



NCTCOG PRESENTATION

# Community Schools and Transportation Update

SHAWN CONRAD | Public Input | 2.12.2024



# Community Schools and Transportation Program

## Safe Routes to School:

Encourage and enable children to safely walk and bicycle to school.

[www.nctcog.org/SRTS](http://www.nctcog.org/SRTS)

## School Siting:

Encourage location of schools that enable safe routes, avoid unsafe traffic conditions, and promote efficient development.

[www.nctcog.org/schoolsiting](http://www.nctcog.org/schoolsiting)

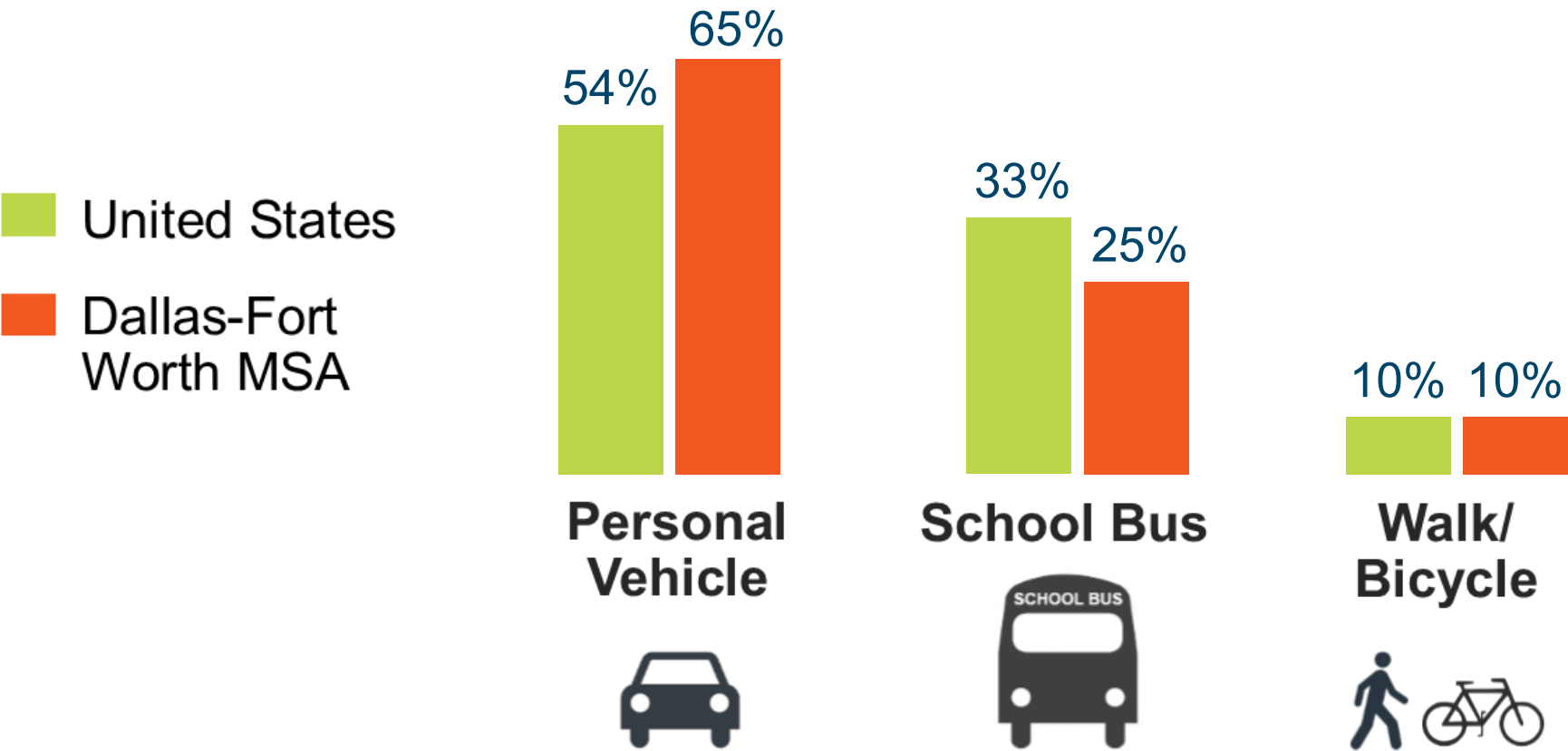
## Activities:

Planning, technical assistance, facilitation/coordination, education, encouragement, special topics studies, tools and resources



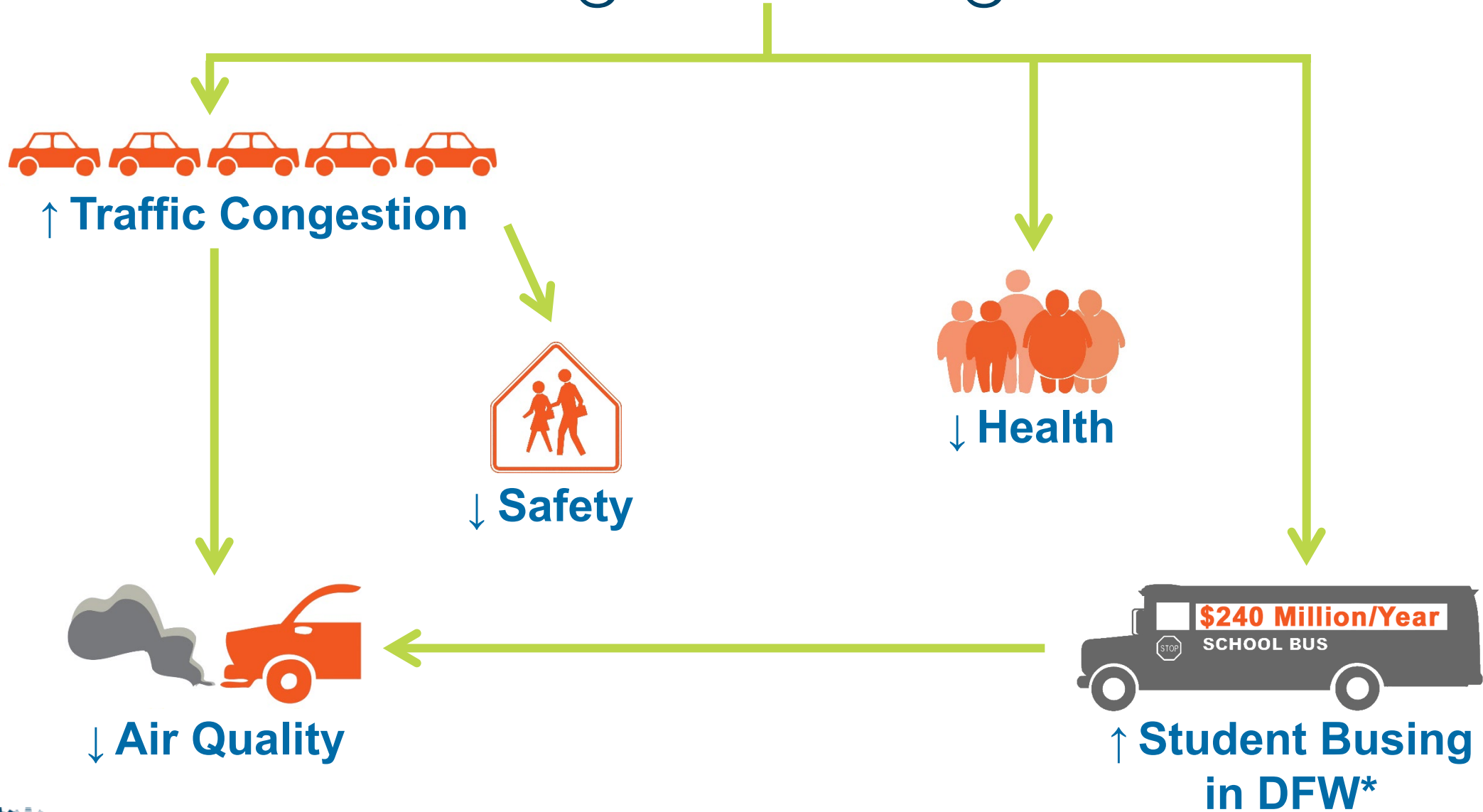
# Decline in Walking and Biking to School

## 2017 Mode Share



Source: National Household Travel Survey, 2017, Dallas-Fort Worth MSA (N=2,582). FHWA NHTS Brief: Children's Travel to School, 2019.

# Less Walking and Biking to School



\*Source: Texas Comptroller, 2014.

# School Crossing Guards Initiative

## Request and Problem

- Request at March 15 meeting for assistance with methods for determining placement of crossing guards
- Address lack of state/federal guidance on crossing guard placement
- Explore possibility of developing regionally-consistent implementation method
- Goal to improve student & guard safety

## What We Have Done

- Surveyed stakeholders
- Reviewed state, federal, other guidance
- Compared examples of city crossing guard guidance in the region
- Hosted a regional coordination meeting to update and receive feedback
- **Distributed an updated survey**



# Updated Survey

- Closes March 1, 2024
- Based on feedback from September 2023 regional meeting
- Seeking input on crossing guard issues and interest in a regionally- consistent process
- Please share with City or ISD staff with interest in improving child safety through crossing guard placement!
- <https://tinyurl.com/SchoolCrossingGuards>



# Walk to School Day Promotion 2023



Sonntag Elementary: Walk to School Day  
2023 1<sup>st</sup> Place Photo Contest Winner



Atherton Elementary: Walk to School Day  
2023 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Photo Contest Winner



Sonntag Elementary: Walk to School Day  
2023 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Photo Contest Winner



# What Is Walk To School Day?

- Annual event where students at schools and communities around the country and the world walk to school on the same day
- Typically held first Wednesday in October (10/4 in 2023)
- Highlights the importance of pedestrian and bicycle safety
- NCTCOG helps schools participate by providing safety-themed giveaways



Miller Elementary



McCall Elementary (top), High Country Elementary Bicycle Raffle Winners (bottom)



# Bicycle And Pedestrian Safety-focused Giveaways



- Giveaway items generate excitement for students and families to participate in Walk to School Day while spreading safety messaging
- Schools participated in a photo contest to highlight the success of their event and the giveaway items
- Bicycle raffle to incentivize students and parents to participate and complete a safety pledge



# Walk to School Day By The Numbers – 2023



NCTCOG provided safety-themed giveaways to 24 schools

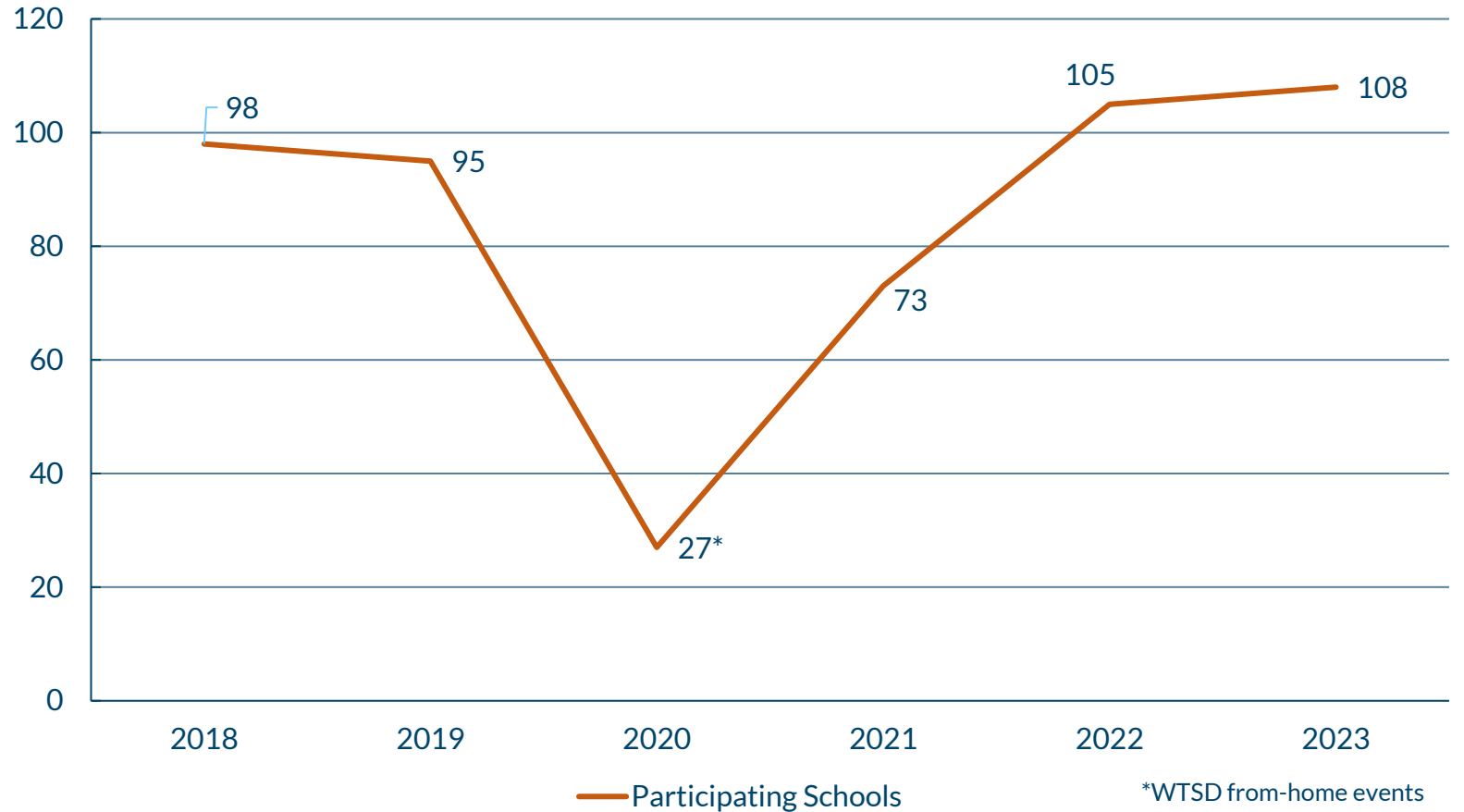


NCTCOG received 905 signed safety pledges for entry into bike raffle from 15 schools



192 Texas WTSD events registered with [walkbiketoschool.org](http://walkbiketoschool.org) – 56 percent in DFW region

## Participating Schools in the DFW Region by Year



\*WTSD from-home events during COVID-19 response



# 2023 Bike Raffle Winners

- Promise to Street Safety must be signed by parent and student and returned to qualify for raffle
- Four bikes were awarded in 2023
- **Winners:**
  - Two students at McCall Elementary in Plano
  - Two students at High Country Elementary in Saginaw



## PROMISE TO STREET SAFETY

I promise to **BE ALERT** for people biking and walking on sidewalks, trails and streets.

I will also **LOOK OUT** for cars in the street. No matter what, it is never worth endangering my safety or the safety of other people to get somewhere.



I **RESPECT** the rights of all people to use our streets safely.

I will **OBEY** all traffic signs and signals for my own safety.



I will **PROTECT** myself by wearing a helmet when I ride my bicycle.

I will **PROTECT** my friends and loved ones by encouraging them to bike, walk and drive safely by following traffic laws and looking out for other people.

I will show my parent or caregiver the 21 Safety Tips at [www.LookOutTexans.org](http://www.LookOutTexans.org).

**Together, we can keep our streets safe and build respect for each other.**

By signing this card, I promise to do my part to look out for, respect and protect my fellow Texans.

✂----- Cut here and keep the top! -----

**Circle which bike you'd like to enter to win! (choose one)**

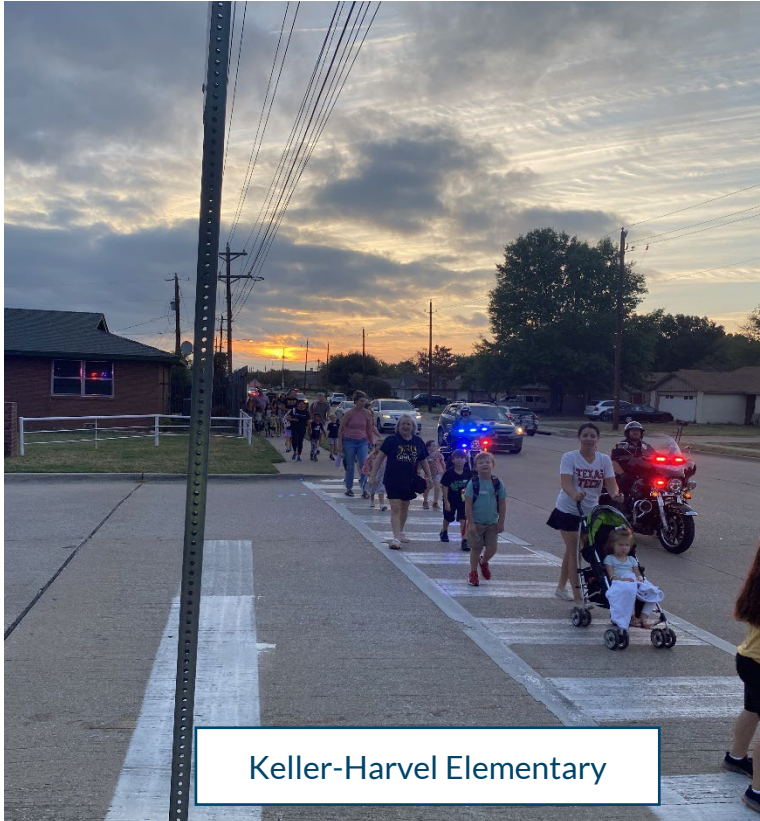
|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>20" Bike: Age 5-10, 45in-54in tall</b></p> <p>Sky Blue with White Tires      Black with Red</p>   | <p><b>24" Bike: Age 8-13, 49in-59in tall</b></p> <p>Orange      Light Pink</p>   |
|---|--|

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent or Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student Age \_\_\_\_\_ Student Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ School Name \_\_\_\_\_

# 2023 School Events



Keller-Harvel Elementary



Sonntag Elementary



Miller Elementary

- Most schools held remote walking events
  - Remote walking events entail participants meeting at an off-campus location to walk to school together
- Some schools coupled the remote walking event with an on-campus event to celebrate the participants



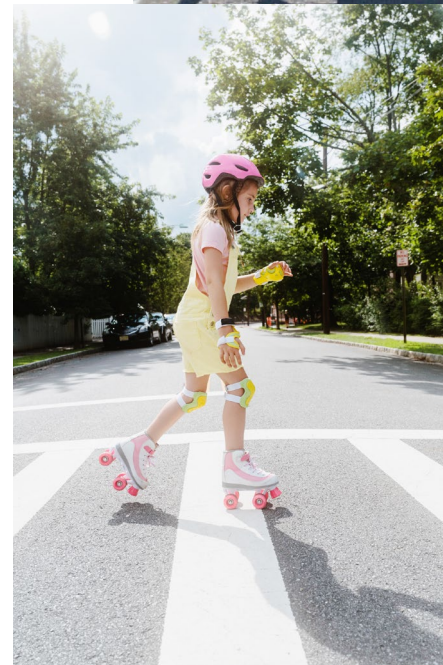
# WTSD Engagement Survey

- Closes March 1, 2024
- NCTCOG would like feedback from DFW schools to help shape future Walk to School Day events
- Please share with school / ISD / other contacts with interest in improving or getting involved in WTSD!
- <http://tinyurl.com/WTSD23>



# Save The Date

- **Bike & Roll to School Day Promotion**
- May 8, 2024
- Highlights the importance of bicycle and other “rolling” modes of active transportation to school
- NCTCOG will provide implementation toolkits, safety-themed giveaways, and a bicycle raffle
- **More details to come!**



# CONTACT US



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