



## Hello, and welcome to Virginia Safe Routes to School (SRTS)!

We are proud of the way our program has continued to grow over the years. In 2007, when we first started the program in Virginia, we provided grant funding to eight school systems. That number has grown annually, and in 2021 we are providing funds to seventeen school divisions, non-profits, and localities, helping them pay salaries for local coordinators who establish and maintain programs that encourage children in elementary and middle schools to lead healthy, active lifestyles by walking and biking to school.



After the last almost two years with school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are back and ready to get the kids moving again! With the re-opening of schools there have been school bus driver shortages, and in some cases, schools have had to cut back on the bus service they provide. That makes the programs we support all the more important as students and parents look for other ways to get to school. Our local coordinators are meeting the moment and working hard to support students walking and biking to school through teaching pedestrian safety education and how to ride a bike, how to maintain their bikes, and how to recognize and avoid the dangers they may face on their way to and from school.

Our coordinators ROCK!

We have all kept busy during the past year. We developed new goals to guide Virginia's program. They are founded on the desire to get more students walking and biking and include five building blocks:

1. Equitable and Sustainable Program
2. Safe Streets
3. Welcoming Campuses
4. Safe Behaviors
5. Supportive Culture



Learn more about these new goals on this website at [https://www.virginiadot.org/programs/resources/safe\\_routes/2016-2017/Non-Infra\\_Grants/2021\\_Program\\_Building\\_Blocks\\_and\\_Example\\_Activities\\_20210407.pdf](https://www.virginiadot.org/programs/resources/safe_routes/2016-2017/Non-Infra_Grants/2021_Program_Building_Blocks_and_Example_Activities_20210407.pdf)



In the spring of 2021, we convened stakeholders to develop the new Strategic Plan that will help guide our program until the year 2026. In order to sustain and grow the program, we will be exploring new partnerships to increase the reach of our program. You can read our new Strategic plan and the Success Book highlighting our work from 2005 to 2020 on our home page.

We also continue to offer our QuickStart and Walkabout mini-grants. The QuickStart mini-grants provide \$1,000 to a school to provide support to a walking or biking event, purchase bike racks, educational materials, safety items, or promotional items. These mini-grants are offered six times a year – 3 times each in the fall and spring semesters.

Our Walkabout mini-grant is provided twice a year, one in the fall and one in the spring, and provides technical expertise to a school to help determine the walking and biking conditions surrounding the school. We work with the school, local representatives, and parents to understand the issues and then we provide a full report of the conditions with recommendations for solutions to any issues.

Please take a minute to look around on our website. You will find a lot of useful information to get you started or to maintain the efforts you already have underway. We've included contact information throughout the website so please ask questions.

Have a great year and get out there and walk, bike or roll!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Graham".

Katherine Graham  
Virginia Safe Routes to School Coordinator