



Walk & Roll to School Day Celebrates Safe, Active Trips to School

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (October 4, 2023) — In big cities, small towns and rural communities across the country, thousands of students and families will lace up their sneakers and hit the pavement today in celebration of National Walk & Roll to School Day. While the events may look different from place to place, they all center on the importance and benefit of safe, active travel. And slow motorist speeds play a key role in safety for people walking and rolling today and every day.

“National Walk & Roll to School Day shines a light on the widespread demand for more walkable, accessible places for young people,” said Nancy Pullen-Seufert, director of the National Center for Safe Routes to School. “We’re inspired by all of the places taking action to slow traffic and create more space for active travel.”

Whether addressing the need to make routes to school safer for active trips, encouraging children to be more active, or kicking off a campaign to reduce motorist speeds near schools, Walk & Roll to School Day events can be powerful tools to inspire lasting change. For example, communities across the U.S. are prioritizing safe, separated spaces for walking and biking. Many of these communities begin their efforts with a focus on the route to school because of the many important health, learning, community, and environmental benefits of making active trips to school and because doing so can be a catalyst to build community support for changing streets.

To date, over 2,500 Walk & Roll to School Day events in 46 states and Washington, D.C. have been registered on walkbiketoschool.org. The total number of events is expected to grow as celebrations continue throughout October.

The National Walk & Roll to School Day media event will take place in Washington D.C.’s Capitol Hill neighborhood. At the zero-waste themed event, local and national officials and partners will gather with students, parents and school officials from nearly 15 schools. A short program will include speakers from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Ward 6 Public Schools Parent Organization, the Council of District of Columbia, the National Center for Safe Routes to School and FIA Foundation, before the students head to school “walking school bus” - style.

To learn more about Walk & Roll and Bike & Roll to School Day events, visit walkbiketoschool.org. Any school or community that holds a Walk & Roll to School Day event in October is encouraged to register at www.walkbiketoschool.org/registration.

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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 UNC Highway Safety Research Center, helps support communities in changing their culture to support safe and active travel. As the coordinating organization for Walk & Roll to School Day held each October, 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. For more information, visit walkbiketoschool.org.