

**Safe Routes to School National Partnership – Southern California Safe Routes to School
Regional Network
2012-13 Active Transportation Platform**

Introduction:

The Southern California Safe Routes to School Regional Network, a project of the Safe Routes to School National Partnership (National Partnership), was formed in the spring of 2010 and is currently funded through the generous support of Kaiser Permanente (KP), Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) and a Community Transformation Grant (CTG). The goal of the Southern California Safe Routes to School Regional Network is to build partnerships, leverage resources and improve public health in the seven county Southern California region by improving policies and the built environment which support increases in 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 HEAL zones throughout the Southern California 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 support and encourage walking and bicycling. Current research and trends show that the demand for walkable and liveable 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, Council of Governments (COGs), Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and regional partners to change policies and funding opportunities to accelerate the construction of walking and bicycling networks.

How are transportation decisions and investments made in SoCal?

Two Metropolitan Planning Organizations (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, County Transportation Commissions (CTCs) are responsible for programming and distributing federal and state funding in coordination with local cities, CTCs by county: [Imperial County Transportation Commission](#), [Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority](#), [Orange County Transportation Commission](#), [Riverside County Transportation Commission](#), [San Bernardino Association of Governments](#), and [Ventura County Transportation Commission](#). SANDAG is both the San Diego region's MPO and CTC.

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) (Primary Objective): 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 a Active Transportation Strategic Funding Plan at SCAG.
- Support the Active Transportation Subcommittee, the Transportation Finance Committee, the Sustainability Committee and the Public Health Subcommittee by providing public comment and resources.

Imperial County (Primary Objective): Support the growth of the Imperial County Safe Routes to School Coalition (ICTC) 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. (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 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 (Primary Objective): Foster the implementation of robust active transportation and Safe Routes to School policies and increased 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, elected officials and Community Based Organizations that prioritize resources to create a safer and more walkable and bikeable LA County.
 - Build relationships with policy makers, 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 (Primary Objective): Work with partners to strengthen support for active transportation throughout Orange County.

- Build on the [Alliance for a Healthy Orange County](#) (AHOC) coalition of community based organizations to form a strong voice around active transportation, Safe Routes to Schools and leveraging funding dollars.
- Connect [Orange County Health Care Agency](#) (CHCA) efforts with transportation decision making agencies.
 - Support and encourage OCTA, Orange County Council of Governments (OCCOG) and OC County leadership to incorporate and support 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 to 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 cities on the benefits of Complete Streets policies and design.

HEAL Zone: Activate Anaheim - Edison school/park and Sycamore Jr. High

Riverside County (Primary Objective): Develop working relationship between key agencies in the county to increase active transportation funding, inter-agency communication, and community collaboration.

- Develop relationships between Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), West Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) and the Riverside Department of Public Health.
 - Aid in the incorporation of public health metrics and policies to encourage active transportation in RCTC, WRCOG, CVAG policies.
 - Build off the extensive Safe Routes to School efforts currently underway 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 at Riverside County Transportation Commission.

HEAL Zone: Eastside Riverside County - Longfellow Elementary and Emerson Elementary

San Bernardino County (Primary Objective): 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, San Bernardino County Public Health Department, regional coalitions and community based organizations.
 - Document and feature champion cities currently engaging in healthy cities and Safe Routes to Schools work.
- Evaluate existing San Bernardino Association of Governments (SANBAG) data and funding for bicycle and pedestrian transportation policies and expenditures.
 - Encourage active transportation planning to focus on a broad range of trips including those for school, work, and recreation.

HEAL Zone: Ontario-Euclid Elementary School

San Diego County (Primary Objective): 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 underway at SANDAG which will include Safe Routes to Transit and Safe Routes to School.

HEAL Zone: City of Lemon Grove

Ventura County (Primary Objective): Build upon unique coalitions in the region and foster closer relationships between key county agencies to support added investments in active transportation.

- Work with Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) and Lean Ventura County (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 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