

# Tacoma Safe Routes to School Program 2023 Action Plan Update

City of Tacoma | Department of Public Works



Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee  
September 27, 2023

1

## WHAT IS SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS (SRTS)?



Partnership to support & encourage walking and rolling to school.

### Equity



### Engagement



### Evaluation



### Engineering



### Education



### Encouragement



2

2

# SRTS BENEFITS FOR EVERYONE



## Students:

- ! Brain-boost from physical activity
- ! Increased attention & academic performance
- ! Time to connect
- ! Responsibility & independence
- ! Increased attendance and on-time arrival

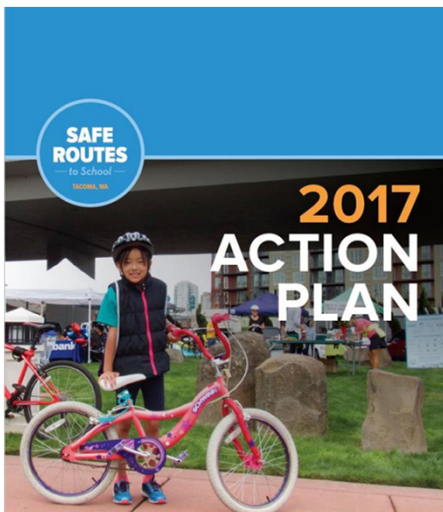
## Community:

- ! Reduced traffic and emissions
- ! Saves time & money
- ! More community connection



3

# HISTORY OF SRTS IN TACOMA



## The 2017 Action Plan:

- Established the City of Tacoma SRTS Program
- Prioritized schools
  - # bike/ped crash data within one-mile
  - % students eligible for free & reduced lunch
  - % students of color
- Identified types of activities/actions
- Created the SRTS Coordinator position

4

4

# TACOMA SRTS APPROACH

## Engineering



### Education



### Encouragement



5

# ENGINEERING ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- Completed 7 schools from 2016-2022
- Construction at 5 schools in 2023-2024
- Planning improvements for 4 schools for construction in 2024-2027
- Included SRTS in the 6 Year TIP
- Partnered with TPS on projects



[cityoftacoma.org/srts-engineering](http://cityoftacoma.org/srts-engineering)

6

6

2017 SRTS Action Plan		School Prioritization Analysis				
		Overall Needs Score	High Equity & Safety Needs School	Percent Students of Color	Percent of Students Receiving Free /Reduced Price Lunch	Bike/Ped Crashes within one-mile, 2010-2014
School Name						
Edna Travis Elementary School	✓	15	x	78%	91%	26
Blix Elementary School	✓	14	x	75%	84%	24
Lister Elementary School	✓	14	x	82%	91%	20
Sheridan Elementary School	✓	14	x	85%	83%	27
Boze Elementary School	2024	13	x	86%	83%	16
Edison Elementary School	2023	13	x	72%	84%	22
First Creek Middle School	✓	13	x	81%	88%	17
Lincoln High School	2023	13	x	78%	76%	28
Lyon Elementary School	✓	13	x	69%	84%	27
Manitou Park Elementary School	2023	13	x	77%	84%	18
Roosevelt Elementary School	2025	13	x	80%	85%	16
Stanley Elementary School	✓	13	x	72%	80%	31
Whitman Elementary School	2023	13	x	70%	80%	24
Baker Middle School	2024-26	12	x	77%	74%	21
Birney Elementary School	2023	12	} Alphabetized within Score Tier		77%	19
Gray Middle School		12		78%	19	
Reed Elementary School		12		83%	15	
Stewart Middle School	2025-27	12	x	66%	80%	28
Arlington Elementary School		11	x	72%	87%	11
Franklin Elementary School		11	x	61%	79%	22
Helen B Stafford Elementary School		11	x	82%	79%	14
Hilltop Heritage Middle School		11	x	58%	64%	34
Mann Elementary School		11	x	65%	74%	26



30% of TPS K-12 schools as SRTS projects

## EDUCATION & ENCOURAGEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS











# EDUCATION & ENCOURAGEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- 9 bike rodeos
- 44 Walk & Roll to School Days / Bike to School Days
- >800 free helmets to students at priority schools
- >100 free bikes to students at priority schools thanks to Bikes for Kids donations
- 4 spring and summer break bike camps at 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle + 1 after-school scooter camp

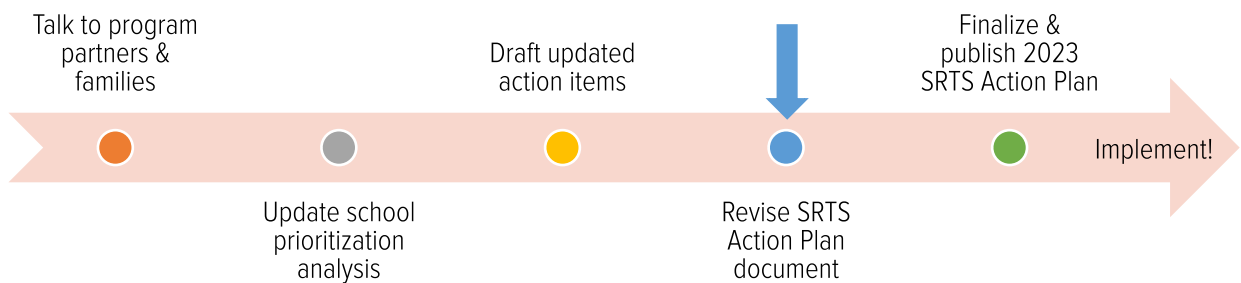


9

# WHY THIS UPDATE?



- Update the school prioritization
- Reconnect with partner organizations
- Revisit actions



10

10

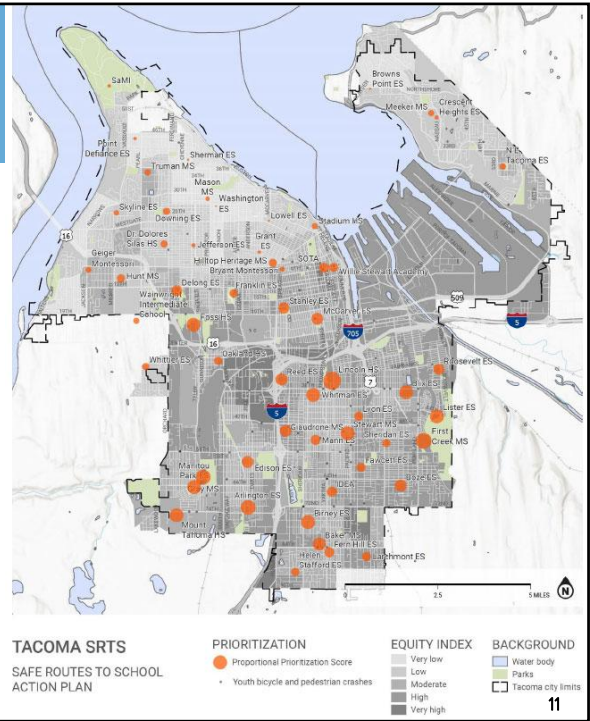
# UPDATED SCHOOL PRIORITIZATION

## Safety

- # youth bike/ped crashes within school enrollment boundary
- # Vision Zero High Risk Network intersections within the school walk zone

## Equity

- % students BIPOC
- % students low-income
- % students chronically absent



11

# WHAT WE'VE HEARD

## Engineering

Pedestrian Safety Enhancements, Placemaking Enhancements

## Education

Traffic Gardens, In-School Bicycle Lessons

## Encouragement

Walking School Buses, Crossing Guards/Safety Patrol



12

# IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES



## Continue

- Plan improvements & apply for grants
- Construct prioritized SRTS improvements
- Free helmet fittings, bike locks, and bike giveaways
- Educational and encouragement events

## Expand

- Partnership with TPS
- School communications and translations
- Walking School Buses
- Traffic gardens

## New

- Student-led place making project
- School marked crosswalk policy
- School reconstruction guide for access improvements



13

13

# Thank you!



Cailin Henley | Safe Routes to School Coordinator  
Department of Public Works | Transportation Division  
[chenley@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:chenley@cityoftacoma.org)



14