**Organizing Bike Trains Webinar**

**May 5, 2011**

**Questions and Answers submitted during the meeting:**

**Jayne McGuire from Coralville, IA:** Is there any Parent safety concerns by showing where kids will be biking.

**Jason Buckner from Orlando, FL:** I may have missed this, but do you do any training for bike train leaders?

**Robin hildenbrand from Loveland, CO:** Where do you get the bikes to rent?

**Kathleen Spencer:** Do you ever get bike donations from sporting good stores or bike companies?

**Tina Panza from Santa Rosa:** Do the schools promote the bike train routes (i.e. newsletters, etc) or is it strictly through parent networking? Have you run into issues with school administration not wanting to promote bike trains due to liability?

**Diana Owens from Philadelphia:** What kind of challenges/pushback did you receive from parents?

**Robert Ping from SRTS National Partnership:** Bike retail businesses do indeed donate bikes; however, it is a lean business, so not all businesses can donate. Some can get bikes to you at wholesale cost, if you can find funding from local sources

**Simon Dunne from Morgan Hill:** How do you keep the donated bikes maintained? Avoid theft?

**paula.bawer from NHTSA:** Jason- please touch base with me re teaching PE teachers re how to do a bike rodeo. NHTSA has a new step by step free guide/LAB has a trainig already-- use both and don't reinvent the wheel. Paula (paula.bawer@dot.gov)

**don burrell from cincinnati:** How are routes selected especially when schools are on major roads? Do you do the bike audits?

**Anna Isaacson from Boston, MA:** How will the 5th grade ambassador program work? What will they teach the younger kids, when, and how? Who will be supervising them?

**Rachel Davidman from Oakland:** Paula how can we get those resources from NHTSA?

05/05/2011 10:33:02: **Robert Ping from SRTS National Partnership:** Sorry for the bad link, here is a link to the Safe Routes to School section within NPLAN's website. There are several good fact sheets there: <http://www.nplanonline.org/childhood-obesity/products/SRTS-resources>

**Robin hildenbrand from Loveland, CO:** How many adults per child rider do you recommend?

**paula.bawer from NHTSA:** Sorry- Paula again. We are also in the process of pilot testing a training for teachers to teach Bicycling (6-9th grade). I like the thought and am hopeful that bike trains (clubs) will be generated from training (whether curriculum, cycling skills clinic (our new name for bike rodeo) and SRTS efforts. NHTSA will keep you in the loop; we just finished our training of teachers/recreation specialists and are now asking them to make plans to teach the class in school and in a non-school setting (recreation type).

**Rachel Davidman from Oakland:** Do you promote walking or riding across crosswalks?

 **paula.bawer from NHTSA:** NHTSA resource for cycling skills clinic can be found off my site: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/vgn-ext-templating/v/index.jsp?vgnextoid=5ce6964b4718e210VgnVCM10000066ca7898RCRD&vgnextchannel=fc6aef5892f94210VgnVCM100000656b7798RCRD> (direct link). Or use <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Bicycles> and look to the left for the colored icon. Thank you Robert and all speakers for your terific efforts!!!!!!

 **Kiel Johnson from Portland, OR:** i'll answer the one about the bike rental program - i can go into more detail about that

**Kim Stanley-Zimmerman from Santa Barbara CA:** Do most bike trains just occur in am, or after school too?

**Roger DiBrito from Montana:** We recommend one adult to 5 or 6 children. And we keep theses groups (minibus) seperated, at least one block, this makes for a smooth transition to family rides and eliminates the Parade problem.

**Megan Odett from Washington, DC:** For all speakers: what cycling habits (besides helmet use) do you emphasize most during rides? (i.e., signaling, always riding on street, taking the lane, etc?)

**Shelley Aschenbrenner from Loveland, CO:** Are riders required to have signed waivers? Are parent leaders required to have background checks?

**Meghan Sahli-Wells from Culver City:** Are there any combination walk + bike to school efforts?

**Bob Hoel from Elmhurst, IL:** Please give my regards to Rob Sadowski. As a director from the Active Transportation Alliance here in Chicago, we miss him.

**Robert Ping from SRTS National Partnership:** Exactly - there is strength in numbers by having a group ride together, and that way other parents and neighbors can help keep watch over the group.

**Bob Hoel from Elmhurst, IL:** Does the 5h grade ambassador program link in with 5th grade crossing guards? Any synergies?

**Robert Ping from SRTS National Partnership:** Youth leadership, yes!! This is a great way to inspire younger kids, and helps provide more volunteers. Kids will come up with really cool program ideas, too, that adults wouldn't think of.

**Wendy Brzezny from Washington:** For morning only bike trains, how do the kids get their bikes home?

**Robert Ping from SRTS National Partnership:** After school can be tougher, due to other activities, but it should be discussed among the parents in each bike train. some bike trains go after school to mutually-attended activities, too, instead of straight home.

**Doug Ballew from Austin:** What is the minimum age of your bike train riders. Do you allow children ages 5-8 to ride with you? On street or sidewalk?

**Jeff Anderson from Vienna VA:** Wolfie's Bike Train in Vienna VA runs 100% on roads....much safer......

**Robert Ping from SRTS National Partnership:** Mine are: ride in single file, nobody rides in front of the parent leader, or behind the parent caboose, leave one bike length between riders, helmets on and fitted properly

**Rachel Davidman from Oakland:** it would be great to get all of these rules and different protocols all on one list as ideas and suggestions for folks starting out trains

**Robert Ping from SRTS National Partnership:** Needs to be determined by parent and biek train leaders on a case by case basis - some kids can do it young, but others not. Most young kids though, especially younger than ten, even when trained, will make mistakes, and should be closely monitored while riding. My favorites technique is to ride next to the young ones, to 'block'.

**don burrell from cincinnati:** When the parents ride along, do they have to wear helmets?

**dori babcock from City of Burien:** Thank you!

**Tami Herendeen from Kingston, NY:** Thanks for the great info!

**Simon Dunne from Morgan Hill:** are there online resources for step-by-step instructions?

**Jennifer Watkins from Gulf Shores, AL:** Thanks y'all!

**Jane Healy from Blue Island, IL:** thank you

**jason jackman from tampa bay:** good question. I've struggled to have parents set the example and wear helmets...it's getting better

**Sara Padin from Ft Lauderdale Florida:** Thank you

**Diana Owens from Philadelphia:** great info! thank you

**Jayne McGuire from Coralville, IA:** Thanks