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OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF WASHINGTON STATE RESIDENTS THINK
EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO WALK OR BIKE TO SCHOOL ON A SAFE ROUTE
Obesity Prevention, Physical Activity and Safety Top Concerns

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Today, the Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition (www.copcwa.org) released results of a statewide telephone poll showing that 84 percent of Washington State voters believe that funding to keep children safe from traffic and physically active should be a part of transportation spending in the state.

The 506 interviews completed statewide between May 28 and June 2, 2014, captured opinions about children walking and biking to school in general, as well as Safe Routes to School projects currently funded by the state to build infrastructure like crosswalks and speed bumps, and test models for safer routes such as “walking school buses” and “bike trains” – promising programs recently featured in The Seattle Times.

The most persuasive benefits to investing in safe routes to schools projects were traffic safety, physical activity, the greater benefit to all community members, and an opportunity to help prevent obesity. Walking just a mile to and from school each day gives kids two-thirds of the recommended exercise needed in a day.

When asked about large budget deficits and shortfalls, 79 percent of voters continued to think funding for safe routes to schools to keep children safe from traffic and physically active was important and should be a part of Washington state’s transportation spending.

Go to <http://copcwa.org/poll-srts/> for more detail on the survey conducted by the independent research group, EMC Research.

Funding for the survey was made possible through a grant from Voices for Healthy Kids, a joint initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and American Heart Association, empowering advocates to take action in their communities and improve health of children across the nation. (www.voicesforhealthykids.org).

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