



Working with Your Community

Mini
saferoutes.vermont.gov
Guide

WHAT'S IN THIS MINIGUIDE?

This VT Safe Routes to School (SRTS) MiniGuide explains how schools can work with their local community to create and maintain a safe environment for walking and biking to school.

In this MiniGuide, you will find:

- Who Can Help?
- Real World Examples

What is it?

SRTS programs are designed to be partnerships with the local community. Knowing how to keep the community involved and understanding what roles different groups can play will help your school implement its walking and biking programs and activities.

Why is it important?

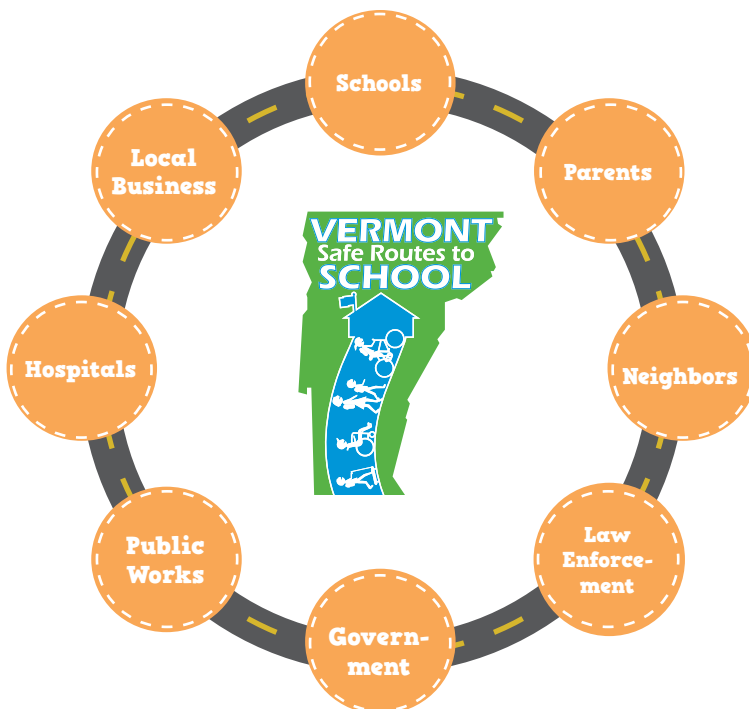
Each community has resources that will benefit your school's program.

What is the level of effort involved?

Moderate: Getting to know community members, reaching out to them to describe the SRTS program, and seeing if and how they are willing to help.

Click this icon  to access the listed resource.

WHO IS INVOLVED?



RESOURCES PREVIEW

Working with others in your community starts with your social or professional network. Talk with neighbors, parents, local businesses and merchants, and community leaders to describe what you're trying to achieve and discuss ways they can help. If you're at a loss for where to start, talk to your Regional Expert.

Who Can Help?

Learn what different community members can do support your program and how you can keep the community informed and involved. This list is not comprehensive. Get to know the local businesses and other organizations to find partnerships that will benefit both your school and community.

Who Can Support Your Program?

Neighbors, High School Staff and Students, Business Owners, Non-profit Organization Staff, Hospital Staff, Law Enforcement Officers, Municipal Government (City Council, Selectboard), Regional Planning Commission Staff, Local Foreman or Public Works Department

WHO	WHAT THEY CAN DO TO SUPPORT YOUR SRTS PROGRAM
All Community Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assist with Walk and Roll events.• Clear sidewalks of snow, debris, trash cans and other obstacles on routes to school.• Collect donations of warm clothing, bike lights, or other items to improve health and safety.• Serve as Corner Captains, or participate in other Community Enforcement Activity See Safety and Enforcement MiniGuide ↗ for details.• Provide parking spaces for remote drop-offs and treats during Walk and Roll events.• Lead bike rodeos or bicycle safety curriculum. See Teaching Walking and Biking Safety MiniGuide ↗ for details.• Support local initiatives to improve infrastructure around schools.
Law Enforcement Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide traffic control during special events or arrival and dismissal periods.• Provide special workshops and education on safety topics.• Patrol neighborhood during arrival and dismissal periods.
Local Public Works Department or Road Foreman	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update and maintain signage and pavement markings in your school zone. See the Infrastructure Glossary ↗ for details.• Address small infrastructure problems that create barriers to walking or biking to school (missing curb ramps, dangerous potholes, etc).• Prioritize snow removal on school routes.
Municipal Government (City Council, Selectboard)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt the SRTS Travel Plan as part of the local municipal plan.• Include walking and biking infrastructure in the Capital Improvement Plan.• Include active transportation goals in the comprehensive transportation plan.• Direct a municipal staff member or elected official to join the SRTS Team.• Share information about SRTS and general safety messages on the municipal website or other communication outlets.

Real World Examples

- 1 Windsor State Street School** partners with the local high school for International Walk to School Day. Windsor High School students, along with their mascot Yellow Jacket, have assisted with the event by putting up posters and accompanying elementary school students on the walk.



- 2 Twinfield' Union Elementary's** Bike Rodeo was truly a community effort. Upon completion of the Bike Rodeo, each student made a fruit smoothie with blenders attached to stationary bikes borrowed from Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Cabot Creamery donated the yogurt for the smoothies. Additionally, high school students fixed bikes during the rodeo and helped out where needed.

- 3 Ferrisburgh Central School** has included volunteers from Safe Kids Vermont, the Vermont Children's Hospital and Fed Ex to assist with International Walk to School Day. Parents, school staff, and volunteers led students from a remote drop-off along a walking path to the school. Participants then walked laps at the school as a kick-off for Ferrisburgh's 100-Mile Club.

