

## UPDATE ON THE VISION ZERO FOR YOUTH INITIATIVE

The [Vision Zero for Youth Initiative](#) encourages communities to focus safety improvements and slow traffic speeds where children and youth walk and bicycle. Applying a safe system approach to school travel provides the opportunity to expand safety impacts for students and families well beyond the school zone and to promote broad adoption of Vision Zero principles. A focus on the needs of children can create momentum for change.

### Back to School Together—Safe & Healthy Journeys to School during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond

With funding from the FIA Foundation, a committee representing health and transportation professionals convened in spring of 2021 to support safe travel for students as in-person school re-opened in the fall. [Back to School Together](#) includes key strategies for school travel, a centralized location for school travel-related guidance, and documentation of innovative actions taken by communities. Strategies include encouraging active travel, managing vehicle speeds and reducing congestion on campus. Actions and innovations include slow streets/school streets, expanded school walk zones, park and walk programs and quick-build infrastructure improvements.

Seattle's Stay Healthy Streets and School Streets (left) are closed to pass-through vehicles in front of schools. Indianapolis Public Schools (right) secured a "tactical urbanism" grant from the Indiana State Department of Health.



Events for Walk to School Day 2021 further exemplified the commitment to safety. Post-event Coordinator Survey responses revealed that nearly one-third (29%) of participating schools/communities took new action this school year to accommodate walking and biking to school; 39% used the event to draw attention to traffic safety needs and more than one-half (53%) made special efforts to manage traffic and speeds around the school this year.

### Vision Zero for Youth Demonstration Project Update and Final Report

The Vision Zero for Youth Initiative partnered with the City of Philadelphia as the first demonstration of the impact that a youth focus can have. The project included a youth pedestrian crash analysis, systemic safety analysis, equity analysis, proposed child focused strategies for the city's Vision Zero Action Plan update, countermeasure considerations for child pedestrians and agency partner input. The final report, to be released in early 2022, summarizes core components of the project with key takeaways for other cities. Join the January 27 [webinar](#) for more about how and why to examine city child pedestrian crashes.

### Teaming up with NACTO's Streets for Kids Training in Tulsa

To extend the reach of Vision Zero for Youth, we joined NACTO's Streets for Kids training in Tulsa, OK. We provided an emphasis on older youth and shared ideas from the work we've seen in other parts of the country. Our team's two youth advocates shared why a partnership of city officials and youth can bring many benefits.

### Pilot of Minigrant Program to Support Safety Improvements near Schools

One of the innovations by schools during COVID-19 was to use pop-up infrastructure to test bike lanes, walking zones and crosswalks. As part of a new project with General Motors we will develop and pilot a minigrant program to support community-driven safety improvements in underserved areas.

## Re-envisioning School Streets: Creating More Space for Children and Families

This [information brief](#) is for transportation professionals, school administrators, and school volunteers as they consider street changes around schools to create more space for children and families. It includes examples of street modifications to improve safety and active travel access around schools, considerations for determining what changes work best in different settings and case studies from communities that have altered their streets.

## 2021 Vision Zero for Youth Innovation Award Recognizes Milwaukee Safe Routes to School for Efforts to Support Safe Walking and Biking amid COVID-19

The Milwaukee Safe Routes to School Program with leadership from the Milwaukee Department of Public Works and Wisconsin Bike Fed [was selected](#) because of its creative, community-driven efforts to support safe walking and biking for youth, especially youth of color and in low-income neighborhoods, during the pandemic.

The Vision Zero for Youth Leadership Award recognizes US cities that are leading the way in prioritizing children's pedestrian and bicyclist safety. Los Angeles, New York City and Fremont, CA were the first recipients of the Leadership Award. Due to the pandemic, the Award Committee decided for 2021 to recognize innovative approaches to road safety benefiting youth during COVID-19.

## 2021 International Vision Zero for Youth Award presented to Bogotá, Colombia and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The two cities were recognized for long-term commitment to youth road safety. [Bogotá](#) was recognized for fostering a culture of safe, active transportation for youth, including committing to a target of zero road fatalities among youth, implementing traffic calming measures, changing streets to reduce speeds around schools, and creating public spaces to encourage all ages to walk.

[Addis Ababa](#) was recognized for prioritizing children and youth in efforts to advance road safety and mobility for all road users, including prioritizing youth pedestrians in road safety policy, implementing traffic calming measures to decrease speed in school zones, providing and improving pedestrian infrastructure in school zones, and supporting car-free "streets for people" days.

An outgrowth of the US award program, the International Award was established in 2019. Fortaleza, Brazil was selected as the first International Award recipient.



### Bike to School Day set for May 4, 2022

Visit [walkbiketoschool.org](http://walkbiketoschool.org) for more information.

Registration for 2022 events will begin in March.

### NEW for 2022 Walk to School Day becomes Walk and Roll to School Day

With a name that better reflects our longstanding goal of promoting safe, accessible spaces for all active trips, starting with the trip to school, the first National Walk and Roll to School Day will be held on October 5, 2022.

Vision Zero for Youth ([visionzeroforyouth.org](http://visionzeroforyouth.org)) is an initiative of the National Center for Safe Routes to School supported by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center, FIA Foundation and UNC Highway Safety Research Center.