



## 2019-2023 Metro RTO Grant Program Evaluation

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is designed to reach school-age children and their families/caregivers by providing education and encouragement around the trip to school, whether that be by walking, biking, rolling, or busing. **Metro funded 15 projects in the Safe Routes to School program area during the 2019-2023 RTO grant cycle, totaling \$1,229,000.**

### SRTS Program Highlights



**District-wide education efforts enhanced inclusion:** programs that delivered pedestrian education to all schools, rather than only schools that opted in, reached a broader and more diverse student audience.



**Family-focused bike programming increased student ridership** by boosting caregiver confidence in bicycling, which led to families taking more rides together as well as youth biking more on their own.



**All programs included organized active travel events**, such as Walk + Roll days, which encouraged students to get to school using active modes and helped foster a culture of walking and rolling to schools.



**Success of SRTS programs often relied on the enthusiasm and participation of volunteers.**

### Future Recommendations for RTO

- 1. Identify and address barriers to SRTS programming** in school districts with relatively high need\* and fewer activities occurring at individual schools.
- 2. Continue to offer programming in multiple formats and languages** for broader inclusion & accessibility.
- 3. Expand investments in sustained adult engagement** by offering incentives to volunteers to support continued involvement or developing ongoing paid opportunities at the individual school level.
- 4. Improve regional data collection** to better understand reach and impact of SRTS programming.

### SRTS Program Impact



SRTS activities at **108 schools** with over **180,000** program participants



**1,159,065 vehicle miles reduced**



and **563 metric tons** of CO<sub>2</sub> avoided



Increased awareness of SRTS programs with over **2,500,000+** views or impressions reported



**111,367 active trips taken**



Over **60% of high-need\* schools**

in the region participated in SRTS program activities

*\*Visit Metro's SRTS Walkshed Tool to understand how Metro analyzed all schools in the region on safety and school demographics: [gis.oregonmetro.gov/schoolwalksheds/](https://gis.oregonmetro.gov/schoolwalksheds/)*



Scan the QR code to view Metro's RTO program

Metro's RTO program funds and supports local programs that increase the use of travel options, reduce pollution, and improve mobility across greater Portland, OR. RTO funds work across three program areas—**Commute, Community** and **Safe Routes to School**. To learn more visit the [RTO program website: www.oregonmetro.gov/regionaltraveltions](https://www.oregonmetro.gov/regionaltraveltions)

# Safe Routes to School Program Area Spotlights



Beaverton School District crossing guard enhances safety for students walking and rolling to school

## Beaverton School District

Beaverton School District's SRTS Program aims to make active transportation safe and fun for students. The school district took a comprehensive approach to SRTS programming by implementing a district-wide crossing guard training, conducting interagency SRTS coordination meetings, building a website and social media presence for informational and marketing campaigns, providing safety classes, implementing infrastructure improvements, delivering Walk + Roll and bike rodeo events, supporting Walking School Buses, and creating opportunities for older students to teach active transportation skills to younger students. Despite pandemic-related disruptions, the District continued to engage with students and families through virtual or distanced events – like scavenger hunts and online safety lessons.

Beaverton School District SRTS staff continued to evolve their program in the 2019-2023 cycle. **To increase access to these programs, they integrated safety skills modules in physical education classes at all 34 elementary schools in the district.** Future efforts will include expanding access for preschool and special education students and deepening partnerships with students and families of color.



Salish Ponds Elementary youth bike ride led by p:ear SRTS team

## bike works by p:ear

bike works by p:ear serves communities in East Portland and Gresham. p:ear's mission is to end homelessness and provide pathways out of poverty for youth 15-25 years old. bike works is a bike shop in East Portland that is designed as a bike shop for everyone, and includes bicycle mechanic education, and free and low-cost bicycle repair. In addition to the bike shop, the p:ear bike works program supports SRTS programming.



Scooter safety unit at Salish Ponds Elementary led by p:ear SRTS program

**During the 2019-2023 grant cycle, bike works partnered with 28 organizations for SRTS programming and community outreach,** including Multnomah County, City of Portland Oregon Department of Transportation, Rockwood Library, and other community-based organizations. p:ear staff funded through this grant accelerated partnerships and engagement with schools, planned and executed successful SRTS events, and built a bicycle fleet to increase opportunities for bicycle education and programming.