

BikeWalk Virginia News

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Virginia PTA Joins Safe Routes to School Effort

Williamsburg, VA, February 18, 2008 - At their February meeting, the Virginia Parent Teacher Association (VA PTA) joined the Virginia Safe Routes to School Network (SRTS). The primary goals of the Virginia SRTS Network are:

- To increase physical activity in school-aged children by improving safety
- To increase the number of children walking and bicycling to schools
- To help ensure the success of the federal SRTS program
- To institutionalize the SRTS program so that it is not dependent on one short burst of federal funding

"The Virginia PTA will greatly enhance the reach of the Safe Routes to School Network," said Stephanie Smith, Virginia Network organizer and BikeWalk Virginia education director. "We are excited about what we can do together."

Virginia is part of a SRTS State Network Project, which includes nine states and the District of Columbia selected by the [SRTS National Partnership](http://www.saferoutespartnership.org) (www.saferoutespartnership.org), which will initiate policy tactics to ensure success for the federal program. The SRTS State Network Project is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and managed for the Commonwealth by BikeWalk Virginia, a statewide non-motorized transportation education and advocacy organization headquartered in Williamsburg. For more information, visit the [Virginia SRTS Network](http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/virginia) (www.saferoutespartnership.org/virginia) or contact Smith at ssmith@bikewalkvirginia.org or 757-229-0507.

To follow national, state, and local legislation affecting multi-modal transportation and to work with BikeWalk Virginia to improve recreation and transportation options for Virginians and visitors to Virginia, visit www.bikewalkvirginia.org to become an individual or business member.

BikeWalk Virginia was founded as a 501 (c)(3) organization in 2000. Originating in 1988 as a bicycling event, BikeWalk Virginia continues to organize nationally recognized Bike Virginia

rides to fund education and advocacy for non-motorized transportation safety and access. BikeWalk Virginia holds an annual conference as a forum for legislators, planners, educators and advocates on key issues critical to pedestrians and cyclists. In 2004, the Virginia Trails Association joined BikeWalk. The group's mission was broadened to include on and off road riders, hikers, kayakers, canoeists, and equestrians.

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Digital photos are available upon request. Contact Sara Lewis, BikeWalk Virginia, 757-229-0507 or slewis@bikewalkvirginia.org.