



Safe Routes to School Trainings

Introduction

Education is a core part of the Safe Routes to School strategy. While many aspects of safe routes to school are covered in the curriculum, these trainings can offer additional educational opportunities that dive deeper on a particular topic.

This list contains examples of common Safe Routes to School trainings that can be developed and either handed off to a teacher or, in some cases, presented by staff. Some trainings may be customized, others may be existing resources. This is not an exhaustive list, and other topics can potentially be covered. To request a training or topic, simply contact us.

You can email the department at planning@bloomington.in.gov or call at 812-349-3423. To stay informed about the City's planning work, visit the City's website at Bloomington.in.gov/planning



Elementary (K-6)

- **Walk/Bike/Roll Safety Curriculum Introduction (K-6)**
Classroom lesson introducing the City of Bloomington's Walk/Bike/Roll Safety Curriculum and activity book. This gives students a chance to ask questions and learn more about active transportation opportunities.
- **Bike Repair Basics (K-6)**
Short hands-on session teaching the basics of how to care for your bike scaled to grade level.
- **Bike Rodeo (3rd grade)**
The City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department can hold a "Bike Rodeo". Usually held in parking lots or playgrounds, these events feature biking courses to help students learn biking skills. Most events also include helmet fittings. This allows kids to learn biking skills in a fun, hands-on, and non-competitive environment.
- **Environmental Science & Urban Planning Workshop**
Teaches students about climate change and the environmental effects of transportation. Students will learn the benefits of walking, rolling, carpooling, and taking transit and how to promote transportation change within their communities.

This training is offered as one 40-50 minute session. Sessions can be adjusted depending on the class schedule. We can present to multiple classrooms in one day or host an assembly to reach a larger group in one class period.
- **Route Planning Workshop (3-6)**
Helping students determine how to get from home to school and back safely through a mapping exercise. Each student will develop their own map and learn safety tips for navigating their neighborhood. Students will learn about walking, biking, and transit routes.
- **Transportation Social (family workshop)**
Before or after-school event introducing families to walking, biking, transit, and carpool options along with local resources and programs for both students and parents. This can empower families with more affordable transportation options.



- **Walking School Bus Walkthrough/Parent Training** (family workshop)
City staff can meet with parents before the launch of a walking school bus to go over best practices, help them plan a route, and help parents understand walking school buses.
- **Practice Walk** (family workshop)
City and school staff can meet with parents before the beginning of the school year or upcoming semester. Parents and students can practice walking a safe route to school together.



Middle School (7–8)

- **Walk/Bike/Roll Safety Curriculum Introduction**

Classroom lesson introducing the City of Bloomington's Walk/Bike/Roll Safety Curriculum and activity book. This gives students a chance to ask questions and learn more about active transportation opportunities.

- **Route Planning Workshop**

Helping students determine how to get from home to school and back safely through a mapping exercise. Each student will develop their own map and learn safety tips for navigating their neighborhood. Students will learn about walking, biking, and transit routes.

- **Bike Repair Basics**

Short hands-on session teaching the basics of how to care for your bike scaled to grade level.

- **Environmental Science & Urban Planning Workshop**

Teaches students about climate change and the environmental effects of transportation. Students will learn the benefits of walking, rolling, carpooling, and taking transit and how to promote transportation change within their communities.

This training is offered as one 40-50 minute session. Sessions can be adjusted depending on the class schedule. We can present to multiple classrooms in one day or host an assembly to reach a larger group in one class period.

- **Transportation Social (Family Workshop)**

Before or after-school event introducing families to walking, biking, transit, and carpool options along with local resources and programs for both students and parents. This can empower families with more affordable transportation options.



High School (9–12)

- **Bike Driver's Ed**

Driver's Ed courses [rarely](#) include education on bike safety for drivers or for people who bike. A driver's education style course designed specifically for people biking. Students learn rules of the road, hand signals, bike repair, and how to safely navigate Bloomington. The course may include classroom lessons and on-bike practice. Schools can use an existing Bike Driver's Ed curriculum through IU Expand's [Ride Smart: Bicycle and E-Scooter Traffic Skills](#), and the League of American Cyclist's [learning center](#) which also includes resources on how to be a bike-friendly driver. A document version available for classrooms is Bike New York's [Bike Driver's Ed](#). This training can be introduced by City staff, but is generally taught by the teacher.

- **Bike Mechanic Class**

Hands-on classes that teach students basic bike maintenance and repair, such as fixing flats, and adjusting brakes. These classes build student confidence and mechanical skills. Bike mechanic instruction can easily be integrated into physical education, home-ec, or STEM classes.

The City of Bloomington has [curriculum](#), practice bikes, and basic repair tools for classrooms for teacher-led trainings. The City of Bloomington can also provide shorter 1-class repair training for younger grades

- **Short Bike-Repair Workshop**

Single-class bike maintenance education session meant to teach the basics of bike repair to students. This training can be combined with other trainings to improve student understanding of transportation options for a full hour presentation. This training is offered as one 40-50 minute session.

- **Trip Planning Lab**

Students plan their bus trips using real destinations such as routes to school, jobs, or college campuses. Students can also learn about the City of Bloomington trail system, transit system, and driving tools. This can provide students with information they need to travel independently and safely.

- **Transportation Guest Speakers**

Planners, engineers, transit operators, and advocates present career paths and give them an opportunity to provide feedback on real ongoing and proposed projects in environmental planning, transportation planning, housing, and engineering.



- **Student-Led Walk Audit & Presentation**

A small group of students will use the [walk audit toolkit](#). Students evaluate sidewalks, crosswalks, and traffic behavior, documenting, with photos and notes, to document needs and support plans for safer routes.

- **Bike and Bus Field Trips**

Students can participate, either during or after class, in a bike or bus field trip. Some students may have limited experience biking or using public transit. Practicing these skills can help build independence and confidence. Students will be given bus passes and bikes can be borrowed from the City. This training can be completed with City staff and the teacher, or schools may choose to recognize participation through class credit, service learning hours, or other incentives.

- **Friday Field Trip series** (Future Opportunity)

Students can take part in a thematic bike ride, walk, or tour each Friday evening set around a different theme from biking on environmentally important routes to touring the local bus maintenance facilities.

- **Student-Led Street Design Project**

The City of Bloomington has many ongoing transportation and development projects. This interactive presentation gives students the opportunity to learn about a project, understand design constraints, and sketch out design opportunities in a design exercise known as a “charrette” that helps the City plan for projects and helps students understand real engineering and planning issues. Students will also learn about data collection and resources the City uses, and how to access data.

- **UrbanPlan - Urban Land Institute (ULI) Real Estate Training**

UrbanPlan is an engaging project-based learning exercise in which participants (high school students, university students, public officials, or community members) learn the forces and risks that affect development in our communities. Participants make challenging development decisions, shaping the future of a fictional community. In the process, participants learn about private and public sector goals, complex trade-offs, and economics in play in redevelopment.

Teams step into the shoes of a developer and respond to a Request for Proposals (RFP) where they grapple with city goals, community requests, design, and making sure the project is financially viable. Participants work collaboratively on a team to create a team vision and design a plan using buildings made out of LEGO blocks. Each team member plays a specific role, resulting in a series of trade-offs and compromises.



UrbanPlan is practical, realistic, dynamic, and challenging, and that's on purpose. By simulating the emotional experience of caring about the impact of a development on a community, participants learn to think critically about the fundamentals of real estate. UrbanPlan takes several hours. City staff can facilitate a half-day training, multi-day training, or train teachers on how to independently use UrbanPlan in their classroom.

- **Environmental Science & Urban Planning Workshop** (see [this](#))*

Teaches students about climate change and the environmental effects of transportation. Students will learn the benefits of walking, rolling, carpooling, and taking transit and how to promote transportation change within their communities.

This training is offered as one 40-50 minute session. Sessions can be adjusted depending on the class schedule. We can present to multiple classrooms in one day or host an assembly to reach a larger group in one class period.

- **Data Science & Urban Planning Workshop**

Introduces students to how cities use data to design safer and more efficient transportation systems. Students will analyze real-world transportation data (traffic counts, speed studies, crash data, air quality, and travel surveys) and learn how data informs decisions about infrastructure planning, engineering, and transit planning.

This training is offered as one 40-50 minute session. Sessions can be adjusted depending on the class schedule. We can present to multiple classrooms in one day or host an assembly to reach a larger group in one class period.

- **Math and Urban Planning Workshop**

Demonstrates how math is used in real-world transportation planning and street design. Students will explore concepts such as distance, time, speed, scale, geometry, and probability through hands-on activities like mapping routes, calculating travel time comparisons, estimating emissions reductions, and designing safer intersections. Students will see how math helps create safer streets and more sustainable communities.

This training is offered as one 40-50 minute session. Sessions can be adjusted depending on the class schedule. We can present to multiple classrooms in one day or host an assembly to reach a larger group in one class period.



- **Geography and Urban Planning Workshop**

Students will learn about the role of geography in urban planning including a grade-appropriate introduction to maps through Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

This training is offered as one 40-50 minute session. Sessions can be adjusted depending on the class schedule. We can present to multiple classrooms in one day or host an assembly to reach a larger group in one class period.

- **Government & Urban Planning Workshop**

Explores how transportation decisions are made at the local, state, and federal levels. Students will learn how city councils, planning commissions, and community members influence transportation policy. The workshop highlights how young people can shape safer and more equitable transportation systems.

This training is offered as one 40-50 minute session. Sessions can be adjusted depending on the class schedule. We can present to multiple classrooms in one day or host an assembly to reach a larger group in one class period.

- **History & Urban Planning Workshop**

Examines how historical decisions about transportation have shaped today's communities. Students will explore the history of our transportation system and how that affects the world today. This can easily be tied into existing social studies and history lessons for different time periods.

This training is offered as one 40-50 minute session. Sessions can be adjusted depending on the class schedule. We can present to multiple classrooms in one day or host an assembly to reach a larger group in one class period.

- **The Arts and Literature of Urban Planning Workshop**

Connects transportation and city design to creativity and storytelling. Students will examine how artists, writers, and designers interpret streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces and how art and storytelling can inform planning, engineering, and design.

This training is offered as one 40-50 minute session. Sessions can be adjusted depending on the class schedule. We can present to multiple classrooms in one day or host an assembly to reach a larger group in one class period.



- **School Wide Assemblies**

The City can partner with the school for school-wide assemblies on a range of topics. Topics may include:

- Distracted driving
- Drunk and impaired driving
- How Bloomington is Working Toward Safer Streets

- **Transportation Social (Family Workshop)**

Before or after-school event introducing families to walking, biking, transit, and carpool options along with local resources and programs for both students and parents. This can empower families with more affordable transportation options.