

OAKS AND SPOKES

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

SECOND QUARTER CONTRACT REPORT

DATE

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PREPARED BY

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INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OAKS AND SPOKES



It is Oaks and Spokes privilege to submit our second quarterly report reflecting our work on the Safe Routes to School - Wake County (SRTS-WC) contract from October, 1 2022 through December 31, 2022.

Oaks and Spokes is a Raleigh based organization committed to advancing transportation options and equity in our community. Founded in 2012, and incorporated as a non-profit in 2016, the organization adding its first staff 2020. Our role in Raleigh is to advocate for safer streets for people of all ages and abilities.

Oaks and Spokes has two-part time staff who manage the contract. These staff are Sara Ellis, the Interim Executive Director and Mary-Jo Gellenbeck the Safe Routes to School Program Manager. Mary-Jo handles the programming, outreach and day to day work. Sara manages the administration and reporting.

Oaks and Spokes partnership with Safe Routes to School - Wake County (SRTS-WC) dates back several years, and was recently formalized through this contract in July of 2022. The goal of this contract is to support SRTS-WC work and help grow their programming in Raleigh. The contract scope consists of five (5) program areas:

1. Outreach to new schools for Walk and Roll to School Day
2. Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) Training
3. Host a Learn to Ride event
4. Traffic Garden Pilot Project
5. Kickoff to Kindergarten

Building off a strong foundation in the first quarter of outreach and preparation for Walk & Roll to School Day we increased participation in schools during the month of October. After Walk & Roll to School Day the team began planning for the Learn to Ride event in January. This quarter's report summarizes work completed during Q2.

With Gratitude,

Interim Executive Director

Sara Ellis

Safe Routes to School Program Manager,

Mary-Jo Gellenbeck

WALK & ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY

Walk & Roll To School Day is a national event that encourages walking and rolling to school as healthy ways for kids and families to make their daily commutes. Oaks and Spokes work on this project area began back in September of 2022, and this report picks up from the Q1 report detailing the initial outreach.

In partnership with Safe Routes To School - Wake County, the team developed an outreach strategy to invite schools who historically have not participated to get involved. Mary-Jo Gellenbeck, the Oaks and Spokes Safe Routes to School Coordinator was able to participate in two events to support and learn. This report details lessons learned from the events, that will be applied to our outreach efforts for Bike & Roll to School day in May of 2023.



Stough Elementary Park & Roll arriving at school

Estimated Impact: 100+ students walked to school

Stough Elementary School's hosted a Park & Walk event for its Walk & Roll event. Oaks and Spokes assisted in selecting a route by identifying active transportation infrastructure that will increase safety and comfort: wide sidewalks, clearly marked crosswalks, mature trees located between motor vehicle lanes and sidewalks, and 4-way stop intersection prioritizing pedestrian traffic.

Stough's community partnered with local businesses to access to its parking lot increasing student body participation; families arrived by foot, bicycle and motor vehicle traffic. It was a pleasure to witness students mental and physical well-being being supported by its school staff, PTA, and parents. It was easy to see the added spring in their steps as they walked to school that day.

WALK & ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY

Douglas Elementary hosted its Walk & Roll To School day with both a Park & Walk and Walk Your Way using the neighborhood sidewalks leading to the school. Oaks & Spokes assisted with celebrating Walk Your Way students arriving that day. Students were greeted with praise and received Safe Routes To School - Wake County prizes such as stickers marking their choice to walk. The small token of prizes plant a seed in the student's memory that sprouts as they grow. Imprinting a positive impression in their memory empowers their choices in the future.

Estimated Impact: 140+ Students walked or rolled to school



Walk & Roll to School Day prizes!



Douglas Elementary Walk & Roll to School Day Prize



Douglas Elementary Rollers with reflective gear

Oaks and Spokes Staff Time: 27.5 hours

Learn to Ride RALEIGH

Learn to Ride is an all ages event designed to teach families how to ride a bike in a comfortable and supportive environment. The second quarter marked the beginning of planning the logistics for this event. This program was modeled after a successful Learn to Ride program in Charlotte.

The components of a successful Learn to Ride program include:

- At least 5 bikes ranging in size toddler to adult
- Trained Volunteers who teach one on one how to use the balance bike method
- Free helmets for all participants in a variety of sizes
 - Trained volunteers to assist in fitting the helmets
- A gently sloping, paved area at least 250' long and 65' wide (minimum)
- Volunteers who are trained to remove and install bike pedals
- Volunteer bike mechanics who can safety-check roll up bikes

Our work during this phase of the contract focused on setting up the infrastructure for the program based on the components Charlotte's Learn to Ride Program recommended. This included:

- Setting up an online donation system to collect gently used bikes in a variety of sizes.
- Securing a space and agreement with the City of Raleigh's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department to host the event.
- Securing a space to host a gently used bike repair event to ensure the bikes were in good working order for the event.
- Recruiting volunteer bike mechanics to repair the donated bikes.



Gently used bike donation site

Learn to Ride RALEIGH

We look forward to reporting on the multiple events Oaks and Spokes hosted in partnership with Safe Routes to School - Wake County and many others. It has been a distinct privilege to build this program in Raleigh. Bike education is not currently offered in Wake County Public Schools. Offering the Learn to Ride event not only teaches a healthy activity, but equips families with the skills to feel confident riding a bike. When children and parents can feel comfortable riding together, they're more likely to skip the carpool line and get some exercise on their way to school.

The Learn to Ride event took place on Saturday, January 28th. The Q3 (January 1 - March 31) will detail the event, number of participants and lesson learned.

The preparation for this event included the following partnerships:

- The City of Raleigh's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department provided the space, logistics and outreach support for the event.
- The Triangle Spokes Group helped with outreach by distributing 500 fliers with their annual Christmas children's bike giveaway event.
- Cycle Logic, a local bike shop donated helmets and spare parts to support the event.
- The East Coast Electric Speed Shop, a local business donated storage space for the bikes, and space to host a repair event.
- Raleigh Community Kickstand lent us tools and volunteers for the repair event. They also donated five adult sized bikes.



Helmet donation from Raleigh bike Shop, Cycle Logic

Oaks and Spokes Staff Time: 25 Hours