

OREGON SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL  
PROGRAM REPORT



Oregon Department of Transportation  
Safe Routes to School



ALTA - COMMUTE OPTIONS - CYCLE OREGON - THE STREET TRUST

# Acknowledgments

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Alta Planning + Design

Commute Options

The Street Trust

Cycle Oregon

Cogito

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Learn more about the Oregon Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Program at:  
[www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Programs/Pages/SRTS.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Programs/Pages/SRTS.aspx) and  
<https://www.oregonsaferoutes.org/>

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Front cover photo: ODOT  
Back cover photo: Commute Options

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# Introduction

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) advances students' options to bike, walk, and roll to school by supporting safety-oriented programs and infrastructure. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) SRTS Team leads the statewide efforts in Oregon. In 2024, schools and communities worked hard to continue building their capacity and innovate in new, creative ways. The statewide resources continued to evolve and build upon the past four years of programming. This 2024 Annual Report is a summary of what the statewide ODOT SRTS program and our partners have accomplished this year. The ODOT SRTS Team looks forward to new collaborations and opportunities in 2025 and beyond!

Every year, ODOT SRTS takes specific measures to implement Hub members' feedback in the annual survey. In 2024, this included:

- Additional materials translated to Spanish
- Additional equity-focused trainings
- Webinar focused on high school engagement
- Bike repair mini-workshop
- Descriptions of incentives for review before ordering



*In the 2024 grant cycle, ODOT had more requests for SRTS funding than were able to be fulfilled. The Education Program was unable to fund requests from three communities. The Construction Program received 89 applications totaling \$138M, with a budget of \$26.6M.*



Oregon was well-represented at the National SRTS Conference in Fort Collins, CO

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024 INCLUDE:

- **Oregon is #1 with the highest proportion of schools in the nation** participating in National Walk+Roll to School Day!
- **806 schools ordered incentives** to promote walking and biking.
- **30 Hub meetings** brought SRTS enthusiasts together.
- **10 statewide webinars** offered training for SRTS practitioners.
- **4 statewide meetings** brought the community together.
- **3,419,637 impressions** were reached through safety messaging **social media** ads.
- **1,652,089 impressions** were made on **TV streaming networks** statewide for the fall safety PSA.
- **483 movie theater screens** showed the 2024 Fall Safety and Bright PSA for more than 8 weeks.
- **9 Jump Start** bicycle and pedestrian safety education **train-the-trainer sessions** held.
- **14 Education Grants** awarded.
- **4 new ODOT-funded SRTS Coordinator positions.**
- **8 communities selected** to receive SRTS Plans.
- **6 construction projects completed.**
- **28 construction projects proposed** for funding, worth almost \$31.4 million.
- **87 Activity Kits** requested to support programs

# Education Program

## Regional Hubs

The Regional Hubs continue to provide space for coordinators to share ideas, challenges, and successes and to learn more about statewide program offerings through monthly meetings. In addition to monthly meetings, Hub members participated in quarterly meetings to dive deeper into specific topics both virtually and in person. This year's in-person meetings included:

- **Fall Meeting:** Visit to Hood River and tour with SRTS Coordinator Megan Ramey to explore School Streets and Demonstration Projects. The group heard from Megan about the effort to get these projects on the ground and then participated in a walking tour to visit the sites and see other infrastructure projects.
- **Spring Meeting:** Our yearly gathering as part of the Oregon Active Transportation Summit (OATS) in Portland to celebrate the past year of programming, participate in group building activities, and hear from local practitioners about how they are innovating their programs.

Hub leads continued to offer the mentorship program to new coordinators. This program supports new coordinators during their first year by matching them with an experienced SRTS Coordinator who has similar interests and lives in geographically similar areas. This pairing encourages collaboration and camaraderie among SRTS practitioners.



*Attendees on a walking tour with Megan Ramey at the Fall meeting in Hood River.*



*The Annual Meeting took place in Portland during the Oregon Active Transportation Summit.*



*"I find the Hub meetings to be very useful to keep up with what's happening in the region and to talk with other practitioners. I find the quarterly meetings to be very useful and energizing!" – Portland Metro Hub Member*



## New Resources

### TOOLKITS

ODOT SRTS developed new toolkits in 2024 to help practitioners easily host SRTS activities in their communities. Toolkits were developed based on requests from the SRTS community and include:

- Bike Bus Toolkit
- Walking School Bus Toolkit
- Park and Walk One Pager
- Circulation Toolkit

These digital kits can be downloaded from the Oregon SRTS website, or a hard copy can be requested.

### ACTIVITY KITS

The ODOT SRTS Team delivered Activity Kits of physical materials for implementing programs in March 2024. These kits contain materials such as reflective gear, lights, stickers, and other safety equipment to help make SRTS activities extra safe and fun. The 150 kits delivered in 2024 included:

- Bike Bus Kit
- Walking School Bus Kit
- Crossing Guard Kit
- Circulation Kit

Recipients were invited to fill out a feedback survey several months after receiving the kits. All respondents indicated that the kits either met or exceed their expectations! More kits are scheduled to be awarded and delivered in spring 2025.



Springfield students carry the banner included with the Walking School Bus Activity Kit.

*"I have a parent who organized a daily walking school bus. It was great to provide her with some resources and tools. Being able to provide a parent with high viz gear helped her confidence. It was great to support a parent who was really committed to doing this, and she didn't feel so alone in the process." – City of Tigard SRTS Coordinator*



# Training

## EQUITY TRAINING

For the second year in a row, ODOT SRTS teamed up with YWCA of Greater Portland to host two equity-centered training opportunities for the Oregon SRTS community. The 2024 trainings included:

- **Trauma-Informed Practices:** This interactive training taught participants about how inequities can cause trauma, how to facilitate programs that center trauma-informed care, and approaches they could use to support people who have experienced trauma.
- **Understanding and Interrupting Ableism:** This training provided an overview of how ableism and racism are intertwined. Participants shared their own experiences and brainstormed actions they could take in their own work.

## WEBINARS

The ODOT SRTS Team continued to host monthly webinars on a variety of SRTS topics. The webinar topics in 2024 were chosen based on requests from Hub members and included:

- Hearing from Past ODOT SRTS Grant Recipients
- Grant Solicitation Information Session
- How to Order Education Materials and Resources
- Idle-Free Campaign Resource and Inspiration
- Screening of the Motherload Film
- Rail Safety Education and SRTS
- Bike Buses 101
- Creative Uses for District Funding in Safe Routes
- Activity Kit Launch Information Session
- Community Rides in Bike Safety Programming

Advocacy



'Bike Bus Bill' nets huge support in Salem from Portland, statewide advocates

Taylor Griggs February 21, 2023 4

Shawne Martinez

Edward Shawne Martinez speaking in support of HB 3024.

Student's said to give...

The youth who spoke in support of the Bike Bus Bill. Sam Balbo is pictured in the yellow jacket in the back.

(Photos: Aaron Brown/Resp. Pham's office)

The Bike Bus Webinar was held in August 2024.





Salem SRTS program unloads bikes and helmets from Jump Start trailer

## JUMP START TRAIN-THE-TRAINER

All aspects of the Jump Start program were in full swing for 2024! Jump Start supported schools across the state with bike and pedestrian safety training, equipment, and widely used curricula. Highlights include:

- 9 bicycle and pedestrian safety education training sessions
- 51 total educators completed the train-the-trainer program
- Bicycle education implemented in 39 schools serving 6,579 students
- ODOT SRTS support for 9 bicycle rodeo events across the state
- Bike fleet doubled in size, totaling 8 trailers and 400 bikes!
- 90 balance bikes added to the fleet, providing learn-to-ride opportunities for kindergarteners
- 3 districts moved toward purchasing their own bike fleets after positive experiences with Jump Start

*“I can’t tell you—words are not enough—just how much your program has impacted our kiddos. At first the teachers were hesitant as to how much time I wanted them to spend teaching about pedestrian and bicycle safety. NOW the kiddos (and teachers) want to spend MORE time practicing what they’ve learned. This has been a wonderful opportunity for these kids. Parents have also told me their children are coming home and asking for bicycles!” – Nestucca Valley School District*



*“One of the greatest successes from the program was watching the bike racks outside the school fill up for the first time while I’ve worked here. The excitement and confidence brought by bike ed led to many students riding to school with their parents. Riding bikes became the preferred way of transportation for many of the students and they were proud to tell staff about it.” – Bessie Coleman Elementary*



## Education Grant Funding

In 2024 ODOT received 19 applications for their three tiers of Education Grants: Tier 1 for beginning communities, Tier 2 for intermediate communities, and Tier 3 for advanced communities. All three tiers received an overwhelming number of applications, highlighting the enthusiasm and need within our communities. While we were able to fund many deserving projects, three communities were not selected this year due to limited funding.

The Safe Routes Advisory Committee (SRAC) unanimously approved the following staff recommendations for Education Grants:



*In addition to ODOT SRTS grants, many communities received additional grant funding in 2024 that will allow them to innovate their education programs in new and exciting ways. This includes Metro, who won a \$1.1 million federal grant to boost walking school bus and bike bus programs in North Portland.*

### TIER 1:

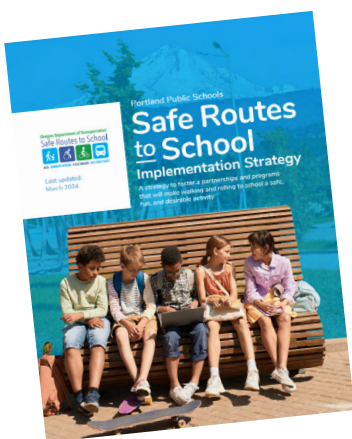
- Bend-La Pine Schools
- Centennial School District 28J
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)
- Harrisburg School District

### TIER 2:

- bike works by p:ear
- Community Cycling Center
- Hood River School District
- Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments
- North Wasco County School District
- Portland Public Schools
- Thrive Umpqua

### TIER 3:

- Beaverton School District
- City of Hillsboro
- City of Portland, Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT)



Throughout 2024, ODOT SRTS wrapped up assistance with the prior round of Tier 1 grantees including Portland Public Schools, p:ear, Hood River School District, Lane Council of Governments, and North Wasco School District with completing Implementation Plans to guide their Safe Routes to School work. The completed documents helped communities to identify and label transportation barriers, current and potential program partners, goals and actions, and next steps to make their programs sustainable into the future. The ODOT SRTS Team will then be able to take the lessons from that process into the next round of support with the four newly funded Tier 1 grantees.



## Education Program Spotlight

In 2024, Oregon was ranked number one in the country for participation in October's National Walk+Roll Day!

Each year, the National Center for Safe Routes to School collects data on how many elementary and middle schools participated in International Walk+Roll to School Day. We are pleased to share that Oregon rose to the top of the list with over 210 schools participating! These numbers contributed to the highest participation rate out of all 50 states. You can take a look at the National Center's map tool and select Oregon to find your school listed as a participant: <https://www.walkbiketoschool.org/registration/pastevents.php>

If you did not host a Walk+Roll to School Day event this year and want to help bring our numbers up in 2025, contact your Hub lead for event planning resources.

*Salem students celebrate Walk+Roll to School Day (right); Hillsboro students celebrate Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day (below)*



*In 2024, the ODOT SRTS Team welcomed two new members: Becky Newman of Cycle Oregon and Indigo Larson of Commute Options. We appreciate all that they have done to increase capacity and programming!*





# Construction Program

## Construction Grant Funding

The SRAC is charged with establishing selection criteria and recommending projects for funding in ODOT's SRTS Construction and Education programs. In November, the SRAC unanimously voted to recommend funding for 28 SRTS projects from across the state, including communities in all five ODOT regions. Most of the \$29.9 million funds awarded would go to cities under 25,000 people. The Oregon Transportation Commission approved the list of projects in January 2025. The map of SRTS approved projects [can be found here](#), under Scenario 2.5.

As this is an extremely competitive grant, ODOT was not able to fund all applicants. Applications for Phase I totaled \$138 million and applications for Phase II totaled \$67.8 million.

Going forward, ODOT has identified that an extra \$35 million annually is needed for SRTS Construction funding to meet the minimum need across the state.

In four communities, construction projects came to completion in 2024 and community members can begin using new and improved infrastructure. Those projects include:

- City of Medford: Main Street multi-modal improvements
- City of Sweet Home: Highway 228 rapid flashing beacon
- City of Hillsboro: Sidewalks at McKinney and Eastwood Elementary Schools
- ODOT Region 5 (John Day): US 395 sidewalk improvements



*City of Medford Main Street improvements before (above) and after (right)*







*Planning Assistance team conducts walk audit in Amity (above);  
Community meeting for SRTS Plan in Bonanza (right)*



## Planning Assistance

Through the Planning Assistance program, ODOT SRTS partners with representatives from cities, school districts, and local road authorities to identify and address barriers to students walking, biking, and using shared transportation to get to school. The outcome of each Planning Assistance process is a community SRTS Plan that outlines recommendations for construction projects, programs, and policies. The following eight communities in Oregon were selected to take part in the Planning Assistance program and build SRTS Plans in 2024–25:

- Amity
- Bonanza
- Central Point
- Coos Bay
- Drain
- Eugene
- Harrisburg
- Hood River County

In the fall of 2024, during local site visits, most of these communities participated in walk audits to assess challenges, as well as a community meeting where members of the public shared their observations and feedback. During the spring of 2025, the communities will work to develop and refine recommendations and complete the SRTS Plan document. These plans will also provide cost estimates and demographic data to equip communities to confidently and competitively apply for the ODOT SRTS Construction Grants and other ODOT grants, such as Community Paths or SRTS Engineering Assistance.





## Construction Program Spotlight

In 2023, ODOT SRTS worked with the Burns Paiute Tribe on developing a SRTS Plan, and in 2024, the Tribe received an Engineering Assistance grant to further develop pedestrian facilities along the main road through the reservation.

Some of the unique opportunities and challenges with this tribal planning process included:

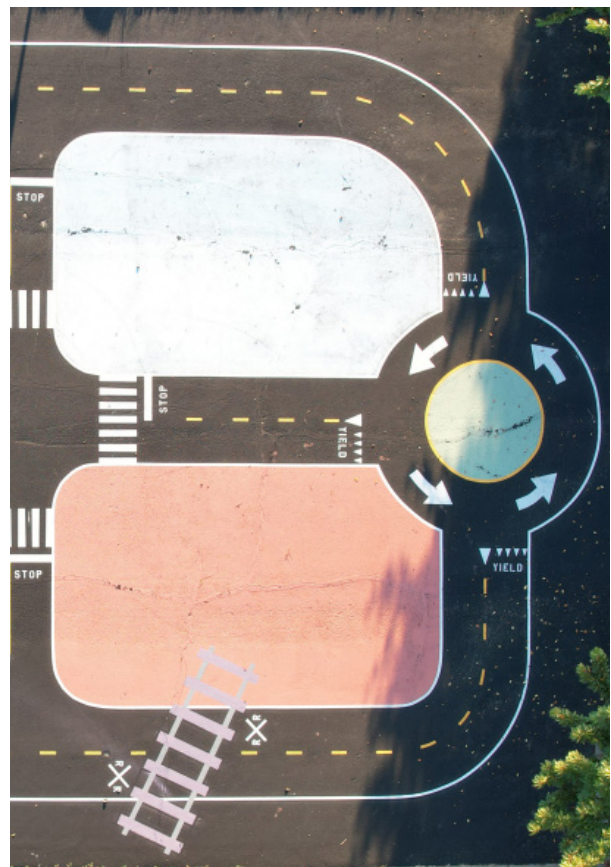
- Working with tribal staff who hold multiple roles and responsibilities
- Gaining understanding of land ownership on the reservation
- Coordinating with the Tribe's schedule to honor and accommodate cultural and governmental gatherings
- Addressing pedestrian safety issues while right-sizing improvements to the character of this very rural area
- Developing projects that reflect the informal travel patterns observed (including off-street paths and travel along busy roads)
- Recommending street signs include the Paiute language

The ODOT SRTS Team is looking forward to more collaboration with tribal communities in future grant cycles.

## Engineering Assistance

The Engineering Assistance grant aided four communities in developing plans for future construction projects, including:

- A side path along a county roadway in Days Creek
- Sidewalks and improved crossings in Klamath Falls
- A bikeway and sidewalk in Medford
- A pedestrian facility along the main road through the Burns Paiute Reservation



*A traffic garden installation on an asphalt playground includes a roundabout, a railroad crossing, and crosswalks.*



# Coming Up in 2025

The ODOT SRTS Team is excited to offer new services in 2025 including unveiling a new, user-friendly website, offering more equity trainings and practitioner webinars, hosting in-person and remote community gatherings, and much more! Read on for a preview of some of the new services in the works for 2025.

## Traffic Gardens Pilot

Traffic gardens are becoming increasingly popular around the country as opportunities for children to learn how to walk and bike safely. In these mini-street worlds, often at schools or parks (see image on previous page), children learn the rules of the road and have fun doing it. In 2025, ODOT SRTS and Discover Traffic Gardens will lead a pilot program bringing traffic gardens to three communities. The lessons learned from this pilot will hopefully pave the way for future traffic gardens in Oregon.

## Education Technical Assistance

Through the Hubs, ODOT SRTS will have increased capacity to provide specific Education Technical Assistance and support for communities across Oregon. Services may include train-the-trainer offerings, pedestrian safety, circulation or suggested route maps, and support for events like Walk+Roll to School Day, Walking School Bus or Bike Trains, or School Streets.

## High School Program

ODOT SRTS is currently researching high school programs across the state and building what Safe Routes to School will look like for that age group in Oregon. In 2025, ODOT SRTS will implement the following high school programs in Oregon:

- Transportation Task Force
- Travel Options Pilot Program
- Statewide Competitions for High Schools
- Technical Assistance for High School Groups

## New Jump Start Resources

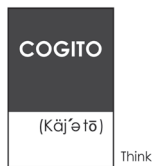
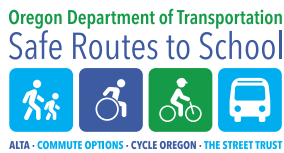
In 2024 the Jump Start program had more demand than the ODOT SRTS Team could keep up with, including six requests for bike fleet use, which were denied due to capacity restraints. In 2025, the ODOT SRTS Team is looking forward to providing more capacity and resources to communities to continue bicycle education on their own. There will also be more bikes available to keep up with demand. The new resources include:

- Learn to Ride Guide
- Adaptive PE Guide
- Kick Scooter Drill Guide
- English and Spanish Bike Education Videos





Thank you to our ODOT SRTS Team!



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