

Take the Safe Route: Safe Access to School Study



**TAKE THE
SAFE ROUTE**
Safe Access to School Study

A Safe Access to School Study is currently underway by the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) to promote safe walking and biking conditions for students to access their schools throughout the region. This project kicked off in October 2023 and is expected to conclude by November 2024.

What is Safe Routes to School?

Safe Routes to School is a national approach that promotes walking and biking to school through enforcement, tools, safety education, and appropriate infrastructure to allow students to access their schools via sidewalks and bicycle facilities. Safe Routes to School is implemented through a variety of partners from the Department of Transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, non-profits, local governments,

school districts, and schools themselves. There are extensive resources and funding available through the Department of Transportation for identified infrastructure projects.

What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of this study is to identify schools in the region with the most need for improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to access their school. Once identified, the project team will make recommendations for infrastructure and programmatic improvements specific to each of the identified schools based on data analysis and feedback from parents, teachers, and students. In addition to encouraging a culture of walking and biking, this study is also expected to streamline Safe Routes to School funding requests made through the Florida Department of Transportation by local agencies and community partners.

This project is being conducted in two phases; what are those phases?

PHASE I

Phase I will consist of data analysis of the CRTPA's regions school (elementary, middle, and high) to identify which schools have the most need for capital improvements related to biking and walking facilities surrounding and connecting to those schools. This phase will include a detailed prioritization to identify up to ten (10) schools for further evaluation. During this phase, the project team will also begin engaging key stakeholders from each of the counties to solicit input and share updates on the project.

PHASE II

Phase II will utilize the schools identified through the Phase I analysis, Phase II will include a focused safety and accessibility analysis that will include site visits and an inventory of existing facilities and infrastructure at the identified schools and will identify recommended improvements for biking and walking conditions. This phase will include engagement with students and parents at the selected schools.

What schools will be included in the study?

As part of Phase I, all public elementary, middle, and high schools will be evaluated based on pre-identified criteria to determine schools with the most need for improvements. At this time, no schools have been identified for evaluation in Phase II. The prioritization is expected to be completed by early 2024, and more information on the identified schools will be made available in January 2024 via the CRTPA project page, and upcoming CRTPA committee and board meetings.

Additional questions?

Contact CRTPA Project Manager Greg Burke
Greg.Burke@CRTPA.org
(850) 891-8626

