

OREGON SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
PROGRAM REPORT



Oregon Department of Transportation
Safe Routes to School



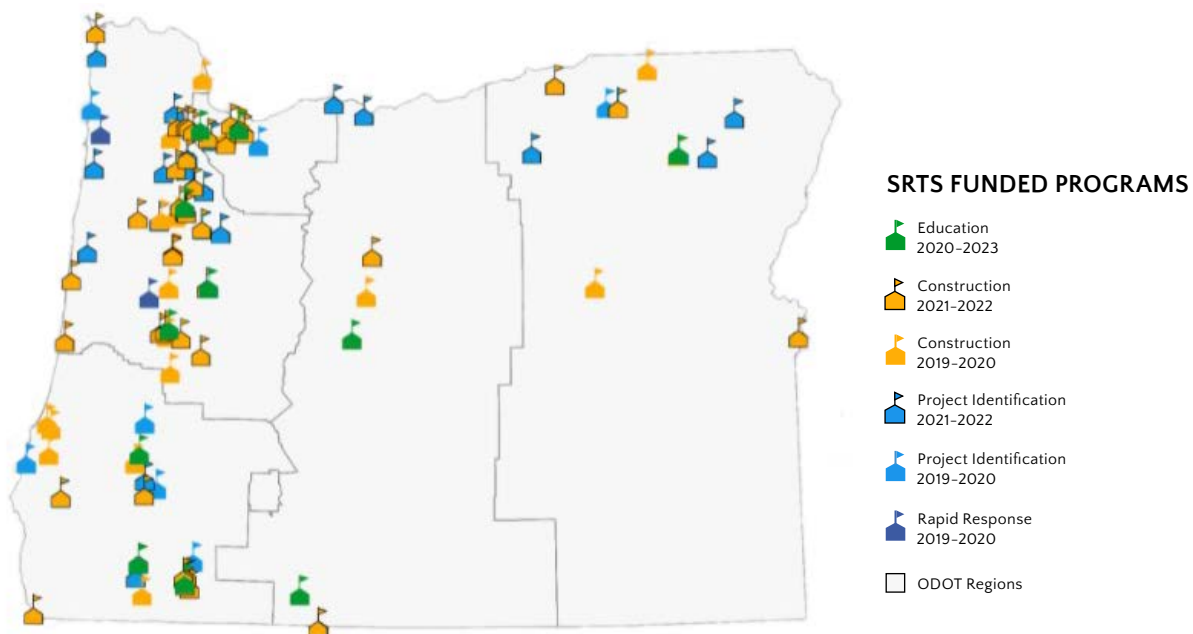
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Introduction

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a national movement to create safe, connective, and fun ways for children to bike, walk, and roll to school. In Oregon, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) leads statewide efforts. In 2021, the program expanded through Walk+Roll events, technical planning assistance, grant funding to improve infrastructure, bicycle and pedestrian safety education, and more.

In 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic continued to shape the ways we gather, go to school, go to work, and travel. Many adaptations to programming in 2020 paved the way for stronger virtual partnerships in 2021. The presence of online tools for connecting has led to increased collaboration across the state through our regional hubs and facilitation of community meetings. In 2021, the ODOT SRTS Team:

- Hosted **9 webinars** for practitioners
- Promoted **5 statewide events**
- Provided incentives to **239 schools**
- Gathered feedback from approximately **80 practitioners** about bicycle and pedestrian safety education across Oregon
- Reached **94,936 people** through videos and social media announcements
- Distributed **1,500 'Drive Like It' lawn signs**
- Led **26 communities** through the Project Identification Program (PIP)
- Completed **14 construction projects**



ODOT SRTS funding has reached communities throughout the state from 2019 to 2022

Education Program

REGIONAL SRTS HUB LAUNCH

In July 2021, ODOT SRTS launched our regional Hubs, which meet monthly to further SRTS conversation and collaboration within similar regions. The hubs are split up by region:

PORTLAND METRO

COAST & WILLAMETTE VALLEY

CENTRAL/EASTERN/SOUTHERN OREGON

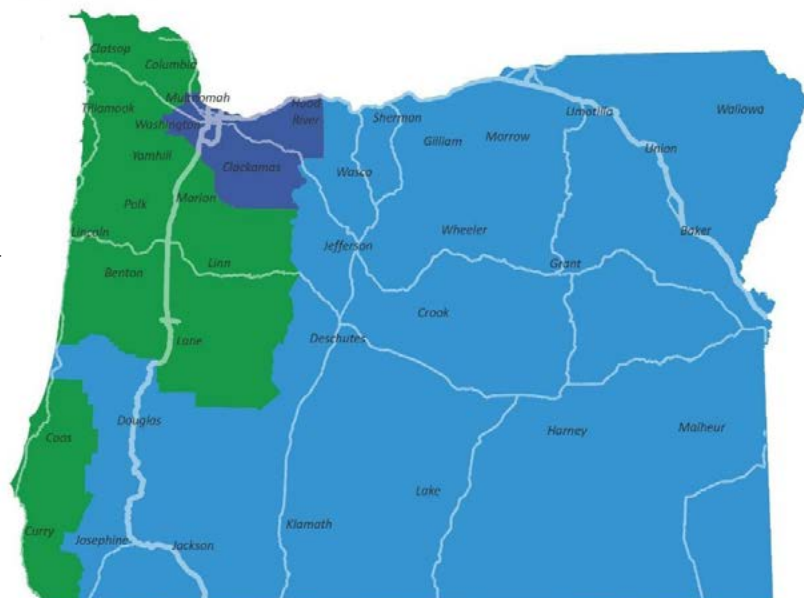
The Hubs offer:

- Monthly practitioner webinar trainings on SRTS topics
- Additional technical support as needed
- Access to a community of other practitioners
- Monthly online meetings to share information and discuss challenges
- Free incentives and outreach materials that connect to monthly SRTS themes



PROPOSED ODOT SRTS HUBS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LEADS

- Portland Metro and Region 1–The Street Trust
- Willamette Valley and Coast–Alta Planning + Design
- Central, Eastern, and Southern Oregon–Commute Options



2021 WALK+ROLL EVENTS



SPRING ART CONTEST

The spring art contest encouraged students to draw what they see when they walk and roll, and share it with ODOT. Winners received goody bags and the opportunity for their art to be used in future ODOT SRTS promotions.



MAY CHALLENGE

May Challenge combined special incentives, the art contest, and National Bike to School Day to promote a whole month of attention on safely walking and rolling to school.



DRIVE LIKE IT SAFETY CAMPAIGN

'School Routes are Everywhere. Drive Like It' reminded drivers that as schools return for in-person learning, children will be out on the streets walking and rolling. In addition to lawn signs, graphics and promotional materials were made available for download in English, Russian, Arabic, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese.



INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

Schools across the state participated in International Walk to School Day in October as part of a global event that draws participation from 40 countries.



RUBY BRIDGES WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

About 30 schools across Oregon participated in Ruby Bridges Walk to School day as part of an education effort to emphasize Ruby's bravery in paving the way for integrated schools in the 1960's.

New resources developed including:

- Updated and reorganized SRTS website
- Spanish glossary of common SRTS words
- Safety tip sheets



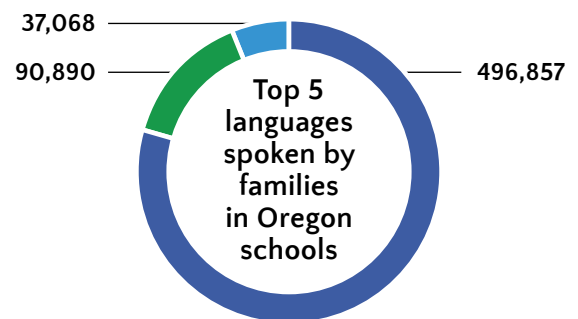
Priority Outreach and Engagement Plan

ODOT SRTS partnered with Multicultural Collaborative to examine our current outreach practices and consider new strategies for prioritizing equity. This collaboration consisted of Power Analysis sessions for each of the three regional Hubs.

Findings from the Power Analysis included:

- More focus is needed in rural parts of the state
- There is a need for expansion of materials in multiple languages prioritizing Spanish, Chinese, Russian, and Vietnamese
- Improve how ODOT SRTS is reaching underserved communities within the Title 1 focus schools
- More focused outreach on high impacted communities with low influence is needed

Alongside the Power Analysis, ODOT SRTS rolled out a new schools database with information gathered through the Oregon Department of Education.



■ English ■ Spanish ■ Russian, Vietnamese, and Chinese



NEARLY A THIRD OF STUDENTS
at rural schools identify as **non-White**

ALMOST TWO-THIRDS OF STUDENTS
who identify as **American Indian or Alaska Native** attend a rural school

A THIRD OF STUDENTS
identify as **Hispanic or Latino**, comprising the largest rural non-White racial or ethnic group

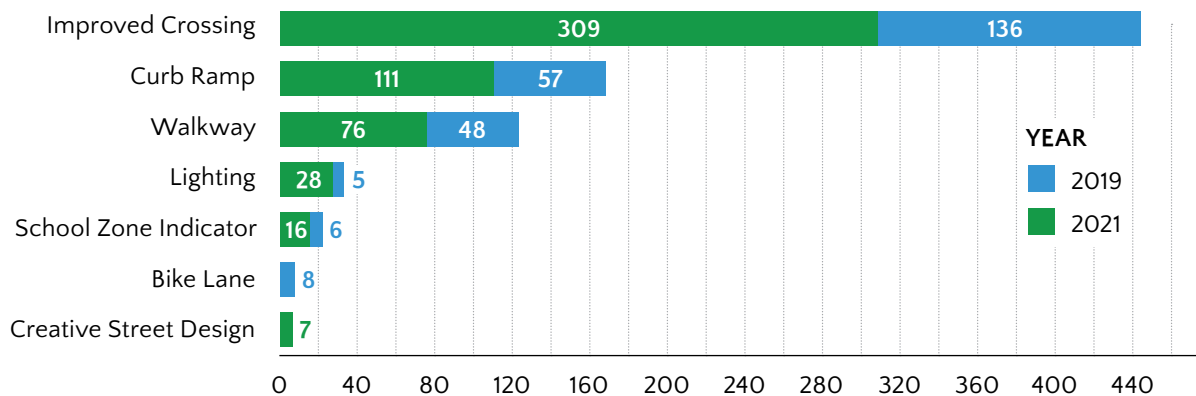
For comparison, **41% of White students** attend rural schools

Construction Program

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- 14 projects funded in the 2019 or 2021 Competitive Grant cycles were completed in 2021
- 8 Rapid Response projects funded since 2019

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM FROM 2019-2021



The ODOT SRTS Construction Program has funded many projects, many of which are improved crossings of large streets that enable more students to walk or bike to school.



The City of Gervais added new solar-powered flashing beacons, sidewalk improvements and bike lanes near area schools. ([article](#))

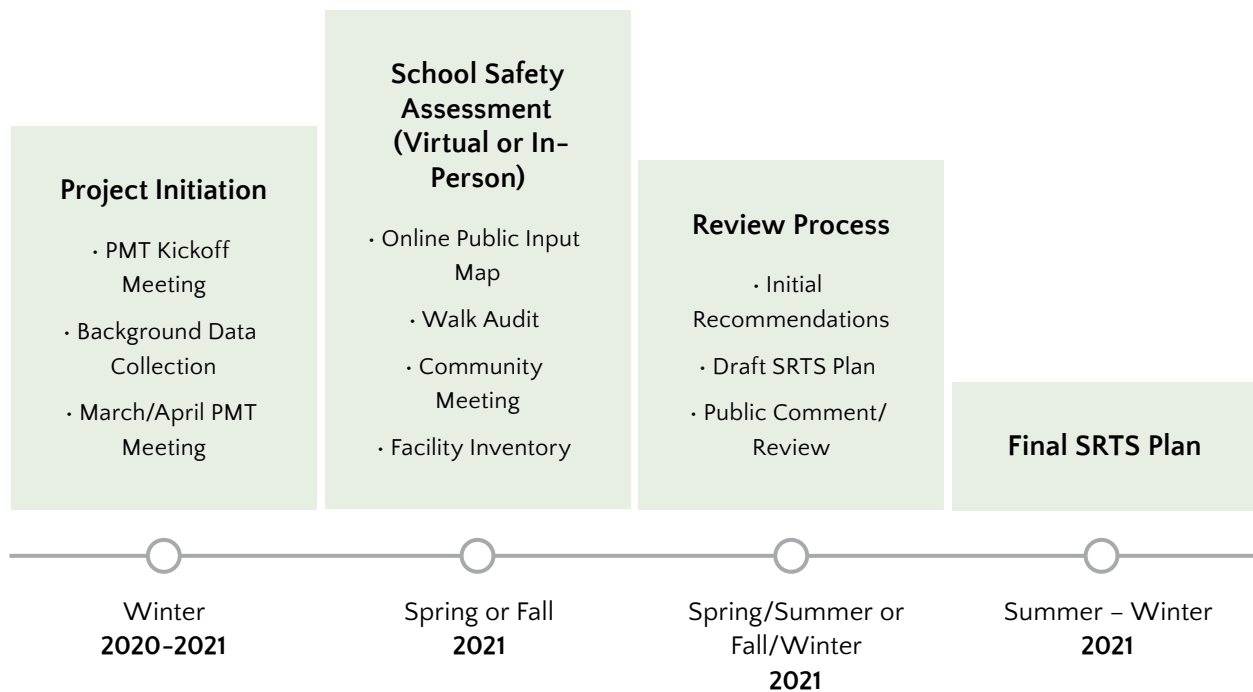


The unveiling of the bicycle and pedestrian facilities at Green Elementary School in Roseburg Oregon in September 2021. ([article](#))



Speed radars and flashing signs were part of much needed construction safety updates in West Eugene. ([article](#))

THE SRTS PLAN PROCESS



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

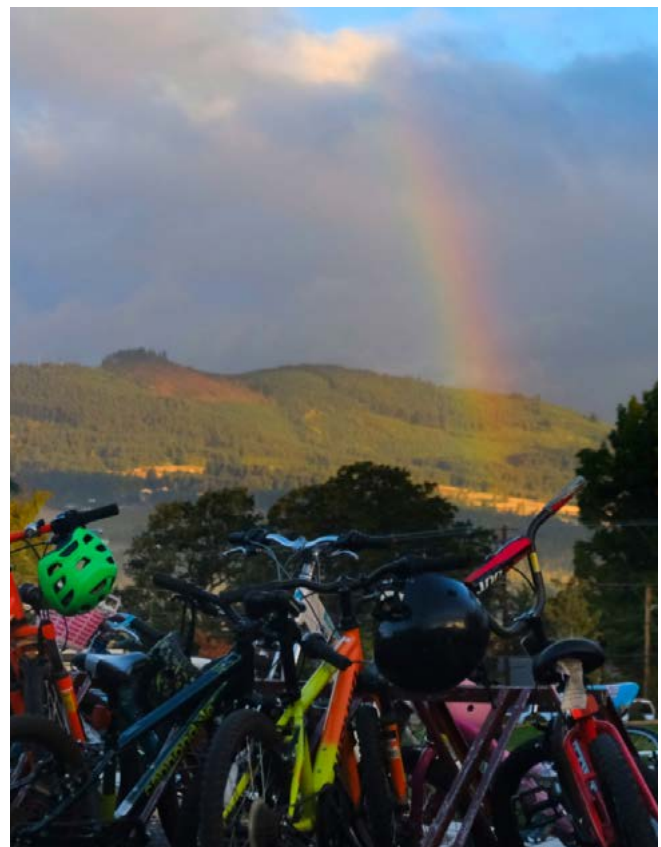
The Project Identification Program (PIP) continued into 2021 to provide planning assistance to communities across Oregon. The outcome of each PIP process is a SRTS plan for each school or cluster of schools that outlines street safety and education needs to address barriers to students walking and rolling, and provides information needed to apply to ODOT construction grants.

"We started this process with a 20-year-old Transportation System Plan, and some concern about whether we'd be able to prepare a community-vetted, grant-ready proposal in time, especially after the pandemic started. [The SRTS team] was incredibly helpful at facilitating communication with the Safe Routes program team, and making sure that we were able to deliver a quality proposal on time. With their help we won two awards to construct critical infrastructure."

–Dani Schulte, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)

Data collection was paused due to the pandemic





Coming Up in 2022

The ODOT SRTS Team looks forward to supporting and learning from communities throughout Oregon who are seeking to improve walking and biking access to schools. Here are some of our upcoming activities:



EXPANDED BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY EDUCATION:

ODOT SRTS gathered survey responses to assess the current state of Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Education, and to see what resources and support are most needed. In Spring ODOT SRTS will be testing out our newly enhanced train-the-trainer programs, and plan to roll out a train-the-trainer program in fall 2022.



ODOT SRTS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Starting in February, ODOT will open grant applications for both education and construction grants, within a new structure which includes options for varying levels of technical support alongside grant funding.



QUICK BUILD PILOT PROGRAM:

Through the Quick Build Pilot, ODOT SRTS will work with three communities across the state to design and implement quick, low-cost infrastructure projects during the summer. This will provide communities with another option aside from grant funding to create SRTS changes. The Pilot will test out the program for continuation beyond 2022.



TOOLKITS FOR MONTHLY THEME EVENTS:

ODOT SRTS will continue to promote monthly themes statewide through new toolkits for SRTS coordinators, teachers, or families. The toolkits will contain promotional materials, social media messaging, and step-by-step guides for planning and hosting SRTS events throughout the school year.



MATERIALS IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES:

In our equity analysis, ODOT SRTS found a need for Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese materials across the state, and plan to make promotional materials that can be used year after year available in multiple languages.



ANNUAL MEETING:

SRTS Practitioners are looking forward to come together at the Oregon Active Transportation Summit (OATS) in April. ODOT SRTS looks forward to supporting the first-ever SRTS track!



THANK YOU TO OUR ODOT SRTS TEAM!





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