Safe Routes to School Task Force Meeting

September 10, 2026

SRTS Task Force's Objectives

The SRTS Task Force is a space to share information and ideas, engage the community, partner on events and activities, and support schools and school districts in the implementation of the strategy

- **Roles**
  - Define and collaborate on objectives, goals, and milestones for the Menlo Park SRTS program
  - Help organize or support different tasks and activities
  - Be a liaison to share information and market the program to your school community

SRTS Contact Information

- Casandra Cortez, Associate Transportation Planner, City of Menlo Park

- Contact information:
  - cncortez@menlopark.gov
  - saferoutestoschool@menlopark.gov

Agenda

1. Introductions and school updates/priorities
2. SRTS program updates
3. Traffic and safety updates
4. City project updates
5. Next meeting

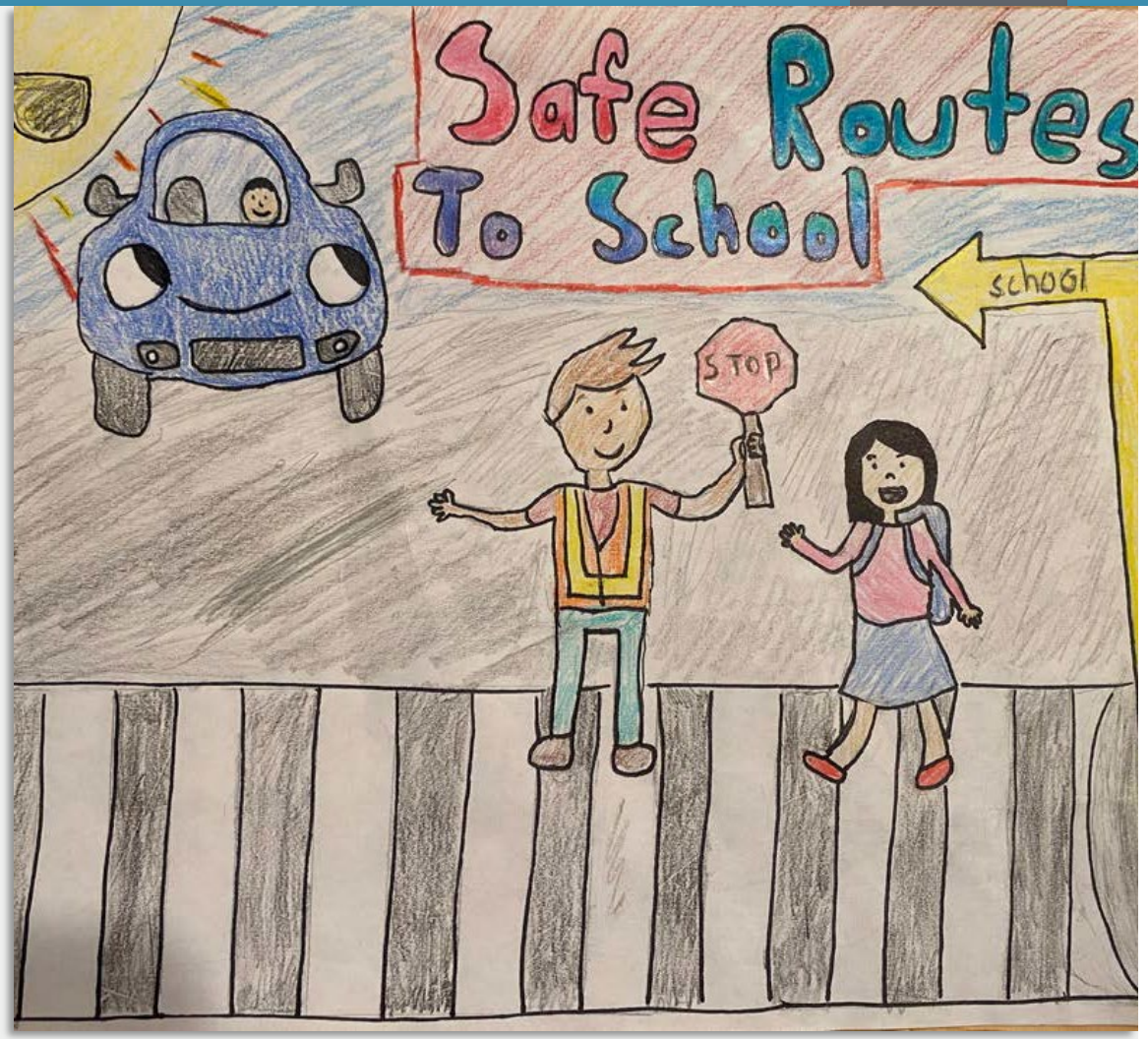


Image from the 2024-2025 SRTS Poster Contest

1) Introductions, School Updates, and Priorities

Introductions, School Updates, and Priorities

- **Introduce** yourself with your name and your agency/organization
- **Share** school updates and priorities
  - Ongoing or current education and encouragement
  - Priorities related to school travel and transportation safety
  - SRTS Champions at your school
  - Your school's SRTS opportunities, needs, and more
  - **Any changes from last year's SRTS Program?**
  - **Any initial ideas for International Walk to School Day or Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day?**

2) SRTS Program Updates

SRTS Program Updates

Back to school outreach

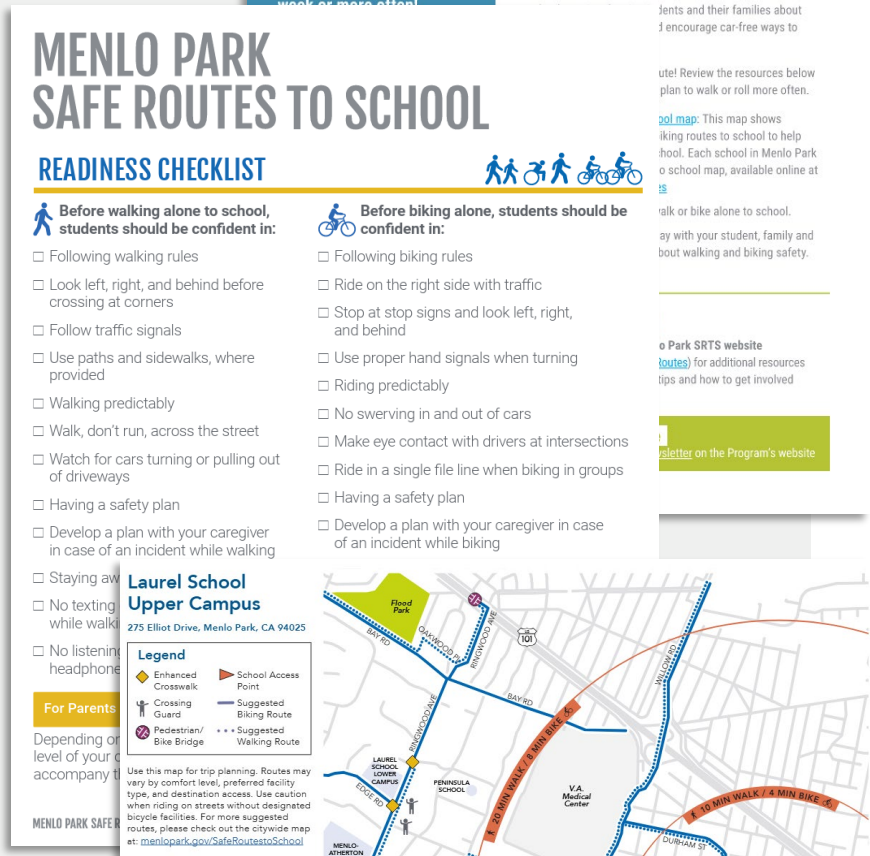
- **Share information with families and students!**
  - Back to school letter to parents and caregivers
  - Readiness checklist to walk or bike alone to school
  - Your school's suggested routes to school map
    - Recent updates to Laurel Lower, Laurel Upper, Belle Haven Elementary, and Oak Knoll

  - Back to School Safe Routes to School Toolkit from SMCOE


PARENTS:
HOW WILL YOU TRAVEL TO SCHOOL THIS YEAR?
TRY THE ABC WAY!

This year, challenge your family by traveling the ABC (Anything-But-Car) way regularly. It can be once a month, once a

Back-to-school time is the perfect period to build new habits. We encourage students to walk, roll, bike, and ride the bus to and from their school. Using these transportation options helps create healthier neighborhoods, less traffic congestion, a stronger sense of community, safer streets, and improved accessibility.


MENLO PARK
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

READINESS CHECKLIST

Before walking alone to school, students should be confident in:

- ☐ Following walking rules
- ☐ Look left, right, and behind before crossing at corners
- ☐ Follow traffic signals
- ☐ Use paths and sidewalks, where provided
- ☐ Walking predictably
- ☐ Walk, don't run, across the street
- ☐ Watch for cars turning or pulling out of driveways
- ☐ Having a safety plan
- ☐ Develop a plan with your caregiver in case of an incident while walking

Before biking alone, students should be confident in:

- ☐ Following biking rules
- ☐ Ride on the right side with traffic
- ☐ Stop at stop signs and look left, right, and behind
- ☐ Use proper hand signals when turning
- ☐ Riding predictably
- ☐ No swerving in and out of cars
- ☐ Make eye contact with drivers at intersections
- ☐ Ride in a single file line when biking in groups
- ☐ Having a safety plan
- ☐ Develop a plan with your caregiver in case of an incident while biking

Laurel School
Upper Campus
275 Elliot Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025

Legend
Enhanced Crosswalk
School Access Point
Crossing Guard
Suggested Biking Route
Pedestrian/ Bike Bridge
Suggested Walking Route

Use this map for trip planning. Routes may vary by comfort level, preferred facility type, and destination access. Use caution when riding on streets without designated bicycle facilities. For more suggested routes, please check out the citywide map at: menlopark.gov/SafeRoutestoSchool

The following alternate versions of this map are also available:
Accessible text description
Spanish version

LAUREL SCHOOL UPPER CAMPUS
ELLIOTT DR
OAK CT
O'CONNOR ST

SRTS Program Updates

Back to school outreach

- **Parent or staff SRTS volunteer recruitment**
  - Please let me know who your staff and/or parent champion will be for this school year!
    - Improve communications by acting as a liaison between the City and your school
    - With partnership from the City, help organize and support SRTS activities
    - Represent your school at the SRTS Task Force
  - There can be more than one person identified and can be a mix of staff/parents/caregivers

SRTS Program Updates

Fall activities for the 2026-27 school year

- Student hand tally data
  - More information to come
- International Walk to School Day
  - Wednesday, October 7, 2026
- Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day
  - Anticipated to be observed Wednesday, November 18, 2026

SRTS Program Updates

Coordinating with parent newsletters

- City of Menlo Park resources
  - SRTS newsletter
  - Monthly email newsletter to increase communications to keep parents, children, and residents in the know
- San Mateo County of Education SRTS newsletter
- Individual and citywide walk and roll maps
  - Most up to date
- Requesting content or resources from staff

SRTS Program Updates

Hillview Practice Ride

- Around 60 people participated in the annual Hillview Practice Ride!
- This practice ride, hosted by Parent Champions, allow students to practice riding to Hillview Middle School before the start of the school year







SRTS Program Updates

Traffic garden installation at Las Lomitas Elementary School

- In coordination with SMCOE and Alta, the Menlo Park SRTS program, Las Lomitas Elementary School, and several Safe Routes volunteers installed a traffic garden
  - **Thank you volunteers!**









3) Traffic and Safety Updates

4) City Project Updates

City Project Updates

- Coleman Ave. Pilot Project presented to City Council to make the Pilot permanent on Sept. 15
- Oak Ave./Oak Knoll Ln. and Sharon Rd./Eastridge Ave. intersection improvements
- Bay Rd. and Pierce Rd. resurfaced, including a bike lane on Pierce Rd.
- Slow Streets program implementation on Elder Ave.

Safe Routes Task Force Meetings

- Thursday, December 10th at 9 AM
- Thursday, March 11th at 9 AM
- Thursday, June 10th at 9 AM

Thank you!