

Volunteer Engagement in School Walking Teams Cleveland, OH

Safe Routes to School & Safe Streets/Safe Schools



2015— District-wide SRTS Program

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN
October 2016



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Frank G. Jackson



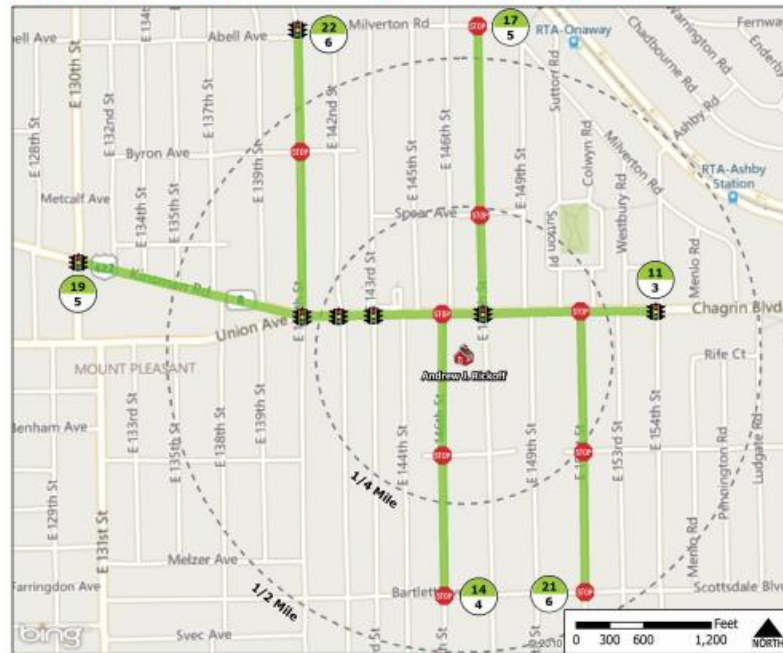
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION



Cleveland Safe Routes to School

Designated Walking and Biking Routes

Andrew J. Rickoff Walking and Bicycling Routes



Parents should walk with their children to assess their safety skills before deciding if they're ready to walk with a few friends. Generally, children under 10 years old are not ready to judge safe times to cross a street.

This map is a guide to choose a safe route to walk or bike to school. Keep in mind, it is very likely not the same way you would travel in a car.

SRTS encourages parents to walk or bike with students to and from school. This map is a guide. Parents are responsible for choosing the most appropriate way to travel based on their knowledge of conditions along the route, and the experience level of their child.

Cleveland Safe Routes to School
 Calley Mersmann, Coordinator
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Cleveland Safe Routes to School

Community
Tragedy
Leads to
Partnership:
Safe Streets/
Safe Schools

Alianna DeFreeze's death prompts Cleveland pastors to walk students to their schools

Updated Feb 8, 2017; Posted Feb 8, 2017



http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2017/02/cleveland_pastors_patrol_near.html



Cleveland Safe Routes to School

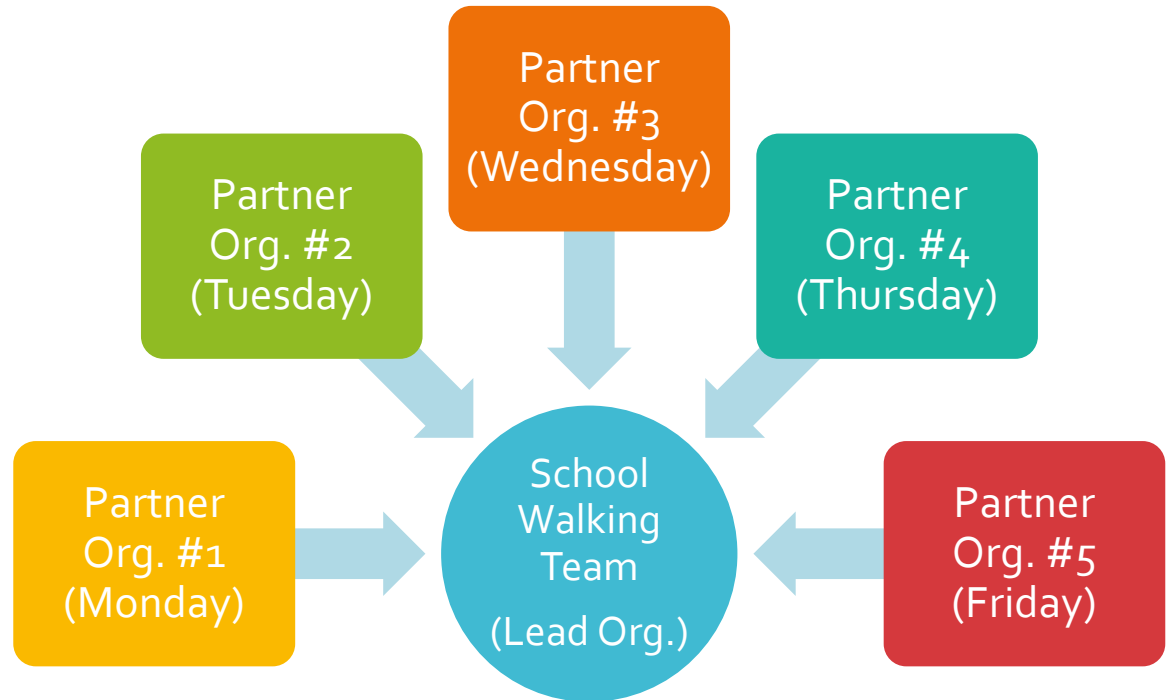
Relevant Action Steps from STP

- Cultivate neighborhood Safe Routes to School champions.
- Work with local block watch groups and block clubs.
- Establish a Walking School Bus/Corner Captain program.
- Work with ODOT to schedule a Walking School Bus training in Cleveland. Encourage local SRTS champions to attend.
- Recruit middle and high school ambassadors, college students, and older adults who may be retired, to volunteer with walking and bicycling programs at local schools.



Cleveland Safe Routes to School

Team Structure



Team Leadership

SRTS Core Team

District Champion Committee

School Walking Team #1
(Rev. Gates)
(7:00-8:00am)
(2:00-3:00pm)

School Walking Team #2
(Rev. Washburn)
(7:00-8:00am)
(3:00-4:00pm)

School Walking Team #3
(Bishop Ward)
(7:15-8:15am)
(2:15-3:15pm)

Volunteers
(5-10 people)

Volunteers
(5-10 people)

Volunteers
(5-10 people)



Volunteer Application & Orientation Process

Partner organizations reach out to potential volunteers.

Volunteers complete application, waiver, and background check at volunteer training session.

Paperwork goes to City of Cleveland for verification and is kept on file.

If volunteer is approved, the SRTS Core Team will contact the volunteer and the team lead. Volunteers receive an orange vest.

Volunteer is assigned to a post by team lead, and starts serving as a School Walking Team member!



Volunteer Training & School Walking Team Program Model



Cleveland Safe Routes to School

Volunteer Recruitment

Make a difference. Join a **SCHOOL WALKING TEAM**

Share an hour a week with scholars walking to and from school.
Build a stronger community. Give back and join the team.



- Morning and afternoon shifts available.
- Walk with a partner, sit on a corner, or start a porch watch.
- Training, registration, and background checks provided free of charge.

Call (216)838-4981 or email
Calley.Mersmann@ClevelandMetroSchools.org
to learn more.



Cleveland Safe Routes to School

Recruiting Pools

- Faith community
- Neighborhood block clubs
- Community development organizations
- Institutions/organizations
- Schools (parents)
- Police district outreach
- Seniors and retirees
- College students
- Crossing guards



Cleveland Safe Routes to School

Accommodate Volunteer Needs

- School Walking Team volunteers can be seated or mobile, on their personal porch or on a street corner.
- Volunteer “uniform” addresses mobility and weather-related limitations.



Cleveland Safe Routes to School

Lessons Learned

- Start where there is energy.
- Talk about your program as much as possible, to as many people as possible. Cast a wide net.
- Tap into established networks, and build (on) personal relationships.
- Address real needs.
- Appreciate your volunteers (but don't over-rely on incentives).



Cleveland Safe Routes to School

Contact Us!

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Cleveland Safe Routes to School