



Safe Routes to Schools Update

Petaluma SRTS Task Force Meeting
August 5, 2026



SRTS Goals

- ✓ More students/families walk, bike, scoot, skate, bus or carpool for transportation
- ✓ Kids/Families know how to be safe while doing so
- ✓ Barriers to active transportation identified and engineering improvements made
- ✓ Community is more connected and aware of the benefits of SRTS to health and environment



SRTS Benefits



Program Components

- ✓ **Evaluation:** Student Address Maps, Arrival/Departure Tallies
- ✓ Walk/Roll to School (or Anywhere) **Encouragement** & events & Walking School Bus/Bike Train support
- ✓ **Education & Engagement**
 - ✓ 2nd-5th Grade Bike/Ped Classroom Lessons
 - ✓ 4th Grade Bike Rodeos
 - ✓ Teen “Drive Your Bike” Lessons
 - ✓ Middle School Bike Clubs/Rides/Youth Engagement
 - ✓ Community On-Bike Education & Outreach
- ✓ **Engineering/Enforcement** Support (SRTS Task Forces & Walk Audits in Santa Rosa, Petaluma, SRTS on BPAC agenda Windsor)



Petaluma SRTS Enrolled Schools (26-27)



Enrolled for 2026-27 (as of 8/5/26)

Corona Creek Elementary (TK-6)

Grant Elementary (TK-6)

Loma Vista Immersion Academy (TK-6)

Mary Collins at Cherry Valley (TK-8)

McDowell Elementary (TK-8)

McKinley Elementary & PACS (TK-8)

McNear Elementary (TK-6)

Meadow Elementary (TK-6)

Miwok Elementary (TK-6)

River Montessori Charter School (TK-8)

The Spring Hill School (TK-8)

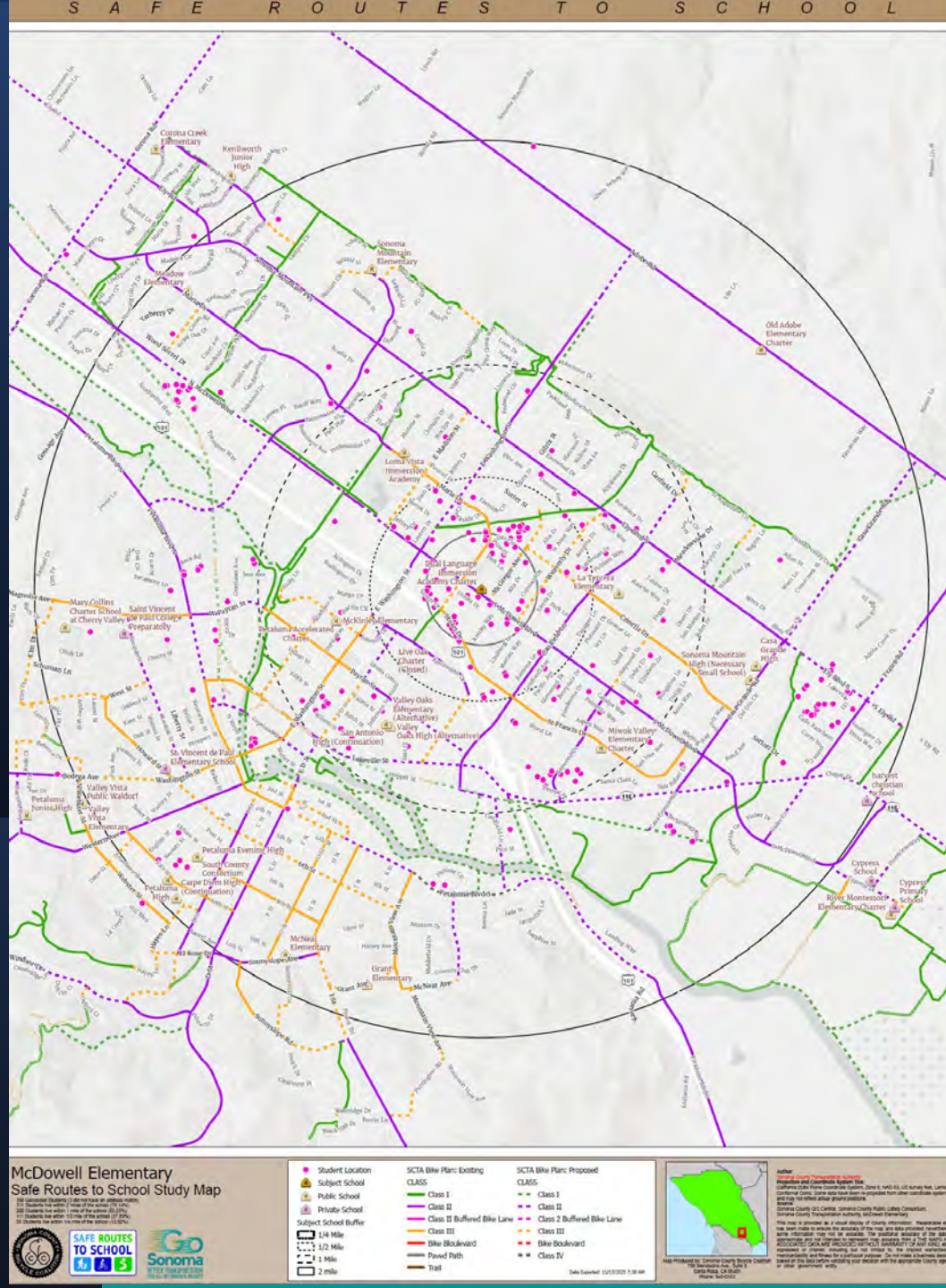
Not enrolled: Casa Grande High, Kenilworth Junior High, La Tercera Elem, Penngrove Elem, Old Adobe Elem, Petaluma Junior High, Petaluma High School, Valley Vista Public Waldorf

GIS MAPPING

Student Home Location Maps

McDowell Elementary School

- 398 Geocoded Students
- 311 live within 2 miles (78%)
- 200 live within 1 mile (50%)
- 111 live within ½ mile (28%)
- 55 live within ¼ mile (14%)



Geocoded 13 sites in
Petaluma and 84 schools
Countywide in
2025-26

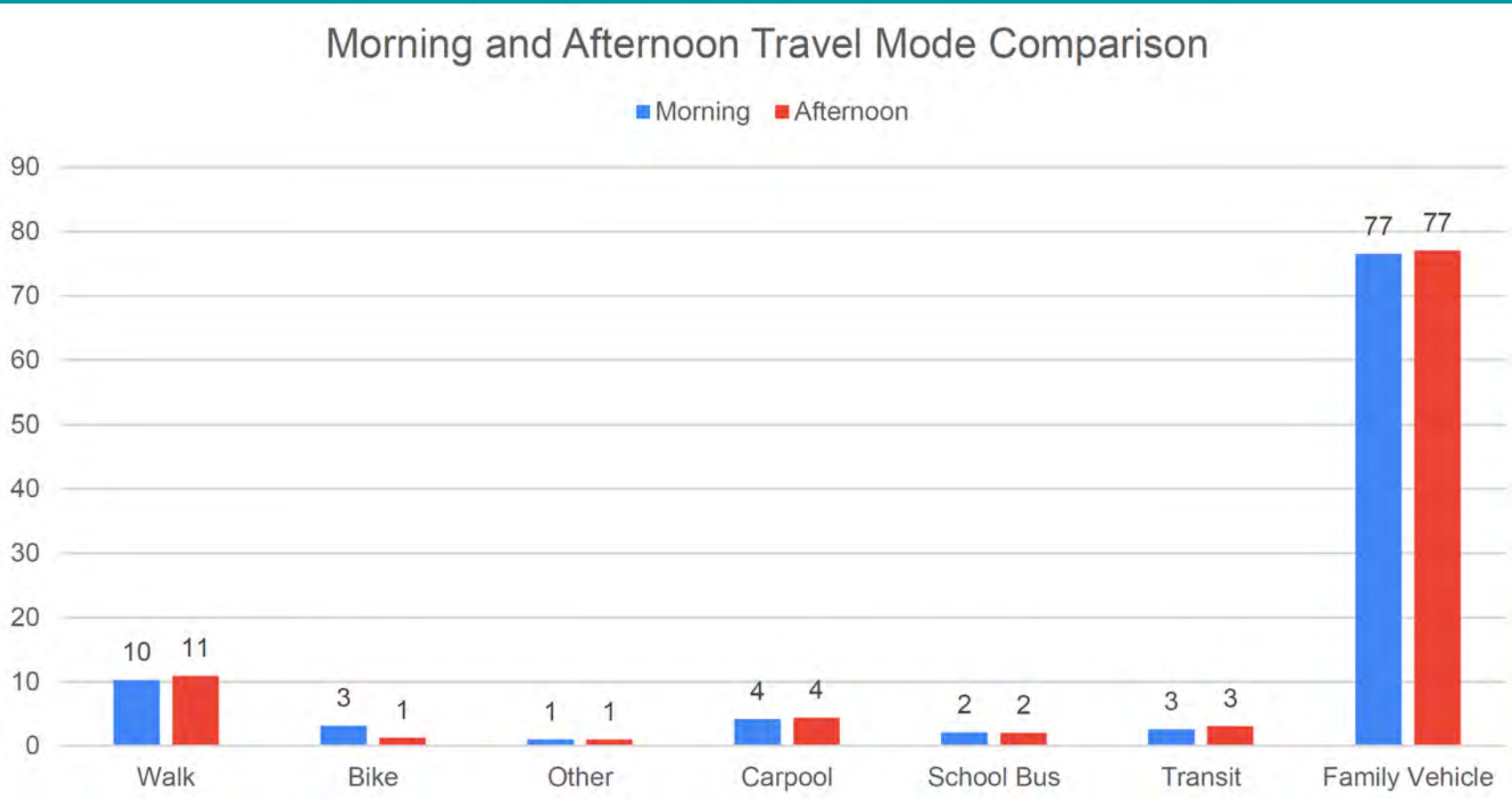
*Sonoma County GIS
Department Support*

EVALUATION

Student Arrival & Departure Tallies



McDowell Elementary School, Sept 2025



Tallies conducted at 12 Petaluma sites in 25-26: Corona Creek, Grant, Loma Vista, MCCV, McDowell, McKinley/PACS, McNear, Meadow, Miwok, Petaluma Junior, The Spring Hill, Valley Vista (61 countywide)

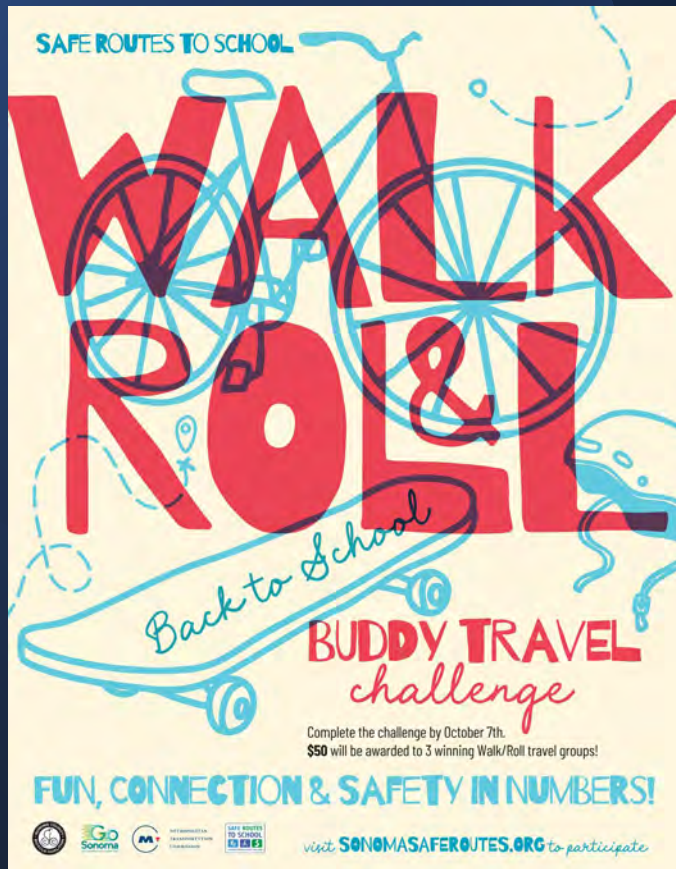
SRTS Encouragement Programming

✓ Walk/Roll Events & Challenges (26-27)

- ✓ Back to School Walk & Roll Buddy Travel Challenge (Sept)
- ✓ International Walk & Roll to School Day (Oct) – “Be a Walk/Roll Advertiser” Challenge
- ✓ Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day (Nov)
- ✓ Wacky Winter Walk & Roll (Dec)
- ✓ Walk & Roll for our HeARTS: Annual Art Contest (Feb)
- ✓ Spring “Go Green” Challenge (March/April)
- ✓ Bike to School Day (May)



September Back to School Buddy Travel Challenge



THIS SEPTEMBER, WE CHALLENGE YOU TO TRAVEL WITH BUDDIES FOR
fun, connection, and safety in numbers!

Can you form a group with two or more students from other families to walk (park and walk), scooter, bike, carpool, or ride the bus together to school or to another destination? If so, tell us your buddy travel story! Contest ends Wednesday, October 7th. **\$50 will be awarded to three travel groups who share an inspiring buddy walk/roll story, and their stories will be featured in our newsletter. MOST IMPORTANTLY, HAVE FUN TRAVELING TOGETHER IN WAYS THAT ARE FUN, HEALTHY, REDUCE TRAFFIC AND REDUCE POLLUTION!**

**TO PARTICIPATE, ANSWER
THESE QUESTIONS ONLINE:**



or, complete this form and return to us

FULL NAME _____ SCHOOL _____
☐ STUDENT ☐ PARENT ☐ SCHOOL STAFF CONTACT INFO _____
(EMAIL AND/OR PHONE NUMBER, FOR OUR DRAWING)

Mail your completed form to SRTS, PO Box 3088, Santa Rosa, CA 95402 or send a picture/scan by email to saferroutes@bikesonoma.org. Entries must be received by Wed, Oct 7th.

Write a short, descriptive narrative describing your/their experience or experiences walking and/or rolling with buddies. Where do you/they travel, how often, and why do you/they choose to travel on foot, bike, or in a carpool or bus? What do you/they like about walking, scooting, biking, using, or carpooling to school or to another destination together?

What are the buddies' names and their grades? _____

What school do they attend? _____

What is one of their parent's names? _____

Parent's contact (phone + email). Just one parent's info is enough. _____

How often do they meet up together on their way to or from school? _____

BACK TO SCHOOL
buddy travel challenge

SONOMASAFEROUTES.ORG

@SONOMACOUNTYSAFEROUTES



October International Walk & Roll to School Day 10/7/26

Registration now open
Deadline to register:
Monday 9/7



October “Be a Walk & Roll Advertiser” Challenge



CHALLENGE

OCTOBER
safe routes to school

be **A WALK & ROLL** advertiser!

There are many reasons why we love Walk & Roll to School Days, like getting exercise, being outdoors, cutting down on traffic, reducing pollution, and just having fun! But it's also important to remind students and families about how to be safe while traveling to/from school, whether they are walking, bicycling, scooting, skateboarding or even driving around walkers & rollers.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT:

Either on your own or with a partner, choose one of the following options to create a poster to hang at your school to promote an upcoming Walk & Roll to School Day event at your school:

Come up with a catchy slogan and eye-catching design to encourage other students to participate in an upcoming Walk & Roll to School Day at your school. You can use the reasons why we love Walk & Roll to get started...or think of your own!

Come up with a catchy slogan and eye-catching design to educate students about how to be safe when participating in an upcoming Walk & Roll to School Day at your school. You can use the Walk & Roll safety tips (at right) as a reference to get started.

Take a picture of your artful Walk & Roll advertisement at your school (or have your parent or teacher take it), post it on Instagram or Facebook, tag @sonomacounty saferoutes and we'll share it countywide!

WALK & ROLL SAFETY TIPS

- ★ When walking or bicycling, stop at every curb or edge
- ★ Always STOP, LOOK & LISTEN, especially while crossing
- ★ Look left, look right, then look left again, before stepping past any curb, driveway or edge
- ★ Always wear a helmet when riding a bike, skateboard, or scooter
- ★ Always ride in the same direction as traffic
- ★ Learn all traffic signs and signals
- ★ Look for the safest place to cross the street. Use crosswalks, crossing signals, and crossing guards.

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  @SONOMACOUNTYSAFEROUTES

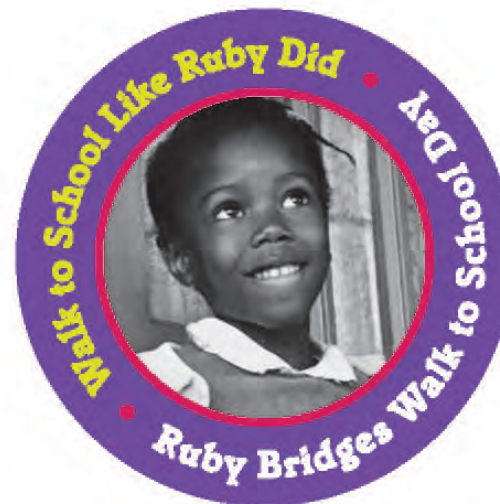


Funding provided in part by the California Department of Public Health's Kids' Plates Program

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day November*

Registration now open

*schools celebrate on date
of choice in November,
official date Sat 11/14



Bike to School Day

May 6, 2026



13 Participating
Petaluma Sites –
average bike
increase 152%

BIKE-TO-SCHOOL DAY
 ***** MAY 2020

sonomasaferroutes.org
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

 @sonomacounty saferroutes



Bike & Pedestrian Safety Lessons



- ✓ 2nd or 3rd Grade Pedestrian Safety lessons
- ✓ 4th Grade Bike Basics
- ✓ 5th Grade Mapping & Intersection Communication

4th Grade Bike Rodeos

Sites Programmed for 2026-27

Corona Creek

Loma Vista

Cherry Valley

McDowell

McKinley

Meadow

Miwok

McNear



Middle & High School Teen Bike Education

- 6th-8th Drive Your Bike Presentation by SRTS Instructors
- Online “Drive Your Bike” Modules for PE teachers
- Community Drive Your Bike Classes



Course overview

All (except removed from view)



★ Middle School Advanced Bike Skills

E-Bike vs E-Moto Education

THE GREAT E-BIKE CON

How Manufacturers are Pedaling E-Motos in Disguise

Parents are being duped. High-powered dangerous e-motos are sold as harmless “e-bikes,” putting kids on machines built like motorcycles but marketed like toys — and putting kids in harm’s way and parents at legal and financial risk.



E-MOTOS ARE NOT E-BIKES!
Send a clear message to manufacturers and retailers – the safety of your children cannot be bought!

WHO’S HOODWINKING PARENTS?

People for Bikes warns that manufacturers and retailers are skirting safety laws and targeting kids, selling e-motos, some with fake or non-working pedals, that can be easily “unlocked” to go even faster.



THE REAL COST Kids in the ER and Parents Charged with Crimes

Marin Public Health has declared a youth e-mobility crisis. Local kids are suffering multiple fractures, concussions, and surgeries — while parents face criminal and liability charges, including child endangerment.

THE “MY KID CAN HANDLE IT” TRAP

The laws are clear to keep everyone safe. Even if your child seems capable, breaking the law pressures other parents and kids to follow — and they may not be as lucky. Unintended consequences reverberate throughout the community when tragedy strikes.

THE CLASS 2 IMPOSTER ACT

Most throttle “Class 2 e-bikes” aren’t e-bikes at all. Anything over 750 watts or able to exceed 20 mph without pedaling is an e-moto — illegal on public roads and paths and requiring registration, a license, and full motor-vehicle compliance.

BUY LEGAL, BUY LOCAL!

Class 1 pedal-assist is the only legal option for riders under 16. It sits higher and is more visible to drivers, pedaling gives better control when slowing, and local shops can keep up with fast-wearing brakes.



SONOMA COUNTY SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM PRESENTS

A PARENTS’ GUIDE TO E-BIKE SAFETY FOR YOUTH



REGISTER

WED, APRIL 1
5:30–6:30pm
Live Virtual Event



E-BICYCLES WHAT PARENTS MUST KNOW



CONSIDERING an E-BIKE for YOUR CHILD/TEEN? THINK ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS/FACTORS WHEN PLANNING a PURCHASE.

- Does the device fit my child/teen’s size and ability?
- Is your child/teen a skilled rider who knows and follows the traffic rules (see sidebar at right)?
- Can your child/teen stand up to peer pressure?
- Is your child/teen committed to wearing a helmet and ensuring their passenger does as well (17 and under are required to do so by law)?
- Buy local so they’re guaranteed to be assembled properly and can be taken in for regular maintenance, especially for brakes.
- Check the label (must not exceed 750 watts/20mph).

PRACTICE FIRST: Ride with your child/teen to ensure they are following the rules of the road and can handle the bicycle in various road conditions. They should be riding confidently, responsibly and under control at all times, including switching between gears and speed settings.



TRAFFIC RULES

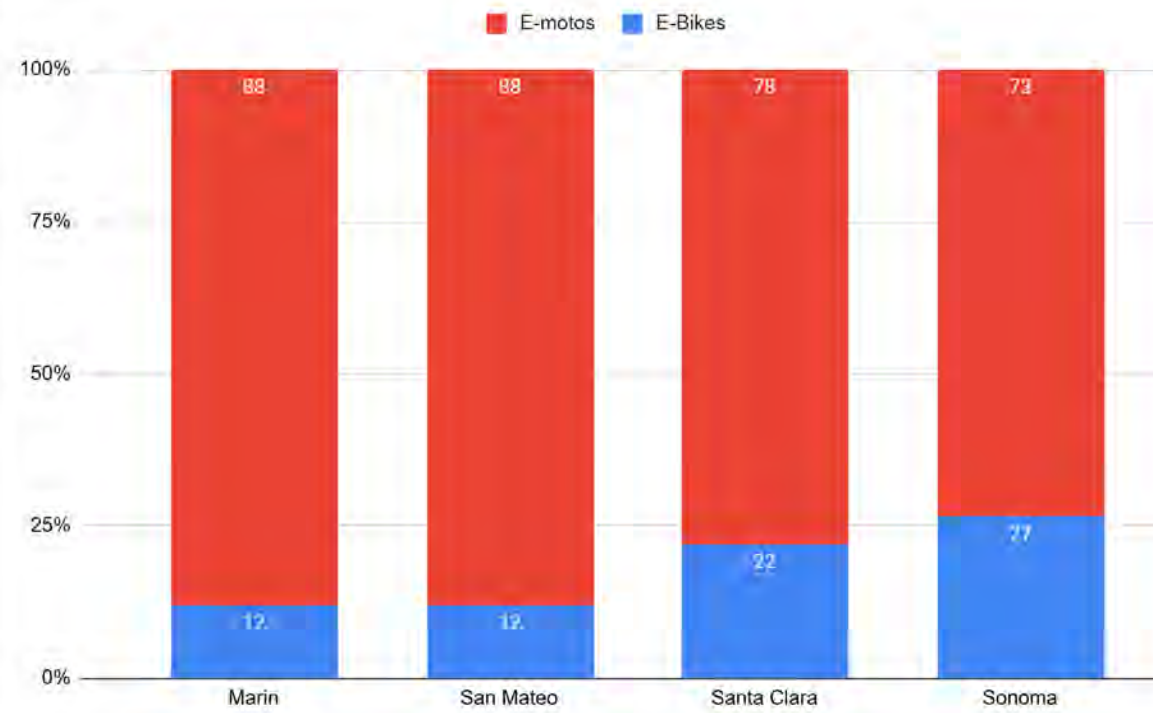
- Rides predictably WITH the flow of traffic
- Rides outside the door zone of parked vehicles (3 ft away)
- Stops at stop signs and takes turns with vehicles
- Uses hand signals for turning and scans before merging onto roads and changing lanes
- Obeys posted speedways on pathways and yields to pedestrians

PROS

- Allows riders to travel farther and faster
- Allows steep hills to be easily climbed
- Heavy school books and/or sports equipment may be easier to transport
- May encourage more independent riding, less vehicles on the road benefits all

CONS

- Traveling at higher speeds (20mph is twice the speed of a normal pedal bike) makes it harder to control and stop
- Weigh more than normal bikes. Less maneuverable and difficult to transport/store
- Maintenance can be challenging & costs higher due to electrical components, battery (\$100–\$300/annually vs. \$0–\$100 for a normal pedal bike)
- Less cardiovascular benefit than regular bikes
- More expensive to purchase compared to pedal bikes
- Target for thieves
- Environmental considerations related to battery production and disposal



E-MOTORCYCLE GUIDE FOR SCHOOLS

Off-road e-motorcycles are ILLEGAL for students and are NEVER permitted on public roads!

Common e-motorcycles include:



What’s the difference between an e-bike and an e-motorcycle?



Need more support?

The Petaluma Police Department offers bicycle & e-bike safety presentations for school administrators, staff, and students.

Presentations include:
 ✓ Legal classifications ✓ Age restrictions ✓ Safety best practices ✓ Compliance guidance
 Officers are also available to assess e-bike legality at school sites.

Contact the Petaluma PD Traffic Team to schedule a presentation or request guidance: 707-716-3722

Learn to Ride a Bicycle Classes

FAMILY BICYCLING LESSONS

IN PERSON, ON-BIKE LESSONS



**Learn to Ride
a Bike — for Kids**

Wednesdays in
Petaluma

Summer/Fall 2026 Dates:
8/9, 9/9, 10/7, 11/4, 12/2

For rates & registration, visit
cityofpetaluma.org



Community Bike Workshops & Rides

FAMILY FREE! WORKSHOP & RIDE BIKE SKILLS

Families learn to safely navigate the streets in a variety of situations through fun drills and an engaging, instructional ride. Kids and parents will build confidence and road readiness, both individually and as a group.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 10:00am-12:30pm
Lucchesi Park
320 N. McDowell Blvd, Petaluma

- Bikes must be in working order.
- All cyclists must have a helmet to participate.
- Kids must be able to ride a two-wheel bicycle; younger children may participate in bike-seats, trailers, or trail-a-bikes.

Topics covered include: lane positioning and riding in the same direction as cars on the road, intersection right-of-way and crossings, obeying stop signs and traffic lights, hand signals, and handling skills for safe riding.

Need a helmet or bike adjustment? Low cost and/or loaner helmets and/or free minor adjustments available, by request, to registered participants.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED
www.bikesonoma.org/family-bike-workshops
QUESTIONS?
saferroutes@bikesonoma.org or 707-545-0153

Funding provided in part by the California Department of Public Health's Kids' Plates Program



✓ Petaluma Family Bike Skills Ride & Workshop: 6/20/26



Community Outreach & Engagement

- Outreach at Community & School Events
- PTA/PFO Presentations
- School Staff Meeting Presentations
- Community Meetings & Task Forces
- Walk/Roll Day Support



www.sonomasaferroutes.org

Christina Panza
Director
SRTS

christina@bikesonoma.org

Sarah Hadler
Program Manager

sarah@bikesonoma.org

