



Creating Safe Walking and Bicycling Communities: Safe Routes to School Decision Maker Toolkit



Active Transportation Tips for County Leaders

Ask “*what has already been done?*” to promote safe and active transportation

- How is active transportation addressed in our county general plan?
- How is active transportation considered when determining public works project priorities?
- Has the county board of supervisors considered minimum allocations to active transportation funding?
- Have I heard about challenges and opportunities from knowledgeable staff in planning, public works or law enforcement?
- How is active transportation addressed by regional planning agencies?
- How is our board linked to city and regional transportation agencies? Has our liaison reported on active transportation priorities and investments to our board of supervisors?
- What community-based organizations have studied the situation and developed recommendations?

Set Direction and Establish Structure

- Build a shared understanding on your board and within your county of the benefits of active transportation (www.ca-ilg.org/why-active-transportation). Back your beliefs with research. Start with www.activelivingresearch.com.
- Incorporate active transportation goals and plans into your planning processes. Opportunities include updates to the county’s general plan and any specific plans for areas within your county, which may include a climate action plan, bicycle master plan or pedestrian plan. More information about different City, County, School and Regional Plans at www.ca-ilg.org/city-county-school-regional-plans.
- Ensure that zoning and parking codes are in alignment with active transportation goals.

- Encourage collaboration across local efforts to promote resident health and safety.
- Include active transportation in infrastructure planning, financing and resource allocations, with a particular focus on those areas around schools in unincorporated areas where the county acts as the local jurisdiction and provides the transportation infrastructure.
- Where needed, assign responsibility for assessing and developing active transportation recommendations to a collaborative body that represents interests of all residents. Include city leaders, business, schools, health, law enforcement, and pedestrian and bicycle organizations.

Walk Your Talk

- Ask the appointed board liaison to your county or regional transportation planning agency to champion this issue.
- Invest and advocate for projects that support active transportation.
- Promote and participate in active transportation events.
- Model physical activity. Host walking constituent meetings. Create a challenge to fellow board members. Clock and post your walking and bicycling miles.
- Request regular active transportation progress reports to the board.

For more on active transportation, access the *Creating Safe Walking and Bicycling Communities: Safe Routes to Schools Decision Maker Toolkit* at www.ca-ilg.org/SRTS-toolkit.¹



¹ The *Safe Routes to School Decision Maker Toolkit* was developed by the Cities, Counties and Schools Partnership and the Institute for Local Government for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Technical Assistance Resource Center (TARC). The SRTS TARC is a program within California Active Communities, a joint Unit of the University of California, San Francisco and the California Department of Public Health, and is funded through a SRTS Non-Infrastructure award from the California Department of Transportation.