



# Sound Steps

Education Engineering Enforcement for Montgomery County Communities

Montgomery County Department of Transportation  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/walk](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/walk)

## Safe Routes to School News

Volume 1, Number 4

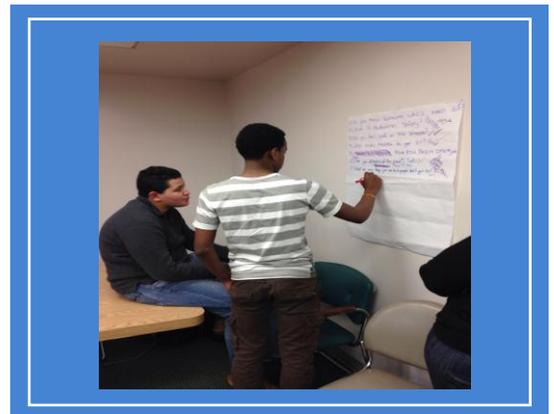
April 2014

### SRTS Moves into High Schools with the Walk Your Way Project

*Did you know that 1 in 5 high school students crossed the street distracted? Most often these students were texting and using headphones.*

Montgomery County's Department of Transportation (MCDOT) launched the "Walk Your Way" project as part of an initiative to educate high school students about the importance of pedestrian safety. The County awarded up to \$2,000 to teams of high school students for creating, designing and implementing a pedestrian safety education program at their high school. Grants were awarded to students from Richard Montgomery High School, Northwood High School, Wheaton High School, and the Leaders Institute, a nonprofit organization that provides leadership training and development to children and youth in Montgomery County. These groups are currently in the planning stages of their projects. Keep an eye out for their final products! For more information and to read the SafeKids Worldwide "Teens and Distractions" report you can visit [www.walkyourway.org](http://www.walkyourway.org).

[More inside!](#)



Students from the Leaders Institute hard at work on planning their pedestrian safety program.

## Annual Takoma Park SRTS 5k Challenge! May 4!



The Takoma Park Safe Routes to School 5k Challenge promises to be bigger and better than ever for first time 5k runners and 5 year veterans. The TKPK5K race committee is committed to the highest standards for safety and fun, so this year the race will feature a WAVE start and include runners with strollers. The race is being held to promote Safe Routes to School, to spend a great day with the community enjoying a family friendly, healthy activity and to raise funds for the Parent Teacher Associations at four area elementary schools: Takoma Park ES, Piney Branch ES, Rolling Terrace ES, East Silver Spring ES and Takoma Park Middle School. The funds are used for programs that focus on walking for health and bike/pedestrian safety. For more information and to register for the race go to <http://www.tkpk5k.com/>.



**Mark your calendars and strap on your helmet! Bike to School Day is Wednesday, May 7!**

Schools around the county are encouraged to join schools across the country to celebrate National Bike to School Day 2014. Bike to School Day events raise awareness of the need to create safer routes for bicycling and walking and emphasize the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, reducing traffic congestion and concern for the environment. The events build connections between families, schools and the broader community. Your school community can do a ride, hold an assembly about bike safety, show videos on your morning announcements, etc. You can do what works best for your school! For planning ideas and to register your school to participate please visit [www.walkbiketoschool.org](http://www.walkbiketoschool.org).



## Welcome!

This newsletter contains information regarding the Safe Routes to School program, pedestrian and bicycle safety topics, engineering highlights, enforcement, etc. It is sent to school administrators, teachers, parents, volunteers, and other interested parties. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone you feel would be interested or email me their address and I can add them to the list, [nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov).

Nadji Kirby, Editor  
MCDOT Director's Office

## Start a Movement! Walking School Buses and Bike Trains

If walking to schools seems impossible, it's not. Here is your chance to connect with your neighbors and enjoy walking or riding to school.

Walking school buses and bike trains offer families a way to pool resources in order to allow students to walk or ride to school more regularly.

Parents decide which days the group will walk or ride together. It can be everyday or once a week depending on the desires of the group. Parents take turns escorting the group.

Safe Routes can help you get organized and offer ideas on how to keep students excited about walking and biking to school. Contact Nadji Kirby, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, for more information at [nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov) or by phone at 240-777-7169.



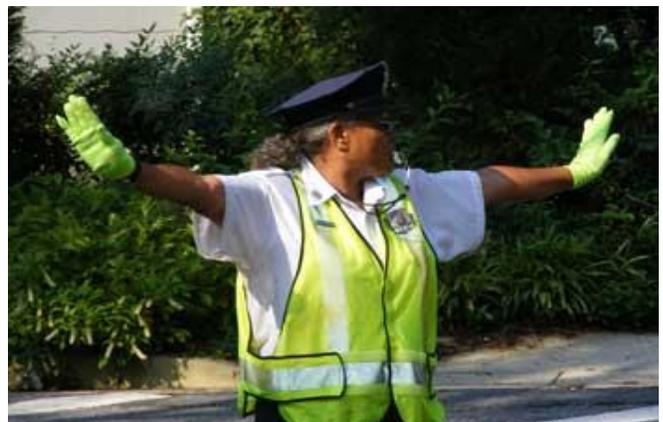
## Crossing Guard Appreciation Day! June 3, 2014

Montgomery County Crossing Guards are out there to shepherd us safely across the street. They keep children safe from traffic throughout the year—no matter the conditions: wind, rain, snow or sweltering heat.

Drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians all owe a bit of thanks to our unsung heroes. Here are a few ways you can show your crossing guard appreciation on Tuesday, June 3, 2014:

- Present them with a certificate (just print the [PDF](#) or [Word doc.](#) and fill in your crossing guard's name on the certificate).
- Write a thank you note
- Have your students draw a picture of your crossing guard in action
- Bring him or her flowers
- Give your Crossing Guard a gift card from a local business
- Spread the word about your exemplary crossing guard on social media and encourage others to do the same.
- Write an article in your school newsletter about your Crossing Guard
- Guide families on a community walk. Talk with your school administrators to create a weekly or monthly walk to school day

If you have any questions, contact Nadji Kirby, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, MCDOT, at [nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov) or by phone at 240-777-7169.



# Safe Routes to School in Montgomery County Targeted Education and Outreach Programs

Montgomery County's Safe Routes to School program provides safe and active walking and bicycling to and from school. It provides an opportunity to make walking and bicycling safer and more accessible for children, including those with disabilities, as well as to increase the number of children who chose to walk and bike. On a broader level Safe Routes to School can enhance children's health and well-being, ease traffic congestion near schools, improve air quality, and improve community member's overall quality of life.



*Montgomery County's Safe Routes to School program is led by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) and is supported by the Montgomery County Police Department, Montgomery County Fire Rescue Service, Maryland State Highway Administration, and other County and State agencies working to improve student safety. We work collaboratively with schools to develop creative solutions for school related traffic problems.*

## Montgomery County Department of Transportation – Safe Routes to School

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