

Bike Buses and Walking School Buses



CREATING HEALTHY
SCHOOLS AND
COMMUNITIES



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What is a bike bus?

An encouragement strategy for safe routes to school (SRTS).

Adult led group of students biking to school together along a predetermined route. Best for older elementary and middle school aged students.



What is a walking school bus?

An encouragement strategy for safe routes to school (SRTS).

Adult led group of students walking to school together along a pre-determined route. Best for elementary and middle school aged students.



Introduction to SRTS (safe routes to schools)

[View webinar](#)

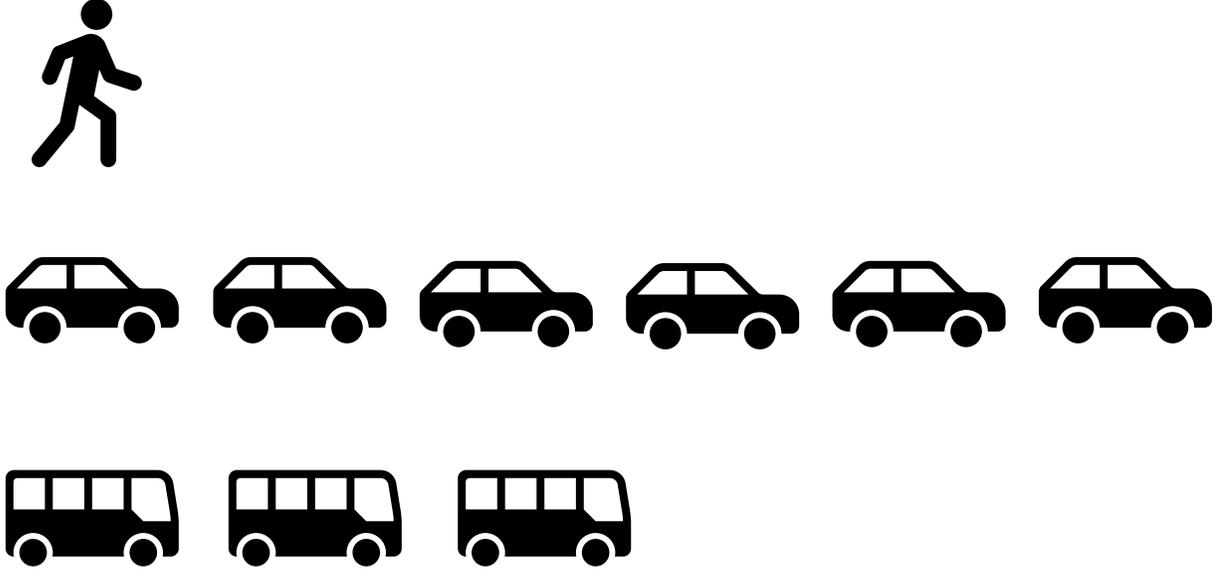


Almost 50% of students walked or biked to school 55 year ago



1969

That number is now estimated at less than 10%.



2009

Why create a bike bus or walking school bus?

Shows some families that active transport is possible

Many students participating increases safety

Closed streets, increased police presence, volunteer adult supervision.

Is a fun school event!

Safe Routes to School Programs reduce the number of children who are hit by cars.





**Active transportation
contributes to a
healthy lifestyle.**



**Active transportation
fosters independence.**

Active transportation prepares students for learning.





**Reduces green house
gas emissions**



Builds community



**Reduces
congestion**



Saves money

Pre-planning

1. Walkability assessment/ walk audit
2. Teach bike and pedestrian safety to students
3. Provide bike storage

10 TIPS FOR PLANNING AND LEADING A SUCCESSFUL WALK AUDIT

CREATED BY AMERICA WALKS AND THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION (NVRC)



1 SET SOME GOALS

Decide what you want to accomplish by conducting a walk audit



2 PICK YOUR PLACE

Choose the route carefully, scout it ahead of time, and make sure everyone will be safe



3 KEEP IT SHORT

Don't make it too long – a one-mile walk audit can easily last an hour with stops for discussion



4 CURATE YOUR CREW

Identify participants from the neighborhood and others whom you want to recruit as advocates



5 BRING IN LOCAL LEADERS

Invite one or two public officials such as planners, engineers or City Council members



6 USE TOOLS

Choose a specific guide such as the AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit and send it to participants in advance



7 GRAB GEAR

Bring along clipboards, printed guides, and pens, as well as a tape measure and a camera

8 BE UNIVERSAL

Before starting, remind everyone to prioritize safety and to imagine a small child or a person with a disability on this walk (a great tool is to bring a stroller to identify mobility)

9 TAKE PAUSE

Stop every few blocks to analyze the conditions, make notes, and take photos

10 CHAT AND ASSESS

At the end, ask everyone to share their "take-aways"



Finding adult volunteers

School staff

Parents

Elderly community members

Community partnerships- walking groups, bike advocacy groups, libraries, etc.

Alameda bike bus



Natomas park walking school bus

Every Wednesday an adult-supervised group walks students into school. There is no sign-up necessary, just drop your student off behind the Kohl's parking lot between 7:15 AM and 7:25 AM. Look for our Parent Champion, Victoria Rodrigues in her orange apron and vest.



Us Bus in Arlington, Virginia



Organizing

Creating routes based on:

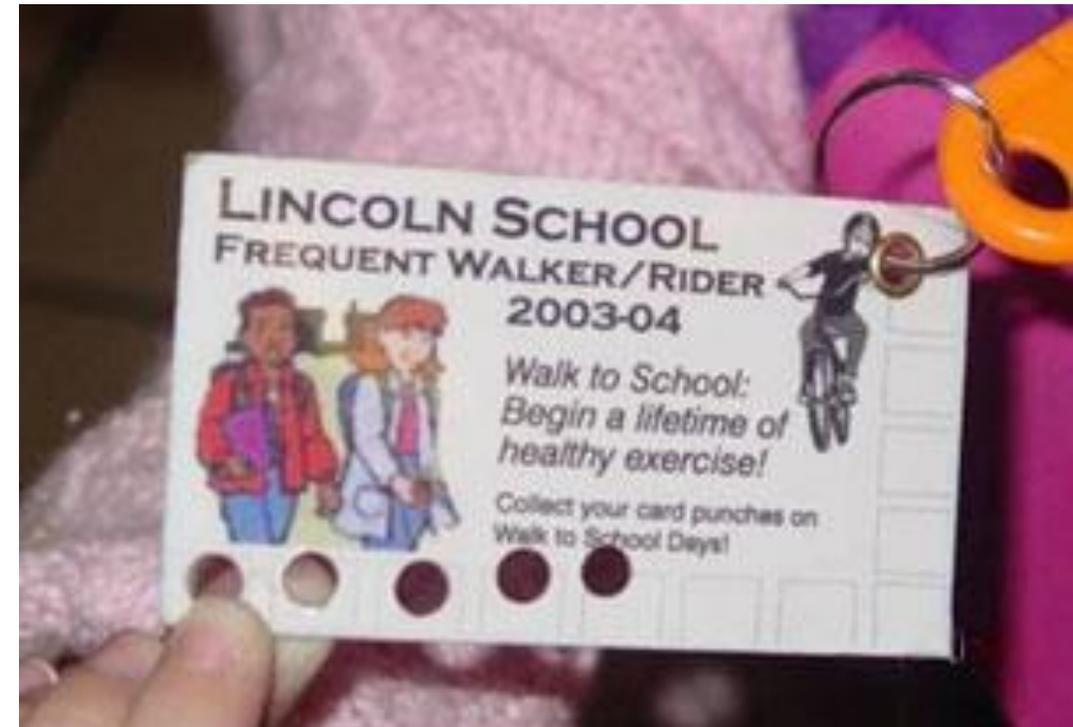
Surveys to families

Data from walkability assessment

Volunteer availability

Advertising

Incentives

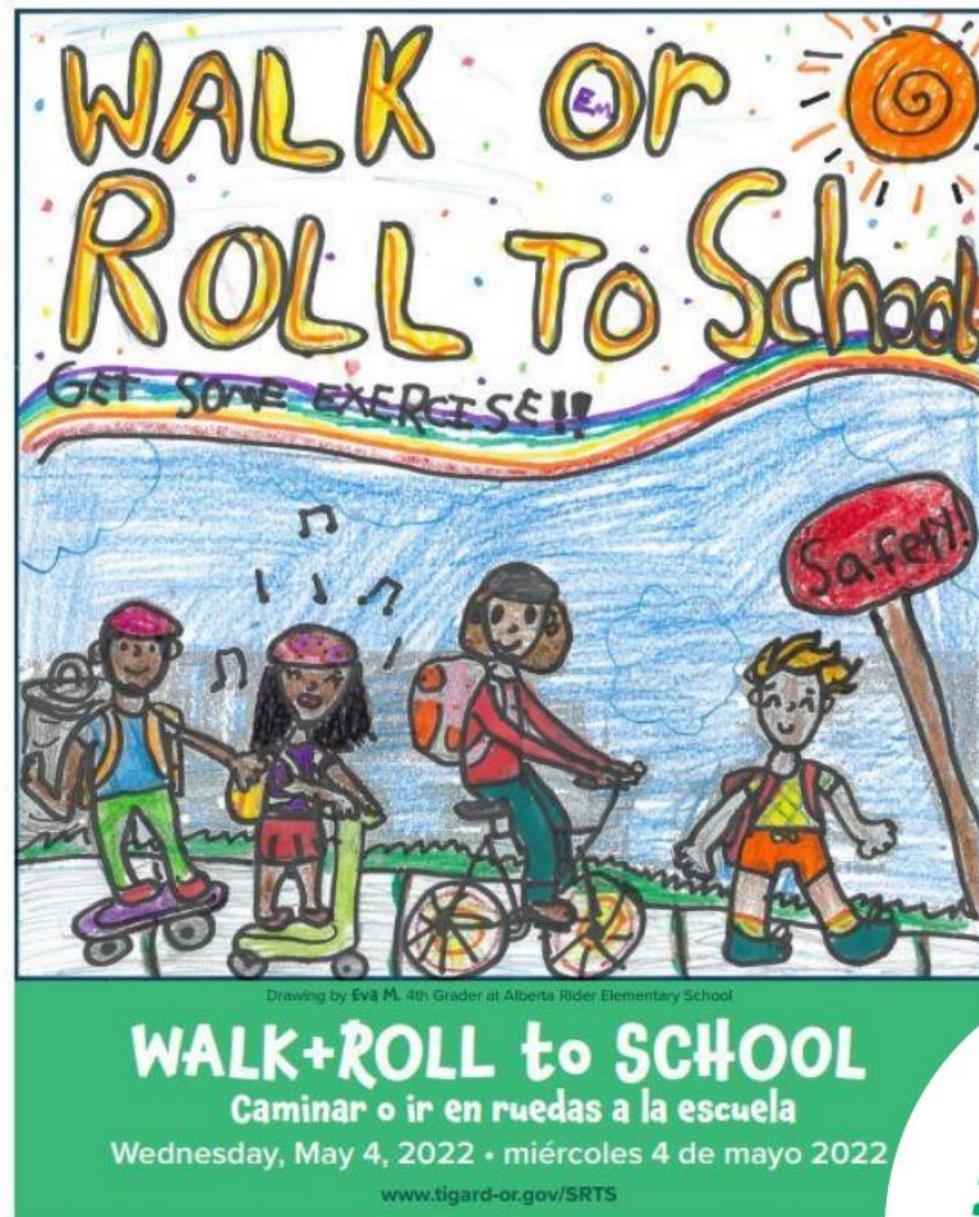


Make your “bus” inclusive for students of all abilities

-Include the word “roll” in advertising

-Check in with students with mobility aids to see what they need to be able to participate

[-Learn more](#)



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Get started!

7. Walk, Bike & Roll to school!



More SRTS from Creating Healthy Schools and Communities

[Webinar](#)- Safe Routes to School

[Wellness Conference](#)- Slides from GOBike about Walk and Bike to School events

Resources

[SRTS Guide: The Walking School Bus: Combining Safety, Fun and the Walk to School \(saferoutesinfo.org\)](#)

[Bike bus world](#)

[Safe Routes to School | Safe Routes Partnership](#)

[SRTS Curriculum \(ny.gov\)](#)

Questions?

