



Safe Routes to School Training Update

The Safe Routes to School National Course, developed by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center and maintained by the National Center for Safe Routes to School, provides a forum to bring together stakeholders; motivate and inform them about the strategies and techniques for SRTS implementation and generate an action plan for next steps. The course also sets the context for Safe Routes to School from a health and transportation perspective. Anchoring this dual perspective, the course was developed, and initial delivery supported by, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Federal Highway Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The course has been customized and taught to local, state and national level audiences including recipients of State SRTS funds and engineers attending an Institute of Transportation Engineers Chapter Annual Meeting. Courses are presented by two instructors; generally one with a background in engineering and the other bringing experience in education or SRTS implementation. All instructors participate in a three or five-day training before teaching the course.

Currently the Course is being taught around the country. In addition, all State SRTS Coordinators are offered one free Course delivered in their State. They receive technical support in the planning and preparation stages as well as two expert instructors who teach the course.

Highlights

- Courses taught in at least 23 states¹
- Trained instructors located in 28 states
- Number of trained instructors: 100
- Instructors who received financial assistance to attend a training because they work with traditionally underserved communities: 6
- The SRTS Guide (www.saferoutesinfo.org/guide) serves as a reference for Course participants by providing more details and information on all topics covered in the course.
- The Course material has been modified by instructors in order to reach more audiences, including using Course material to create a half-day training, a toolkit and web-based tools.

¹ The National Center for Safe Routes to School encourages instructors to teach the course and does not require a formal reporting process. As a result, many courses are taught and not tracked by the Center.

Support for State SRTS Programs

States are benefiting from being able to use trained instructors in their state. In addition:

- All States are offered one free training from the National Center for Safe Routes to School.
- States have applied this “free training” opportunity to build capacity in a variety of ways, such as:
 - Becoming trained as SRTS National Course instructors
 - Convening state-level stakeholders for a National Course
 - Training SRTS funding recipients
 - Building a cadre of “state-level” Course instructors in order to deliver the Course to several communities.
 - Several Coordinators have scheduled National Courses to be taught in their state before June 2007.
- 40 Coordinators have been trained to present the Course’s overview module, “Why Safe Routes to School Matters,” which provides a synopsis of the rationale and importance of SRTS.

Plans

- Based on feedback from community program leaders and State Coordinators, the Center is assessing the need and appropriate methods for the development of a “regional expert” training.
- The Center is working with the Institute of Transportation Engineers to provide the National Course with a special focus on engineering countermeasures.
- The Course content , which currently provides a brief orientation to evaluation, will have more in-depth explanation and skill building to encourage appropriate, consistent data collection and evaluation.