

Washington Safe Routes to School Networking Meeting

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Program

3:30 - 3:35	Welcome
3:35 - 3:45	Interactive Introductions
3:45 - 4:25	Show and Tell
4:25 - 4:30	Wrap Up

LINK TO VIDEO

Notes

Welcome and Introductions

- Meeting norms: cameras encouraged but optional; questions via chat or hand-raise.
- Meeting recorded and roster shared to support networking.
- Participants introduced themselves in the chat (name, pronouns, organization, location, SRTS role, optional “how you’re feeling”).

About the Washington SRTS Network

- A statewide group of SRTS practitioners focused on sharing resources, ideas, and relationship-building.
- The Network provides:
 - Monthly newsletters
 - A resource-rich website with mapping & contact tools
 - Virtual and in-person workshops
 - Networking events
- Major current project: the revised Washington School Walk & Bike Route Guide, with WSDOT completing graphic design before publication.

Upcoming events and opportunities:

- Walk-Bike-Roll Summit (April, Wenatchee):
 - Call for proposals closed
 - Registration now open
 - Cascade Bicycle Club and Network presentations expected
- National SRTS Partnership:
 - Recent virtual summit recorded
- Members encouraged to follow the newsletter for more events.

Mini-Presentations (Show & Tell)

1. **Bike Clark County** – Peter Van Tilburg
 - Four week-long summer bike camps for elementary-age students; all sold out without advertising.
 - Strong progression: students move from elementary to middle school programming, and sometimes into high school shop internships.
 - Operates a nonprofit bike shop in downtown Vancouver that supports all programming.
2. **Mobile Traffic Garden** – Jess Merritt & Kerri Wilson (Thurston County)
 - Partnership between Intercity Transit’s Walk & Roll Program and Safe Kids Thurston County.
 - Indoor & outdoor traffic garden used for bike/ped safety education in PE classes.
 - Setup:
 - Heavy vinyl tarp (cut into four pieces)
 - Helmets
 - Scooters

- balance bikes
 - Model:
 - Monday setup in school gym
 - Team models lessons for first few classes
 - PE teacher delivers lessons for the rest of the week
 - Friday teardown
 - Funding:
 - ~\$7,000 from local charities for trailer
 - ~\$40,000 from Washington Traffic Safety Commission for equipment
 - Program reaches every student at each participating school.
- 3. Bike Intersection Game – Natalie Becker (Walk N Roll)**
 - Custom, velcro-based tabletop game for teaching:
 - Avoiding right/left hooks
 - Navigating complex intersections
 - Identifying safest route options
 - Components: adjustable intersection pieces, signs, figurines, scenario cards.
 - Students set up scenarios independently; observers analyze and suggest alternatives.
 - Options to increase difficulty; adaptable for both middle and high school students.
- 4. Bellevue “Glance” Beacon Remote-Management System – Rohit Amanamanchi**
 - Installed on 65 flashing beacons, some radar signs, and several RRFBs.
 - Allows:
 - Remote scheduling & adjustments
 - Real-time monitoring of beacon status
 - Holiday/snow-day programming
 - Waze integration that alerts drivers entering school zones
 - Cost: ~\$3,000 per unit + small monthly data fee.
 - Very easy to install on existing hardware; web-based dashboard works well in the field.
- 5. Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day – Chandra Rourde (City of Tacoma)**
 - Event at Mann Elementary including families, staff, community leaders, and council members.
 - Mann is also a Walking School Bus site with paid trip leaders and a site coordinator stipend.
 - Located near a Vision Zero High-Risk Network corridor; upcoming road safety audit in December.
 - City conducting social-pinpoint outreach and preparing a WSDOT grant application for infrastructure improvements.
 - School will run the Cascade Bike Program in January.
- 6. Intersection Daylighting – Sara Colling (Seattle DOT)**
 - Daylighting used to improve visibility and shorten crossing distances.
 - Approaches include:
 - Pulling back parking
 - Paint-and-post treatments
 - Narrowing travel lanes
 - Full concrete curb bulbs
 - Being incorporated as a default practice for new SRTS projects and all-way stops.
 - Public education campaign includes:
 - “Leave Some Space!” yard signs (alien-themed)
 - Dashboard reminder cards for vehicles parked too close to intersections.
- 7. Seattle Public Schools (SPS) Bike & Walk Program – Brooke Nelson**
 - Loaner fleet of 25 bikes at Dunlap Elementary funded through WTSC Walker-Roller Grant.
 - Bikes used for Walk/Bike to School events, including bike bus participation.
 - Funding also supports paying school staff as walk/bike group leaders.
 - SPS hopes to expand the leader-payment model to additional schools.
- 8. “Let’s Go” PE Implementation – Angela King (View Ridge Elementary, Everett SD)**
 - Adapted Cascade’s Let’s Go curriculum using “Building Thinking Classrooms” principles:
 - Student-led problem solving

- Small peer groups
 - Clear criteria for success (e.g., helmet fit)
- Entire unit taught outdoors; students progress to the skills course once basics are mastered.
- End-of-unit Bike Rodeo included:
 - Continuous riding loop
 - A technical course with scooter/bike/strider options
 - A simple but popular obstacle using old PE mats for slow-speed control.

Community Questions

1. From Snohomish County: Do any WA SRTS programs include routes to bus stops (school bus or city transit) in their planning?
 - None of the participants are formally doing this yet.
 - Interest expressed among participants in this kind of exercise /outcome, especially for middle/high school students walking to city bus stops.
 - Idea of “walk + bus” groups noted as promising, for both walking to yellow bus or public transit stops.
2. From Edmonds School District : Looking for resources for determining crossing-guard placement?
 - Schools often receive requests where pedestrian volume is low or infrastructure has already been improved.
 - Brooke Nelson from Seattle Public Schools volunteered to connect with Edmonds SD to help think through criteria.

Closing Reflection

- Participants were invited to share:
 - One idea they heard today they want to bring into their own programming
 - One concrete step they could take to move that inspiration into action

Attendees

Name	Role	Organization	Email
Amanda Ronstadt	Board of Directors	Ridgefield School District	amandaronstadt@gmail.com
Amber Ortega	Engineer	Snohomish County Public Works	amber.ortega@snoco.org
Angela King	Teacher, View Ridge ES	Everett School District	aking4@everettsd.org
Bertrand Hauss	Engineer / Transportation Engineer	City of Edmonds	bertrandhauss@yahoo.com
Brooke Nelson	SRTS Coordinator	Seattle Public Schools	brnelson1@seattleschools.org
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Charles Bowers	Transportation & Mobility Professional	King County	cbowers@kingcounty.gov
Charlotte Claybrooke	SRTS Coordinator	WSDOT Active Transportation	charlotte.claybrooke@wsdot.wa.gov
Chris Zipperer	Physical Activity Coordinator	WA Dept. of Health	chris.zipperer@doh.wa.gov
Dawn Ambuehl	Elementary Bike Program Lead	North Thurston Public Schools	dambuehl@ntps.org
Jacquelyn "Jax" Billups	Youth Development Program Officer	Cascade Bicycle Club	jax@cascade.org
Jenni McCloughan	K-12 PE, Health, and SEL Lead	Edmonds School District	mcccloughanj@edmonds.wednet.edu
Jess Merritt	Coordinator	Safe Kids Thurston County	jess.merritt@ccacwa.org
Julia Sanders	SRTS Specialist	Alta Planning + Design	juliasanders@altago.com
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Maggie Derk	Senior Transportation Planner	City of Vancouver, WA	maggie.derk@cityofvancouver.us
Melanie Owens	Program Manager	WWCO	mowens@wwcowa.gov
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Peter Van Tilburg	Executive Director	Bike Clark County	peter@bikeclarkcounty.org
Rohit Ammanamanchi	Sr. Planner / SRTS Program Manager	City of Bellevue	rammanamanchi@bellevuewa.gov
Sara Colling	SRTS Program Manager	Seattle DOT	sara.colling@seattle.gov
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