Building Momentum for Youth Biking: Bike Buses, Bike Trains, and Bike & Roll to School Day

Nancy Pullen-Seufert  UNC Highway Safety Research Center
Sam Balto   Portland Public Schools
Megan Ramey   Hood River County School District
Housekeeping

- Submit your questions
- Webinar archive: www.pedbikeinfo.org/webinars
- Certificates and professional development hours
- Follow-up email later today
- Review previous episodes and sign up for upcoming sessions
Join us May 3, 2023!

Register today for Bike & Roll to School Day!
Washington, DC Mayor Bowser on Bike & Roll to School Day

Photo source: www.walkbiketoschool.org
• One-half of events part of ongoing promotion of walking/biking to school

• In 2022, 75% motivated by building a sense of neighborhood

Photo source: www.walkbiketoschool.org
Register today for Bike & Roll to School Day!
Bike Bus
...just riding on vibes!!

Sam Balto - PE Teacher
Walking School Bus & Bike Bus Specialist
Twitter, TikTok, Linktree: @CoachBalto
CoachBalto@gmail.com
The State of Student Transportation:

“The percentage of students walking or biking to school has decreased dramatically over time, from 42 percent in 1969 to only 10 percent in 2017.”

-Why, and How, Kids Should Walk or Bike to School by Bonnie O’Keefe
There is too much traffic for Billy to walk to school; so we drive him.
60 MINUTES

Physical Education

Physical Activity During School
Physical Activity Before and After School
Staff Involvement
Family and Community Engagement

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAM
Join the movement!!!
What is the bike bus?
Building a successful Bike Bus program

1) Find another family to do it with.

2) Make a map with meeting times and share it with everyone. Be inclusive and welcoming.

3) Be consistent. Our bike bus has had consistent growth because we are consistent and students/families can plan for it.

4) Just do it. Even if it’s a three-block ride, that is amazing. You have to start somewhere and build support.
Picking a Bike Bus route:
Bike Bus route with student map:
Alameda Bike Bus Every Wednesday

New Location!

A 8:10am-
NE Shaver & NE 37th or
NE 53rd & NE Klickitat

B 8:15am-
NE Alameda & NE Klickitat

C 8:25am-
Alameda School

Email Coach Balto with any questions or concerns @ sbalto@pps.net
Be consistent
“Bikes provide a sense of freedom and joy that I was not expecting,” said teacher Sam Balto, who leads a caravan of kids to school in Portland, Ore.

These kids ride a ‘bike bus’ to school. Residents line the streets and cheer.
BERGEN BIKE BUS

ROCKAWAY AVE TO COURT ST
EVERY WEDNESDAY, 7:15-8AM
(RAIN OR SHINE!!)

BICYCLE BUS

DATE: 22nd January
TIME: 6:00 am - 7:30 am
LOCATION: Academic Heights Public School & Bachpan School, Madhapur.
Contact: 9618755500

CHIEF GUEST:
Ms. K Shilpavalli (IPS), Deputy Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad.

An Initiative By
Bicycle Mayor Of Hyderabad - Santhana Selvan
#CyclingCommunityOfHyderabad
RAVE: 97017 44814 | ANJANI: 79813 23770

BARCELONA BIKE BUS SUMMIT 2023
30th - 31st March 2023
A global collective of leaders in sustainable and active transit for children

Bike Bus Brazil is starting with a handful of kids in a few São Paulo city neighborhoods.

folha.uol.com.br
Pais criam bonde das bikes para levar crianças à escola - 04/03/2023 - Coti...
Iniciativa com alunos acompanhados de adultos busca reduzir uso carro e ampliar vivência da cidade de São Paulo; veja dicas de segurança.
Just do it!!
Let's talk policy!

Four truths:

1) Children & cars aren’t friends.

2) It is inequitable or unsustainable to rely on people to volunteer.

3) Induced demand works in all aspects of our lives.

4) We can do hard things. If we had political will to demolish entire neighborhoods to build highways, we can make streets safe for children to walk and bike to school.
Bike Bus Bill- HB 3014

Oregon mulls ‘bike bus bill’ to fund alternative transportation to school

Updated: Mar. 06, 2023, 7:01 a.m. | Published: Mar. 06, 2023, 7:00 a.m.

Alameda Elementary School students participate in a bike bus on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 in Portland. Vickie Connor/The Oregonian

Bike buses could expand at Oregon schools if lawmakers pass proposed bill

Amanda Arden

Students gather for the start of a ride with the Alameda Bike Bus. Kids from Alameda Elementary School are invited to ride their bikes together to school once a week with adults volunteering to supervise. Photo courtesy Sam Balto

‘Bike Bus Bill’ would give school districts more flexibility with transportation funding

February 14, 2023 by Taylor Griggs (Staff Writer)
The Bike Train: when kids’ visual presence reminds us what matters

Megan Ramey
Safe Routes to School Manager
Hood River County School District
Megan

- Safe Routes to School Manager
- Founder of Bikabout.com
- Board Member, Columbia Area Transit
- ODOT Active Transportation Rep for Region 1: 4 counties of metro-Portland
Why I’m Passionate
“Many kids go to neighborhood schools on foot and by themselves, that’s quite typical...Roads and street networks are designed for kids to walk in a safe manner,” Hironori Kato, a professor of transportation planning at the University of Tokyo. via Time, April 22, 2022.
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<td>How the bike train was born in Hood River, Oregon</td>
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Hood River, population 9,000
The Hood River Bike Train is a Covid silver lining story.

Choo choo
Principal Kelly takes a chance on me
National Walk & Roll to School Day, October 2020

Megan Ramey @BIKABOUT · Oct 9, 2020
102 kids and parents took a break from distance learning to ride in 2 bike trains 🛴 for #biketoschoolday and I was the conductor!

When in-person school is safe again, we need to make this happen every day

#hoodriver @SafeRoutesPNW
Bike Train Shines a Light

The simple act of walking/biking/rolling your kids to school will forever change how you see our “shared” spaces. The imbalance and absurdity of it all is shocking.

4:47 AM · Mar 2, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

348 Retweets 25 Quote Tweets 2,702 Likes
Bike Train Shows Us A Better Way
Route Planning: Barriers to Overcome?
Recruiting Volunteers
Volunteer Mindset
Be a shepherd and take deep breaths.

Learn Kids’ Names
Get parents’ contact info. Partner with PTO & School in communications

Be Ted Lasso
Wide spectrum of personalities. Listen and help.

Schedule
Stick to schedule and alter seasonally, if needed. Use SignUp for volunteers.

Roll Wit It
Mechanicals, weather, wardrobe, crashes...sh*t happens. Treat kids like your own.

Liability
Parent-lead program. Schools treats program the same as students who walk or bike.
Won $20,000 grant from ODOT

Expand Bike Train
Grow and add walking bus

Safety Rodeo
Add biking and walking curriculum to PE

Free Bikes 4 Kids
Donate used bikes to underserved kids and their parents

A Bike Train Sparks Change
PBIC Mar 2023
Bike Rodeos

A Bike Train Sparks Change

PBIC Mar 2023

FUTURE IMPACT NUTS & BOLTS GENESIS

Top 5 places kids want to ride their bikes to:
1. Parks/playground
2. Friend’s house
3. Library
4. Pool
5. Food/Retail - Dairy Queen, Starbucks, Subway, grocery, Walmart

* according to Kindergartners and 5th graders that I am teaching how to ride this week

7:53 PM · Mar 26, 2022 from Hood River, OR · Twitter for Android

28 Retweets 21 Quote Tweets 310 Likes
100 Bikes Donated!

Students and families in need received bikes through a partnership with Anson’s Bike Buddies, our Free Bikes 4 Kidz program.
Sell Leadership on Bikes

Mayor Kate rode with the bike train, rode on an e-bike policymakers ride and bought an e-bike the next day.
Hood River City Council adopted SRTS Plan and won the $100K ODOT Education Grant!

8 schools in the Hood River School District have a dedicated SRTS manager for 2022-2024

Supported by 9 agencies: City, County, Fire, Police, PTO, Health, Parks
Ramey named Safe Routes to School manager

By Stephanie Hoppe
HRCSD communications director

After receiving the Oregon Department of Education (ODOT) Safe Routes to School grant in June, Megan Ramey was named the manager of the program for Hood River County School District (HRCSD). Ramey is the mother of a HRCSD student and is an advocate for safe routes to school.

“I am really passionate about kids walking, rolling and biking to school, giving them childhood independence, health and a sense of place,” Ramey said. “Providing mobility education to our Hood River County students while helping our city, county and parks district build sidewalks, Routes to School Education grant funding the position awarded to Ramey. Moving

When in-person school resumed in March 2021, Beard asked Ramey to “con-

law and etiquette and 50 students received free bikes through the program. For the

Megan Ramey teaching bike safety at Mid Valley Elementary earlier this year.
Contributed photo
Advocacy for Safer Streets

A Better Heights
Rendering of 12th Street, design alternative #3
If your cycling infrastructure isn’t good enough for them, it isn’t good enough.
14% of Middle School Parents said they would let their kids walk or bike to school, despite saying they strongly support safe walking or biking access to school. -2018 Safe Routes to School survey

41% of Middle School students eligible for free or reduced lunch
School Club & Demonstration

$20,000 program funded by ODOT Safety Grant

August-October 2023

A Bike Train Sparks Change

PBIC Mar 2023
80s Walk & Roll Club

**Free to Join**

Bikes and helmets provided or students can BYO Bike.
Details & Sign-ups 5th or QR code below:

http://www.80swalkroll.com

**When:**

4 pm - 7 pm, Mon & Fri.

**Where:**

Send Rain: Rain Middle School

**Facts:***

for 5th-8th graders, inspired by 80s movies and Stranger Things, we’ll explore town by bike and feet to your favorite places. Also includes bike shop class, street design, and a Biker’s Ed License.

80s Walk & Roll Club

**A Bike Train Sparks Change**

PBIC Mar 2023
Demonstration at Middle School

1. Crossbike
2. New Crosswalk
3. ADA Ramp
4. 2-way bikeway
5. Stop Sign/Bar
Demonstration at Middle School

Looking east at 18th and May

Before

AFTER

Rendered by Transform Your City

PBIC Mar 2023
Inspiration

Active Towns on Youtube

2 videocasts on my story and Sam Balto to get inspired about starting a bike train or walking bus at your school
Thanks!

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@bikabout

A Bike Train Sparks Change
PBIC Mar 2023

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