



December 2016

Coordinator's Corner

As the colder weather arrives, let's stay motivated by taking a look back on some of the Virginia SRTS Program's major accomplishments this fall. The popularity of and participation in the premier fall event -- International Walk to School Day -- continues to grow. Not only did the number of schools registered for International Walk to School Day exceed our goal of 300 schools, but 52 schools participated for the first time. Additionally, 46 schools participated in Student Travel Tally Week for the first time this year. The participation of these schools is evidence of the hard work and outreach conducted by local SRTS coordinators. Keep up the great work!



Looking ahead, now is the time to plan for the February 8, 2017 Crossing Guard Appreciation Day so you can recognize those who help students get to and from school regardless of the weather. You may also want to nominate your crossing guard to be selected as one of the Most Outstanding Crossing Guard for 2016. Details can be found within the newsletter.

Have an idea for promoting active school travel? it's also time to start thinking about QuickStart Mini-grants ideas for the Spring application cycle twenty-four (24) schools received QuickStart Mini-grants during the fall application cycle to fund incentives and projects such as Walk to School Day handouts, walking school bus incentives, and bike rodeos among other things. Review the list of mini-grants within the newsletter for ideas for the spring application cycle. There will be three spring application cycles with deadlines of February 2, March 2, and April 6.

If you have questions or would like more information on any of the topics included here, please call the Virginia SRTS Hotline at 1-855-601-7787 or send an email to info@virginiasrts.org.

Regards,
Rob Williams

IN THIS ISSUE

- Coordinator's Corner
- Friends & Faces: Fionnuala Quinn
- Virginia Walk to School Day Reaches New High
- Student Travel Tally Week Success!
- Fall QuickStart Mini-grant Awards
- Fall Walkabout Mini-grant Awards
- Start Planning for the February 8 Crossing Guard Appreciation Day
- Virginia's Most Outstanding Crossing Guards of 2016 nominations open December 1
- Coordinator Welcome

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

1: Most Outstanding Crossing Guard Nominations open!

JANUARY

25: Outstanding Crossing Guard Nominations close!

FEBRUARY

2: QuickStart Mini-grant and Walkabout Mini-grant applications due
8: Crossing Guard Appreciation Day
All month long...
Crossing Guard Appreciation Month

Friends & Faces: Fionnuala Quinn



For this edition, we spoke with Fionnuala Quinn, a licensed civil engineer with a background in bicycle and pedestrian planning and advocacy. Through her recently launched organization, The Bureau of Good Roads, she is working to spark

interest in how students can influence the design and operation of public streets and the built environment. She hopes her work can inspire young people to play a role in designing streets to better serve the needs of all members of the community.

Why did you launch The Bureau of Good Roads?

I launched The Bureau of Good Roads for several reasons. First, through my work as a bicycle and pedestrian engineer and advocate, I recognized a need to engage and educate local communities about the public realm (of which streets are a large part). Often times, I witnessed community members get involved with infrastructure projects only when the projects directly affected them, rather than taking a broader community view of the public realm. Second, I have worked to promote STEM and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) education for over 10 years starting initially with a weekly girls engineering program at a local elementary school. Walking, bicycling, and school-zone infrastructure are a perfect way to relate STEAM principles to everyday life. Finally, my historical interest in the development of streets led me to a career in engineering and planning and this new way to use my career directly benefits the next generation of leaders.

What resources does The Bureau of Good Roads offer?

The Bureau of Good Roads holds workshops, leads educational programming, and publishes free lesson guides and materials online aimed at students ages 7-13. Our workshops aim to educate and engage students. For example, the Good Roads Rangers Club



The Good Roads Rangers Club learning about the built environment via the hands-on Complete Streets kit

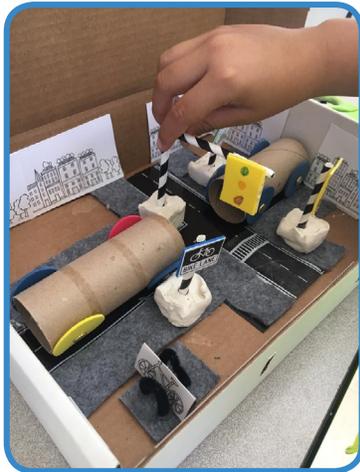
for example is a weekday camp program focused on building places and cities for people of all ages and abilities. The Sidewalk Superintendents is a field workshop investigating how infrastructure, design, and safety relate. The lesson guides cover topics such as sidewalk closures, street festivals, street connectivity, street signs, and more. Lessons typically utilize recyclables or low-cost materials to help ensure lessons are accessible.

What projects are you currently working on?

We are currently working with an established program in Middleburg (Team Saturday) to create complete streets toolkits. Students are developing these toolkits which will be presented to town officials in February in order for Middleburg to help explain different traffic calming techniques to local residents. Middleburg has been great to work with and Town Administrator, Martha Semmes, joined the students to discuss the impacts of a local traffic calming project.

What materials are you currently developing?

I want all of the materials to be easily accessible and help improve understanding of our transportation systems. I am currently developing a set of basic design principles which will represent the key complete street principles. These principles highlight that the world around us is designed for our use, design is an iterative process, the built environment can be altered, infrastructure is a connected network, and change is normal for example. If students, parents, and community members understand these principles, then the quality of the built environment should improve.



Complete Streets Toolkits developed for the Town of Middleburg

How can VA SRTS Coordinators contact you?

For more information about The Bureau of Good Roads and to access free materials, please visit www.goodroadsmovement.com or www.facebook.com/GoodRoadsMovement. If you would like to partner with The Bureau of Good Roads, please contact Fionnuala at info@goodroadsmovement.com. [Click here](#) to join The Bureau of Good Roads Newsletter!

Virginia Walk to School Day Reaches New High

This year's Walk to School Day broke last year's record of 282 schools by 29 schools, with a total of 311 events! Thank you to everyone who helped plan and host an event, registering it on www.walkbiketoschool.org. Walk to School Day events in Virginia have increased

each of the past four years, with this year's increase just over 10%.

The top five school systems with the most participation include Fairfax County Public Schools with an impressive 82 events; Chesapeake Public Schools with 38 events, Arlington County Public Schools with 38 events, Norfolk Public Schools with 22 events and Henrico County Public Schools with 22 events. With events in over 24 divisions, this year's Walk to School Day was a great success!

See photos from across the country and get tips to start planning next year's event at www.walkbiketoschool.org.

Student Travel Tally Week Success!

The Virginia Safe Routes to School Program celebrated its fifth year of collecting Student Travel Tallies in September and October 2016.

Four schools in Arlington County and two schools in Harrisonburg have participated in STTW for the past five years while another 61 schools across eight counties have participated the past four years, helping these schools track walking and biking rates over time.

In addition, 46 schools participated in STTW for the first time, highlighting the increased participation in STTW, earning them a Virginia Safe Routes to School banner to help promote walking and biking to school. Overall, 17 school divisions and 41 cities and towns participated!

Please check the Student Travel Tally page of the program website in early 2017 for the results of the fall 2016 statewide and division travel tally reports.



QuickStart Mini-grants

Fall QuickStart Mini-grant Awards

Congratulations to the following 24 schools receiving a QuickStart Mini-grant this fall:

- *Barcroft Elementary, Arlington*; Walking School Bus Incentives
- *Chimborazo Elementary, Richmond*; WTSD Participation and Safety Light Pedometers
- *Crestwood Elementary, North Chesterfield*; Bike Racks
- *Crystal Spring Elementary, Roanoke*; Bike Rodeo and Bike Racks
- *Fairfield Court Elementary, Richmond*; WTSD Participation
- *Ginter Park Elementary, Richmond*; WTSD Participation and Safety Light Pedometers
- *Hillsboro Charter Academy, Hillsboro*; Safety Patrol Program
- *Hillside Elementary, Ashburn*; WTSD Participation and Bike Rodeo
- *JEB Stuart Elementary, Richmond*; WTSD Participation and Safety Light Pedometers
- *John C Myers Elementary, Broadway*; Walk to School Day and Frequent Walker Program
- *Kate Collins Middle, William Perry Elementary, Fishersville*; Frequent Walker Program
- *Mary Munford Elementary, Richmond*; WTSD Participation and Safety Light Pedometers
- *Pocahontas Middle, Henrico*; Bike Safety Certification for students
- *Rockingham County Public Schools*; Bike Rodeos
- *Seldens Landing Elementary, Leesburg*; Bike Rodeos
- *Spotswood Elementary, Harrisonburg*; Walking School Bus Incentives
- *Suburban Park Elementary, Norfolk*; After School Bike Club
- *Thomas Jefferson Middle, Nottingham Elementary, Taylor Elementary, Barcroft Elementary, Arlington*; Crossing Guard Enhancement Program
- *Vienna Elementary, Vienna*; Frequent Walker Program
- *W. H. Taylor Elementary, Norfolk*; Walking and Biking Fitness Challenge
- *Wenonah Elementary, Berkeley Glenn Elementary School, Fishersville*; Frequent Walker Program
- *Westbriar Elementary, Vienna*; Walk to School Program
- *Williamsburg Middle, Kenmore Middle, Etc., Arlington*; Phoenix Bikes Support
- *Woodville Elementary, Richmond*; WTSD Participation and Safety Light Pedometers

To date, the QuickStart Mini-grant program has benefitted Safe Routes to School activities at 197 different schools! Want to add your school to the list? Mark your calendar with these three spring 2017 application due dates: February 2, March 2, and April 6 and bookmark the [link](#) to the online application. The \$1,000 awards are ideal for supporting activities as students re-emerge to walk and bike with spring weather.

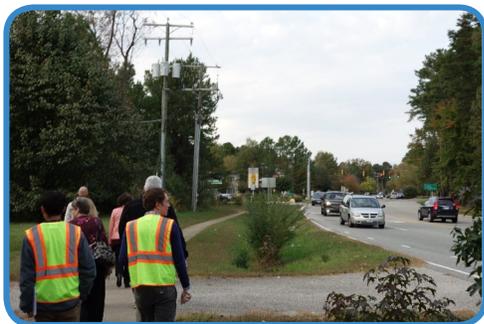
Fall Walkabout Mini-grant Awards

Two schools received a Walkabout Mini-grant Award this fall: Enon Elementary School and Clara Byrd Baker Elementary School. In early November, the Local Technical Assistance Coordinator (LTAC) serving the school conducted walkabouts joined by local school staff, county school officials, parents, students, and others with an interest in improving school-zone infrastructure. Walkabout reports will be available in early 2017.

Want to learn more about the walking and bicycling conditions in the area around your school?

Walkabout Mini-grant recipients receive a hands-on walking and bicycling infrastructure survey and written walkabout report from the LTAC serving your region. The walkabout is an excellent opportunity for community stakeholders to experience pedestrian and bicycle conditions, share perspectives, and build consensus around potential solutions. The walkabout report will include a description and photos of the conditions observed during the walkabout. [Click here](#) to see past walkabout reports and a map showing the walkabout locations.

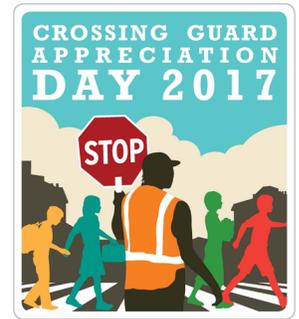
The walkabout report is intended to support future infrastructure grant applications, so spring is the best time to apply for a walkabout in advance of fall grant deadlines. Walkabout Mini-grant applications are available online. Applications for spring 2017 are due on February 2. Successful applicants will be notified by the end of February, and the Walkabout is expected to occur in March or April.



Clara Byrd Baker ES Walkabout

Start Planning for the February 8 Crossing Guard Appreciation Day

Virginia schools honor crossing guards each February during Crossing Guard Appreciation Day (CGAD), a statewide event devoted to saying thank you to those who help students cross the street safely on their way to and from school. The official day in 2017 is February 8, but schools can select another day during the month. Materials and suggestions for honoring school crossing guards are on the Virginia SRTS program website at this [link](#).



Virginia's Most Outstanding Crossing Guards of 2016 nominations open December 1

Does your crossing guard go above and beyond? Does he wear a smile even in the snow? Does she know everyone's name? If your school's crossing guard is a special part of your school community, nominate her or him to be selected as a Most Outstanding Crossing Guard of 2016. Six crossing guards were recognized in 2015. Nominations are open now through January 25, 2017. Use the online form at [this link](#) and don't forget to upload a photo of your crossing guard in action.

Coordinator Welcome

Local SRTS Programs continue to grow in over 18 school districts throughout Virginia, with two new coordinators starting work this fall: Lauren Hassel with Arlington Public Schools and Kyle Rodland with Charlottesville City Schools.

Lauren Hassel (Arlington Public Schools)

Lauren Hassel joins Arlington Public Schools (APS) from WalkArlington, where she worked as the Outreach and Promotion Manager. Given Lauren's experience promoting the health, environmental,



community-building, economic, and transportation benefits of walking in Arlington County, she is a natural fit for the APS SRTS Program. Further, she has worked as a substitute teacher and has two high schoolers who have been in the APS system since kindergarten

As a student, Lauren took the bus to school but became an avid walker, cyclist, and public transportation user in college. Since college, she has chosen to live in walkable communities served by transit whenever possible. Both of her children walk to school now, and while her son has a driver's license, he rarely needs or wants to use the car. As a SRTS coordinator, she most looks forward to helping students, staff, and families understand the benefits of active transportation both in the school years and for life.

One interesting fact about Lauren is she has backpacked "around the world"—twice! Her travels brought her to New Zealand, Nepal, China, Mongolia, Russia, and North Africa on a budget of only \$10/day.

Kyle Rodland (Charlottesville City Schools)

Kyle Rodland walked and biked to school through all of his elementary school years, and holds a deep love and passion for active transportation, as well as all the positive things it can bring to a person. He wants to



share this experience with as many people as he can in his new role with Charlottesville City Schools. His professional career choices and personal life, ranging from teaching, music and event promotion, and mountain bike racing and cycling event promotion give him a diverse set of skills to apply to the SRTS program. Walking and biking are Kyle's primary modes of transportation; he and his family live within walking distance to downtown, stores, school, and most places they need to frequent.

As a SRTS Coordinator, Kyle looks forward to helping children and allowing them the opportunity to experience the joy, responsibility, and self-reliance that being a pedestrian and cyclist can bring. However, he sees infrastructure as well as the density and behavior of non-local traffic as the greatest challenges preventing students from walking and biking to school.

Kyle enjoys all disciplines of cycling. He and his wife love to ride together and they are enjoying introducing their two boys to bikes, commuting, and recreational cycling.