WINTER IS COMING

Take steps toward a better way

TV SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

1177 W State St Boise ID 83702

December 2019

Walkitbikeit.org

TRANSPORTATION ACCESS IS A CIVIL RIGHT

WHAT'S UP WITH SAFE ROUTES!

Treasure Valley Safe Routes to School has been rolling right along since we last sent out a newsletter, which was a bit ago! Highlights include the event in the picture above, the last day of school at Reed Elementary in Kuna, where we run a station during field day. We'll say it, because the kids do too, our station is the best, with scooters and bikes rolling through a maze of cones, throwing newspapers, and entering the circle of chaos before starting all over again.

2018-19 Events

We had several events this past school year and summer that really formed what we'll be up to in this next school year. The program acquired 12 bikes in August 2018, thanks to our partners at Idaho Mountain Touring. This changed how we were able to do rodeos, and also opened new opportunities for events we never thought possible. All of these events will continue this next school year, so if you're interested in being involved or starting something at your school, send us an email!

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ENJOY THIS ISSUE?

Feel free to share this newsletter with anyone who you think may find it useful.

SCHEDULE YOUR SCHOOL TODAY

We're scheduling for 2020 right now, give us a shout to get your in class lesson, rodeo, or walka-bout scheduled asap.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, IDEAS?

Contact Lisa Brady, editor

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Check out what we did:

- Saw 15,940 students
- Gave away 750 helmets 1200 light sets and 5,000 reflectors
- Continued Whitney and Hawthorne afterschool Bike Clubs
- 30 Bike Rodeos in schools and in the community
- 6 YMCA Bike Camps
- Assisted on youth on Youth Lobby Day for Child Pedestrian Safety Funding
- Visited 44 schools in West Ada School District
- Visited 36 schools in Boise School District
- Visited 15 schools in Nampa/Caldwell/Vallivue School District
- Participated in Walk/Bike to School Days

There's a lot more we did this past year, but those are some of the highlights. Our in class lessons and rodeos continue to increase in popularity as we shift our lessons to include all new types of micro mobility.

NEW STAFF MEMBER

The Treasure Valley Safe Routes to School team was stoked to welcome a new team member back in February of this year. Charlie Hill, pictured here showing us how to really carry a load, has been a great addition to the team!

In his own words:

Hello! I'm Charlie and I'm thrilled to be joining the Treasure Valley Safe Routes to School Team. I am a native of Columbia, Missouri, a small city that is home to the University of Missouri. Columbia is a great place to walk, ride a bike or be outdoors and I've been immersed in the outdoor and bike scene through jobs for a bike shop, an athletic events company and a Parks and Rec bicycle education program. I also lived in St. Louis, Missouri for three years where I was an instructor for a kids' mountain bike camp and worked for bike shops and co-ops. I also spent part of 2018 as a coordinator and driver for the Edward Jones Walk across America to End Alzheimer's. This job involved living in a RV and helping groups of participants traverse the distance between San Diego and St Louis at a rate of 20 miles a day, through the deserts of Arizona and the wilds of New Mexico. I've had a wide variety of experience that I would like to think will help me bring the joy of active transportation to kids and adults here in Boise! When I'm not riding my bike I enjoy traveling, camping and running with my girlfriend and my dog.

WELCOME CHARLIE! We're glad to have you with us!

WINTER SAFETY

Fall and winter bring us challenges whether we walk, bike, roll or drive and we all need to use extra caution when traveling.

Students still walk and bike, even when the weather turns, so here are a couple of tips to make sure you have a good trip to school:

Bike/Walk/Scooter:

- **Stay dry:** Dress in layers for warmth, wear a hat!
- **Be Visible:** Use lights on bikes and scooters and carry a flashlight if you're walking.
- **Be predictable**: make eye contact, make sure cars fully stop before crossing, bike in a straight line.
- **Watch for slippery spots**: built up snow, ice patches, and wet leaves, call can cause a fall; use caution and smaller steps when walking, slow down and keep your center of balance on bikes/scooters.

Driving:

- **Slow down:** School zones are full of kids and they can be unpredictable. Give them a brake! Plan for extra stop time on icy roads. That's called using Due Care.
- **Clear your windows before leaving the driveway:** We cannot emphasize this enough, make sure you can see, and not just through a little hole in the ice or snow. If we ask kids to make eye contact, they need to be able to be seen.
- **LOOK:** There are people everywhere, look for them, especially at school times.

We thank you for using caution when out on the road, no matter what you're doing. Safe Routes are for everyone.

SNOW DAYS

Winter brings a real challenge to all of us, but that doesn't mean we stop being safe. Sidewalks and bike lanes need attention, just like the regular roads, for our youth and older folks who may need access to a bus stop or have to walk/ride to school, employment, or services.

Bike lanes being blocked move riders outside of the bike lane, maybe for longer than just a few feet, many times in 35-40mph traffic. This is an issue year round, but compounded in the winter because of slick roads, fast driving, and lack of snow clearing from sidewalks and bike lanes.

Sidewalks can get snow piled up on them from plows, they can remain snow covered due to inability to shovel or lack of time. But this has an effect on the safety of people who are not inside of a car. Please, take the time to clear walkways! If you have elderly neighbors, reach out to help them. If you don't have time, many young people would like to earn a few $, so enlist them.

There's more to this for sure. Policies in place at the Ada County Highway District prevent bike lanes and sidewalks from being cleared right away. The City of Boise code enforcement for sidewalks is only effective if the resident/business can be reached.

We can help this by helping each other out. Grab a shovel and get those sidewalks cleared. THANKS!

E-SCOOTERS, CHANGING OUR PERCEPTION!

You have no doubt noticed a new way of getting around if you've been on the streets of Boise and Meridian in the last year. Shared E-scooters are a common sight, parked in neat rows, or disorderly piles. They've been called fun, a nuisance, in the way, and a great new way to get around. Here are some do's and don'ts to help you navigate this new micro mobility option.

Do:

- Slow down,
- Wear a helmet
- Call out when you pass a pedestrian
- Ride in the bike lane same direction as all other traffic

Don't:

- Park in a way that blocks pedestrian access
- Ride against traffic
- Ride double on a scooter, braking is difficult and it is dangerous.

WALKING THE WALK, ALWAYS

No matter what, we try to walk, bike, or carpool to any event we can. Our bikes have carried other bikes, helmets, and occasionally people! Our cars have been stuffed with bikes, helmets, and hundreds of cones and piece of chalk.

The moral of this short story is to say, all it takes to change a trip is to try. Walking school buses, bike trains, carpools, scooter brigades, these are all ways to add activity to a day, and have the added benefit of reducing motor vehicle traffic and increase air quality. A win for everyone! Reach out to us for best tips on any of these ideas, we'll be glad to help.

IS IT LEGAL, OR NOT?

Q: CAN I RIDE A BICYCLE, SCOOTER, OR SKATEBOARD ON THE SIDEWALK?

A: **YES**, UNLESS THERE IS A SIGN STATING OTHERWISE, OR A SCHOOL OR BUSINESS WITH A POLICY, IT IS LEGAL TO RIDE ON THE SIDEWALK. YOU MUST SLOW DOWN AND CALL OUT TO ANYONE YOU ARE PASSING, AND MUST OBEY ALL PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS.

A SPECIAL NOTE: WHEN RIDING ON THE SIDEWALK, USE CAUTION AT DRIVEWAYS AND INTERSECTIONS, MAKE SURE YOU LOOK FOR CARS!

*SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO US AND WE MIGHT FEATURE IT IN OUR NEWSLETTER!

SAFE ROUTES NATIONAL CONFERENCE

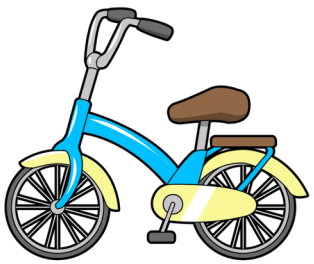
Every other year, Safe Routes to School Coordinators from across the country get together for a 2 day conference, sharing best practices, great stories, and hopes for the future. It's a great meeting and our team was lucky enough to join most of the rest of the Idaho SRTS team in Tampa, Florida. While the weather was a bonus, it really was a place to fill our cups and know that the work we are all doing, across the country, makes a huge difference in people's mobility.

Key Takeaways include:

- Including the youth voice in roadway decision making and place making
- Vision Zero matters. Leah Shahum, the Founder and Director of Vision Zero Network says it this way: " We cannot educate or enforce our way out of traffic death." And that our goal is " Safe Travel, Safe Streets, Safe Vehicles, Safe People."
- From Janis McDonald, City of Portland SRTS Organizer: "Strategic goal: No child is involved in a serious crash on the way to school or while accessing school activities."
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality is directly influenced by the work of SRTS programs, by encouraging no idle zones and using active transportation to get to school, employment, and services.

NEED TO SCHEDULE YOUR SCHOOL?

Reach out to us to schedule your classroom visit today. You can either call 208-344-5502 ext 291 or email saferoutes@ymcatvidaho.org and we'll provide dates and information for you and your students.



COMPLEX SIGN

We see these signs at crossings all over and started to wonder, can kids really understand?

Simple crossing signs are accessible to youth, non English speakers, and people with cognitive disabilities.

We don't disagree that this is useful, we just want to remind everyone that many people may not understand this type of sign.

Safe Routes for All!

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

POWERED BY THE TREASURE VALLEY FAMILY YMCA