

Safe Routes to School Action Plan Executive Summary

This Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Action Plan (Action Plan) summarizes findings and recommendations for Safe Routes to School support throughout Orange County. The Action Plan recommends that the critical first step in improving SRTS in Orange County is to establish a countywide SRTS Program.

The project team assessed existing SRTS efforts already underway in the County and engaged with stakeholders and those impacted by or interested in supporting safe school travel to learn about opportunities and challenges for SRTS efforts countywide. Results of this engagement and research found that although schools, school districts and cities across Orange County are already conducting a wide range of SRTS activities and improving active transportation infrastructure, they are experiencing challenges with competing priorities as well as a lack of staff resources to dedicate to ongoing SRTS programs. Seventy percent of the County's schools fall into the top two of the three tiers of the Action Plan's needs analysis, demonstrating the opportunity and need for more support for SRTS.

The Action Plan's main recommendations include:

- 1) Establish a countywide SRTS Program,
- 2) Create and sustain lasting partnerships,
- 3) Develop a culture of safety,
- 4) Fund and build safe streets.

This Action Plan includes specific actions and strategies to achieve its four main recommendations, as well as appendices of further resources to support implementation of SRTS activities across the County.