

Policies and procedures

Schools and school districts encourage walking and biking to or at school through various policies. These policies may work to promote physical activity or go as far as promoting efforts to increase walking and biking to school and make it safer to get to school on foot or by bike. In this chapter you will find some examples of policy language used throughout the state that you can introduce in your community. In addition you can learn more about crossing guards and how to manage dropoff and pickup at school to make accessing the school safer for those walking or biking.

Snapshot: Embedding SRTS Recommendations into the Cornelius Bicycle Plan

The town of Cornelius has three public schools serving kindergarten through 8th grade students in northern Mecklenburg County. In 2015, when the Town embarked on a NCDOT-funded Bicycle Plan, stakeholders recognized an opportunity to embed non-infrastructure-based Safe Routes to School-oriented policies and strategies into the more infrastructure-oriented Bicycle Plan. A partnership formed between the town's planning and public safety staff, the county public health department, the school district and each school, the NC Active Routes to School program, consultants and others to develop a Safe Routes to School Plan based around the needs of each individual school and its physical environment.

The SRTS Plan was completed late in 2015, and was embedded into the *Bike!Cornelius* Cornelius Bicycle Master Plan, which was adopted by the Town Board of Commissioners on January 3rd, 2017. Since then, town staff along with NCDOT and the Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Department have been using both planning tools to develop new bicycle routes, sidewalk connections and even greenway corridors that directly connect to the local schools—making it easier for students to get to and from school under their own power. The Town has also become a partner in Walk to School Day/Bike to School Day activities and a law enforcement agency partner in the NCDOT-supported Watch for Me NC program.

Former town planner Will Washam observed: “if we encourage families to safely bike, walk, and even carpool to all of our schools, this SRTS Plan will help us reduce vehicle miles traveled due to school trips, which improves air quality and promotes physical activity and healthy lifestyles. All of that is important to the quality of life of everyone who lives in Cornelius.”





BIKE!CORNELIUS

BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

Cornelius, North Carolina



PREPARED
AUGUST 2015 FOR



PREPARED BY





SRTS and Design Appendix

- *Safe Routes to School Supplement*
 - *Partnership with:*
 - *NC Active Routes To School*
 - *Mecklenburg County Health Department*
 - *CMS*
 - *Identifies strategies and programs to safely increasing walking and biking*
 - *Cornelius Elementary*
 - *J.V. Washam Elementary*
 - *Bailey Middle*
- *Design Guidelines*
 - *Comprehensive industry standards for bicycle facility design*
 - *Great tool for staff*

