

How to Speak up for Walking and Biking

YOUR ADVOCACY CHEAT-SHEET FOR TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY

Safe Routes to School

Every eight days in Tacoma, a child is hit by a car while walking or biking. These crashes occur most often in low-income areas where students are four times more likely to walk to school despite less access to safe transportation infrastructure like sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, and flashing beacons.¹

The recently-approved Tacoma Safe Routes to School Action Plan - created in partnership by the City of Tacoma, Tacoma Public School, the Puyallup Watershed Initiative, and community organizations - outlines a plan to promote safe and active transportation to school using a comprehensive, 6-E's approach (equity, education, encouragement, engineering, equity, and evaluation). The plan's Equity and Safety Needs Analysis prioritizes schools with the highest need.

Political commitment and community participation will be essential for SRTS to be effective. By implementing comprehensive Safe Routes to School programs, we can decrease the amount of children hit by cars in Tacoma while increasing the number of students safely walking, biking, or skating to school by 43% over the next five years.²



Why and Where?

> A child is hit by a car every 8 days in Tacoma while walking or biking

> These crashes disproportionately affect low income neighborhoods and communities of color

¹ Puyallup Watershed Initiative SRTS Report, pg. 1 <https://www.pwi.org>

² SRTS Action Plan, pg. 3 <http://cms.cityoftacoma.org/PublicWorks/SafeRoutes/SRTSActionPlan.pdf>



DOTG Advocacy Philosophies and Priorities: To advance the equity of all users of our local and regional transportation system, and specifically employees, students, and residents in downtown Tacoma. In accordance with our mission and vision, we aim to support measures which:

- Increase ease, efficiency, and accessibility
- Increase safety
- Increase connectivity
- Reflect the "green transportation hierarchy"
- Reinforce a compact, urban core

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