



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Driving Indiana's Economic Growth

100 North Senate Avenue
Room N 955
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

PHONE: (317) 232-5653
FAX: (317) 232-1499

Michael R. Pence, Governor
Karl B. Browning, Commissioner

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Dear School Community Members,

Remember walking or biking to school when you were a kid? The Indiana Department of Transportation, along with the Indiana State Department of Health, the Indiana Department of Education and the Health by Design Coalition invite you and your students to lace up your shoes and pump up your tires for **Walk to School Day, Wednesday October 9, 2013**. Walking or bicycling to school is a great choice and helps our youngest citizens to arrive at school wide awake and ready to learn.

We recognize there may be challenges to walking and biking to school. Safety is of highest priority. Maybe sidewalks and crosswalks are missing near your school or traffic is heavy or too fast for safely biking to school. Perhaps students live more than two miles away. Is there a secure place for students who ride to lock-up their bikes?

The good news is that administrators, teachers, parents, planners, engineers and health officials across the country have tackled many of these issues and found creative solutions. 128 awards have been issued in Indiana under the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program to support more walking and biking to Indiana schools. Numerous organizations and local leaders can provide suggestions and contacts for the resources you might need to join in the festivities.

Our goal is for more children to walk and bike to school safely **every** day. This event provides an opportunity to raise awareness, build enthusiasm, and promote the changes needed to ensure a lasting impact. First, we ask that you **register your local biking and walking events at this website: www.walktoschool.org**. This site is also your one-stop for everything you might need to organize your events. So far 27 Indiana schools have registered Walk to School celebrations this year; last year 48 schools registered events.

We hope that you will choose to participate in Walk to School Day on October 9th and that your community will embrace walking and biking as preferred options for getting to school every day. We look forward to hearing about your success! If you have questions or need more information please contact Michael O'Loughlin at moloughlin@indot.in.gov or at 317-232-5653.

Sincerely,

Kathy Eaton-McKalip
LPA/MPO Grant Administrator
Indiana Department of Transportation