



**WALK  
BIKE  
ROLL  
KANSAS**



**VIRTUAL  
SERIES**

# Safe Routes to School in Kansas: What's New and How Your Community Can Get Started

**Speakers:**  
Ann Katt, KDOT  
Becky Horst King, Moundridge  
Laura Moore & Joan Vitt, Parsons

*August 28, 2024*



# Webinar Housekeeping

- Submit questions via the **Q & A function or chat**
- This meeting is being **recorded**
- We'll send a follow-up email within the next week with **link to recording and presentation slides**
- For more information on the Kansas Active Transportation Enhancement (KATE), access to webinar recordings and other resources, and to sign-up for future sessions, visit:  
<https://www.ksdot.gov/KansasATP.asp>



# 2024 Webinar Series

## Bi-Monthly in 2024

### October

Walk Bike Roll Rural: Active Transportation Success Stories from Small Kansas Communities

### December

Network Gaps and Barriers: Design Strategies and Considerations for Roadway, Highway, and Water Crossings



# KDOT Staff Introductions

Matt Messina,  
Chief of Multimodal Transportation

Jenny Kramer,  
Active Transportation Manager





# Our Speakers

Ann Katt

Safe Routes to School Coordinator, KDOT

## SRTS Grant Recipients

- Becky Horst King, Moundridge
- Laura Moore, Parsons
- Joan Vitt, Parsons







**Kansas**  
Safe Routes to School





# Safe Routes to School in Kansas: What's New and How Your Community Can Get Started

- The Year in Review
- Parsons – 2023-2024 Planning Grant Recipient
- Moundridge – 2023-2024 Kick Start Grant Recipient
- What's Next?







# The Year in Review

**Kansas**  
Safe Routes to School



*Kansas Active Transportation*

# What we've done over the last year:



Planning & Programming Grants



Advisory Committee



Communications



*Kansas Active Transportation*





# Planning & Programming Grants



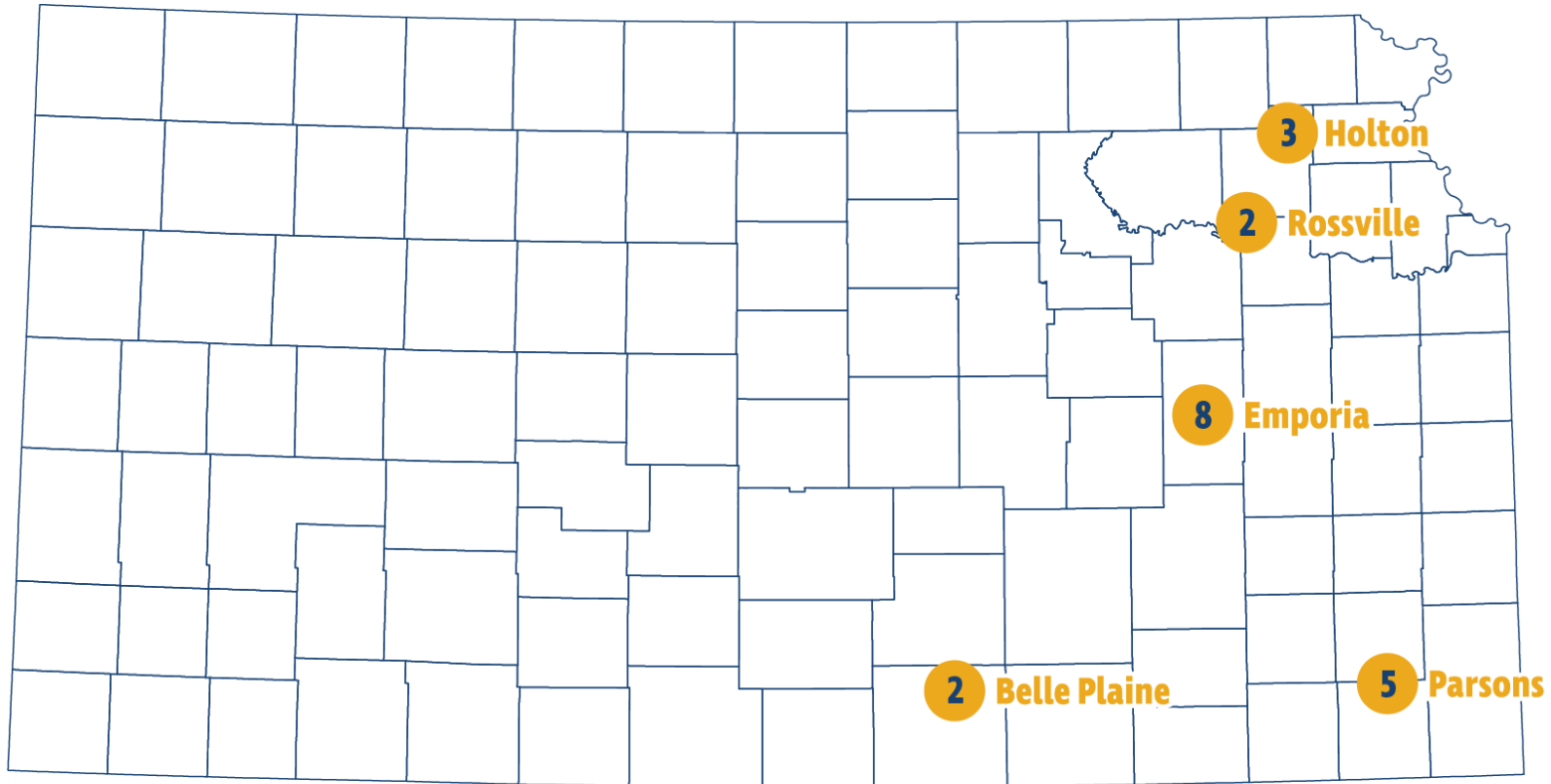




★ Safe Routes to School

# Planning Grants

# Planning Grant Communities



# CITY OF BELLE PLAINE Safe Routes to School Plan

June 2024

### Community Concerns

This project invited community members to pinpoint locations where they have safety concerns on an interactive online map that was available from March 1, 2024, to April 8, 2024. Members of the Emporia community at large left 86 comments on the map, with the most responses clustered around Emporia Middle School, as well as Village, Walnut, Riverside, and Logan Avenue Elementary Schools.

- The issues that received the most pinpoints and comment were related to:
- Sidewalks, including lack of sidewalks, poor sidewalk network connectivity, and deterioration or substandard sidewalks.
  - Intersections, including lack of marked crossings or signage, poor driver yielding, or lack of crossing guards, and
  - Speed management, including concerns about speeding inside school zones.

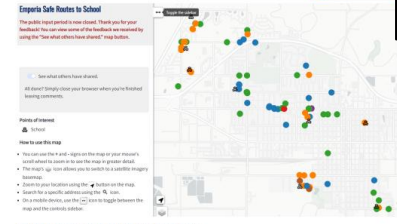
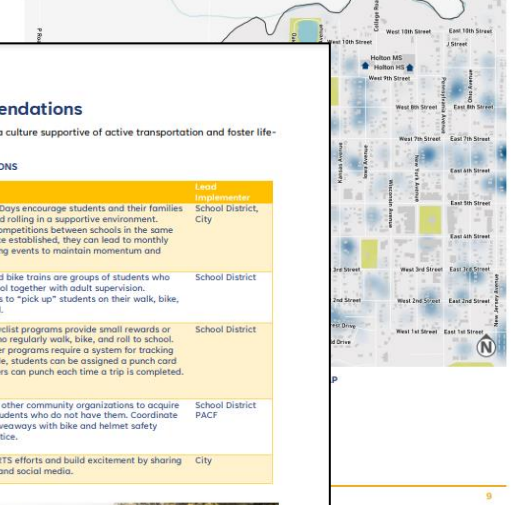


FIGURE 6: INTERACTIVE ONLINE MAP RESPONSES

### Conditions for Students Walking, Biking, and Rolling

There were no recorded bicycle or pedestrian crashes within the study area from 2017-2022. However, KDOT completed a Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment (VRUSA) in 2023 to understand conditions on roadways in which there are more fatal and severe crashes involving vulnerable road users – people walking, biking, rolling, and using other non-motorized transportation, which designated US 75 as a “Priority Corridor.” KS 16 (or 4<sup>th</sup> Street) is not highlighted in the statewide VRUSA, but as the second busiest street for vehicles in the city, is also known as a barrier for walking, biking, and rolling.

Students live throughout Holton, including west of US 75 and, even more, south of KS 16/4<sup>th</sup> Street (Figure 5). Many students live near schools and do not need to cross US 75 or KS 16/4<sup>th</sup> Street as part of their trip.



### Encouragement Recommendations

SRTS encouragement programs can establish a culture supportive of active transportation and foster life-long habits for active transportation.

TABLE 9. ENCOURAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Description	Level of Implementation
Participate in Walk to School Day and Bike to School Day	Walk and Bike to School Days encourage students and their families to try walking, biking, and rolling in a supportive environment. Consider incorporating competitions between schools in the same area or district wide. Once established, they can lead to monthly walking, biking, and rolling events to maintain momentum and enthusiasm.	School District, City
Encourage and support walking school buses and bike trains	Walking school buses and bike trains are groups of students who walk, bike, or roll to school together with adult supervision. Organize adult volunteers to “pick up” students on their walk, bike, or roll to and from school.	School District
Establish a frequent walker/bicyclist program	Frequent walker and bicyclist programs provide small rewards or incentives to students who regularly walk, bike, and roll to school. Frequent walker and biker programs require a system for tracking student trips. For example, students can be assigned a punch card that volunteers or teachers can punch each time a trip is completed.	School District
Give away bicycle helmets, lights, and locks	Schools can partner with other community organizations to acquire and fit the helmets for students who do not have them. Coordinate helmet, light, and lock giveaways with bike and helmet safety education and skills practice.	School District PACF
Share success stories	Improve awareness of SRTS efforts and build excitement by sharing success stories via local and social media.	City



FIGURE 26. A BIKE TRAIN



FIGURE 20: MAP OF ROSSVILLE JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ENGINEERING RECOMMENDATIONS

Check out the completed plans at [saferoutes.ksdot.gov/about-the-program](https://saferoutes.ksdot.gov/about-the-program)



# Parsons – Safe Routes to School



- Introductions
- Safe Routes to School Advisory Team Members:

**Autumn Carson**, St. Patrick's Catholic School Principal

**Becky Dantic**, Parsons Area Community Foundation Director

**Sherry Dunlay**, Tri-County Special Education Secondary Coordinator

**Samantha Graven**, Parsons Public Library Director

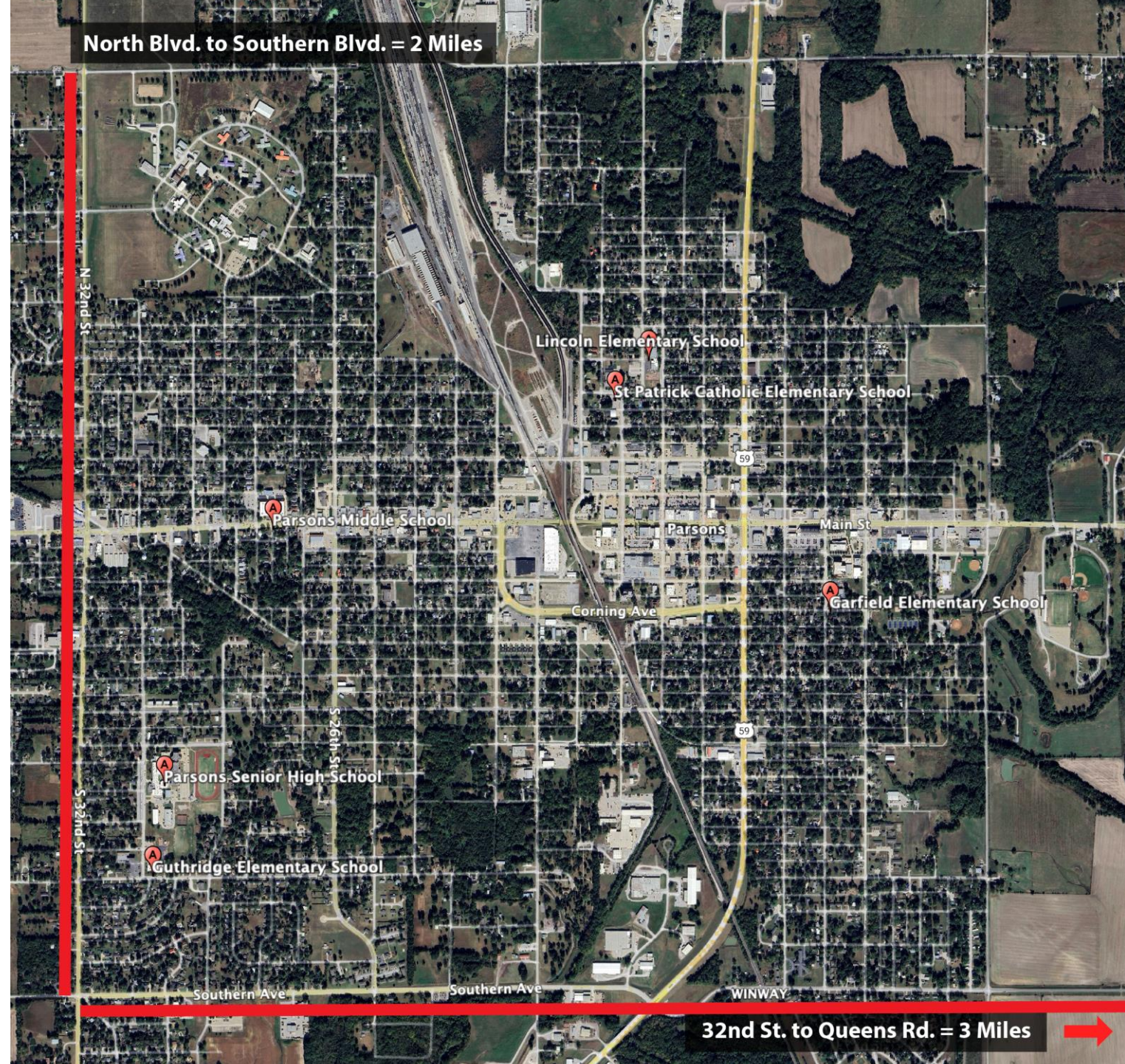
**Darrell Moyer**, City of Parsons Director of Engineering

**Lori Ray**, USD 503 Superintendent



# Who We Are and Why We Applied

- Located in Labette County in Southeast Kansas with a population of 9,600 residents.
- Six school buildings located throughout town.
- Three attendance centers for Pre-K-5 students, a K-8 school, middle school for grades 6-8 and high school for grades 9-12.
- Over 75% of students receive free or reduced lunch.
- Attendance is key to student success and doing so safely should be a priority.
- To provide walking, biking, or rolling options to all students.





# What We Learned



## Confirmed:

- Aging infrastructure
- Don't have adequate signage
- Crosswalk Improvements are needed
- Outside perspective is healthy
- A few improvements can be done immediately



# What Surprised Us

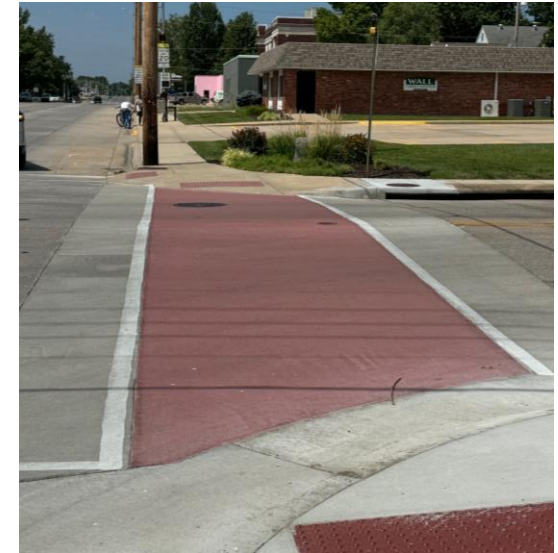


- Had crosswalks to no where
- Had crosswalks that didn't line up with the street curb cut for the sidewalks
- The need for a parking study for the High School
- How easy the SRTS process has been

# The Best Part of the Final Plan



- Nice detailed plan
- Validation
- Saw a few issues that could be implemented immediately





# Next Steps

- Adopt the SRTS plan
- Work with the Library to host a bike rodeo
- Apply for small mini-grant with the PACF for helmets and bike locks
- Facebook Safety Tips for “Back to School” post
- Grant funding for parking study & sidewalk improvements

View the final Parsons SRTS Plan here:

<https://saferoutes.ksdot.gov/about-the-program>



Parsons, KS Public Information Office  
Just now · 🌐

🚨 Keep your little ones safe! 🚨

Check out these Safe Routes to Schools tip sheets for essential safety tips on walking and driving with or near children.

Let's work together to keep our streets safe for everyone! 🇺🇸 🧑🏫

#ChildSafety #DriveSafe #WalkSafe



### Parent's Role in Keeping Children Safe

As a parent/guardian, you know that your children are always watching and learning from you. Parents/guardians are the most important role models in a child's life. This is just as true when it comes to safe walking as it is with anything else. By modeling safe walking habits when you are out walking with your child/children, it could lead to increased safe behaviors and decreases in walking-related deaths and injuries. Remember every day you take is a teachable moment. With your role walking habits as a guideline, your child/children will be on their way to having safe walking habits for themselves.

Here are a few basic safety behaviors you can role model for your child/children:

- BE AWARE**  
Engage your child by pointing out different hazards and obstacles and discuss safe actions to take.
- STEP TO THE SIDE**  
If you have to call or text, move out of the way of others and step on the sidewalk in a safe place.
- FOLLOW THE LAW**  
Obey the traffic signs and signals of all times.
- CHOOSE YOUR ROUTE**  
Plan and discuss the route.
- EYES ON THE DRIVER**  
Always eye contact with drivers (or people bicycling, riding scooters, etc.) at the intersection before stepping off the curb. Explain to your child/children to do the same.
- CROSS CAREFULLY**  
Stop, look all four ways and slow down before crossing. Always, always, always and please let someone and have your child/children do this with you.
- PHONE AWAY**  
Never text or talk on the phone when you are walking.
- MUSIC OFF**  
Do not walk with headphones or earbuds in your ears.

### Parent's Role in Keeping Children Safe

While driving, practice safe behaviors when your children are in the car by making sure to:

- FOLLOW THE LAW**  
Obey the speed limit and obey all traffic signs.
- GO WITH THE FLOW**  
Obey school drop-off and pick-up procedures.
- STOP FOR PEOPLE**  
Yield to all people using the crosswalks.
- PARK LEGALLY**  
Don't double park, don't crosswalks or park in residential alleyways and parking lot driveway or teacher parking lots.
- LOOK BEHIND YOU**  
Watch for children walking to school when backing out of a driveway or a parking spot.
- STAY FOCUSED**  
Limit distractions while driving, including your phone, food, texting and interactions with passengers.
- GIVE RESPECT. GET RESPECT**  
Be respectful to other passengers, including and walking.





★ Safe Routes to School

# **Kick Start Grants**



# Kick Start Grant Communities



## Dighton

- Bike rodeo
- Bike and helmet fit check
- Over 150 students participated



## St. George

- Walk with a Cop
- Pedestrian Safety Lesson
- ~400 students participated



## Mission

- Bike safety event at Rushton Elementary
- Participated in the national Walk, Bike, Roll to School Event
- 30 students learned how to ride!



## Topeka

- Randolph Elementary Bike Train
- Bike rodeo/traffic garden
- Coloring contest

## Johnson City

- Transportation safety presentation
- Activity books and stickers
- Handed out 50 bike helmets



## Johnson City



## Moundridge

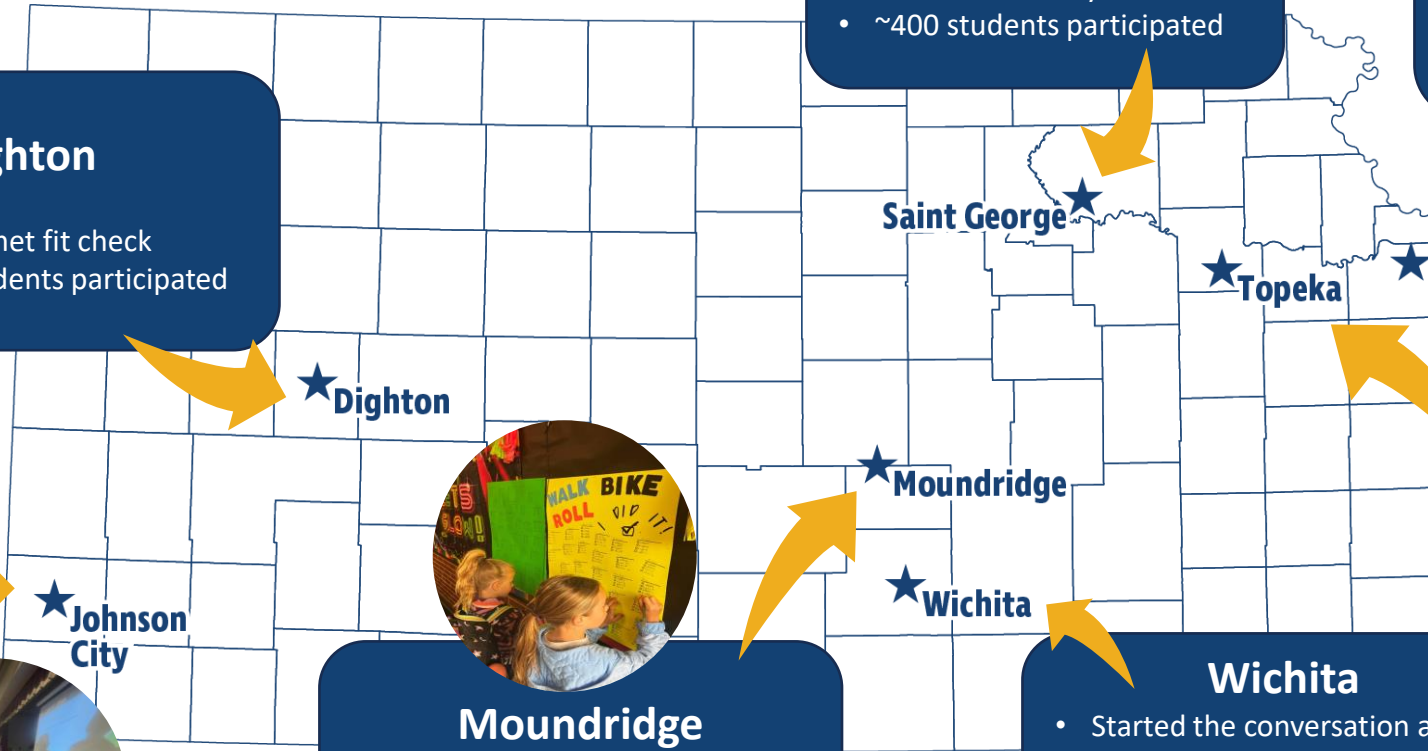
- Glow walks
- Walking school buses
- Bicycle education event

## Saint George

## Wichita

## Wichita

- Started the conversation about transportation options at Isley Elementary
- Handed out over 600 safety activity





# Walk, Bike, Roll Moundridge

2023-2024



# Who we are and why we applied



- Becky King (along with Betsy Davis, our spouses, and 5 kids combined)
- Moundridge has a population of around 2,000 and a district enrollment of 497 students in grades preK-12. The entire town sits within a 1.5 mile diameter.



# Who we are and why we applied



- We are passionate about getting more people active in walking and biking to school and were looking for ways to encourage active transportation in our community.
- We began leading weekly “Glow Walks” in the fall of 2023
- We heard about and attended the Alternative Transportation Summit in McPherson in September. There we heard about the KDOT grants and decided to apply in order to continue our efforts.



# Glow Walk Fridays

- Jan-May 2024 we led First Friday “Glow Walks”



- October-December 2023 we led “Glow Walks” every Friday from 4 meeting locations around town



Local businesses on our routes supported the walks by providing treats like Hot Chocolate and Donuts





Our largest and by far most enthusiastic group of walkers was the Daycare kids, joined by many parents, staff, and students who met at the daycare and walked with us (including our City Administrator)





A spring Bike Safety event at our library included education, free helmets, and a bike mechanic to check basic bike safety maintenance.





# Walk, Bike, Roll Blitz May 8-17

## Walk, Bike, Roll Blitz

May 8-17, 2024



May 8

Bicycle Train  
meet @ Pack Park  
7:35 am

May 8-17

walk or bike at least 4  
days to earn prizes!

May 17

Homemade Ice Cream Party  
3:20-4:30 pm  
West Zion Mennonite Church



**Kansas**  
Safe Routes to School

If you walk or bike **FOUR** or  
more days

May 8-17 you will earn...

- A bike light set
- A ticket to the bicycle pedaler  
homemade ice cream party after  
school on Friday May 17 at West  
Zion Menn. Church 3:20-4:30 pm



Live out of town but still want to  
participate? Consider a short walk to school.  
-- Park at the MKC Training Center on  
Hirschler and walk/bike to MES from there.  
-- Park or drop off at Greer and walk to  
MS/HS from there.



# May 8 National Bike to School Day Blitz Kickoff!!!





# Walk, Bike, Roll Blitz May 8-17





# Blitz Ice Cream Party after school May 17

Included bicycle pedal power homemade ice cream.





# What we Learned

- If you plan, lead, and communicate well, they will come!
- Once things work well, community members look forward them to continuing
- Parents & students are interested in walking and biking to school but safety is a major concern.
- Planning, communicating, and leading well planned events takes a LOT of time...and...it's totally worth it!





# Things that surprised us

- It's really hard to convince rural cyclists that helmet wearing is important. Like REALLY hard!!
- Parents liked riding bike to school with their kids and continued to do so throughout and even after the blitz ended.
- The sheer number of bike to school day participants was shocking (and a little overwhelming). We had over 75 people participating in our Bike Train on May 8th.





# The best part of SRTS in Moundridge

- A clear & consistent increase in walking/biking to school
- The excitement & desire to participate in events





# Our next steps

- We have a \$4,000 local grant to continue our SRTS efforts.
- Continue monthly walk and bike to school days as well as another blitz event at the beginning & end of the school year.
- Advocating for pedestrian infrastructure at the city level
- We are working with our school to advocate changing some parking and drop off formats in favor of smoother biking and walking drop off and pick up
- Making “Safety Incentives” in cooperation with local businesses to be handed out by police, teachers, and myself when bicyclists are seen wearing helmets.

**BIKE BUS**

**AUGUST 22-30**

ADULT LED

To & From school  
North & South Routes

Join along the route  
Helmets encouraged

Confident 2 wheeled cyclists

**M**  
MOUNDRIDGE  
WILDCATS

Take a Ride on the Wild-Cat side

**Kansas**  
Safe Routes to School





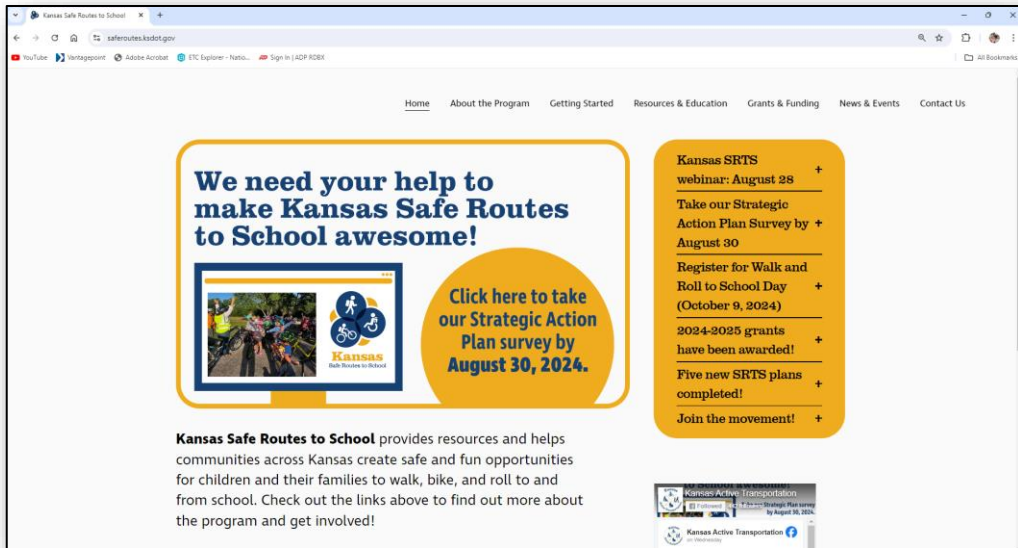
# Advisory Committee

- Two meetings
- 17 members
- Representatives from schools, KDOT, public health, advocacy groups, law enforcement, and more!





# Communications



website



Facebook



quarterly e-newsletter



## Kansas Safe Routes to School Newsletter Fall 2023

We're so excited to bring you the Kansas Department of Transportation's (KDOT) first Safe Routes to School e-newsletter! KDOT's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program has been around for a while, but we are giving it a refresh and introducing some new resources for the 2023–2024 school year — including quarterly newsletters like this!

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Read on to learn what's happening now, coming up, and going on around Kansas.



Students work together to create Safe Routes maps for their school

### BIG NEWS Planning & Programming grants available now!

For the first time, KDOT will award Planning and Programming (P&P) grants to communities, schools, organizations, and/or individuals that need a SRTS plan or seed funding to start up a project that encourages more students to walk, bike, or roll to school. The application period is currently open and goes through November 17, 2023. No match required! Find more information and apply on the [Kansas SRTS Resources page](#).

Check out the website, become our friend, and sign up for the newsletter at [saferoutes.ksdot.gov](https://saferoutes.ksdot.gov)





# What's Next?

# Kansas

Safe Routes to School



# We need your help to make Kansas Safe Routes to School awesome!



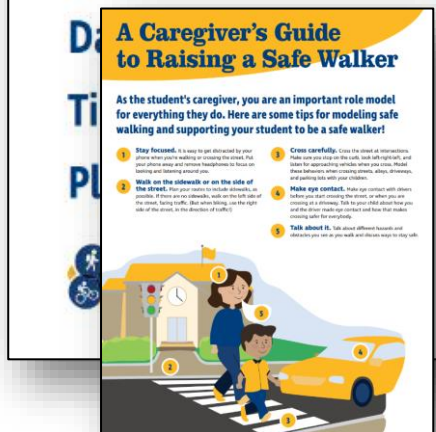
**Kansas**  
Safe Routes to School

Take our Strategic Plan survey  
by September 30, 2024.

[tinyurl.com/  
KDOT-SRTS-survey](https://tinyurl.com/KDOT-SRTS-survey)



# Walk and Roll to School Day – October 9th



KANSAS SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL • 2024 INTERNATIONAL WALK & ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY TOOLKIT

## Social Media Posts

Social media is a great way to reach students, teachers, and the broader community quickly and frequently. We've put together instructions and a few sample posts that you can use to promote your event. We suggest using them on your school or personal social media accounts.

Spread the word!

### How to Post

- Download images from [www.saferoutes.ksdot.gov](http://www.saferoutes.ksdot.gov) and save images to your desktop.
- Log on to your social media site such as Facebook, Instagram, or X.
- Copy and past the sample post text into your status update, or create your own message that includes the #walkandroll2024 and #WR2SD hashtags.
- Upload the image you saved to your desktop to accompany your status update.
- Post your status update!

#### Sample Posts

**KANSAS Walk & Roll TO SCHOOL DAY**

Sign up to volunteer for Walk and Roll to School Day!

One week until Walk and Roll to School Day!

**Volunteer Recruitment Post Post September 3-7**  
[Your school] is hosting a Walk and Roll to School Day event on October 9th and we need your help make the event fun, safe, and easy. Sign up [here/link] to help at the event and encourage walking, biking, and rolling at [school]!

**Week Before Event Post on October 2**  
One week to go! [School] will be holding their Walk and Roll to School Day events next week. The celebration will start at [time] so make sure to walk, bike, or roll over early to join the fun. See you next week!

Walk and Roll to School Day is coming up!

Get ready to walk, bike, or roll to school on Wednesday!

**Pre-Event Post Post between September 16-20**  
We're excited to host Walk and Roll to School Day on Wednesday, Oct 9 with @KansasActiveTransportation! Join us by walking, biking, or rolling to school and receive fun giveaways! #walkandroll2024 #WR2SD

**Monday Before the Event Post on October 7**  
Walk and Roll to School Day is this Wednesday! Make sure to show up a bit early to celebrate walking, biking, and rolling with the [school name] community!

## Event Description

### International Walk and Roll to School Day

(WR2SD) is an annual one-day event held by schools across the world to encourage students, caregivers, and the school community to walk, roll, or use other active modes of transportation to get to school. This year, the event will be held on **Wednesday, October 9, 2024**.

**Purpose of this Toolkit**  
The purpose of this toolkit is to help school champions, staff, volunteers, or parents plan and prepare for WR2SD! Keep reading to learn more about scheduling, promoting the event, and implementing fun and creative ideas to make your WR2SD a success!

WR2SD events don't need to be large and elaborate. Some schools start their first year with a big event and then it becomes smaller over time as students get used to walking and rolling more. Other schools have small-scale celebrations their first year that grow into the future. This toolkit presents all sorts of tips and options to plan a WR2SD. Feel free to use the parts and pieces that make the most sense for your school community!

**WR2SD should be welcoming and accessible to all students. That could mean making sure bus routes and kids who live further away have a way to be involved in the celebration (especially for rural schools), confirming that any promoted walking routes are ADA accessible, and/or using transitional materials. Find out more about how to make your event inclusive at [www.saferoutes.ksdot.gov/learn-more](http://www.saferoutes.ksdot.gov/learn-more)!**

**Celebrate and Encourage Walking and Rolling to School**  
Walking and rolling to school benefits students, families, and communities in a variety of ways.

- Creates safer environments around schools.
- Reduces transportation-related CO2 emissions.
- Reduces morning traffic congestion around schools.
- Helps students achieve 60 minutes of daily exercise, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control.

## Event Timeline

Here's a suggested timeline to help you plan and promote your event. This can be customized to the needs of your school and the scale of the event you have planned.

### 1 month before event

- Form a WR2SD committee to help plan the event
- Check with school officials about holding the event and confirm the date/time
- Register for WR2SD with the Kansas SRTS Program at [saferoutes.ksdot.gov](http://saferoutes.ksdot.gov) to get information and resources
- Start recruiting volunteers using the school newsletter, social media, and word of mouth
- Post about the event in the school newsletter and social media
- Ask local businesses, city or school officials, and/or organizations (e.g. police department, high school band) if they would like to participate in the event

### 1-2 weeks before event

- Continue to recruit volunteers, as needed
- Reassignly post about the event on social media
- Map out and/or confirm any Walking School Bus or Bike Train routes
- Remind your community via newsletters/website
- Hang up banners or posters, and/or distribute flyers
- Confirm with administration and custodial workers that the school will be open early and request a table and chair in advance
- Send a last reminder to volunteers and others that will be participating in the event

### 1 day before event

- Post a reminder about the event on social media
- Check and confirm set up with admin and custodial staff

### Day of event

- Show up at least 30 minutes before the activities begin to welcome volunteers and get the event set up
- Create a festive environment with music, decorations, sidewalk chalk, etc.
- Set up a greeting table and media chart

### During and after event

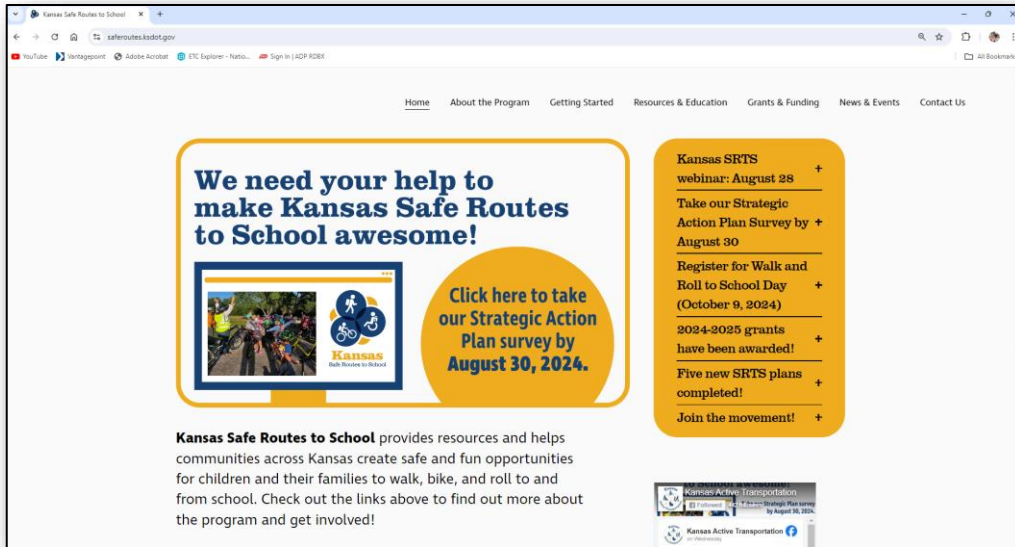
- Instruct students to stick a sticker dot under how they traveled to school on the media chart
- Hand out giveaways to students
- Take photos! Remember to be respectful of school photo policies
- Have fun and celebrate your success
- Post photos and fun stories to social media

done!

Register today at [www.saferoutes.ksdot.gov](http://www.saferoutes.ksdot.gov)



# Stay in the know



website



Facebook



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quarterly  
e-newsletter

Check out the website, become our friend, and sign up for the newsletter at [saferoutes.ksdot.gov](https://saferoutes.ksdot.gov)



Contact Information:  
Ann Katt , SRTS Coordinator  
[Ann.Katt@ks.gov](mailto:Ann.Katt@ks.gov)  
Office: (785) 296-3873  
Cell: (785) 220-0413  
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**Kansas**  
Safe Routes to School



# Q&A

**Ann Katt**

[Ann.katt@ks.gov](mailto:Ann.katt@ks.gov)

**Becky Horst King (Moundridge)**

[becky.horst.king@gmail.com](mailto:becky.horst.king@gmail.com)

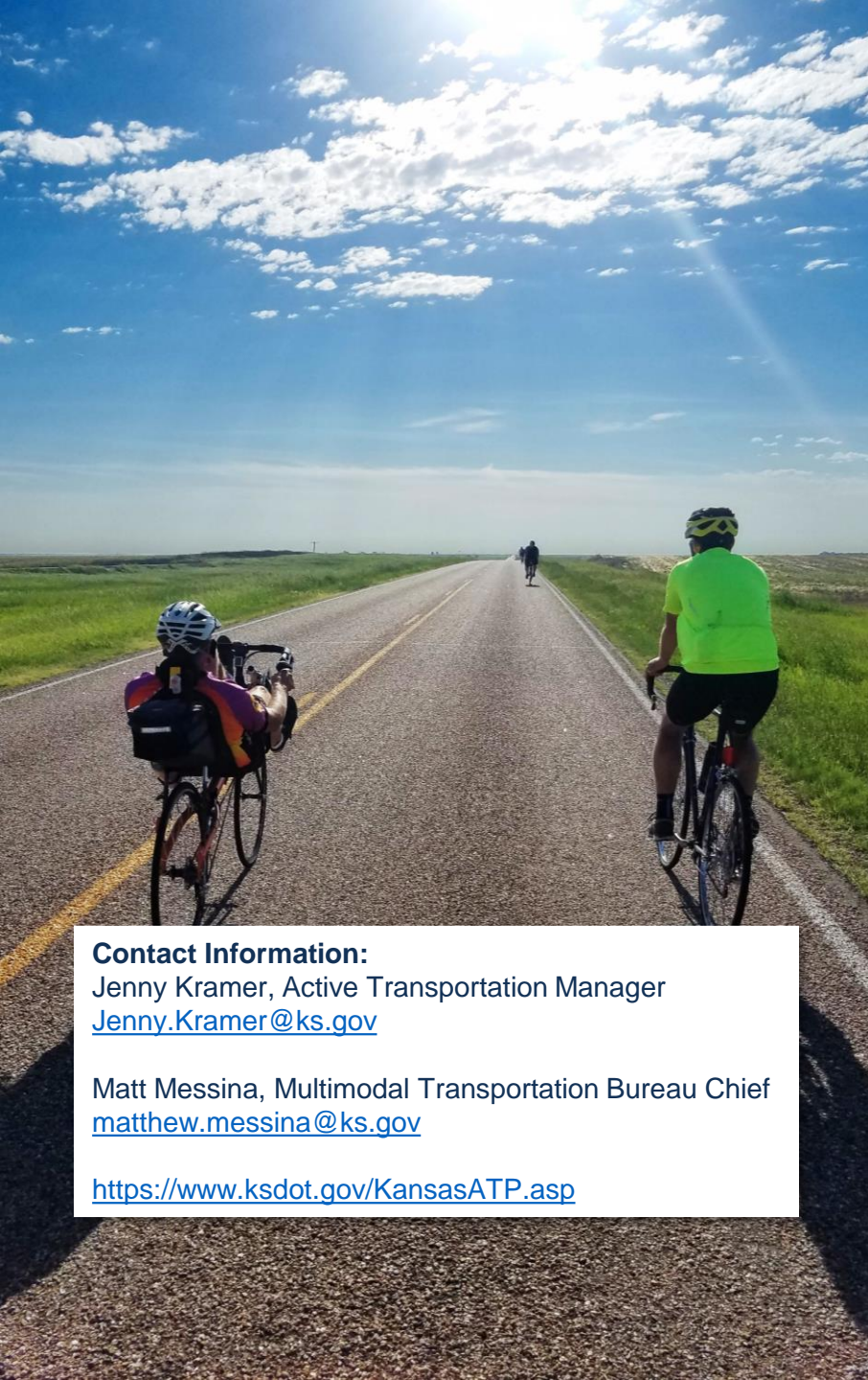
**Laura Moore**

[lmoore@parsonsk.com](mailto:lmoore@parsonsk.com)

**Joan Vitt (Parsons)**

[jvitt@parsonsk.com](mailto:jvitt@parsonsk.com)





# WALK BIKE ROLL KANSAS



## VIRTUAL SERIES



# Thank you!

Virtual Walk Bike Roll Virtual Series

Next Session: **Walk Bike Roll Rural: Active Transportation Success Stories from Small Kansas Communities**

October 23 at 2:00 PM

**Contact Information:**

Jenny Kramer, Active Transportation Manager  
[Jenny.Kramer@ks.gov](mailto:Jenny.Kramer@ks.gov)

Matt Messina, Multimodal Transportation Bureau Chief  
[matthew.messina@ks.gov](mailto:matthew.messina@ks.gov)

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