



## Growing What Works: Safe Routes, Healthy Kids

Support increasing and solidifying the state's investment in Safe Routes to School projects.

In 1969, 50 percent of children biked or walked to school, compared with just 13 percent today. Nearly 25% of all morning traffic is parents driving their children to school. Our dependence on cars and related sprawl minimizes biking and walking as a mode of transportation. Between the growing use of screen time and increased car travel, parents now must figure out how to “engineer” physical activity into their children’s day.

Biking and walking to school offers a simple solution to get the next generation of children moving. All across the country and in the state of Washington, we are implementing effective models for safely transporting kids to school on foot and by bicycle. However, the outstanding need remains great – especially in our low-income, minority and rural areas.

Our organizations have been strong supporters of these Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects and are actively working to secure and increase sustainable funding for these projects in Washington State. Filling the unmet need for SRTS projects statewide result in multiple benefits:

- Regular physical activity is achieved via biking & walking to school
- Kids who walk to school are more alert, eager and ready to learn
- Streets are safer when more people walk and bike on them
- Reduced transportation costs – both for parents and school districts

In a recent statewide poll, we found overwhelming support for these concepts:

- The vast majority of Washington state voters agree that every child deserves to bike or walk to school on a safe route, and that communities should be planned to enable these activities.
- A whopping 84 percent of voters think SRTS should be part of state transportation spending.
- Two-thirds of Washington state voters are more likely to support additional transportation investments if those investments helped expand SRTS statewide.



**While we probably know all know what an unsafe route looks like, here are a few typical images:**



Othello



Edmonds

**Changing the landscape works!**

**A before/after shot from S. Orcas St. in South Seattle:**



Before



After

Join our effort to support Safe Routes to Schools programs by visiting: [saferouteshealthykids.org](http://saferouteshealthykids.org)

