

2020 Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Activities

Virtual Travel Safe Classes

This curriculum was tailored to Orange County residents with modules promoting safe travel. Topics included walk audits, bicycle and pedestrian safety education, and instruction on how to provide input to local government agencies.

Task Summary:

- 98 total participants for the 12 classes
- Highest single class attendance of 38

Operation Bright Lights

Focus was placed on the safety and visibility of Orange County bicyclists and specifically targeted geographic areas with a high number of bicycle and pedestrian incidents. Program attendees were provided with safety gear and educational material. To address the challenges posed by the coronavirus, strictly controlled stations were set up where personal protective equipment and social distancing requirements kept all participants safe.

Task Summary and Distribution:

- 1,400 bicycle lights (700 red and 700 white)
- 401 bicycle helmets of varying sizes
- 2,016 bicycle spoke reflectors and 200 reflective tape segments
- 766 total participants

Operation Be Seen

Focus was placed on the visibility of the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) transit users to motorists during low light conditions. Distribution of reflective gear took place at key OCTA transit stops. Conducting the distribution events at the transit stops, instead of on buses, allowed for proper social distancing measures while distributing safety materials to riders on high ridership routes.

Task Summary and Distribution:

- 2,610 reflective armbands
- 680 reflective ballistic gear
- 1,079 participants

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Safe Routes to School Action Plan

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Action Plan (Action Plan) evaluates SRTS efforts countywide, delivers SRTS activities to schools, develops a list of action items, and identifies potential lead agencies and organizations. The Action Plan team delivered virtual Walk to School Day activities to schools during the week of October 5-9, 2020. Activities included an active transportation BINGO, a walk and roll scavenger hunt, and other walking and rolling activities. The team is also conducting virtual walk audits with Laguna Niguel Elementary School, Clara Barton Elementary School, Fountain Valley High School, and Ladera Ranch Elementary School.

The Action Plan report is currently in draft form and will be completed by March 2021. The report includes a summary of engagement activities, a needs assessment for Orange County schools, and recommendations for developing a countywide SRTS program. The recommendations are categorized into four goals, nine supporting strategies, and 32 implementation actions. The four goals are: establish a countywide SRTS program, create and sustain lasting partnerships, develop a culture of safety, and fund and implement infrastructure improvements. Staff will return in early 2021 with the final report for Board of Directors' consideration.

Safe Travels Education Program Campaign

The Safe Travels Education Program Campaign develops educational and encouragement activities for walking and bicycling at 25 public elementary schools serving disadvantaged communities. A range of activities will be offered based on school interest and time availability for assemblies, walk/bike-to-school day events, and training activities. The project team is adapting activities to be compatible with virtual and hybrid schooling, which is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. This includes developing online modules and educational videos for various age groups focusing on safe walking and bicycling. The campaign will continue through June 2022.