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Maine Safe Routes to School Newsletter | April 2016

It is Spring! A great time to encourage safe walking and bicycling in Maine! We have all the resources to help you get started - read on, and please let us know how we can help!

May is Maine Walk & Bike to School Month!

Plan Your Walk and Bike to School Events, We Can Help!

Schools in communities like yours across the state participate in fun and engaging walk and bike activities year-round. We encourage you to do so again (or for the first time) this season! Check out our blog at mainesaferoutes.wordpress.com to see great examples from Maine schools promoting biking and walking.

- **Walk and Bike to School Days** - weekly, monthly or one-time fun community events. [Register your events and order incentive materials here!](#)



- **National Bike to School Day is May 4!** Help local students experience the fun of biking to school - part of the 2016 National Bike Month and a great addition for Maine's Walk and Bike to School Month!
- [Register your Bike to School Day event with National SRTS](#) to be eligible to win one of the ten drawings. Each giveaway will include 10 Schwinn SmartStart bicycles and 20 Schwinn helmets to be awarded to a winning school. Drawings will begin on Wednesday April 13th and winners will be announced weekly on the [Safe Routes to School](#) and [Schwinn](#) Facebook pages.
- Teach safe biking and walking at your school with our resources:
 - [Be A Safe Bike Driver](#)
 - [Be A Safe Walker](#)

In This Edition

- [May is Maine Walk & Bike to School Month!](#)
- [Bicycle Coalition of Maine Great Maine Bike Swaps](#)
- [Timely Funding Opportunities](#)

For More Information

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- o [Choosing the Right Helmet](#)
- o [Bike Train Guide](#)

Request Walking and Biking Safety Presentations

The Safe Routes to School (grades K-8) and Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Education (grade 9+) Programs provide bicycle and pedestrian education to over ten thousand kids and adults annually. Our certified instructors teach people the basics of safe



walking and bicycling in schools, at community events, and other venues. We offer our services at NO COST and are excited to have the opportunity to visit and teach at your school! To make a request please visit the online request form at requests.mainebpse.org.

Bicycle Coalition of Maine Great Maine Bike Swaps



Orono Bike Swap - April 10
UMaine Orono - 10am-1pm

Portland Bike Swap - May 1
USM Portland - 10am-1pm

Join the Bicycle Coalition of Maine at the 2016 Great Maine Bike Swaps! Choose from hundreds of bikes in all price ranges and of all types including children's bikes, road bikes, mountain bikes, and hybrids! You can also sell or donate the unused bikes you have around the house and garage. For more information visit maineswap.com.

Timely Funding Opportunities

Check out the right-hand sidebar of this newsletter for fantastic funding opportunities to improve biking and walking safety in your community!

We're excited to help you plan and execute your spring bike and walk to school activities and get students moving. Let's make May 2016 the best Walk and Bike to School month yet!

Email:

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TIMELY FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

2016 Cultivating Healthy Communities Grant Program - April 15

The Aetna Foundation is seeking Requests for Proposals to fund projects that support communities' efforts to become healthier places to live, work, learn, play, and pray. This program will support projects that benefit underserved, low-income, and minority communities. Applicants can request a total grant amount of either \$50,000 or \$100,000 for the entire project period lasting between 18 and 24 months. The five focus areas are:

- Healthy Behaviors
- Community Safety
- Built Environment
- Social/Economic Factors
- Environmental Exposures

For more information, visit the [2016 Cultivating Healthy Communities Grant Program website](#).

WHAT WE'RE READING

[Orono Wants Drivers & Pedestrians to Keep Their "Heads Up"](#)

2015 was the deadliest year for pedestrians in Maine in nearly two decades. The Orono Police Department is implementing a new safety campaign to try and keep it from happening there.

[Federal Law Now Says Kids Can Walk to School Alone](#)

The new education bill, "Every Student Succeeds Act", contains a section (858) that protects the rights of kids to walk or go out alone, and leaves it up to the parents to decide at what age this is appropriate.

The Maine Safe Routes to School Team!

**UPCOMING
WEBINARS**

[Bicycle Coalition of Maine,
Community Spokes: Boosting
Bicycle Tourism in Maine - April
13, 12PM](#)

[America Walks: Walking as a
Practice - April 14, 2PM](#)

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