



**Safe
Routes**
PARTNERSHIP
Active Paths for Equity & Health

2019 Annual Report

Letter from the Executive Director

The Safe Routes movement is, at its core, about giving back to communities – giving kids the ability to walk and bike to school safely, giving families the opportunity to be physically active together in their neighborhoods, and giving everyone fair and equitable access to school, jobs, parks, healthy food, and community connections.

In 2019 we witnessed the collective desire to give back play out in so many ways. At the local level, Safe Routes and active transportation advocates formed new partnerships and alliances with environmental justice, education, social justice, and community organizations, working together to advance multiple initiatives with the shared goal of creating healthier, more active communities. Two of our capstone research reports focused on ways that health care and transportation professionals can work together to influence transportation planning and funding within Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).

In November, our staff and board were immensely grateful for the opportunity we had to gather in person with hundreds of fellow practitioners and advocates at the Safe Routes to School National Conference in Tampa, FL. The conference was not only a tremendous professional development opportunity and an injection of energy for our field, but also a fitting way to celebrate 15 years of this work and a collection of lessons to carry us into 2020 and beyond.

We are pleased to share highlights from 2019 that show our progress in our core work areas and we invite you to join us in building the movement for healthy, active communities going forward.



Cassandra Isidro

Cass Isidro

Executive Director

Advancing Policy & Advocacy



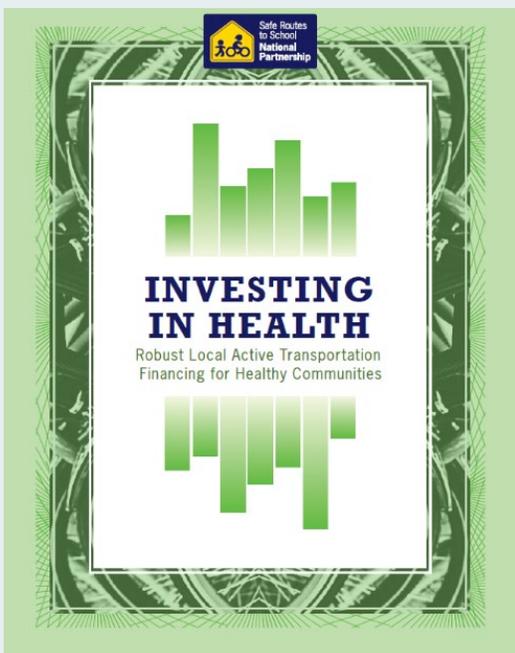
FEDERAL ADVOCACY

Many state and local active transportation projects priorities are guided, funded, and influenced by action at the federal level. With the transportation law set to expire in September 2020, in partnership with the League of American Bicyclists, we worked with key Senators to successfully push for new funding and policy change for biking and walking. In the Senate's *America's Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019*, we secured a \$2 billion increase for the Transportation Alternatives Program as well as an estimated \$250 million per year in safety funding to address rising fatality rates among people walking and biking. With legislative action moving to the House of Representatives, we secured introduction of two bills to ensure these priorities will be considered in the House transportation bill, expected in 2020. The federal legislative process requires a long-term investment in relationship-building and advocacy, which we prioritize, meaning we are well positioned for significant gains for biking and walking when the transportation reauthorization bill is finalized, hopefully in late 2020.

Featured Report

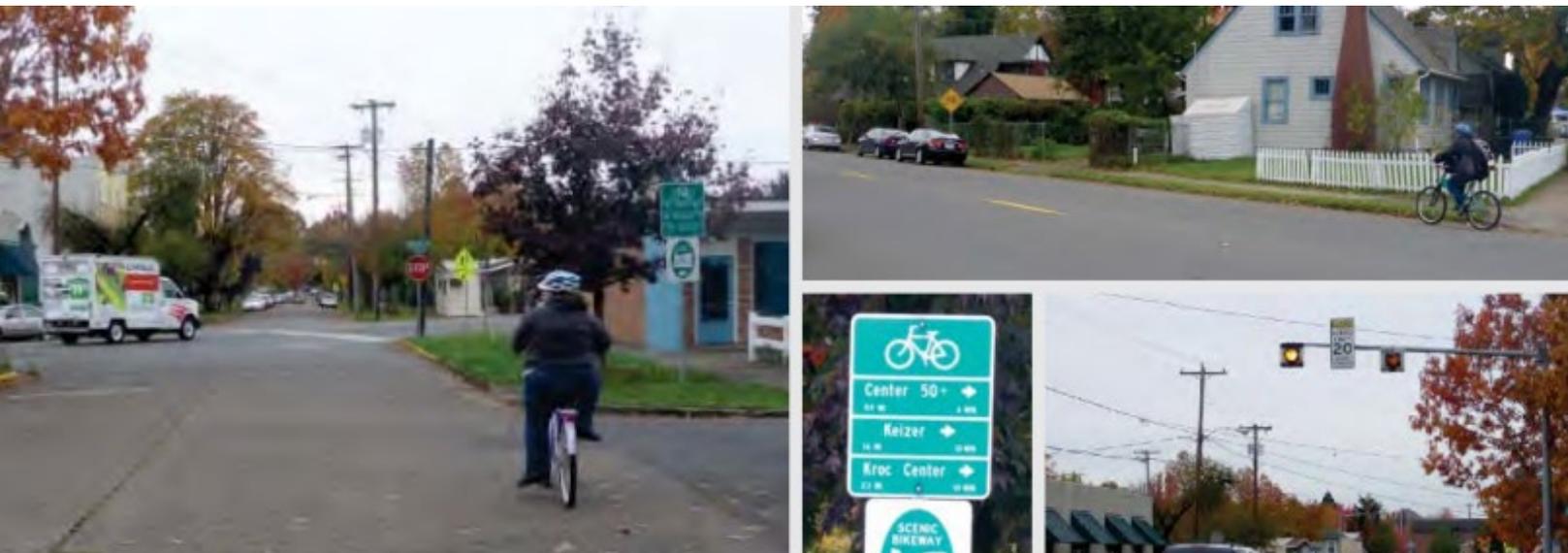
Investing in Health: Robust Active Transportation Financing for Healthy Communities

Having safe and convenient opportunities for active transportation produces health and other benefits for communities. But communities can't develop robust active transportation networks that support a range of users without adequate funding. The good news is that local governments can employ proven active transportation financing strategies to create active communities, improving health and well-being for everyone in communities— children, families, and older adults. This report provides an overview of the key role that active transportation financing can play in developing healthy communities.



REGIONAL ADVOCACY

With support from Kaiser Permanente, the Safe Routes Partnership has regional policy managers working in the Pacific Northwest and in California to advance active transportation funding and planning. The Regional Network Project uses a multi-pronged approach to improve policies and the built environment, which create healthier communities and provide increased opportunities for physical activity through transportation. In each region, our policy managers serve as a trusted resource for active transportation and a strong ally among advocates and agencies, allowing them to successfully push for policy and funding changes, and to assist dozens of applicants for Safe Routes to School and active transportation funding.



Case Study

ADVOCATING FOR A SAFER WINTER MAPLE NEIGHBORHOOD GREENWAY IN SALEM, OREGON

The city of Salem has increasingly recognized the important role of biking and walking as a way of getting around the city. One of the high priority projects in 2019 was the Winter Maple Neighborhood Greenway, which aimed to create a safe, comfortable and convenient corridor between downtown Salem and local businesses and schools, including the Oregon School for the Deaf. The Safe Routes Partnership worked closely with advocates, neighborhood residents, and transportation planners to urge the city to include additional safety features along the corridor and reduce the speed limit to 20 miles per hour. The city transportation department is currently conducting traffic counts, speed measurements, and bicycle and pedestrian counts to inform the project's next phase.

"The Safe Routes Partnership was a great ally in getting approval for the route's calming devices located near the schools. She worked with both students and faculty at OSD and encouraged them to give testimony at crucial city council meetings, which helped build the case for city council members to approve the project with speed humps and the additional early implementation budget."

- Sarah Rice, member of the Salem Bike Boulevard Advocates"

Supporting Safe Routes





2019 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The [2019 Safe Routes to School National Conference](#), held in Tampa, Florida, brought together more than 450 advocates and practitioners who are working at the local, regional, state, and national levels to advance Safe Routes to School and equitable active transportation.

“This was one of the best conferences I have attended. Just the right size and the group was very inclusive and open to share and engage. I hope this can occur every year!!”

“One of the most valuable parts of the conference for me is the networking and learning about what others are doing.”

“Overall, I thought this was one of the best conferences I have ever attended (and I am old!) -- i.e., one of the most informative and one that was full of opportunities to speak with experienced and knowledgeable people. I live in a state in which there is not a dedicated funding stream for SRTS. However, I am in a position to encourage those developing ATPs (including funding some of them) to address the topic. Further, though I have the health focus, I work closely with the State DOT and am prepared to share and attempt to influence! Further, the organization of the conference was very well-executed.”

“I really appreciated the mobile workshops, because it helps you learn in an entirely new way.”

2019 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM CENSUS PROJECT

To assess progress in supporting Safe Routes to School, the Safe Routes Partnership conducted a survey of Safe Routes to School programs across the country, exploring policies, practices, and funding for programmatic activities. In response to the survey, hundreds of Safe Routes to School programs from around the country shared their program activities, stories, and struggles. As their responses showed, these programs are at the forefront of essential change on the ground across the United States. This report provides an overview of the state of Safe Routes to School programming in the United States and a high-level assessment of challenges, innovations, and opportunities for Safe Routes to School programs.

SAFE ROUTES LAUNCH

The Safe Routes to School Launch Program, a joint project of the Safe Routes Partnership and UC Berkeley Safe Transportation Research and Education Center (SafeTREC), assists communities in creating strong Safe Routes to School initiatives that include the six E's that make up a comprehensive approach to Safe Routes to School – engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, evaluation, and equity. In 2019, we worked directly in the communities of San Bernardino, Madera, and Huntington Beach in California to deliver customized workshop and technical assistance in developing a comprehensive Safe Routes to School Action Plan.

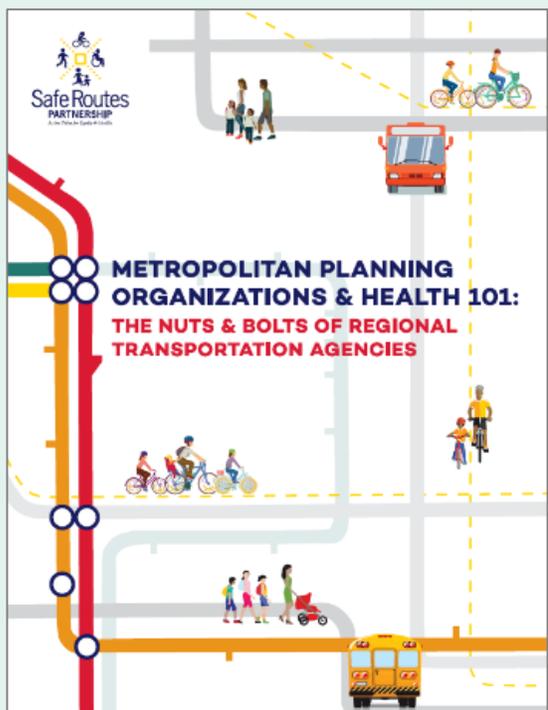


Photo credit: Julian Wan

Featured Report

Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Health

Metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) are some of the most influential planning agencies affecting the future of our communities, making crucial decisions around transportation planning and health. In 2019, the Safe Routes Partnership published two reports that help to demystify the role of MPOs in transportation planning and untangle the maze of agencies, policies, rules, and funding flows that can be key to unlocking a future that is vibrant, healthy, and equitable. The first report, [Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Health 101: The Nuts and Bolts of Regional Transportation Agencies](#), provides an introduction to MPOs for those who want to better understand regional planning and how to influence it to benefit health, active transportation, and equity. The second report, [Metropolitan Planning Organizations & Health 201: Best Practices & Promising Opportunities for Health](#), details opportunities to advance health within the basic functions of MPOs, as well as setting out the many creative ways that MPOs act to develop healthy, equitable communities.

Creating Active Communities



Safe Routes to Parks

Great parks are welcoming, dynamic, community-based spaces where people can gather, play, and be physically active. They are located within a 10-minute walk or bike ride from where people live and work. Accessibility is a key feature of Safe Routes to Parks: there are sidewalks, bike paths, safe crossings, wayfinding signs, and low speeds on surrounding streets that make it safe for children, older adults, people with disabilities, and all community members to walk or roll to the park. Building on the success of the first year of the Safe Routes to Parks Activating Communities program, in 2019 the Safe Routes Partnership awarded technical assistance and grant funding to [twelve communities](#) working to improve safe, equitable park access.



Case Study

Improving Park Access with Blue Zones Project Hawaii

Since 2017, Blue Zones Project has been working on revitalizing and improving access to Old Stadium Park in the neighborhoods of Mānoa, Makiki, McCully, and Mō'ili'ili in Oahu. With support from a Safe Routes to Parks award and technical assistance, Blue Zones Project collaborated with community members to create a community-led installation to highlight the need for safe streets near this historic park. In June of 2019, Blue Zones Project and the Safe Routes Partnership organized a five-day series of park engagement activities, including guest speakers, a walk audit, brainstorming sessions, a park clean-up event, and a community-led painting of bulb-out crosswalks at the entrance to the park. At the end of the series, Blue Zones Project hosted a park pop-up event with healthy snacks, a park clean-up, free Biki (public bikeshare) bike rides, and a yoga class.

“One of the original goals of this project was to use our efforts to help simplify future quick build projects for cities across the state and beyond. In a short period of time, and with minimal funding, passionate residents, and strong support from our elected officials, we were able to host a series of events focused on empowering our residents and allowing them to be part of community change. We encourage others to explore similar solutions in their neighborhoods and challenge city and state agencies to better integrate citizens and community groups in the planning and execution of projects.”

– Colby Takeda, Blue Zones Hawaii

Safe Routes to Healthy Food

No one should have to risk their life walking alongside fast moving traffic or spend two hours on the bus just to get to the grocery store. Yet this is the reality for too many people in the United States, and particularly for people burdened by other challenges, like low income, lack of vehicle access, and unsafe streets. By working toward Safe Routes to Healthy Food, regions can improve safety and convenience for people walking, biking, and taking public transit to get nutritious foods. The Safe Routes Partnership worked directly with local communities to host Safe Routes to Healthy Food events and produced [resources](#) intended to help active transportation and healthy food advocates understand why and how to engage regional planning agencies to improve Safe Routes to Healthy Food.



Case Study

Safe Routes to Healthy Food for Older Adults

The Safe Routes Partnership was awarded a 2019 AARP Community Challenge grant to implement a safety project in Washington DC's Bellevue neighborhood. Bellevue is located in Ward 8, where a single grocery store serves over 80,000 residents, many of whom are older adults. With a new grocery store coming to Bellevue early next year, residents wanted to celebrate the occasion and advocate for safer, easier shopping trips. Our AARP grant project, Safe Routes to Healthy Food for Older Adults, presented an opportunity to support residents in their advocacy efforts while turning art into community action. We partnered with community organizations to host several events where community members designed and created a temporary colorful crosswalk and decorate reusable grocery bags.

“Drivers noticeably slowed down while turning onto the street. Pedestrians asked if we were going to paint the design on the ground because it would be a nice addition to the neighborhood. Many market shoppers expressed how proud they were that the crosswalk was created by Ward 8 residents, for Ward 8 residents. Most of the participants at the safety demonstration were older adults from the Bellevue neighborhood who experience barriers to transportation and food access. We spent the afternoon listening to their stories, asking how we could support them, and celebrating their leadership.”

- Kori Johnson, Safe Routes Partnership

Vision Zero in Washington, DC

In 2019, the Safe Routes Partnership built on work that began in 2018 to advance Vision Zero and encourage youth engagement in improving teen traffic safety. Our DC Community Engagement Manager worked directly with five communities in Wards 7 and 8 to identify barriers and implement strategies to reduce injuries and fatalities in designated “Safe Zone” hubs. We developed training materials and hosted intergenerational events to educate residents on safe travel behaviors and coordinated with District agencies to address community-identified barriers to save walking and bicycling.

[DC Vision Zero: Championing Community and Change East of the River](#)

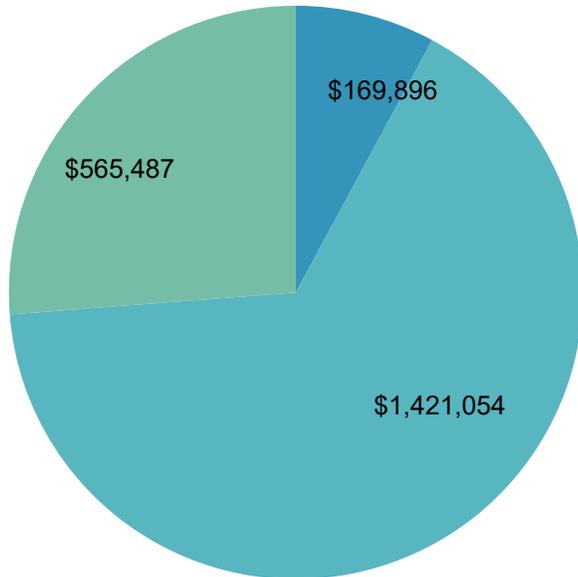
This toolkit provides information to individuals interested in leading Vision Zero initiatives in Wards 7 and 8. We highlight our school partners and share their engagement and advocacy stories.

[Safe Routes Community Engagement Cards](#)

These cards are a collection of arts-based activities aimed at infusing creativity into outreach initiatives. Each card has instructions for leading a creative community engagement activity in a variety of settings – staff meetings, outreach events, school lessons, focus groups, and more.



2019 Financial Statements



Income

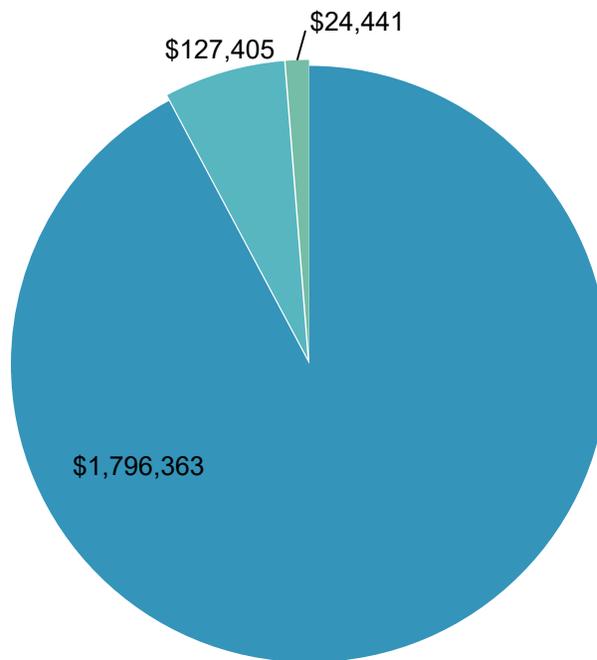
- Government (8%)
- Foundations & Corporate (66%)
- Fee for Service income and Individual support (26%)

Total Income: \$2,156,427

Expenses

- Program (92%)
- General & Administrative (7%)
- Fundraising (1%)

Total Expenses \$1,957,150



Note: The Safe Routes Partnership often receives multi-year grants, meaning that revenue is often booked in a different year than when expenditures are made. The Safe Routes Partnership had \$1,309,338 in income booked in prior years released from restrictions in 2019. We also have \$1,291,837 in 2019 (or prior year) income that is restricted for use in 2020 or after.



Safe Routes PARTNERSHIP

12587 Fair Lakes Circle #251
Fairfax, VA 22033

saferoutespartnership.org
Twitter: [@SafeRoutesNow](https://twitter.com/SafeRoutesNow)
Facebook: [Facebook.com/SafeRoutesPartnership](https://www.facebook.com/SafeRoutesPartnership)