



Hello Safe Routes to School Superstars!

The 2022/23 school year was very exciting! Teachers, administrators and students got back to business as usual after a few rocky years with COVID. Safe Routes to School programs also got back into the swing of things and held some wonderful events. Walk to School Day in October had 3,235 events across the nation with 226 in Virginia, the 2nd highest number of events nationwide. And in May, Virginia took first place nationwide in Bike to School Day events with 182 registrations!



There have been lots of great additions to our program over the last year. For one, the 2022/23 school year brought a new grant program for SRTS Non-infrastructure Programs as they became eligible to apply for the Transportation Alternatives Programs funding. Several localities took advantage of this opportunity. A new round of applications for 2023/24 will be reviewed and assessed for funding in October.

We have updated our Success Book, which compiles all of the state funded infrastructure projects, non-infrastructure programs and our mini-grants in the state from 2020-2022. This Annual Report also highlights activities and events that continued despite schools being shut down during COVID. We will be updating this report annually going forward.

Also new last year were the Quarterly Calls. These Quarterly Calls are open to anyone involved or just interested in the SRTS program. We reached a lot of new people and covered numerous topics of interest on these calls such as how to include high schools in your programming. These calls will resume in the new school year on September 27, 2023, December 13, 2023, February 14, 2024 and May 15, 2024.

And lastly, we introduced our Summer Webinar Series in June with "Setting Yourself Up for Success" where we talked about what you can do to get ready for the new school year. In August we talked about how you can conduct your own Safety Audits. Our plan is to bring back the Summer Webinar Series next year too!

In the upcoming year, we are hoping to reach out to areas of the state that aren't familiar with our program. We are happy to come out and talk to your group, school, etc. to let them know what we are all about and the benefits the program can bring to your schools. Just contact us if you have an opportunity for us.

We will continue to offer our QuickStart Mini-grants and our Walkabout Mini-grants. The QuickStart Mini-grants are a quick way for you to fund your upcoming event or purchase equipment for your program. Deadlines for this year are Aug. 24, 2023, Sep. 28, 2023, Mar. 7, 2024, and Apr. 4, 2024. The Walkabout Mini-grants offer two options: one where we conduct a Safety Audit surrounding your school and one where we provide



you the resources to conduct your own. Whichever way we go, you will gain valuable knowledge of your school's walking and biking conditions. Those application deadlines are September 28, 2023 and February 2, 2024.

Please remember to regularly check out website for the latest news and events. We post the recordings for our meetings here in case you missed them. We also provide tons of resources for your events. We have included this year a list of SRTS Coordinators across the state so you can contact them for information. And of course, you can [contact me](#) or any of our [Local Technical Assistance Coordinators](#) any time you have a question or want to share an idea or event with us.

Have a great year and get out there and walk, bike and roll!

Sincerely,

Katherine Graham

Katherine Graham
Virginia Safe Routes to School Coordinator