



NEWS RELEASE



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Safe Routes to Schools Program Kicks off Phase 2 in Santa Clara

City of Santa Clara and Santa Clara Unified School District join efforts to promote healthy and safe lifestyles for youth

On November 29, the City of Santa Clara, in partnership with the Santa Clara Unified School District joined students and teachers at Westwood Elementary School in Santa Clara to kick off Phase 2 of the Safe Routes to School Program. Students demonstrated safe traffic behaviors in a mock city course which reminds students to obey the law.

Thirty years ago, more than 66 percent of children and teens walked or biked to school. Walking or biking to school gave youth a sense of freedom and responsibility, allowing them to enjoy the outdoors, and provided opportunities to get to know their neighborhood while arriving at school alert, refreshed, and ready to start their day. Yet today, only 13 percent of American youth walk or bike to school. The City of Santa Clara's Safe Routes to School Program will integrate health, fitness, traffic relief, environmental awareness, and safety under one program. It is an opportunity to work together to create a healthy lifestyle for youth and a safer, cleaner environment for everyone.

Mayor Lisa Gillmor says, "The Safe Routes to School program is a sustainability effort by the City of Santa Clara to improve the health and well-being of our youth. The program will emphasize the importance of reducing traffic and air pollution in the vicinity of schools to both parents and students. This program was made possible by a \$500,000 grant awarded to the City of Santa Clara through the Vehicle Emissions Reductions Based at Schools Program. We are excited to continue this partnership with the Santa Clara Unified School District to encourage a healthy, safer and active lifestyle from an early age."

The Santa Clara Unified School District Board of Trustees president acknowledged that school safety has been longtime priority work for both the City and the District. "The partnership has been going on for many years and we are thankful for that ongoing relationship focusing on student safety."

Some of the highlights of this year's program include new or updated "Safe Routes to School" maps for schools across Santa Clara; curriculum on pedestrian and bicycle safety; parent and teacher training; a toolkit for principals/teachers/parents; events such as bicycle and pedestrian rodeos, helmet fittings, and monthly awards programs; promotional activities to increase community wide education and awareness; and identification of infrastructure improvements. New route maps will be developed for five elementary schools: Bracher, Hughes, Washington, Westwood, and Don Callejon. Existing maps will be reviewed for

six elementary and one middle school: Bowers, Briarwood, Haman, Montague, Scott Lane, Sutter, and Cabrillo Middle School.

Photos: [Safe Routes to Schools 2017](#)

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About the City of Santa Clara's Safe Routes to School Program

Santa Clara's Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) assists interested localities and schools in the development of plans, activities, and infrastructure improvements to make bicycling and walking to school a safe and appealing transportation option for students. The program is funded by a \$500,000 grant the City received from Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds through the Vehicle Emissions Reductions Based at Schools program and administered by the City of Santa Clara Public Works Department.

About Santa Clara Unified School District

Santa Clara Unified School District serves over 15,300 TK-12 students, in addition to students in Preschool through Adult School. Neighborhoods in the Cities of Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, San Jose, and Cupertino comprise the District's 56 square-mile area. Santa Clara Unified prides itself on having teachers, classified employees and administrators who are dedicated, experienced professionals who care about each student's well-being and academic preparation. www.santaclarausd.org

About the City of Santa Clara

Located at the heart of Silicon Valley about 45 miles south of San Francisco, the City of Santa Clara truly is "The Center of What's Possible." Incorporated in 1852, Santa Clara covers an area of 19.3 square miles with a population of 120,000. Santa Clara is home to an extraordinary array of high-tech companies, including Applied Materials, Hewlett-Packard, Intel, Nvidia, Oracle, and Ericsson. The City of Santa Clara is also home to Santa Clara University, California's Great America Theme Park, and Levi's® Stadium, home of the San Francisco 49ers and Super Bowl 50. www.SantaClaraCA.gov.