IT'S FALL YA'LL!

Take steps toward a better way

TV SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

1177 W State St Boise ID 83702

Fall 2017

walkitbikeit.org

WALKING , BIKING AND HAVING FUN!

15th and Resseguie, North Junior High 10/2017

NOT JUST A DREAM ANYMORE

New RRFB flashers improve safety for students at North Junior High

For the last couple of years, a group of intrepid volunteers have been helping to slow traffic at 15th/Resseguie so North Junior High students can cross the street to their school. During this same time, one volunteer, Angela Rossman, gave voice to the need for a lighted crosswalk and increased student safety at this intersection. Thank you, Angela, for never giving up.

Historically, North Junior High has had the most pedestrian/bicycle incidents of all Boise Schools. SRTS has spent a lot of time addressing this issue with classes inside the school, light/reflector outreach, discussions with the Ada

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ENJOY THIS ISSUE?

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

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, IDEAS?

saferoutes@ymcatvidaho.org

VITAL STATS: We saw 17,800 students in the 2016-17 school year. It was a busy one!

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County Highway District about traffic calming measures, and stepped up enforcement from the Boise Police. At this time last year, there had been 2 reported incidents at this intersection. Right now, there are zero, for the first time in years.

In class last week, the SRTS team had comments from many students regarding these new crossing treatments and how much safer they feel. We've spent time observing this area and we agree. Motorists seem to be yielding much better and students are using great crossing techniques. Bicyclists going through this area need to remember to yield to pedestrians as well.

We give a huge shout of thanks to everyone involved in this project! It makes for a better commute for all and really encourages more walking and biking to school.

Mountain View Elementary 10/2017

#WALKTOSCHOOLDAY

International Walk to School day was a huge success! Schools across the valley celebrated with hot chocolate, donuts and even cheerleaders. Safe Routes to School was able to provide many schools with cool incentive gear like reflective slap bracelets and Ada County Highway District supplied clip on blinking reflectors.

Thank you for all who walked to school on that day and thank you to our community partners, who include:

- Idaho Walk Bike Alliance
- Idaho Ford Stores
- Boise Police Department
- Boise, West Ada, Vallivue, Nampa, and Caldwell School Districts
- Ada County Highway District

Bike to School Day is on May 9th, don't forget to put it on your calendar!

WHAT IS A SHARROW?

Shar-row. Noun. A representation of a bicycle with two chevrons above it, marked on a roadway as a symbol to indicate that motor vehicles and bicycles are to share the roadway. Source: www.yourdictonary.com/sharrow

This sign indicates that the cyclist may use the full lane. Often, this is placed in areas where the speed limit is low, visibility is low, cars are parked or there isn't enough room for a bike lane.

So, how do drivers handle a sharrow? Slow down and give space to the person on the bike, pass when safe to do so, IF necessary.

If you are riding a bike and feel comfortable, you can ride straight down the arrow. Be courteous to drivers and if you are slowing traffic, when it is safe, move over and let the cars pass.

This is truly sharing the road!

Stranger Things: Use your lights!

RIDING IN THE DARK

With the time change, it becomes dark much earlier. Regardless if you are a rider who is out in any condition, or someone who just finds themselves caught out at night, there are some rules you need to abide by.

- Idaho State Law requires you to have a front white light and a rear red reflector /light on your bike if riding at dusk or dawn or anything in between. The brighter the better.
- **Be bright! Be visible!** Wear bright clothing; reflective gear is ideal, but anything is better than black.
- Layer up. It can get cold really quickly. Wear multiple layers of clothing and don't forget your gloves and some warm wool socks!
- Lock up your bike! This may seem like a no brainer, but imagine walking home in the dark after having your bike stolen.

WHITNEY ELEMENTARY BIKE CLUB

This fall, TV Safe Routes to School was invited to teach bike safety to the Whitney Community Center afterschool program and the BSU Service Learning Center students. We were happy to jump on the opportunity, never expecting to find our hearts and souls so filled with joy. While we see thousands of students each year, we don't always have the opportunity to connect and build relationships with them at this level.

These are the students who ride year round, no matter the weather. What started out as a fun thing to do with some neighborhood kids, turned into understanding their point of view, the obstacles they face getting to and from school, and giving them a voice. We were proud and honored to ride with these kids and look forward to the spring Jelly Bean Bike Team!

Whitney Bike Club 10/25/17

WINTER IS COMING...

If the forecast is correct, we are going to be in for another snowy winter. Last year many school days were cancelled and on days that were in session, kids were trudging through inches of snow to make it to class. Sidewalks across town were buried and many kids took to walking in the streets with traffic. Here are a few sidewalk maintenance tips for you:

- Take turns scraping sidewalks with your neighbors
- Help those who aren't able to take care of their sidewalks
- Use a broom for light snowfall
- Apply cooking spray to your shovel to help the snow slide off
- Don't forget to make a snow angel or throw a snowball or two!
- City Code for any clarification can be found here.

TREASURE VALLEY SRTS IS GROWING!

We're excited to announce that the Treasure Valley Safe Routes to School Program now serves Boise, West Ada, Nampa, Caldwell and Vallivue school districts, all under one umbrella!

The Treasure Valley Family YMCA has continued partnership with Valley Regional Transit and Idaho Transportation Department to make this important program grow.

Team At Bookmobile Rodeo 8/2017

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Stop For Buses!
Nearly everyone has experienced that moment when you are running late to work and find yourself behind a school bus. It may seem tempting to slip past as the bus is slowing and the lights begin to flash. So, we at SRTS thought we would share the school bus rules of the road with you.

Across the State of Idaho, **it is the law** that you stop if a school bus is loading or unloading children, its lights are flashing and its STOP sign is out, even if you are coming from the opposite direction. You are not to proceed past until the bus is moving again. This is true for motor vehicles as well as bicycles.

With the days getting shorter and the mornings getting darker, please plan for extra commuting time, and slow down. Help us ensure that all children get to school safely and without incident.

For more information on the Idaho State Code, please reference Section 49-1422.

NEED LIGHTS?

Thanks to generous support from the Idaho Ford Stores and Ada County Highway District, we are able to provide students with lights. Need some? Send us a note today!

Saferoutes@ymcatvidaho.

WANT TO SCHEDULE YOUR SCHOOL?

Please email us at the Following...

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