

OREGON SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
ANNUAL SNAPSHOT REPORT



2018

PREPARED BY
The Oregon Safe Routes to School
Network Leadership Committee



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Learn more about the SRTS Leadership Committee on the website:
www.oregonsaferoutes.org/leadership-committee



INTRODUCTION TO

OREGON SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs aim to create safe, healthy, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to use active transportation for the school commute. These initiatives promote livable and vibrant communities, increase physical activity, and improve unsafe walking, biking, and skating conditions. This includes a commitment to providing safe bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and reducing crash rates in all communities, including those with low-income families and non-English speakers.



This report is intended to:

- 1) Educate community members about the state of SRTS in Oregon
- 2) Provide legislators and elected officials the context to promote SRTS
- 3) Inform staff new to SRTS about core SRTS activities and events, while sharing potential new activities with existing program staff

Please share it with anyone who might be interested in Safe Routes to School in Oregon!

THE OREGON SRTS NETWORK

The Oregon SRTS Network is a coalition of SRTS stakeholders from across the state that shares best practices, helps new practitioners start and maintain successful SRTS programs, and advocates for SRTS legislation and funding. The Leadership Team provides strategic direction, hosts the bi-annual Oregon SRTS Conference, and publishes this annual report.

The Leadership Team is happy to announce new co-chairs for the 2018-2019 school year! Janis McDonald, the City of Portland Safe Routes to School Organizer, joined the Leadership Committee because she wanted to work with, learn from, and support Safe Routes coordinators around the state. Brian Potwin, is an Active Transportation Manager with Commute Options, working with Oregon SRTS, ODOT, and the Cities of Bend and Redmond. Brian joined because he is passionate about using creative change to promote community health, active transportation, and a vibrant local economy.



Join the Oregon SRTS Network to stay in touch about SRTS activities around the state!
www.oregonsaferoutes.org/about/srts-team

THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SUPPORTS SRTS

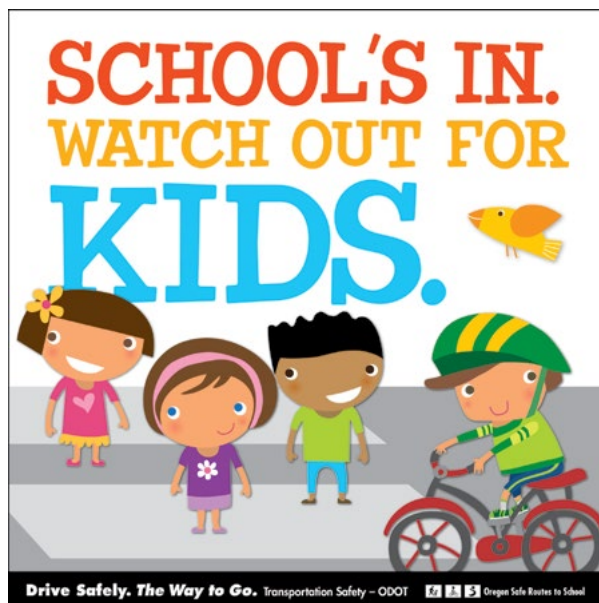
In Oregon, local and regional governments fund most SRTS programs. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) also makes grants available for local infrastructure and programmatic work.

The Oregon Department of Transportation supports infrastructure and non-infrastructure SRTS programs. Infrastructure programs focus on making sure safe walking and biking routes exist through investments in physical infrastructure such as crossings, sidewalks and bike lanes, and flashing beacons. Non-infrastructure programs focus on education and outreach to assure awareness and safe use of walking and biking routes. Investments include developing SRTS Action Plans, educating students on walking and biking options, and demonstrating how to obey traffic laws and guidelines to stay safe on the way to school.



NON-INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

The Transportation Safety Division supports SRTS programs, education, and outreach with the Oregon SRTS Website (www.oregonsaferoutes.org/), outreach materials, and non-infrastructure grants. A competitive grant for the next round of non-infrastructure funding will be released in spring 2019.





INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

The ODOT SRTS Infrastructure Program allows ODOT to distribute funds deposited into the SRTS fund in accordance with OAR 737-025. These funds are intended to build infrastructure projects that address the needs of students who walk and bicycle to school, while considering the unique perspectives and behavior of children. The fund currently receives \$10 million state highway dollars annually, and will be increasing to \$15 million in 2023. The funds are divided into three different programs with different eligibility, application guidelines, and timelines:

- **Competitive Grant Program:** The majority of the funds are used for a Competitive Grant Program to build street safety projects that reduce barriers and hazards for children walking or bicycling to and from schools.
- **Rapid Response Grant Program:** Up to 10 percent of funds are used for urgent needs or systemic safety issues that occur in between Competitive Program Grant cycles.
- **Project Identification Grant Program:** Up to 2.5 percent of funds are used by ODOT to help communities identify projects that will reduce barriers and hazards for children walking or bicycling to and from school, and that will lead to eventual construction. Details about the current funding cycle can be found in the below links. In January of odd years, ODOT will announce the application process and timeline for the upcoming cycles. In addition, ODOT will announce program application cycles as they open.

Please contact LeeAnne Ferguson, ODOT's Safe Routes to School Program Manager, at leeanne.fergason@odot.state.or.us for more information.

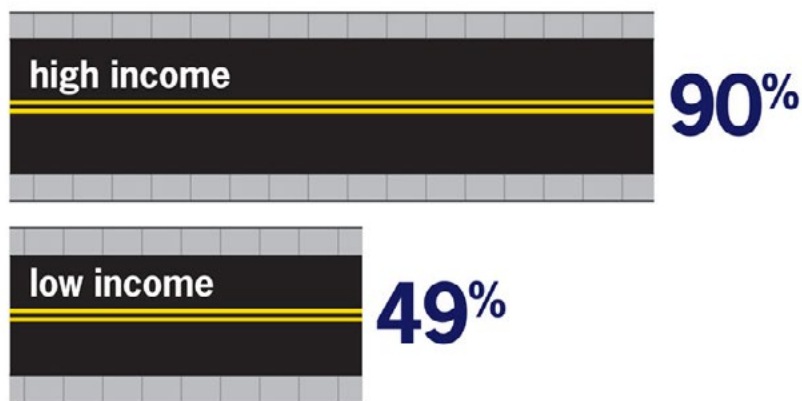
Learn more at: www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Programs/Pages/SRTS.aspx

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN SRTS

The Leadership Team is creating a framework to promote more equitable and inclusive SRTS programs around the state. Equity for SRTS begins with recognizing that people from culturally-diverse backgrounds are often forced to overcome unique barriers on a path to healthy and sustainable outcomes for their families.

To support breakthrough outcomes for historically marginalized communities throughout Oregon, the Leadership Team is committed to growing its understanding of the different barriers and opportunities that affect families in Oregon, understanding where the Team's impacts can be transformative, and crafting SRTS policies, programs, materials, and overall approaches with those various challenges and needs in mind

Communities with Sidewalks



Bridging the Gap, Income Disparities in Street Features that Encourage Walking, 2012

© 2015 Safe Routes to School National Partnership

WHAT IS DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION?

- **Diversity** is the demographic composition of participants in a SRTS program, which can be based on race, class, religion, ability, age, gender, gender identity, or geography.
- **Equity** ensures access to, and participation in, the procedures, processes, and distribution of resources within SRTS programs for a diverse population.
- **Inclusion** is active, intentional, and ongoing engagement to ensure diverse individuals are able to participate fully in activities and decision-making processes.

Children Killed While Walking



Dangerous by Design, 2011

© 2015 Safe Routes to School National Partnership



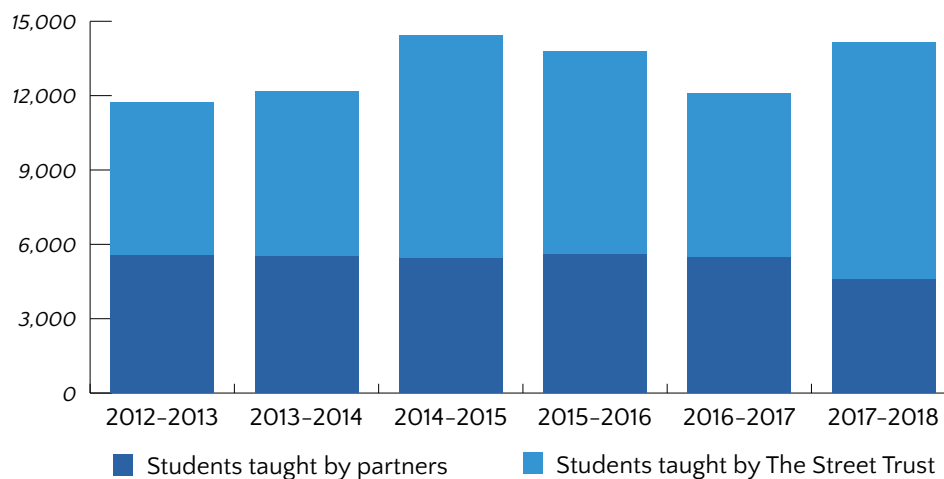
WHY EQUITY IS ESSENTIAL IN SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

- Children from low-income families are twice as likely as children from wealthier families to walk to school, but they often face significant traffic and personal safety challenges on the trip to school.
- Low-income, urban residents are more likely to experience busy streets, poor pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and threats from crime and violence.
- Low-income, rural communities often lack sidewalks and may see high-speed state highways bisecting their communities.
- Low-income communities and communities of color often have inadequate street infrastructure and do not always have the funding, policies, or staffing resources available for building streets that are safe for walking and bicycling.

EDUCATION

Many schools across Oregon teach students safe walking and bicycling behaviors. The Street Trust (TST), Commute Options, Eugene-Springfield SRTS Team, and other local partners teach a comprehensive bicycle safety curriculum for 4th-7th grade students. Students learn traffic rules and regulations, potential hazards to avoid when traveling, and skills needed to ride safely through their community.

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY EDUCATION



Learn more at: www.oregonsaferoutes.org/videos-materials/ and www.thestreettrust.org/saferoutestoschool.

BIKE EDUCATION PROVIDES ACCESS TO BIKING IN PORTLAND

TST has always been proud of how many students they have taught to ride, and the Fall 2018 Bike Safety Season was no different. This time, TST collected more data and learned just how valuable this education is. Of the 382 students taught in Portland this fall, 49 of them did not know how to ride a bicycle. That is nearly 13 percent of the students!

Without educators' and volunteers' commitment, these students would have never learned to ride. Many students do not have access to bicycles and the ability to learn. SRTS bike safety education is instrumental in bridging equity gaps and providing access to bicycles for hundreds of students throughout Portland.

JUMP START FLEET LANDS IN BAKER CITY

[The Street Trust's Jump Start](#) program allows school districts and communities to create a unique local bicycle and pedestrian education program. For the 2018–2019 school year, the program will be held in Baker City with [Community Connections of Northeast Oregon](#). Partners will evaluate the program at the end of the year, and if successful, will find funding to purchase a fleet of bikes and a trailer for the community to continue the program in subsequent years. The Jump Start program includes an eight hour training for teachers and community members on The Street Trust's Safe Routes for Kids Curriculum as well as materials for the community to keep and use for one school year, including 36 bikes of all sizes, 100 helmets, a 20-foot trailer, and tools.

CAMPFIRE KIDS IN CENTRAL OREGON LEARN ABOUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

During a recent [Campfire summer program](#), middle school students practiced loading and unloading bikes on a [Cascades East Transit](#) bus. The group rode to Hawthorne Station for a real-life demo of multimodal transportation options!

Thanks to Bicycle Resource of Bend, Commute Options, [Cascades East Transit](#), and the [Empowering Youth Bicycle Program](#).

INTEGRATING SAFE ROUTES INTO ART LITERACY IN TIGARD

In 2018, the City of Tigard teamed up with the Tigard-Tualatin School District for the second annual SRTSI Art Literacy Poster Contest. Volunteer educators taught K–5th grade students about French painter Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and his most famous works, including “At the Moulin Rouge.” Students were then encouraged to reflect on the painter’s style and make their own pieces of art focusing on safely walking and biking to school.

Tigard’s Mayor Cook presented prizes to two finalists from each grade at an all-school assembly. The finalists’ artwork was displayed prominently at several Tigard locations including the library, Symposium Coffee, and the school district office during March and

April. The grand prize winner’s art was displayed on the citywide promotional poster for Walk and Bike to School Day on May 9.

PARTNERSHIPS SUPPORT EDUCATION IN HILLSBORO

In Hillsboro, developing key partnerships between City departments and the Hillsboro School District has resulted in increased access to safety education for Hillsboro students.

The SRTS program expanded the train-the-trainer-based pedestrian education efforts to over 1,400 students who received safety skills in 2018. Trained teachers taught students during select elementary PE classes and at the Parks and Recreation Department’s afterschool program. The City is working on expanding the elementary pedestrian educational effort and introducing a new Walk and Roll Safety curriculum to middle school students.



ENCOURAGEMENT

Encouragement activities make it fun for students and their families to walk and roll to school.

Oregon's **Walk+Roll to School Day** celebrates walking and rolling to school in conjunction with International Walk to School Day in October. This annual event promotes all active transportation options to and from school and throughout the community. In October 2018, the SRTS Committee had 287 schools throughout Oregon participate! <https://www.thestreettrust.org/walkroll/> <https://www.oregonsaferoutes.org/oregon-safe-routes-to-school-walk-bike-day/>

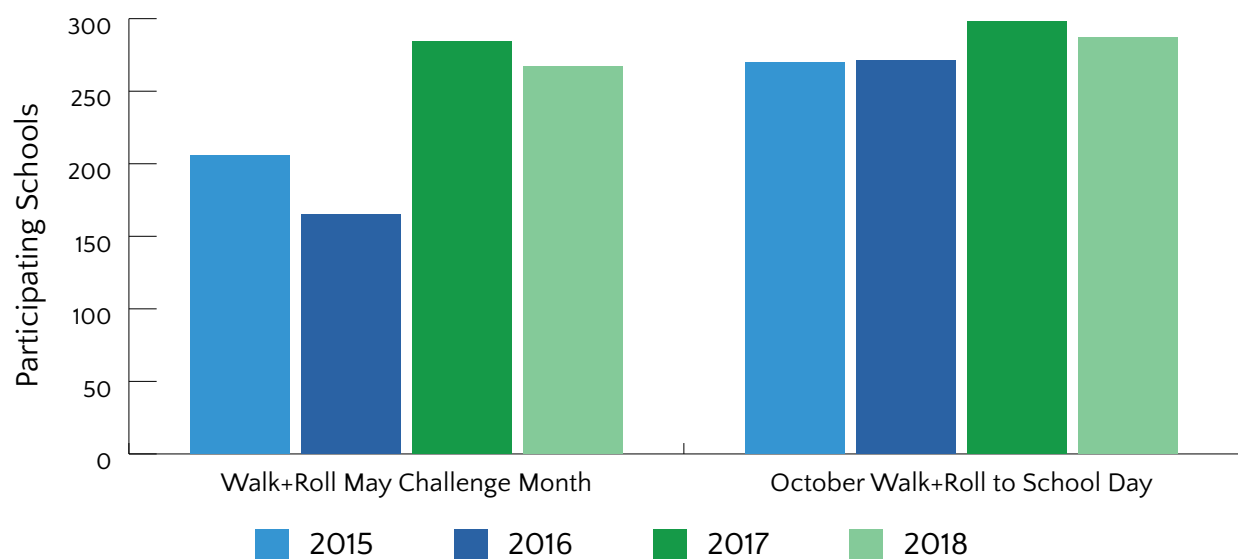
The **Walk+Roll May Challenge** is a friendly competition that encourages students to walk and roll to school for the whole month of May. During the challenge, school coordinators may choose to track the number of students walking and rolling to school throughout the month. At the end of the challenge, prizes go to schools that participate in tracking or send in info about their event. In May 2018, the SRTS Committee had 268 schools throughout Oregon participate! <https://www.thestreettrust.org/walkroll/>

CROOK COUNTY WALKING SCHOOL BUSES GET ON THE ROAD

A new vehicle is hitting the streets of Prineville. The Walking School Bus is a group of students walking to and from Crooked River Elementary on a planned route two days per week with one or more adult leaders. The complete walk takes 20 to 25 minutes, and students who live along the route may “hop on” the bus when it reaches their home. Parents may also drop their students off for part of the route.

After school, students meet at the flagpole in front of the building and walk to their homes along the way or back to Davidson Field, where they can be picked up.

WALK+ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY AND MONTH CHALLENGE



Students can participate as a pedestrian or bring their scooters or skateboards. “We walk in rain, snow and sunshine. If school is open, then we will be walking,” Commute Options Walking School Bus Coordinator Kersey Marion said.

EAST MULTNOMAH COUNTY SRTS PROGRAM ROLLS INTO GEAR!

With funding from a Metro Regional Travel Options grant, the new SRTS Coordinator MaryJo Andersen started contacting schools and working with partners. Sweetbriar Elementary and Dexter-McCarty Middle School participated in May Challenge encouragement events, and schools got involved in the Oregon Green Schools Summit.

Throughout the spring and summer, MaryJo attended parent-teacher groups, met with principals and SUN school coordinators, and tabled at several east county community events. In collaboration with the City of Gresham planners, the SRTS Committee helped improve the student and vehicle circulation at Davis Elementary School.

The program worked with four schools for the fall Walk to School Day, and taught a pedestrian safety class for the Davis SUN school.

ROCK AND ROLL FUN IN HILLSBORO

In 2018, five Hillsboro schools participated in the October Walk and Roll to School Day, themed “A Rock and Roll Walk and Roll Day.” Musical entertainment was provided at many schools, including:

- A middle school mariachi band provided entertainment as all students were encouraged to walk laps in the gym.
- A school music teacher serenaded a walking school bus with his ukulele as they walked together to school and provided music at the front entrance upon arrival.
- Bach to Rock, a local music school, donated their DJ teacher’s time and equipment to greet the students with upbeat music and dancing at two other elementary schools.
- Even Barley from the Hillsboro Hops and a few school mascots came out to celebrate!

It was a fun morning for all!



ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement activities are a critical component of a successful SRTS effort to promote safety for all road users. SRTS efforts can also address concerns about personal safety, including crime and bullying along the route to school. Enforcement personnel can connect a SRTS program with existing youth- or community-based law enforcement initiatives that are already underway, such as youth crime prevention programs, DARE programs, and gang prevention programs.

BEND'S ELK MEADOW TEACHES TRANSIT SAFETY

This fall, community members boarding the city bus in Bend, OR were greeted with 22 “Hello, good mornings!” from local elementary students.

Teacher Heather Korman at Elk Meadow Elementary taught her students how to use public transportation using the Commute Options Transit Safety Curriculum. Covering both pedestrian and bus safety, Korman spent two days walking to the bus stop, observing

the reasons why it is important to follow safety steps near the roadway and introducing her students to their transportation system. Collaborating with transit provider Cascade East Transit and recruiting parent volunteers, Korman then gave her class the opportunity to ride the city bus. Commute Options coordinated Transit Safety Education at two schools in Central Oregon, working with two different 2nd grade classes, and reaching almost 50 students last fall. In the future, Commute Options plans to empower teachers with tools to teach this curriculum on their own!





ENGINEERING

COMPETITION FOR STATEWIDE SRTS INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Oregon communities came out in large numbers to express their intent to build sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, and other safety features to help more kids bike and walk to school. ODOT's Active Transportation Planning unit office received 140 Letters of Intent, totaling up to \$200 million in potential projects for the Competitive Grant Program.

Projects from Klamath County, Lincoln City, Hermiston, Redmond, Welches, Cottage Grove, Washington County, Salem, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and more were submitted, ranging from \$60,000 to \$2,000,000 each. The funds for this round of grants is capped at \$16,000,000 and are being provided from Oregon's General Fund as approved in House Bill 2017, the transportation package passed by the legislature in 2017.

EUGENE AND SPRINGFIELD EVALUATE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS WITH SRTS SCORECARD

Eugene-Springfield SRTS developed an Infrastructure Evaluation Scorecard that helps communities evaluate infrastructure and built environment fixes in school neighborhoods. Planners can compare potential fixes to the built environment by looking at speed limit, road width, crash data, equity, and mutual benefit (e.g. does this improvement help people who ride public transportation, go shopping, seek recreation or education opportunities, etc.)

With new funding for SRTS Infrastructure projects, communities can use this scorecard to illustrate the importance of one project over another. For more information, or for an example of the spreadsheet used with the scorecard, please contact the Eugene-Springfield SRTS Program Manager, Sarah Mazze at 541-790-7492. [Download the SRTS Infrastructure Scorecard Here.](#)

EVALUATION

Monitoring program outcomes can communicate the successes while providing insight into what is working and what isn't—so practitioners can modify the activities or approach to better serve all students. Evaluation can also help communities understand where SRTS efforts are needed, and whether resources are reaching those schools.

STATEWIDE SRTS EVALUATION COMING SOON!

In order to better understand the barriers to walking and biking to school and the impacts of the new funding programs, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)'s SRTS technical assistance program is gearing up to conduct before and after evaluation of the 2019 Competitive Infrastructure Grant projects. The evaluation is intended to measure the impacts of standalone infrastructure grants, standalone non-infrastructure grants, and impacts on communities that received both types of funding. The evaluation will address how different combinations of interventions effectively address the barriers identified by communities and affect mode shift, safety and perceptions of safety, program sustainability, and equity.

The evaluation will use student hand tallies and a retooled parent survey, in addition to demographic and enrollment data, to gather information about mode split and parent perceptions of walking and biking to school. The ODOT SRTS evaluation technical service provider will support data collection for hand tallies and parent surveys before and after project implementation. These data will provide important insights for the ODOT SRTS grant programs, as well as laying a foundation for more robust statewide SRTS planning and evaluation.



RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The Oregon Safe Routes to School Recognition Program is up and running!

Schools from around the state are currently submitting information about what actions they are taking at their schools to encourage walking, biking, and rolling among their students. This pilot program allows schools to be rewarded for the work they're already doing and gives them guidance on how to achieve a truly supportive environment for active transportation to keep their students healthy and happy. Levels are assigned from Bronze to Platinum based on the work schools are doing. [Sign up today](https://www.oregonsaferoutes.org/sign-up) and help your school become a Safe Routes School!

Learn more at: www.oregonsaferoutes.org/getrecognized

TAKING THE FIRST STEP IS EASY!

Are you interested in getting involved in SRTS and learning more? Complete the nomination form and identify a SRTS contact (it can be anyone: a parent, student, teacher, school or district official, city employee, etc.).

From there, you can work your way up the ladder as your school becomes more involved in SRTS activities. Check out the website to see the activities listed for each level. The ladder can help your school team plan the next activities to deepen the school's commitment to active and shared transportation.

Host a Walk+Roll event or reach the Bronze level and receive a banner to celebrate your school's commitment to SRTS!



WHAT'S NEXT FOR SRTS?

With an infusion of new statewide, regional, and local funding opportunities and new SRTS programs forming, the SRTS Network Leadership Team expects 2019 to be a great year for SRTS in Oregon!



In 2018 the SRTS Committee said a fond farewell and happy retirement to Lynne Mutrie, a longstanding co-chair of the SRTS Network Leadership Committee, Beaverton SRTS Coordinator, and former ODOT SRTS Technical Assistance Provider. Lynne leaves a legacy of plans, programs, and partnerships that create opportunities for children to be active on their trips to and from school.

At the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Competitive Infrastructure Grant will allow projects to break ground as soon as spring 2019. ODOT's next round of Non-Infrastructure Grants, the new Infrastructure Rapid Response Grant, and Project Identification Program will also be implemented this spring. ODOT is working with Technical Service Providers and SRTS stakeholders to update the School Action Plan, create a new SRTS Improvement Plan template, and develop new curriculum guidelines.

In the Portland region, Metro will be welcoming a new Regional SRTS Coordinator and launching the first round of dedicated funding for SRTS education and programming. Many communities around the state are

hiring new SRTS Coordinators to convene partners and organize education and outreach activities at schools.

As always, there is still a lot of work to be done. In 2019, the Oregon SRTS Network Leadership Team will continue working with ODOT Program Managers and local partners to encourage equitable and inclusive programming, to support transportation decisions that make travel safer for our most vulnerable populations, and to make it easier for families to choose to walk and bike. The SRTS Network Leadership Committee will continue promoting walking and rolling as fun, safe, and everyday activities that families throughout Oregon can join in!

