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Resource Center News: SRTS Forum Preview



Save the Date! Register NOW! The SRTS Resource Center is hosting a Statewide Safe Routes to School Forum on Thursday, June 18, 2015, at Spring Valley High School in Columbia. Attendees will choose up to three breakout sessions addressing all aspects of Safe Routes to School including education strategies, encouragement programs, engineering treatments, and opportunities to get your community involved. The Forum will also feature plenary sessions and networking opportunities. Lunch and a light breakfast will be provided. Space



Rodney Oldham, CHES, CPT

From our State Coordinator:

Thank you all for another successful school year! Safe Routes to School continues to grow throughout South Carolina. I couldn't be more proud of the progress, support and effort we're seeing amongst our school and community Partners! Here are some highlights from the 2014-2015 school year:

- 45 new [school Partners](#) enrolled in the SRTS partnership program
- 12 new [community partners](#) signed up as Friends to support the Resource Center

is limited! [Click here to register!](#)

We have highlighted various sessions planned for the Forum in each of our spring newsletters. In this edition, we are pleased to preview the session on Seeking Infrastructure Funding. Three guest speakers will present on funding sources and successes - from both the state level and the local level. Infrastructure improvements are vital for sustainable change in your community - helping pedestrians and bicyclists feel safe and comfortable during their commute.

- **John Fellows** is the Planning Administrator with the City of Columbia where he oversees a planning division responsible for long and short range planning, historic preservation, annexation, and design review. His division has recently completed a new land use update to the comprehensive plan as well as the city's first active transportation plan with a focus on walking, biking and connectivity to the transit system. Mr. Fellows has been with the City of Columbia for four and a half years and has approximately 20 years of planning experience within local and county agencies, and consulting. Mr. Fellows is a Certified Planner with the American Institute of Certified Planners. He holds an undergraduate degree in Architecture, a Master degree in Urban Planning from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, as well as a Master degree in Architecture from McGill University with an emphasis in Urban Design, Housing and Active Transportation. Mr. Fellows has been an avid walker and cyclist throughout his life and career.
- **Judy Shelato** has served as Principal Engineer for Anderson County since 2001. She manages the Roads & Bridges engineering staff and their services, road and

- Three schools created [SRTS Action Plans](#)
- More than 25 schools have progressed to either [Silver Level](#) or [Gold Level](#) Partners
- The Resource Center launched [South Carolina's Crossing Guard Appreciation Week](#)
- We created new resources such as the [Bike Rodeo Manual](#) and [Student Safety Patrol Training](#).

Now do not let the summer slow your momentum! As the school year winds down, and you find a little more free-time in the school-day, hold one more event! You can customize our [Summer Walk flyer](#) to help promote it! Use this time to talk with your students about summer safety topics and suggest ways for them to continue being physically active during the summer months.

Upcoming Event: SC SRTS Forum Key Note Speaker

In addition to the many exciting sessions throughout the day, the lunchtime keynote presentation will be delivered by **Dr. Andrew (Andy) Kaczynski**, from the University Of South Carolina Arnold School Of Public Health. Andy's research focuses on environmental and policy influences on physical activity and obesity prevention. He has a strong personal and professional interest in Safe Routes to School. His presentation will describe research from around the world about the relationship between community design, youth physical activity and well-being, including physical activity and academic achievement, active commuting to school and health outcomes, and the role of the built environment in

bridge project design, and contract construction projects. Her involvement with SRTS began with applying for and managing the Wren Schools Phase I (TEP) and Phase II (SRTS) Sidewalk Projects. Then she applied for and was granted three additional projects; SC81 Sidewalk project in Powdersville via Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), Ragsdale Road project with Anderson School District One, and Riverside Middle School project with Anderson School District Four. She has participated in Townville Elementary and LaFrance Elementary Safety Assessments and the Palmetto Middle School SRTS Action Plan.

- **Cathy Rice** has been with the South Carolina Department of Transportation for 20 years. She has served in various positions throughout the Department and currently serves as the Agency's Scenic Byways and Transportation Alternatives Program Coordinator. Mrs. Rice earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business from Southern Wesleyan University in 2005. She is recognized as an Associate Public Manager in the state of South Carolina and is an alumna of SCDOT's Strategic Training & Education Program for the 21st Century (STEP-21) Program. She and her husband, Kenneth, are proud parents of three sons and five grandkids.

We look forward to hearing from all three guest speakers at the Forum, and we hope you'll join us!

[Click here to register for the SC SRTS Forum now!](#)

Highlight on a Partner: First
Platinum Level Partner!

encouraging walking and biking among youth.

Andrew Kaczynski, PhD, is a faculty member in the Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior, a co-investigator with the CDC Prevention Research Center, and Director of the Built Environment and Community Health (BEACH) Laboratory (www.beachlab.sc.edu) within the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina. He is originally from Canada and holds degrees from the University of Waterloo in Ontario and Texas A&M University. His research interests focus on environmental and policy influences on youth and adult physical activity, obesity, and chronic disease prevention. Andy has published and presented widely to both academic and professional audiences on issues related to the built environment and public health (including over 70 peer-reviewed journal articles and over 100 refereed conference presentations). He is a co-principal investigator of the ongoing Kansas City Parks and Physical Activity Project, the South Carolina Healthy Young People Empowerment (HYPE) Project, and the Greenville Healthy Neighborhoods Project.

We are excited about this great opportunity to hear Dr. Kaczynski speak at our first South Carolina Safe Routes to School Forum. Please join us, by registering today at <http://www.scsaferoutes.org/events/forum>.

Bike Rack Winner in SC!

In honor of Bike Month and Bike to School Day, the National Center for Safe Routes to School held [two drawings for bike racks](#)

Oakbrook Middle School (OMS) started a SRTS program as a way to encourage physical activity through walking and biking to school. Within a year, the program evolved as a wellness committee charged with leading SRTS activities and events to promote student health, wellness, and safety was developed.

Like many SRTS programs, OMS's first activity was an International Walk to School Day (iWalk) event. With the intention of making walking to school feasible for more students, a group of staff members worked together to evaluate possible safe routes to Oakbrook Middle and advertised park-and-walk locations for students and parents to meet on the day of the event. This was the auspicious beginning for the SRTS program at OMS. From that iWalk event, OMS has made walking to school a part of their day-to-day activities and recently completed a Travel Plan. As of June, Oakbrook Middle School will be the Resource Center's first Platinum Level Partner!

Congratulations to Principal Rutherford and the staff members of Oakbrook Middle for all their hard work and success.

Grant Opportunity: Fuel Up to Play 60

Applications to fund your school's Fuel Up to Play 60 program are due on **June 16, 2015**. Schools may receive up to \$4,000 to fund plans promoting Healthy Eating and Active Lifestyles. The Fuel Up to Play 60 grant application can be found [here](#). Please contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) for assistance.

Reminder: Mazda Foundation Grant. They will accept applications on behalf of schools and 501(C) 3 non-profits who promote education and literacy, environmental conservation, cross-cultural understanding, social welfare, and scientific research. Applications will be accepted from May 1,

based on National Bike to School Day registrations. Congratulations to Ebenezer Avenue Elementary (Rock Hill, SC) for being one of the two nationwide winners!

Spotlight on a Friend: Seeking Outstanding Friend Nominations

The Resource Center is currently accepting nominations for "Outstanding Community Friends". Do you work with a community organization that has played a vital role in developing and supporting local SRTS programs? Is there a group that helps with Walk to School Day and Bike to School Day events in your community?

If so, please take a moment to [nominate the organization](#) for our "Outstanding Friend" designation!

Click here to [read about our current Outstanding Friends](#) and to see some examples on how their efforts have supported the SRTS Resource Center.

Like us on 

Keep up with the Resource Center this school year by liking us on [Facebook](#)!

"[Like](#)" us to stay updated on interesting news articles, upcoming events and different funding and learning opportunities!

2015 - July 1, 2015. If interested in learning more or downloading the application, click [here](#).



The SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center is a program of the South Carolina DOT

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