



Bay Area Regional Platform Fall 2012

About The Regional Network and Our Goals

Formed in 2012, the Bay Area Safe Routes to School Regional Network is a project of the Safe Routes to School National Partnership and is funded with generous support from Kaiser Permanente. The goal of the Bay Area regional network and its local technical assistance efforts is to build partnerships and leverage resources in the region to improve 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 and its local partners also work to support policy changes that transform the way communities do business and encourage policymakers to consider all modes of travel when making transportation decisions. The Bay Area network also provides technical assistance to Kaiser Permanente's Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) zones in Northern California.

State of Active Transportation in the Bay Area

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. MTC's 19 commissioners, who are mostly appointed by local elected officials, are responsible for regularly updating the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), a blueprint for the development of mass transit, highway, airport, seaport, railroad, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The MTC also adopts the region's Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) to help the region meet climate change goals and offers the [One Bay Area Grant \(OBAG\) Program](#) to fund transportation projects across the region. MTC is thus far the only MPO in the nation to have its own dedicated Regional Safe Routes to School Program within the agency.

Shortly after our regional network formed in the early 2012, we worked closely with the MTC and succeeded in securing \$20 million in continued regional funding for Safe Routes to School through the RTP. We also secured a requirement that cities and counties receiving One Bay Area Grant Program funding must pass Complete Streets policy resolutions to help ensure that streets are accessible to all users and conducive to walking and bicycling. By continuing to work with the MTC, we seek to ensure that regional policies and funding streams achieve active transportation, public health and social equity goals.

We are also working in the Bay Area to ensure that regional funds are spent effectively at the county level, and that Safe Routes to School and active transportation policies and practices are adopted locally and proliferate throughout the region. We are working and strengthening ties with advocates at the county level and through congestion management agencies (CMAs) in each county. Organizations and agencies we work with include:

- Alameda County Transportation Commission
- Contra County Transportation Alliance
- Transportation Authority of Marin
- Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency
- San Francisco County Transportation Authority
- City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County
- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
- Solano Transportation Authority
- Sonoma County Transportation Authority

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. Here are some steps to success:

- Create demand for Safe Routes to School and related funding to institutionalize Safe Routes to School at the regional and local levels.
 - Build partnerships with agencies, municipalities, elected officials and advocacy organizations at the regional and local levels.
 - Maintain and advance partnerships with MTC staff and committees, policymakers and school personnel.
 - Bring county-level health, education and transportation leaders together into strategic conversations and dialogue.
 - Provide a forum for information sharing and dialogue among practitioners of Safe Routes to School programs.
 - Work to ensure transportation policy is infused with a concern for the health and wellbeing of all the Bay Area's communities.
 - Provide tools to health professionals, Safe Routes to School practitioners, advocates for active transportation and others on ways to get involved in transportation planning processes.
 - Provide a forum for education and discussion of issues related to climate change, public health, equity and transportation.
- Leverage additional resources and policy changes to support walking and bicycling to schools and improvements to the built environment.
 - Improve walking and bicycling policies and funding in the Bay Area's RTP and ensure they are implemented as planned.
 - Work with advocates on project nominations and track county-level implementation of the One Bay Area Grant Program via a framework that zeros in on how it benefits active transportation and health goals.
 - Build the capacity of Safe Routes to School programs to serve all of the Bay Area's children, especially targeting lower-income schools most in need.
 - Ensure implementation of the California Complete Streets Act and the MTC's Complete Streets policy by working toward the adoption of Complete Streets policies in the local jurisdictions of the Bay Area.
 - Work on appropriate data collection to document improvements in climate, health and safety related to Safe Routes to School, Complete Streets policies, and increased bicycling and walking.
 - Work with the MTC to improve modeling of active transportation proposed infrastructure to predict usage and the associated health benefits.
- Increase physical activity opportunities for children, families and communities.
 - Inform and educate the general public about Safe Routes to School.
 - Provide technical assistance to schools and Safe Routes to School programs in Kaiser Permanente HEAL communities of Bayview in San Francisco, Madera in the Fresno area, Modesto, the Monument Corridor in Concord, Richmond, Santa Rosa and South Sacramento.
 - Provide information as requested by local schools and share best practices and lessons learned.

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