

Safe Routes to School

Frequently Asked Questions – Part 1 of 3

This is Part 1 in a 3-part series to answer your questions about the STA Safe Routes to School Program and get you prepared **for Walk to School Day on Oct. 6th**! Please visit the school website for additional information and materials: www.staindy.org/school and watch for Parts 2 and 3 in the following week's School Scoops!

What is Safe Routes to School?

- ❖ Federal transportation program focusing on increasing the numbers of children who walk and bike to school through Enforcement, Encouragement, Engineering, and Education. We usually call it by its acronym, SRTS
- ❖ STA completed a SRTS Plan in February 2009! It is posted on the STA website (www.staindy.org/school) and available in the school office for review. For more information on the overall program visit www.saferoutesinfo.org.

What is responsibility of SRTS Committee?

- ❖ Implementing the SRTS Plan
- ❖ Assisting the school in encouraging and supporting walkers and bikers.
- ❖ Working with the Indianapolis Department of Public Works, Indianapolis Police Department and other community partners to request their help implementing the plan.

How has the SRTS Plan helped our students so far?

- ❖ STA was recently awarded a \$250,000 grant to make improvements in the vicinity of the school that will make it safer for our students to walk and bike. The requested improvements will be constructed on walking and biking routes in the vicinity of the school and will include curb ramps, sidewalk improvement, median crossings, pedestrian indicators, and new bike racks. We are currently working with a consultant to have these items designed and hope construction will be able to start in the spring.
- ❖ As part of our education initiatives, all students are now trained twice a year in walking and biking safety and the student safety patrol is trained each fall for their assignment.
- ❖ As part of our encouragement initiatives, STA has held two tremendously successful Walk to School Days with participation from local and national supporters of the SRTS program.
- ❖ We are currently running five very successful Walking School Bus routes, which provide children an opportunity to walk to school under the supervision of a parent "driver".
- ❖ The percentage of students who now walk and bike to St. Thomas has increased from approximately 20% to as much as 40% on an average day. Our Walk to School Events have seen more than 90% of students walking and biking to school!
- ❖ Principal Flynn reports that students who walk and bike to school are arriving with a smile on their face, ready and excited to start the school day!

What will the SRTS committee be tackling this year?

- ❖ We will work with the Department of Public Works to facilitate the in-fill of sidewalk on Illinois Street.
- ❖ We will continue our Walk to School Day tradition (**International Walk to School Day is October 6, 2010!**)
- ❖ We will implement additional encouragement programs and expand safety education.
- ❖ We will work with the Indianapolis Department of Public Works to continue to maintain adjacent infrastructure and to convert a number of intersections around the neighborhood from 2-way to 4-way stop control.
- ❖ We will continue to work with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department to step up enforcement of traffic laws along Illinois Street.
- ❖ And we will continue to seek partners and sponsors for implementing the remaining plan recommendations.