

SafeRoutes

National Center for Safe Routes to School



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

**Dan Allison, 775-997-4937,
srts.carson@gmail.com**



Carson City School District to launch Safe Routes to School Program

Carson City, Nevada – In an effort to encourage and enable Carson City's children to walk and bike to school, Carson City School District will launch its Safe Routes to School Program on October 8, 2008, with Walk to School Day events occurring at Al Seeliger and Mark Twain Elementary Schools.

Four grants from the Nevada Department of Transportation will fund a part-time coordinator of the program, as well as specific projects at Al Seeliger Elementary, Fremont Elementary, and Bordewich Bray Elementary. The grants were written by Barbara Howe of the Board of Trustees of Carson City School District and Anne Macquarie of Muscle Powered, a local nonprofit that advocates for a bike and pedestrian friendly community.

Example projects include a walking Wednesday program and safe bike parking areas at all three schools, traffic flow and safety improvements at Seeliger, bicycle helmets for Bordewich Bray students, and a mobile speed trailer shared by Fremont and Seeliger school zones.

Barbara Howe said, "I promised the public during my campaign to bring the "Safe Routes to Schools" program to CCSD. Getting these grant funds out to the schools has been an arduous task, so I am thrilled that walking and biking programs are finally being enhanced at our schools. We are fortunate to have a highly experienced Program Coordinator, Dan Allison, who is the perfect choice. His previous experience with programs, grants and non-profits, and that he is a substitute teacher for our district, so he already knows the program, the schools, the staff and the kids. Parents, please contact Dan and I with any concerns that hinder/stop you from allowing your child/ren to use non-motorized ways to get to school, as we want to build the program to address your specific concerns." Dan can be contacted at srts.carson@gmail.com or 775-997-4937.

Childhood obesity rates have more than tripled in the past 30 years, while the number of children walking and biking to school has declined. According to the 2001 National Household Travel Survey, less than 16 percent of students between the ages of 5 and 15 walked or biked to or from school, compared to 42 percent in 1969.

Through the 2005 passage of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), Congress designated a total of \$612 million toward developing the National Safe Routes to School Program.

For additional information, please visit these web sites:

National Center for Safe Routes to School
International Walk to School Day in the USA
Sierra Nevada Journeys
Muscle Powered

<http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/>
<http://www.walktoschool.org/>
<http://sierranevadajourneys.org/>
<http://musclepowered.org/>

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