



Walk & Roll to School Day creates momentum for safer school routes

Annual event mobilizes communities across the U.S. to create space for active travel

WASHINGTON and CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (October 9, 2024) — Across the country, tens of thousands of students and families in big cities, small towns, rural communities, and Tribal lands will travel via foot and wheels today to celebrate National Walk & Roll to School Day. These events emphasize the joy, importance, and benefits of safe, active travel, with a focus on how slow motorist speeds are key for the safety of people walking and rolling daily.

“Today, on National Walk & Roll to School Day, I am so excited to promote safe and active transportation with students and families in our nation’s capital, especially as someone who walks to work,” said Acting Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Administrator Kristin White. “At FHWA, safety is our top priority, and we are working hard to eliminate crashes and fatalities of our most vulnerable road users by investing in innovative safety solutions to make our communities safer for everyone who walks, rolls, bikes, and drives.”

“Every year Walk & Roll to School Day brings communities together to encourage walkable, accessible routes to school,” said Nancy Pullen-Seufert, Director of the National Center for Safe Routes to School. “In addition to the social connection and fun these events bring about, they can also lead to lasting safety changes in communities and neighborhoods prioritizing safe, separated spaces for walking and biking.”

Whether addressing the need to make routes to school safer for active trips, encouraging families to leave the vehicle at home, or kicking off a campaign to reduce motorist speeds near schools, Walk & Roll to School Day events can be powerful tools to inspire permanent change. It makes sense for these communities to begin their efforts with a focus on the route to school because of the many important health, educational, community, and environmental benefits of making active trips to school. Plus, doing so can be a big motivator for building community support for changing streets.

This year, more than 4,000 Walk & Roll to School Day events in 47 states and Washington, D.C. have been registered on walkbiketoschool.org. The total number of 2024 events is expected to grow as celebrations continue throughout October.

The Walk & Roll to School Day national media event will take place in the District of Columbia’s Capitol Hill neighborhood. At the event, local and national officials and partners will gather with students, parents, and school officials from nearly 15 schools in Lincoln Park. A short program will include Mayor Muriel Bowser, U.S. Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary Polly Trottenberg, Acting FHWA Administrator Kristin White, NHTSA Chief Counsel Adam Raviv, District Department of Transportation Director Sharon Kershbaum, and speakers from the D.C.

Council, National Center for Safe Routes to School, and FIA Foundation, before the students head to school “walking school bus”- style.

To learn more about Walk & Roll and Bike & Roll to School Day events, visit walkbiketoschool.org. Any school or community that holds a Walk & Roll to School Day event in October is encouraged to register at www.walkbiketoschool.org/registration.

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About the National Center for Safe Routes to School

Established in May 2006, the National Center for Safe Routes to School, part of the [UNC Highway Safety Research Center](http://www.hsrc.unc.edu), helps support communities in changing their culture to support safe and active travel. As the coordinating organization for Walk & Roll to School Day held each October, Bike & Roll to School Day held each May, and the Vision Zero for Youth initiative, the National Center provides technical support, coordinates online registration, develops resources, and facilitates worldwide promotion and participation. For more information, visit walkbiketoschool.org.

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