



Safe Routes to School Program Report

E. Neal Roberts Elementary School Sierra High School

City of San Bernardino
2023

alta





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01 **Project Introduction and Background**





1. Project Introduction and Background

The San Bernardino City Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program is a partnership between the City of San Bernardino (City), the San Bernardino City Unified School District (SBCUSD), the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA), and the National Community Renaissance (National CORE), with project implementation support from Alta Planning + Design (Alta). While the SRTS Program has had various iterations over the years, a recent Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities grant from the Strategic Growth Council provided funding for SRTS activities at E. Neal Roberts Elementary School and Sierra High School. The funding was provided in support of the National CORE’s work creating affordable housing and pedestrian, bicycle, and roadway infrastructure improvements in the neighborhood just north of the two schools.

This document, the SRTS Program Report, describes the SRTS Program activities that took place at E. Neal Roberts Elementary School and Sierra High School for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years, and includes recommendations for the future of the SRTS program.





02 What is SRTS?



2. What is SRTS?

SRTS is a strategy to improve pedestrian and bicycle travel conditions around schools and increase opportunities for students and their families to use active modes of transportation to get to and from school.

SRTS is typically broken into two categories—infrastructure and non-infrastructure.

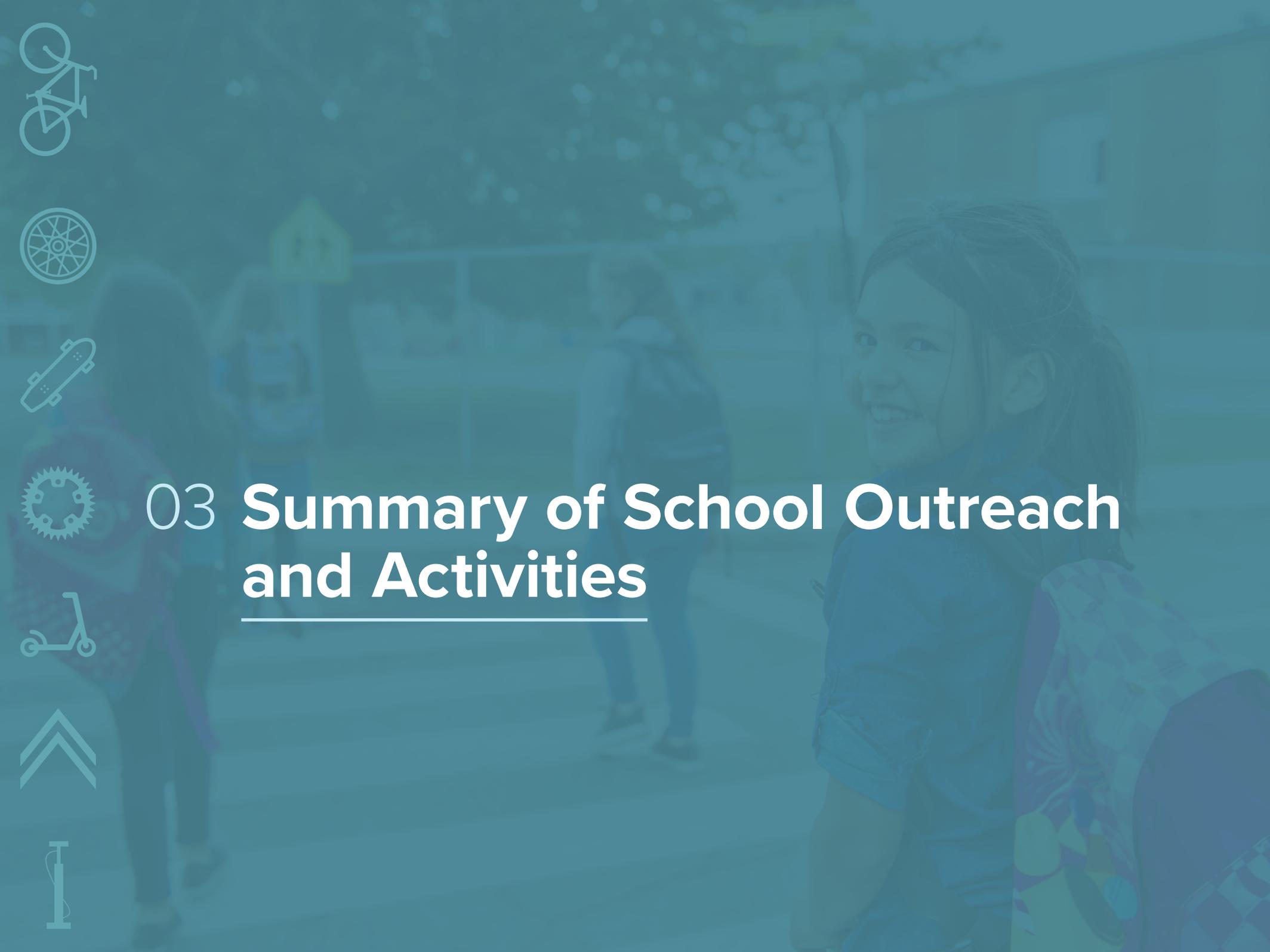
Infrastructure, also called engineering, refers to improvements to the physical built environment that make active modes of travel safe, convenient, and comfortable.

Non-infrastructure, also called encouragement and education, promotes activities that make active modes of travel to school more attractive, fun, and interesting while also teaching skills to use active modes safely.





03 **Summary of School Outreach and Activities**



3. Summary of School Outreach and Activities

This chapter provides an overview of SRTS outreach and activities carried out at E. Neal Roberts Elementary School and Sierra High School. Some activities, such as Mini Main Street and Walking School Buses, were conducted in-person. Other outreach opportunities, like suggested routes to school maps and SRTS Program newsletters, were created for distribution by the schools in support of the SRTS Program. Altogether, these various SRTS outreach efforts and activities aimed to enhance the safety of students walking and biking to school in a fun and engaging way.

MINI MAIN STREET

Mini Main Street is an interactive simulation that uses “buildings”, small-scale traffic signs, and taped crosswalks to allow students to practice safe crossing and walking skills in a safe and fun learning environment.

On May 3rd, Alta set up the Mini Main Street at E. Neal Roberts Elementary School for students to practice crossing. The activity included a “car and driver” on-scene to allow the students to practice making eye contact with drivers when using a crosswalk. This program also educated students on the meaning of traffic signs and pointed out other roadway safety hazards like backing up vehicles.

This low materials cost activity provides immense opportunities for students to gain confidence and valuable roadway safety skills that can be used when walking and biking.



WALKING SCHOOL BUS/WALK AND ROLL TO SCHOOL

Walking School Buses/Walk and Roll to School events are organized groups of students who walk to and from school with adults. These programs often include designated routes and stops where students gather or get dropped off near their homes. These programs encourage more students to walk to school, improve community health, strengthen community ties, and address safety concerns for people walking.

Alta assisted SBCUSD with five Walking School Bus events at E. Neal Roberts Elementary School. While dressed as traffic cones, Alta distributed reflective “Our School Walks and Rolls/Nuestra Escuela Camina y Rueda” stickers to students upon their arrival to school as an incentive for participating in their Walking School Bus.

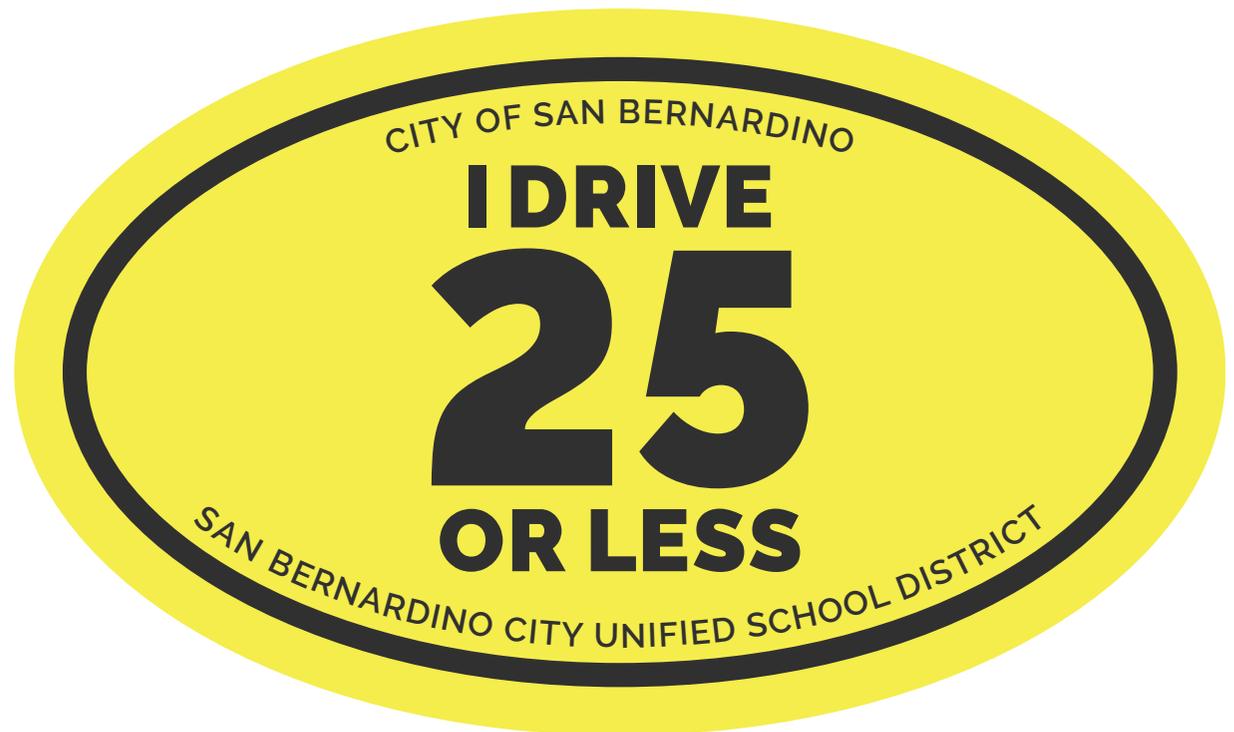
During the 2022-2023 and 2033-2024 school years, E. Neal Roberts Elementary School saw a consistent rise in both student and staff participation, positioning it for sustained success as it transitions beyond Alta’s support.



I DRIVE 25 CAMPAIGN

Speeding in a school zone (going more than 25 MPH) is one of the most common safety complaints by parents/caregivers, students, and school staff. Additionally, speeding is often the cause of severe pedestrian and bicyclist injuries and fatalities.

To address this issue, the SRTS Program promoted the “I Drive 25” campaign by distributing “I Drive 25” car decals to parents, caregivers, and school and district staff. The campaign encourages drivers to place the decal on their vehicle to show a commitment to driving 25 MPH or less in school zones.



SRTS BANNERS

A SRTS banner was distributed to E. Neal Roberts Elementary School. The purpose of the banner was to solidify the school's commitment to walking and biking and to remind students and their families to walk or bike for the school commute. The vinyl material of the banners allowed the school to write special walking event dates like Walking School Bus/Walk to School Day while also allowing them to reuse the banners for future events.



SUGGESTED ROUTES TO SCHOOL MAPS

Suggested routes to school maps were created for each school. The maps display school locations, surrounding streets, sidewalks, and pathways within a half-mile from school, as well as other relevant information such as stop signs, crossing guard locations, and bus stop locations (for Sierra High School). These maps also included active transportation educational messages and tips on how to use the map. Suggested route maps are great tools for schools to promote and encourage students to walk and bicycle to school safely and more frequently.

E. NEAL ROBERTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Suggested Route to School Map

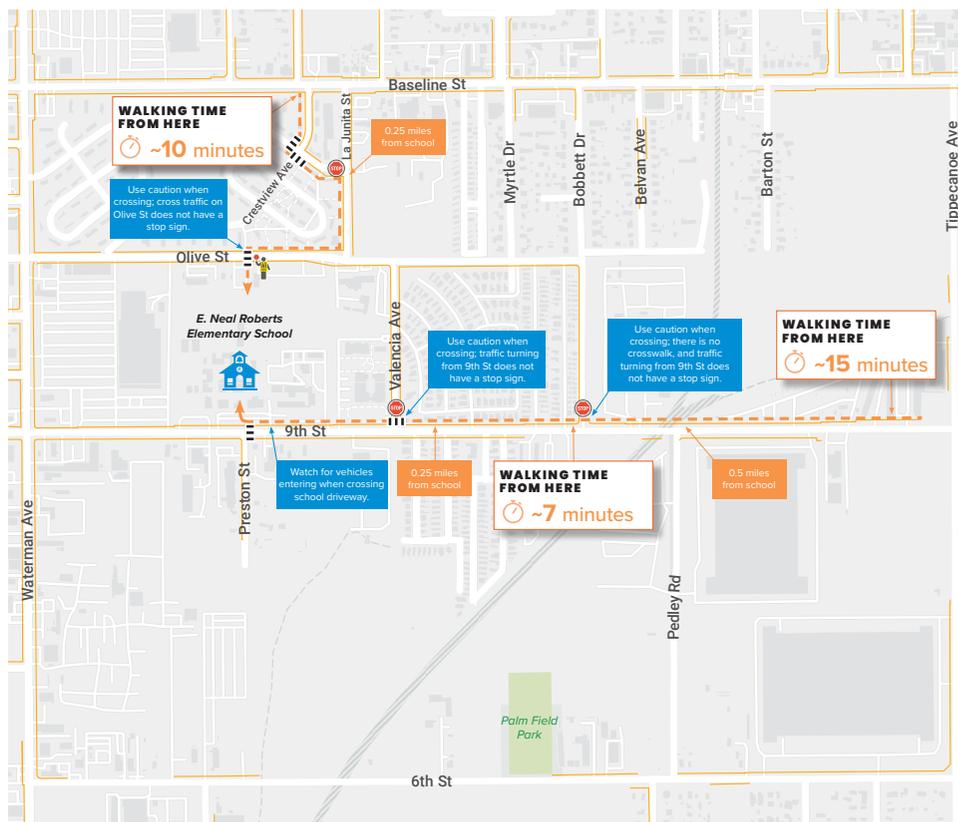
LEGEND

-  Sidewalk
-  Suggested Walk to School Route
-  Intersection with Stop Sign
-  Crosswalk
-  Crossing Guard

0 0.05 0.1 MILE 



This map is intended for informational purposes only. San Bernardino County and local school districts do not guarantee the safety of these routes or persons utilizing them, and assumes no responsibility or liability therefore.



SCHOOL COMMUNITY WALK AUDIT

A school community walk audit was conducted at both schools on the morning of May 3, 2023. Walk audit participants included SBCUSD staff and leadership, City of San Bernardino staff, and members of SBCUSD's Safety and Attendance Committee, with technical support from Alta staff.

The purpose of the walk audit was to gather community input, document existing conditions, provide high level planning recommendations, and identify opportunities that support safe walking and biking to school.

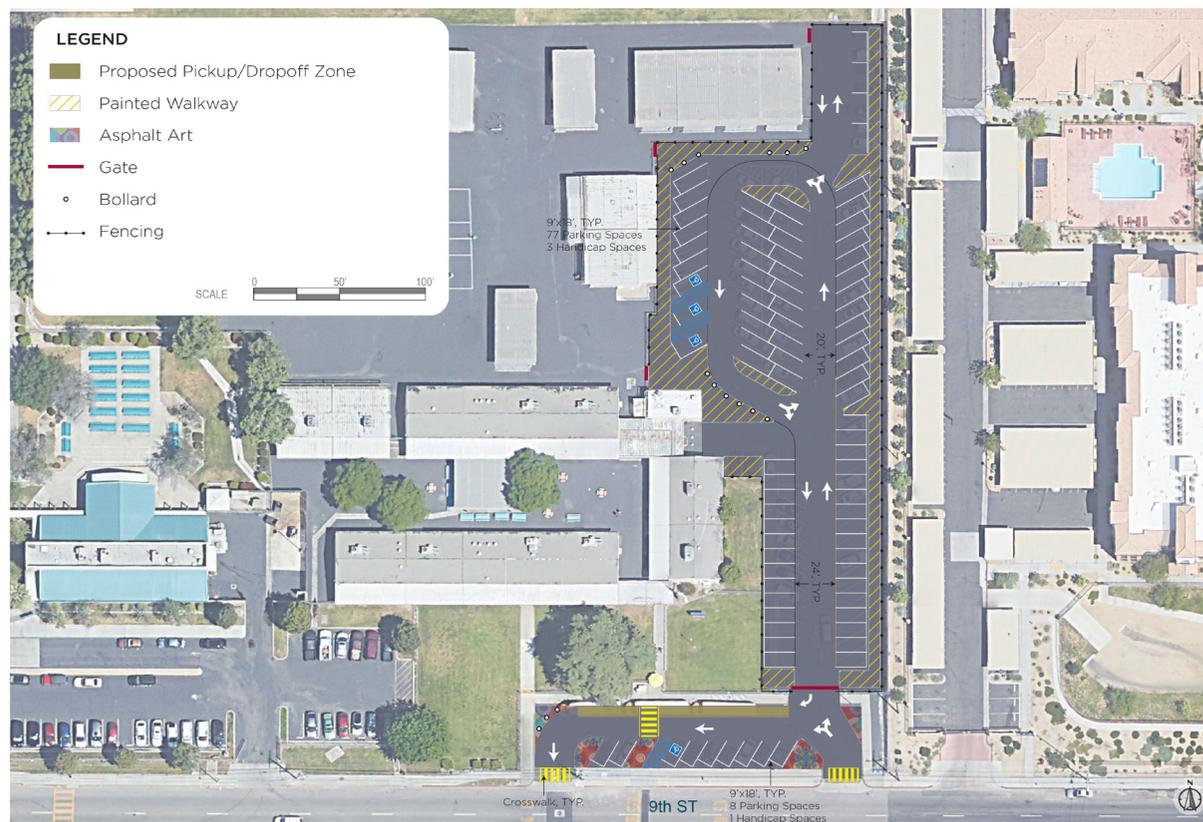
The community walk audit resulted in a School Site Assessment Technical Memorandum that documented walk audit findings, recommendations, and next steps.



SIERRA HIGH SCHOOL SITE PLAN

Following the community walk audit and observation of afternoon student pickup behavior, Alta developed a site plan for Sierra High School's parking lots. The site plan serves as a blueprint for a potential reconfiguration of the school's parking lots to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety.

CONCEPT 1



SRTS PROGRAM NEWSLETTERS

The SRTS Program created quarterly e-newsletters with educational messages for students and their families. The e-newsletters were written in English and Spanish and were formatted so that they could be easily forwarded via each school's usual communication channels.



**It's Getting Dark Earlier—
Get Home Safe From School!**

Stay safe and visible on the way to and from school.

It's harder for drivers to see you in the dark!

Wear light colored clothes or a high-visibility vest, and carry a flashlight if you are walking home in the dark!

What else can you do to make sure that drivers see you when you're walking in the dark?

Learn more!
Visit safekids.org/walkingsafelytips to see how you can stay safe during your trips to school.

This message is intended for informational purposes only. Parents and caregivers should decide the best school travel options for their students.

**Está Oscureciendo más temprano:
¡REGRESA a salvo de la escuela!**

Mantente seguro y visible de camino hacia y desde la escuela.

¡Es difícil para los conductores verte en la oscuridad!

¡Usa ropa de colores claros o un chaleco de alta visibilidad y lleva una linterna si caminas a casa en la oscuridad!

¿Qué más puedes hacer para asegurarte de que los conductores te vean cuando caminas en la oscuridad?

¡Descubre más!
Visita safekids.org/walkingsafelytips para descubrir cómo puedes mantenerte seguro en tu camino hacia la escuela.

Este mensaje sólo tiene fines informativos. Los padres y cuidadores deben decidir las mejores opciones de viaje a la escuela para sus estudiantes.

CROSSING GUARD MONITORING

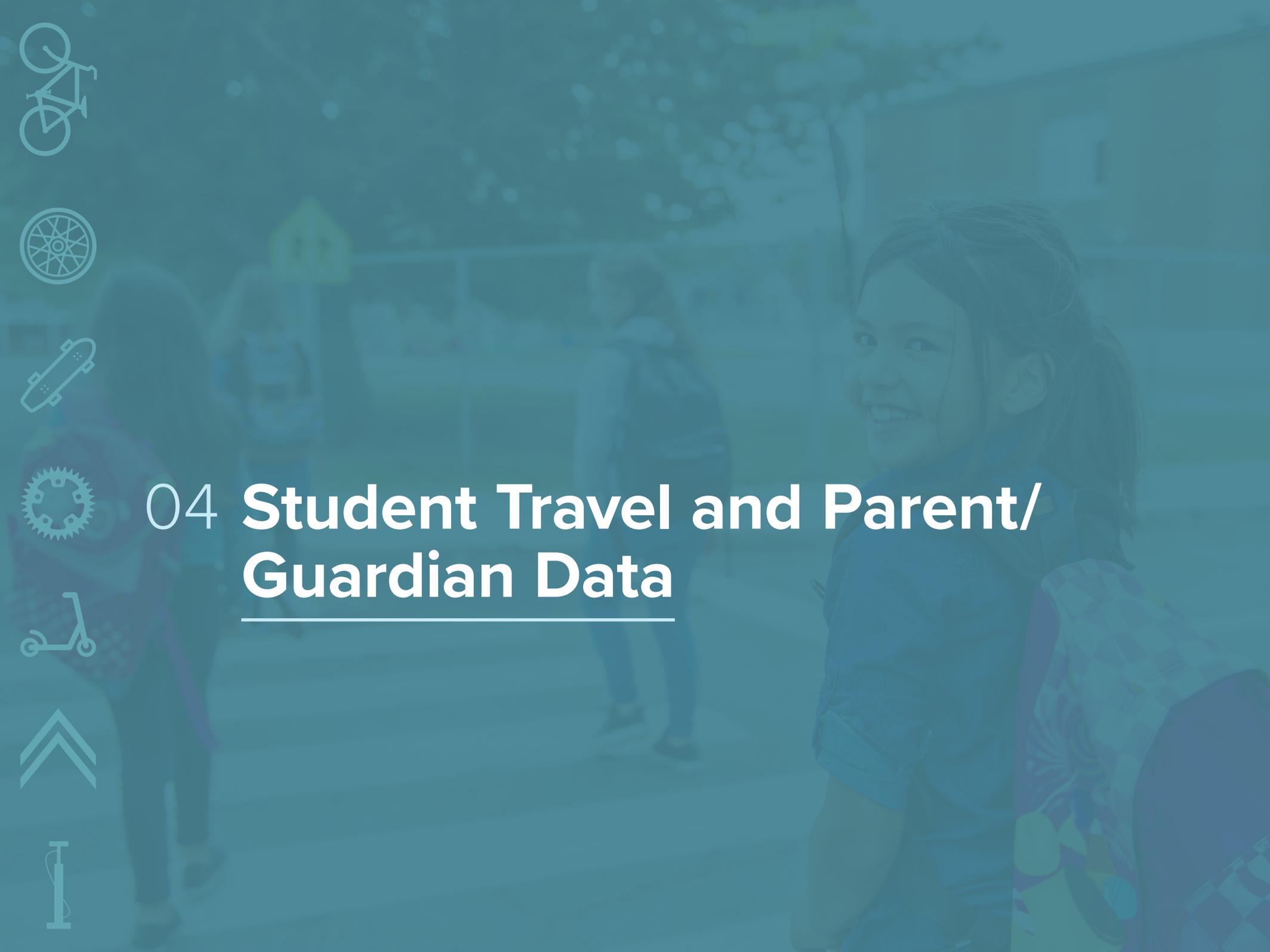
School Crossing Guards play an integral role in fostering a safe and comfortable environment for students walking and bicycling to school. Crossing Guards can create gaps in traffic on busier neighborhood collector roads, remind drivers of the presence of families walking and bicycling, help reinforce safe walking and bicycling skills in students and their families, and indicate when people driving should yield to those walking and bicycling.

SBCUSD and the City coordinate regularly to ensure adequate and appropriate placement of Crossing Guards at school locations. Alta provided technical assistance support to this coordination. This coordination is a successful partnership model that enhances the safety of students and their families traveling to and from school.





04 **Student Travel and Parent/ Guardian Data**



4. Student Travel and Parent/Guardian Data

The purpose of collecting student travel and parent/guardian data is to gather information about how students travel to and from school, tailor SRTS solutions to the unique needs of each school, evaluate the effectiveness of SRTS initiatives (comparing travel habits before and after program implementation), and foster community engagement and collaboration.

Student travel data was collected in the classroom by teachers via a hand tally count. Parent/guardian data was collected via a SurveyMonkey (an online data collection platform) survey that was distributed to parents, caregivers, and guardians. All surveys were provided in English and Spanish.

Student travel data was collected for Sierra High School, with most students (73.7%) reporting using a family vehicle to arrive at school. Fifteen point eight percent (15.8%) reported arriving via school bus and ten point five (10.5%) reported arriving via carpool. No students reported using a bike or walking to arrive to school.

The E. Neal Roberts parent/guardian survey received no responses.





05

School District Coordination



5. School District Coordination

SBCUSD SAFETY AND ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SBCUSD’s Safety and Attendance Advisory Committee (SAAC) is made up of parents/caregivers, students, school and district staff, city and county staff, law enforcement representatives, and others who meet to discuss challenges and opportunities related to safety and attendance in the district. Since its start, SAAC has met regularly and in-person, either at SBCUSD offices or at a school site, or virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The SRTS Program identified SAAC early on as an important group to engage in promoting SRTS activities. In turn, SAAC views SRTS as a critical part of preventing chronic absenteeism. Chronic

absenteeism is defined as a student missing 10% or more of the number of days the student is enrolled in school. Chronic absenteeism remains a challenge for many schools in San Bernardino County, in large part due to the impacts of the recent pandemic.

SRTS Program staff participated in SAAC meetings and frequently presented on SRTS as a way to address transportation as a barrier to getting to school by providing education and encouragement for walking and biking, as well as information about how to walk and bike safely.





06 Recommended Next Steps



6. Recommended Next Steps

Non-infrastructure strategies are an important part of a comprehensive SRTS program. While infrastructure improvements provide safer and more comfortable routes, non-infrastructure SRTS activities like traffic safety education and walking and biking promotional activities encourage students and their families to choose active modes to get to and from school.

In addition, SRTS programs with non-infrastructure components build enthusiasm and support for active transportation and can be an important first step toward implementing more costly infrastructure improvements.

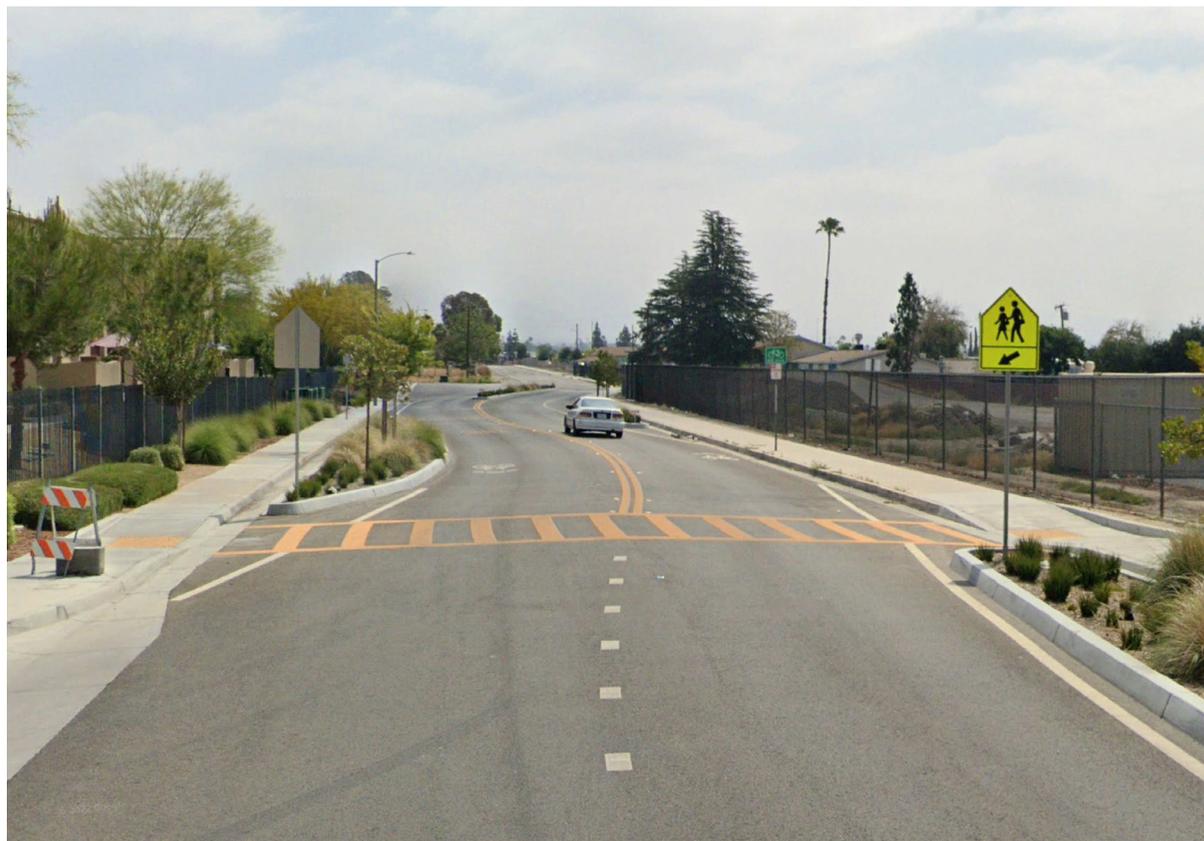
This chapter outlines SRTS educational and encouragement recommendations for the SRTS Program. These recommendations are based on school

and community needs and priorities, available resources, and SRTS best practices.



CONTINUE CROSSING GUARD ASSESSMENTS AND TRAINING

SBCUSD and the City should continue their regular coordination meetings to ensure adequate and appropriate placement of Crossing Guards at school locations throughout the City of San Bernardino. This coordination, between a school district and a city, is already being recognized statewide as best practice. In addition to continuing this partnership, San Bernardino Crossing Guards should receive training on at least a biennial basis. Free Crossing Guard training resources are available through the California Active Transportation Resource Center, caatpresources.org.



UTILIZE SB ACCESS ONLINE

The City of San Bernardino maintains an intake webpage at www.sbcity.org/contact_us/sb_access_online that allows residents, schools, and visitors to share areas of concern and request street maintenance and clean-up. All schools in San Bernardino can benefit from sharing information with the City, which in turn would provide cleaner, more comfortable spaces for students to walk and bike.

The screenshot shows the City of San Bernardino website's 'Looking for Information?' page. The header includes the city logo, navigation links (Home, Agendas, About, Government, Services, How Do I, Contact Us), and contact information (SELECT LANGUAGE, SB DIRECT: 909-384-7272, GO SBCity Mobile App). The main content area has a search bar and a 'Topic Areas' list. The sidebar on the right lists 'Most Requested' topics.

Looking for Information?

This site is designed to provide our residents, businesses and visitors with a Virtual City Hall, giving you the opportunity to access City Hall, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, from the comfort of your own home.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Requests are NOT monitored on a 24/7 basis and are addressed during business hours. If you have an emergency, please call 9-1-1.

We are here to serve you!

Click here to search by key words

Topic Areas

▶ Animals	▶ Library
▶ Business & Economic Development	▶ Mobile Home
▶ Cable TV	▶ Other (Water Services)
▶ Can't Find It?	▶ Parks & Community Services
▶ City Clerk	▶ Passport Information
▶ City Government & Elected Officials Information	▶ Police
▶ City Manager's Office	▶ Public Works
▶ Code Enforcement	▶ Risk Management
▶ Community Development	▶ Streets & Sidewalks
▶ Employment	▶ Traffic Signs, Signals & Lighting
▶ Finance & Purchasing	▶ Treasurer
▶ Fireworks	▶ Water
▶ Fleet	▶ Water Customer Service
▶ Information Technology	▶ Water Utility Bills
▶ Landscaping, Trees and Irrigation	

Most Requested

- Can't Find it or General Information
- Code Enforcement
- Employment Application
- Public Records Request
- Business - Renewal of Business Registration
- Graffiti Removal
- City Hall General Information
- Contact a Councilmember
- Potholes & Sinkholes
- Animal Licensing

COORDINATE BUS SCHEDULES WITH OMNITRANS

OmniTrans is an important partner in safe transportation for San Bernardino students. There may be an opportunity to enhance bus schedules so that students have more than one opportunity to catch a bus after school should they need extra time to complete administrative or other tasks at the end of the school day.

WORK WITH SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL!

In early 2023, the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority relaunched the countywide SRTS Program. This resource will provide opportunities for SBCUSD schools to start or continue SRTS activities.



