resource uses data compiled as part of our [Making Strides: 2022 State Report Cards on Support for Walking, Bicycling, and Active Kids and Communities](#) and shares how statewide Safe Routes to School coordinators can help achieve best practices related to programs, funding, and planning.

Program Spotlight – Road to Zero

The Safe Routes Partnership partnered on a Road to Zero grant project with the Washington Area Bicyclist Association and Howard University. The project developed a near-miss tracker for youth to report traffic safety incidents. The tracker allowed young people to report near-miss traffic safety incidents in their communities and share them with the District of Columbia Department of Transportation. The project prioritized neighborhoods in Ward 7 and Ward 8 that are disproportionately impacted by traffic violence. The Partnership supported youth engagement efforts including a listening session at Hart Middle School and providing feedback on the tracker development. After the initial pilot phase, the [crash tracker](#) launched in Spring 2024.



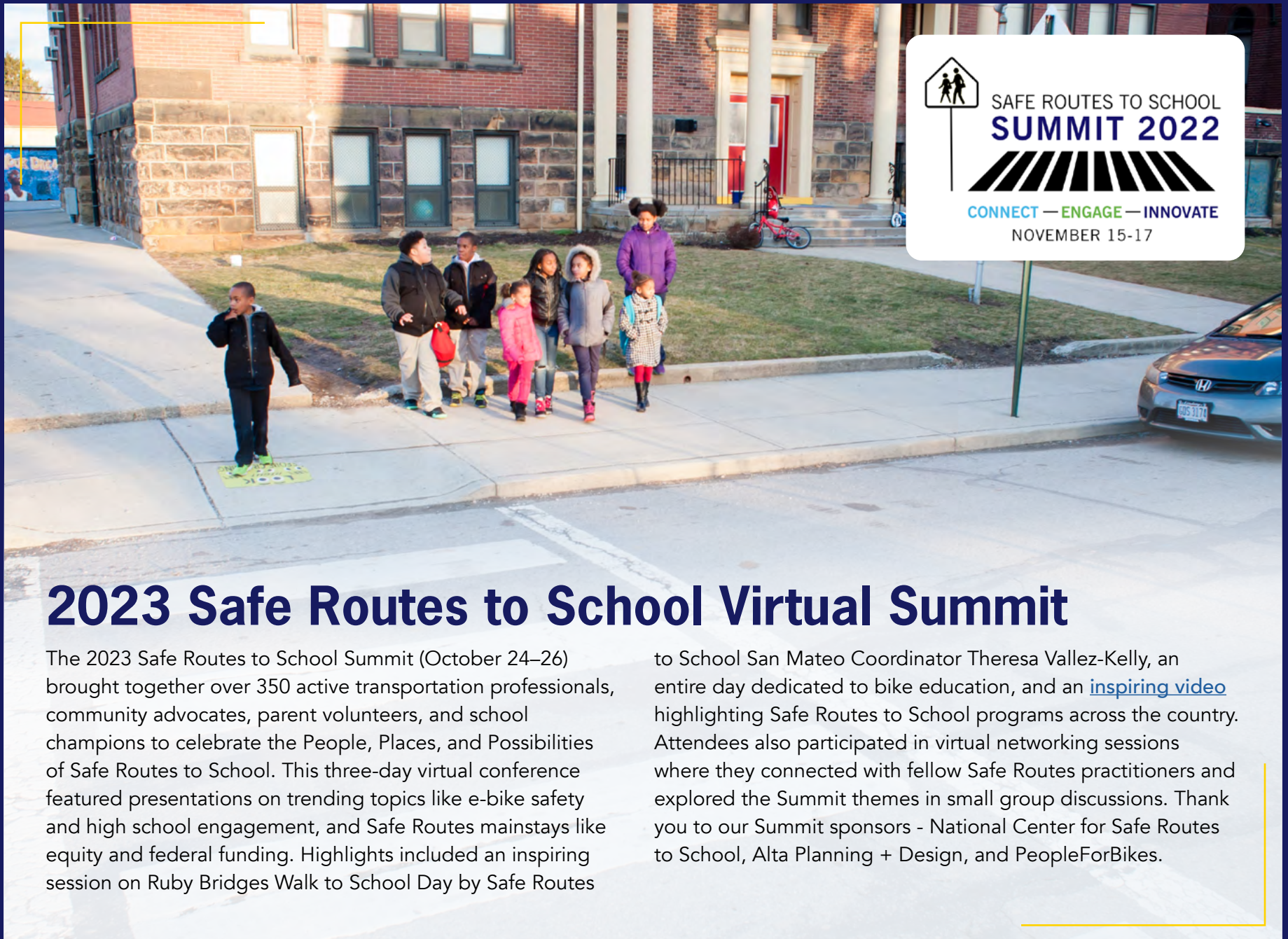
Program Spotlight – GM Walk Ride and Roll - Primer Updates, Safe Routes to School Programs

General Motors provided funding for the Partnership to update our Safe Routes to School primers as one of our Walk, Ride, and Roll deliverables. We originally planned to write three resources to accompany our Walk, Ride, and Roll webinars, but pivoted to releasing 13 publications including 12 updated primers. The primers were designed to introduce Safe Routes to School to key stakeholders including school administrators, elected officials, regional governments, and municipal transportation departments. The 2023 primers featured a new visual look, new case studies, and updated language around the Six Es. The full primer series is available on the [Walk, Ride, and Roll webpage](#). Over 1100 people attended Walk, Ride, and Roll webinars and our publications garnered close to 800 views.

Resource Spotlight – Walking, Riding, and Rolling for a New Generation

The Walk, Ride, and Roll series featured a new resource on engaging high school students in Safe Routes projects. [Walking, Riding, and Rolling for a New Generation](#) provided strategies for youth-led transportation initiatives based on promising practices from across the country. We chose this topic based on new Safe Routes to School funding eligibility for high school programs, and a growing desire among practitioners to increase youth engagement. Over 250 people attended the webinar and the publication contributed to almost 850 overall clicks on our Walk, Ride, and Roll resources.





2023 Safe Routes to School Virtual Summit

The 2023 Safe Routes to School Summit (October 24–26) brought together over 350 active transportation professionals, community advocates, parent volunteers, and school champions to celebrate the People, Places, and Possibilities of Safe Routes to School. This three-day virtual conference featured presentations on trending topics like e-bike safety and high school engagement, and Safe Routes mainstays like equity and federal funding. Highlights included an inspiring session on Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day by Safe Routes

to School San Mateo Coordinator Theresa Vallez-Kelly, an entire day dedicated to bike education, and an [inspiring video](#) highlighting Safe Routes to School programs across the country. Attendees also participated in virtual networking sessions where they connected with fellow Safe Routes practitioners and explored the Summit themes in small group discussions. Thank you to our Summit sponsors - National Center for Safe Routes to School, Alta Planning + Design, and PeopleForBikes.

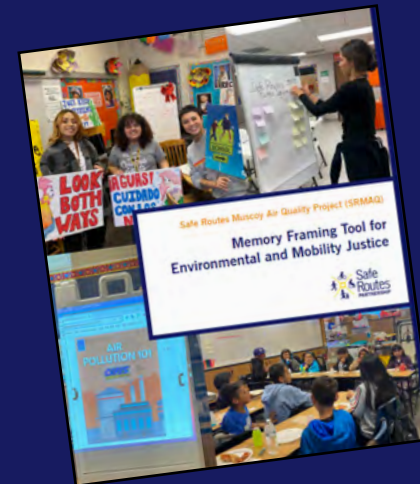


Creating Active Communities

While we originally focused on kids and schools, we quickly learned that what works for supporting kids to get to school on foot and on bike works to support people of all ages to get to all kinds of important community destinations.

Resource Spotlight – Safe Routes Muscoy Air Quality - Memory Framing

The Safe Routes Partnership wrapped up the Safe Routes Muscoy Air Quality (SRMAQ) project with a new environmental and mobility justice tool. Since 2018, the Partnership has worked with students and family advocates in Muscoy, California to address air quality concerns in the community. SRMAQ aimed to increase community knowledge of air quality topics, inform community needs assessments related to Safe Routes to School, and provide education and training to support community advocacy around environmental justice and air quality issues. [The Memory Framing Tool for Environmental and Mobility Justice](#) provides a structured approach to storytelling and data gathering based on best practices from Muscoy. It includes a framework based on the 5 Ds of Mobility Justice developed by People for Mobility Justice, best practices from Muscoy, and memory framing activities and templates. The guide is available in English and Spanish.



Program Spotlight: Intersections Initiative

The Intersections Initiative was a year-long partnership between America Walks, the League of American Bicyclists, and the Safe Routes Partnership supported in part by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This initiative was part of Active People, Healthy NationSM, a national initiative led by the CDC, to help 27 million Americans become more physically active by 2027. We helped build capacity of local communities to apply for infrastructure funding to support active and public transportation projects and identify the policies and practices that make this a reality.





Safe Routes to Parks

The Safe Routes to Parks program continued improving the safety and security of active travel to parks by providing technical assistance and resources for communities to create routes that are safe, convenient, and equitable. Building upon the success of the Safe Routes to Parks Activating Communities program, Safe Routes Partnership was excited to support the new Safe Routes to Parks Accelerator and pilot state-level strategies to support local park access and refine tools and best practices for other states to apply.

Resource Spotlight - Power Mapping 101: How Communities Can Make Connections and Improve Park Access

Making lasting, positive change starts with understanding the people, groups, and organizations that can help make it happen. Whether a community is working on adding safe crossings, slowing down vehicle traffic, or pushing for policies that make parks more accessible, knowing who to involve is key to success. This guide walks communities through the process of creating a power map to identify the decision-makers - whether they're community members or formal officials- who can influence the outcome of the project. It also offers strategies for engaging these key stakeholders to help bring them on board and move the project forward.

Program Spotlight- Safe Routes to Parks Activating Pennsylvania Communities: Pop-Up Crosswalks Secure \$1.2 Million for Safety in Scranton, PA

Safe Routes to Parks Activating Pennsylvania Communities 2023 Grantee, NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania, has spent years developing a community-driven revitalization plan but needed support to make Safe Routes to Parks a reality. To draw attention to pedestrian safety needs on Main Avenue, a busy state road connecting two parks and several businesses, we helped them work with state and local agency officials to coordinate a pop-up event. The event, featuring temporary high-visibility crosswalks and signage, coincided with the annual Trick-or-Treat Event on Main Avenue, which attracts hundreds of families and involves local businesses every year. The pop-up highlighted pressing safety issues and community demand for improvements. As a result, the City approved \$1.2 million in American Rescue Plan Act dollars to improve Main Avenue and add upgrades to 78 crosswalks and 27 intersections across the city.



Program Spotlight - Safe Routes to Parks Accelerator: Colorado

States manage significant funding that can support Safe Routes to Parks. As stewards of public funds, states have a responsibility to prioritize strong projects that reflect the needs and desires of the community they will affect. This factsheet lays out how states can use grant guides and project selection criteria to prioritize projects backed by meaningful community engagement. Over 12 months, Safe Routes Partnership provided consulting services customized to support states in the Safe Routes to Parks Accelerator Program. The Colorado team comprised representatives from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), and Parks and Wildlife (CPW). The Colorado team and Safe Routes Partnership worked on building statewide capacity and support for improving walking and biking access to trails and park space. This largely focused on strategically connecting this effort to existing work and ensuring that it was incorporated into long-term planning.

To boost awareness and illustrate what Safe Routes to Parks work can look like in Colorado, we built a case study inventory to document and track local projects across Colorado that are good examples of Safe Routes to Parks in Colorado-specific contexts. It already proved useful; CDOT, CDPHE, and CPW used the case study inventory in a presentation to APA Colorado to train planning professionals on how to incorporate Safe Routes to Parks into planning processes including Safe Routes to School. Additionally, as a result of this work, two state-wide planning surveys from different programs included Safe Routes to Parks questions. This is an opportunity to gather data about the demand for park access and how parks are currently used by partners across the state. Questions were included in surveys for the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, which guides spending for the Land Water Conservation Fund in future years, and the Safe Routes to School Strategic Plan.





Advancing Policy Change

At the Safe Routes Partnership, we believe real change starts with better policies. Whether it's securing funding, improving infrastructure, or making streets safer for kids, we're advocating for policies that put people first. When we push for smarter, more equitable solutions, we're not just changing policies: we're changing communities.

Federal Policy

In 2023, Safe Routes Partnership's federal policy work marched forward in two spheres: supporting the implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the annual budget appropriations process. To support the implementation of the BIL, Safe Routes Partnership worked to build the capacity of Safe Routes to School and active transportation champions to understand what was in the law and to encourage their states to take action. We hosted and presented dozens of webinars and trainings and partnered with champions in nearly every state to send letters to their state departments of transportation requesting that state DOTs implement the law with full support for safe, equitable walking, bicycling, and Safe Routes to School. As part of the annual budget appropriations process, we continued convening and working with a coalition of health partners advocating for increased funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's state physical activity and nutrition (SPAN) and Active People Healthy Nation programs. These priorities were included as recommendations in the report from The White House Conference on Hunger, Health, and Nutrition that was held in late September 2022, and these budget increase requests were included in President Biden's FY2024 budget.

We remain committed to working in partnership with other organizations, partners, and people all across the country to advocate for federal policies that make walking, bicycling, and Safe Routes to School safer, more convenient, and more equitable.

Resource Spotlight - Revamped TAP State of States

To build the capacity of local champions for walking, bicycling, and Safe Routes to School to understand the primary source of federal funding for active transportation, we developed state-by-state fact sheets on the Transportation Alternatives Program in partnership with the League of American Bicyclists. These fact sheets provide detailed information on how much funding each state has available for the Transportation Alternatives Program, contact information for the state program lead, and when known, dates of competition info. Our aim with [these fact sheets is to provide answers to commonly asked questions](#) about the program to build the capacity and confidence of interested parties to apply for these funds.



State Policy

States play an important role in ensuring active transportation and Safe Routes to School are prioritized in funding investments and in implementing projects on the ground. Our Making Strides state report cards provide a snapshot of how supportive each state is of walking, bicycling, and physical activity for children and adults. These report cards, which are published every two years, are used by state policymakers, state agencies, and community champions to understand the current policies and decisions and work towards improving state support.

In California, our policy manager works in coalition with partners to advance healthy, equitable transportation options at the state level, where the decisions made and resources allocated define what is possible for the rural, suburban, and urban communities across the state. In 2023 and continuing into 2024, we worked with partners to engage Caltrans on the update of the State Highway System Management Plan, to adopt the Safe System Approach, to dedicate funding for climate resiliency projects, and incorporate the recently adopted Equity Index in prioritization of projects.



Program Spotlight – California Active Transportation Program

The Active Transportation Program (ATP) is California's largest funding program for walking, bicycling, and Safe Routes to School. We have been engaged in ensuring the program continues to support communities, and in particular communities with historical disinvestment and disparities, in implementing infrastructure projects and non-infrastructure programs.

2023 was an off-year in the ATP Cycle (Applications are open and awarded every two years). Thus, we spent that year analyzing trends in the program, advocating for improvements to the guidelines, and beginning our work with the agencies to whom we'd provide technical assistance in the Cycle 7 (2024) and Cycle 8 (2026): San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, Tule River Tribal Reservation, Friend of Friendship Park San Ysidro, and the City of Lafayette. [Our analysis of Cycle 6](#) was completed and is available online. We [wrote about the trends](#) we observed. Even more so than in previous cycles, very large projects swallowed up a disproportionate share of the funding pot. 100% of funds in the Statewide and Small Urban/Rural components went to disadvantaged communities.

We successfully advocated for a change in the guidelines effective as of ATP Cycle 7 to modify applications and the scoring rubrics when agencies separate application for combined infrastructure/non-infrastructure projects, and took the lead in crafting those new formats and scoring.

Resource Spotlight - [Boost Your State Report Card Score Fact Sheets](#)

[This report includes the fourth edition of state report cards](#) produced by the Safe Routes Partnership, providing an at-a-glance snapshot of how states are doing in their support of walking, bicycling, rolling, and active kids and communities. Used in conjunction with the state report cards developed in 2016, 2018, and 2020, they allow us to see where progress has been made, where each state is doing well, and where there continue to be opportunities for improvement.

The report cards primarily look at state policy, focusing on four key areas: Complete Streets and Active Transportation Policy and Planning, Federal and State Active Transportation Funding, Safe Routes to School Funding and Supportive Practices, and Active Neighborhoods and Schools.



ACTION STEPS FOR CHAMPIONS TO BOOST YOUR STATE'S SCORE – NEW OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

Making Strides: State Report Cards on Walking, Bicycling, and Active Kids and Communities

The 2022 full report, *Making Strides: State Report Cards on Walking, Bicycling, and Active Kids and Communities*, provides a detailed explanation of how the states were graded; an overview of the research that supports walking, bicycling, and physical activity as ways to improve health; a discussion of the rationale for state-level report cards; and reflections on support for physical activity in different regions and our country as a whole.

Background

In November 2021, Congress passed a new surface transportation bill, the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021*, also known as the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)*. This law created new programs, increased funding for, and made significant policy changes to programs that fund walking, bicycling, and Safe Routes to School. While some of these programs are implemented at the federal level, most of the programs and funds are implemented by state departments of transportation. As a result, states have tremendous influence over how funds get invested. The policies, practices, and personnel states put in place

shape whether these federal resources are invested in ways that support walking, bicycling, rolling, and active kids and communities.

Every two years, Safe Routes Partnership takes inventory of how states are doing influencing the flow of federal transportation funds to support walking, bicycling, and Safe Routes to School as part of the *Making Strides: State Report Cards on Walking, Bicycling, and Active Kids and Communities*. The 2022 *Making Strides* state report cards evaluate each state on 27 indicators spanning four core topic areas that focus on key areas for state action to promote and support physical activity. High-scoring and lower-scoring states alike require sustained commitment from state agencies and policymakers to support physical activity – and maintain and raise report card scores.

This resource provides recommendations for how state departments of transportation (DOTs) can respond to new opportunities within the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* to support walking, bicycling, and Safe Routes to School – and maintain and raise report card scores.



BOOST YOUR STATE'S SCORE – ACTION STEPS FOR STATE DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION USING NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN FEDERAL LAW

Making Strides: State Report Cards on Walking, Bicycling, and Active Kids and Communities

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Consulting Practice

At Safe Routes Partnership, we believe that every community deserves safe, equitable, and accessible options for walking, biking, and rolling to school and in daily life. Our consulting practice provides tailored technical assistance, policy support, and program development to help communities, government agencies, and organizations create lasting change. With a deep commitment to equity and mobility justice, we work with clients at the local, regional, state, and national levels to implement Safe Routes to School and active transportation following national best practices.

Since launching our consulting practice, we have provided expert guidance to municipalities, school districts, PTAs, metropolitan planning organizations, and state and federal agencies. Our consulting work strengthens community efforts while generating revenue that sustains our broader mission. Through this work, we advance policy change, improve access to funding, and help build safe, healthy, and vibrant places for people of all races, income levels, and abilities.

We offer a range of consulting services to help communities design, implement, and sustain Safe Routes programs and policies. Our expertise includes:

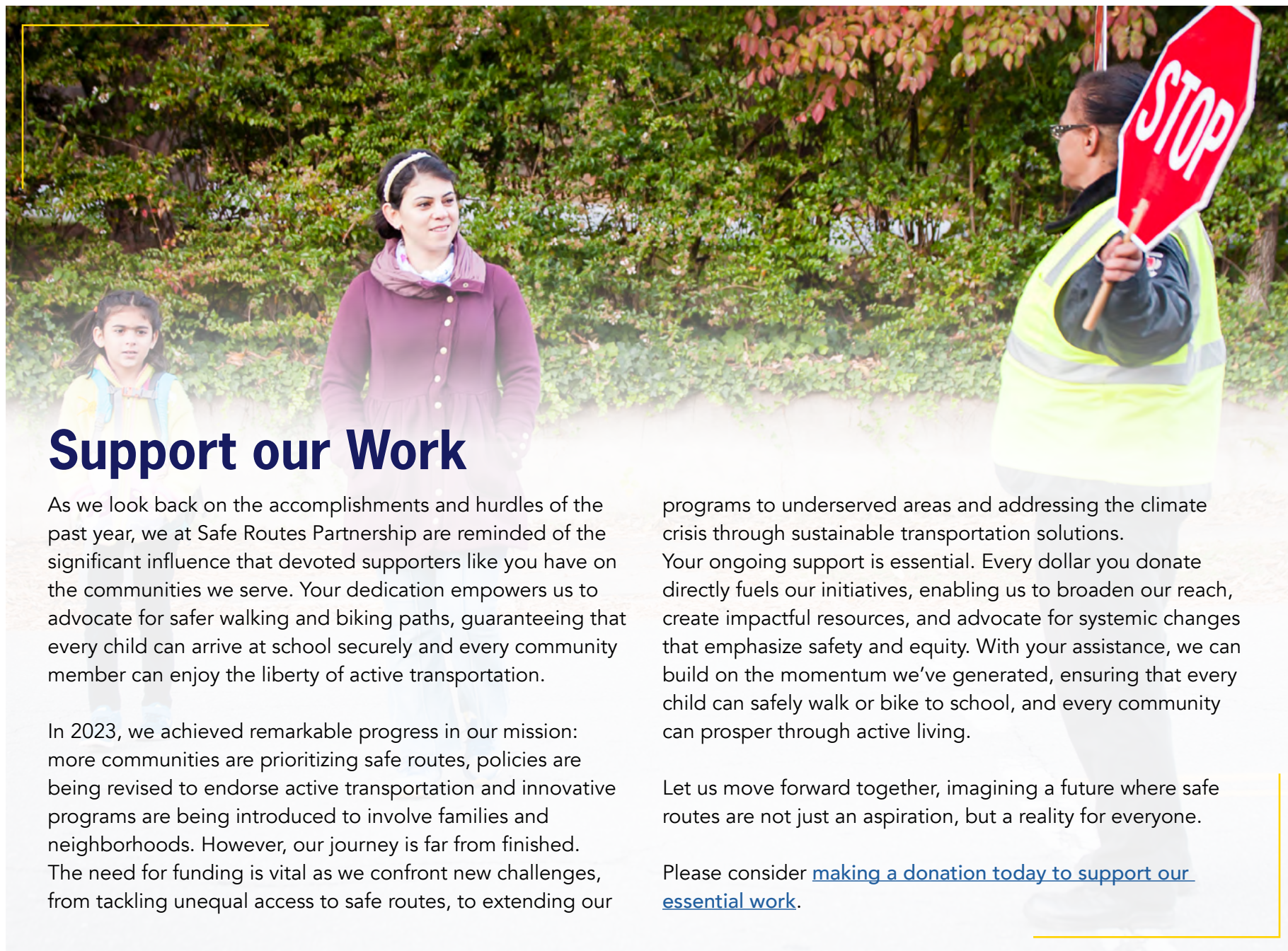
- **Safe Routes to School Programs:** Expert guidance in developing and expanding Safe Routes to School initiatives that enable students to safely walk, bike, and roll to and from school.
- **Active Transportation Policy & Planning:** Support for crafting policies and plans that prioritize walking and bicycling. We conduct policy assessments, develop action plans, and help integrate Safe Routes and active transportation goals into local plans and programs.
- **Community Engagement & Coalition Building:** Strategies for inclusive community engagement that put residents at the center of the process. We help build broad coalitions and facilitate partnerships so that local voices drive decision-making and support for active transportation initiatives.
- **Advancing Equity:** A focus on equity is woven into all our work. We help communities address disparities by prioritizing under-resourced schools and neighborhoods, ensuring Safe Routes efforts benefit everyone regardless of race, income, or ability.

- **Funding Strategies & Grant Support:** Guidance on navigating funding opportunities to turn plans into reality. From identifying grants and funding sources to assisting with grant applications, we help clients secure the resources needed for walking, biking, and Safe Routes projects.
- **Training & Capacity Building:** Customized trainings, workshops, and coaching to empower local leaders, school staff, and advocates. Our professional development offerings build the skills and knowledge needed to champion Safe Routes to School programs and active transportation policies.
- **Providing a Boost to Get You to the Next Level:** We listen deeply, ask the right questions, and see opportunities that others often miss. Like an e-bike providing an extra boost to get up a hill, we help communities overcome challenges, accelerate progress, and reach their goals with greater ease. Whether refining a strategy, securing funding, or expanding impact, we provide the insight and momentum needed to get farther, faster.



Work with Us

We are committed to supporting government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community groups in their efforts to create safer, healthier, and more walkable and bikeable communities. We provide technical expertise, policy guidance, hands-on program support and more, boosting Safe Routes programs at all levels, nationwide. Interested in learning more about working with us? Contact consulting@saferoutespartnership.org



Support our Work

As we look back on the accomplishments and hurdles of the past year, we at Safe Routes Partnership are reminded of the significant influence that devoted supporters like you have on the communities we serve. Your dedication empowers us to advocate for safer walking and biking paths, guaranteeing that every child can arrive at school securely and every community member can enjoy the liberty of active transportation.

In 2023, we achieved remarkable progress in our mission: more communities are prioritizing safe routes, policies are being revised to endorse active transportation and innovative programs are being introduced to involve families and neighborhoods. However, our journey is far from finished. The need for funding is vital as we confront new challenges, from tackling unequal access to safe routes, to extending our

programs to underserved areas and addressing the climate crisis through sustainable transportation solutions. Your ongoing support is essential. Every dollar you donate directly fuels our initiatives, enabling us to broaden our reach, create impactful resources, and advocate for systemic changes that emphasize safety and equity. With your assistance, we can build on the momentum we've generated, ensuring that every child can safely walk or bike to school, and every community can prosper through active living.

Let us move forward together, imagining a future where safe routes are not just an aspiration, but a reality for everyone.

Please consider [making a donation today to support our essential work](#).

Thank You to Funders and Summit Sponsors

Thank you to our funding partners for believing in our vision and investing in our work!

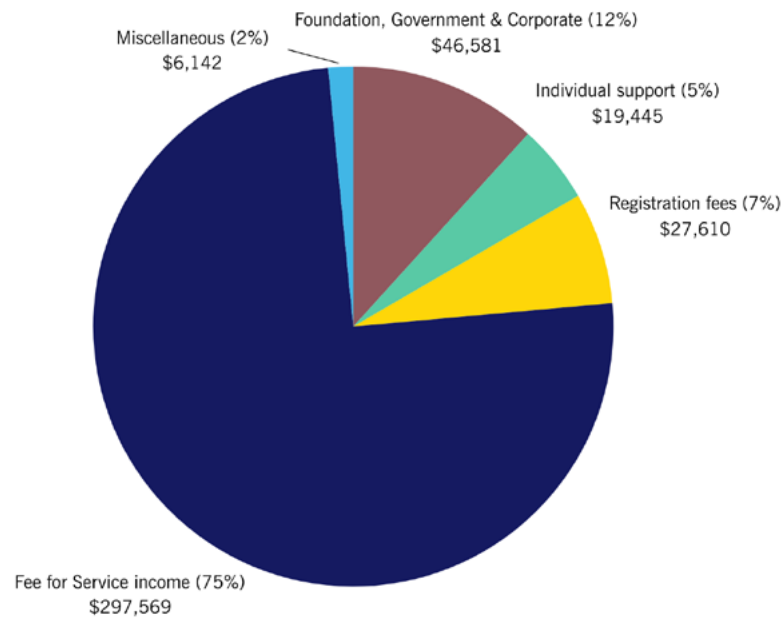


We extend our gratitude to the sponsors of the 2023 Safe Routes to School Virtual Summit:



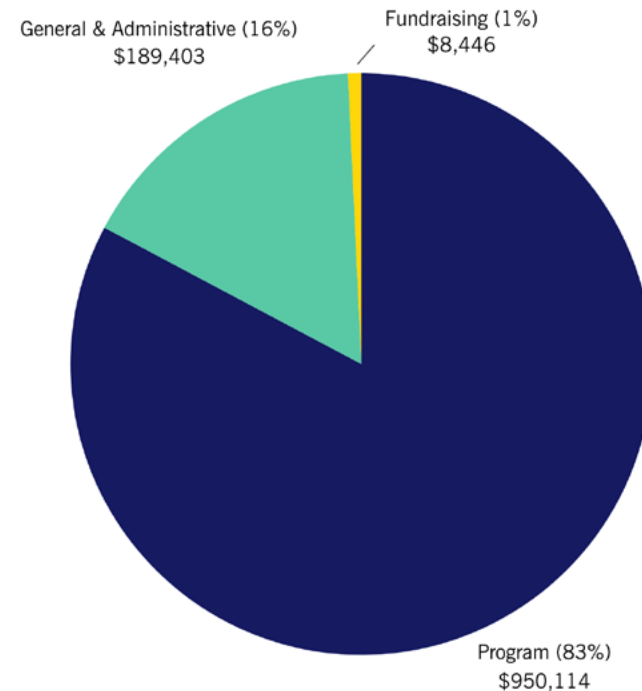
2023 Financial Statements

The Safe Routes Partnership Income by Class
2023 Actuals



Total Income: \$397,347

The Safe Routes Partnership Expenses by Class
2023 Actuals



Total Expenses: \$1,147,963

Note: The Safe Routes Partnership often receives multi-year grants, where some of the revenue is booked in a different year than when expenditures are made. The Safe Routes Partnership had \$616,664 in income booked in prior years released from restrictions in 2023. We also have \$422,480 in 2023 (or prior year) income that is restricted for use in 2024 or after.



The Safe Routes Partnership is a national nonprofit organization working to advance safe walking and rolling to and from schools and in everyday life, improving the health and well-being of people of all races, income levels, and abilities, and building healthy, thriving communities for everyone.

