



Walk & Roll to School Day Celebrates Importance of Youth Pedestrian Safety, Community, and Active Transportation for All

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (October 12, 2022) — In big cities and small towns, rural communities and tribal nations, thousands of students and families across the country will lace up their sneakers and hit the pavement today in celebration of National Walk & Roll to School Day 2022. While the look of the event may differ from place to place, all center on the importance and benefit of safe, active travel.

“Walk & Roll to School Day is an opportunity to speak to many different needs of communities across America,” said Nancy Pullen-Seufert, director of the National Center for Safe Routes to School. “For communities that need safety improvements for walking and rolling near schools, this is an opportunity to highlight those needs. For communities looking to change mindsets about how we travel, this one-day event serves as a jumping-off point. Be it a quick-build project or first of its kind collaboration between new community partners, schools, community leaders and families across the country are working together to make active travel to school a safe, convenient transportation option for all.”

To date, over 2,400 Walk & Roll to School Day events in 47 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico have been registered on walkbiketoschool.org. The total number of events is expected to grow as celebrations continue throughout October, Walk to School Month.

While different names are being used to describe it – School Streets, Healthy Streets or Safe Streets, a growing number of communities across the country are working hard to designate special pedestrian priority areas including around their school campuses. In fact, the National Center for Safe Routes to School is joining a Walk to School Day celebration today to name the City of Seattle, Washington, as the 2022 recipient of the U.S. Vision Zero for Youth Leadership Award. Seattle, through the impressive work of the Seattle Department of Transportation and Seattle Public Schools, created School Streets and Stay Healthy Streets that prioritize people rather than cars, citywide speed reductions and traffic calming measures, and a community-engaged equity plan specifically for their Safe Routes to School Program. Seattle Public Schools also plays a critical role in assuring that every elementary and middle school student receives walking and biking safety education.

Pop-up demonstrations and quick build projects, too, are growing in popularity this year and many activities are planned in October. The National Center [recently announced new funding from GM](#) to award two communities grants in 2022 that will result in the use of low-cost materials to address urgent safety needs in places where students walk and roll. The City of Atlanta will use the grant funding to create a pop-up walk/bike lane for their Walk & Roll to School Day celebration at Crawford Long Middle School, which sits within the city’s designated equity priority area. Gathered community input will inform a more permanent change.

To learn more about the events and locations of registered U.S. schools participating in Walk & Roll to School Day 2022, visit walkbiketoschool.org.

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About the National Center for Safe Routes to School

Established in May 2006, the National Center for Safe Routes to School, part of the University of North Carolina (UNC) Highway Safety Research Center, helps support communities in changing their culture to support safe and active travel. The National Center's work uses research-based evidence to highlight what works and why, and translates this research into education, professional development tools and training to provide communities the technical support they need to make community-enhancing decisions.

As the coordinating organization for Walk & Roll to School Day held every October and Bike & Roll to School Day held each May and the Vision Zero for Youth initiative, the National Center provides technical support; coordinates online registration, develops resources, and facilitates worldwide promotion and participation. The UNC Highway Safety Research Center has served as the coordinator of Walk to School Day since the event's U.S. inception in 1997. For more information, visit walkbiketoschool.org.