

Tallahassee-Leon County Safe Routes to School Study District Level Issues and Strategies

District Advisory Council
February 6, 2014



Renaissance Planning Group

in association with
Wendy Grey Land Use Planning

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

- **Responsible Organization:**

Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA)

- **Project Type:**

Non-motorized transportation

- **Background:**

Walking and bicycling rates for school children have been on a steady decline for decades. Schools can make improvements to encourage and support increased walking and bicycling to/from school.

- **Project Purpose:**

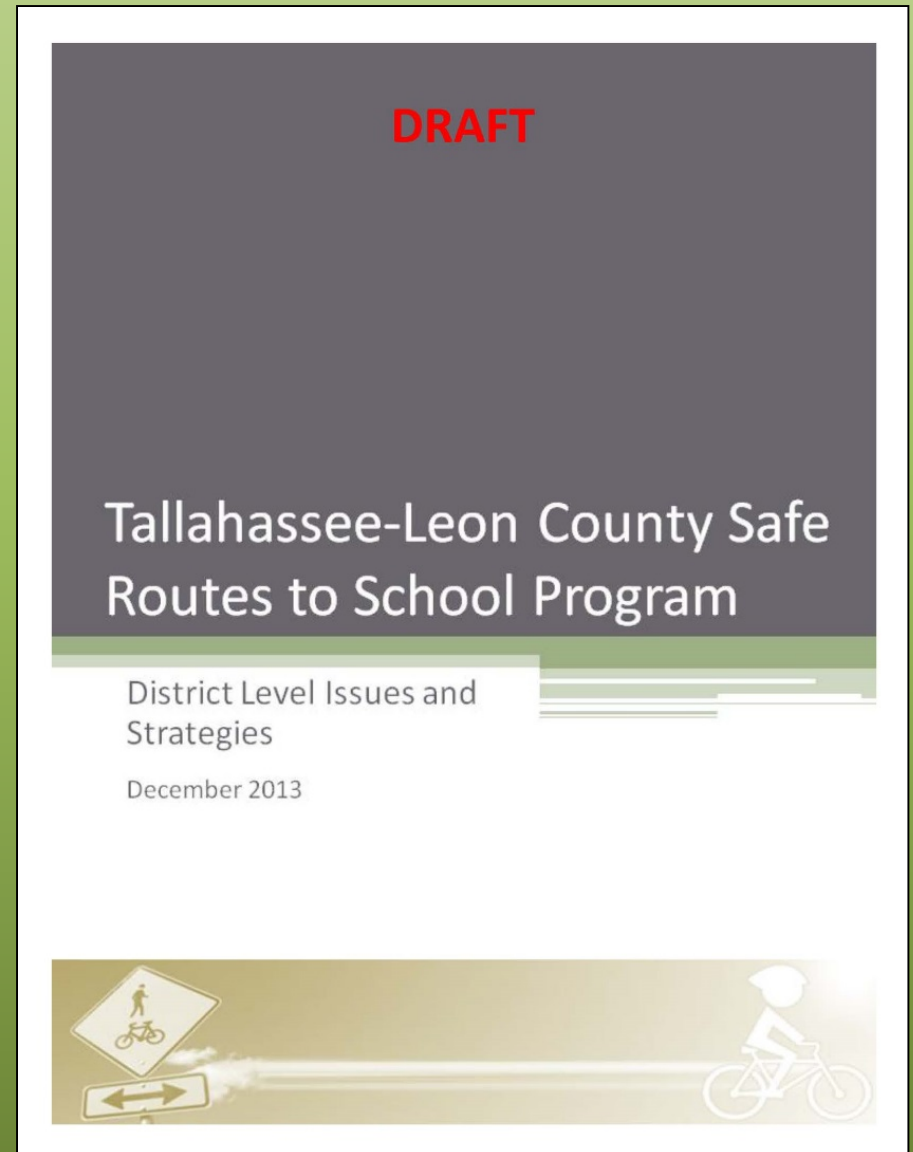
Address opportunities to further implement SRTS policies, programs and projects to support Leon County public schools.

- **Results:**

Countywide and individual school-level policies, programs and infrastructure improvement recommendations to guide the CRTPA and the Leon County School Board in making improvements.

District Level Issues and Strategies

- Districtwide opportunities to address issues and implement strategies related to student committing feasibility and safety



The Takeaway

- Establish a safe routes culture – change the current mindset
- Focus on partnerships and available resources to tap into (public, private, non-profit)
- Review new facility planning and redistricting procedures – be proactive and coordinate with local officials
- Utilize the implementation schedule and projects list



Countywide Policy and Program Recommendations

- **18 policy and program recommendations**
- **Recommendations are organized around:**
 - Improving Existing Conditions
 - Improving the Planning Process
 - Promoting the Concept of Safe Routes to School
 - Community-wide
 - Improving safety through monitoring and evaluation

Implementation Schedule

- Intended as a guide for the School Board
- Organizes the policy and program recommendations by short, medium and long term priorities

POLICY AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION	TIMING			LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORTING AGENCY
	Short Term (1 - 3 years)	Medium Term (3 - 5 years)	Long Term (5+ years)		
5. Connect Neighborhoods and Schools					
5.1. Use the results of the individual school surveys and, in conjunction with appropriate local agencies, identify easements that can incorporate trails connecting schools and neighborhoods.		X		School Board	Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department
5.2. Encourage the District representative on the Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Commission to promote implementation of Safe Routes to School practices in the land development code and site design.	ONGOING			Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department Greenways Program	School Board
5.3. Encourage the District representative on the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency Citizen Advisory Committee to promote prioritizing of Safe Routes to School capital projects.	ONGOING			School Board	CRTPA
6. Promote Walking and Cycling through School Siting and Design					
6.1. Review the Interlocal Agreement to ensure that it adequately addresses the means by which there will be early and ongoing coordination with the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency and other agencies as appropriate. This coordination will provide the District with expertise in land use planning, transportation operations, and pedestrian and bicycle safety throughout the school siting process.	X			School Board City of Tallahassee Leon County CRTPA	

Regional Coordination

- What are your neighbors doing about safe routes to school?
 - New innovative ideas, success stories, lessons learned
- Regional alliances to promote change at the state level
 - **Florida Administrative Code – reasonable walking distance**
 - Little recognition for student age or physical conditions
 - **Florida Statutes – hazardous walking conditions**
 - Some recognition for students w/in 2 miles of school
 - Process is reactive
 - Limited authority for local officials
 - Limited recognition for student age
 - Other important factors not recognized

Countywide List of Priority Projects

- Aggregated from individual school audit reports
- Organized by school, improvement type
- To be included in the Regional Mobility Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program
- Under review – February completion

Funding and Partnership Strategies

- Local, state and federal funding for infrastructure improvement projects
- State and federal safety grants
- Safety programs – police department / sheriff's office coordination
- ❖ Work closely with the CRTPA on an ongoing basis!



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Best Practices – you're not alone!

- School Board: take a stand for safe routes implementation
- Nurture the culture: sometimes we need a philosophical change to get everyone onboard
- Don't lose sight of non-infrastructure projects (i.e. programs and policies) – they can make a big difference
- Partner with governmental and nonprofit agencies as well as private enterprises are key
- Look for examples that work – don't reinvent the wheel



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Thank You!



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