

OAKS AND SPOKES

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

THIRD QUARTER CONTRACT REPORT

DATE

MARCH 6, 2023

PREPARED BY

SARA ELLIS

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OAKS AND SPOKES



It is Oaks and Spokes privilege to submit our third quarterly report reflecting our work on the Safe Routes to School - Wake County (SRTS) contract from January, 1 2023 through March 31, 2023.

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) dates back several years, and was recently formalized through this contract in July of 2022. The goal of this contract is to support SRTS 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

This was a busy quarter, and we are thrilled to report we hosted the first all ages, Learn to Ride a bike event in the City of Raleigh. It was a wonderful event with auspicious weather and eager participants. It has been a pleasure to serve the community in the capacity that we can through this partnership.

With Gratitude,

Interim Executive Director

Sara Ellis

Safe Routes to School Program Coordinator,

Mary-Jo Gellenbeck

BIKE & ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY

Bike & 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 builds on our lessons learned from our work on Walk & Roll to School day in October of 2022.

Bike & Roll to School day takes place on May 3, 2023 but schools can participate in the event at any time during the month of May. Oaks and Spokes role on this item is to recruit new Raleigh schools to participate in the event as registered schools. We do this by providing free planning and logistical assistance to schools by request. In 2022 a total of 8 Raleigh Schools participated, and we are working to increase that number.

Our strategies to increase school participation include the following:

- Using Oaks and Spokes social media channels to build awareness about the event itself, and free planning assistance.
- Working through Oaks and Spokes existing community networks to build awareness, including direct outreach to members with school aged children, advertising in our monthly e-newsletter and community partners.
- Direct email and social media outreach to schools who have not participated in the past. As well as outreach to offices within the Wake County Public School System may have goals that align with the event.

We will continue our outreach, assessing what is working and what needs to be modified as we go. Oaks and Spokes participation on this scope item will continue through the month of May, and the results will be reported in the Q4 report come June 30, 2023.

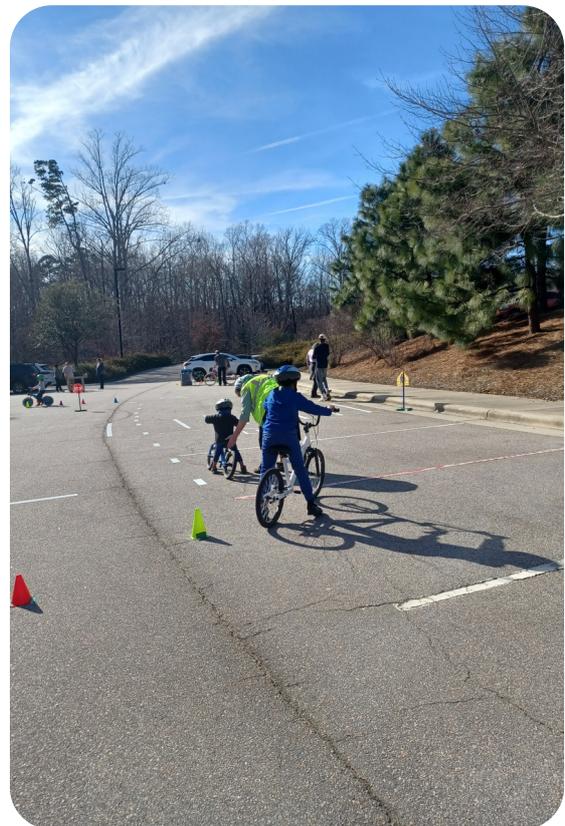
Oaks and Spokes Staff Time: 45.63 Hours

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 event was formed in partnership with City of Raleigh's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department. This program was modeled after a successful Learn to Ride program in Charlotte. Our work during this phase of the contract built on the months of preparation to host a successful Learn to Ride event.

Preparation for the event included the following:

- Hosted a Learn to Ride volunteer workshop and trained 10 volunteers on the balance bike method, helmet fitting, and pedal removal/installation.
- Continued to solicit gently used bikes to complete our goal of 5 loaner bikes available people of all ages.
- Hosted a gently used bikes repair event where ten volunteers repaired 20 gently used bikes in 2-hours.
- Hosted Raleigh's first all ages, Learn to Ride a bike event! There were 14 participants, including an adult learner. We were supported by 13 volunteers.



Learn to Ride Event

The background and logistical work that went into making this event a success was key. We are now in a position to host future Learn to Ride events using the fleet of used bikes collected and repaired. Additionally we learned several important lessons about running the event more efficiently that we detail on the next page. This first Learn to Ride event is just the beginning of what we hope will be a larger shift in Raleigh towards safe, multi-modal commuting.

Learn to Ride RALEIGH

The Learn to Ride event took place on Saturday, January 28th from 1pm - 3pm at Marsh Creek Park, in northwest Raleigh. The event was open for people of all ages, and attendees could bring their own bike or borrow a loaner bike. We also had helmets and volunteers prepared to help with proper fitting. If a participant brought their own bike, our volunteers helped remove the pedals and demonstrate the balance bike method. Loaner bikes were also available in a variety of sizes that volunteers helped pair with participants.

Participants had the option of practicing the balance bike method on a circular course made of cones, in a closed off parking lot. The course was situated in a gently sloping area, to encourage the participants to feel the joy of gliding on their bike. Participants had the option to move to a freestyle area once they got comfortable with the basics. In the freestyle area, cones were set up to help participants practice bike handling skills by weaving. Finally, thanks to our high ratio of volunteers participants we were able to provide one-on-one instruction for anyone who needed some extra help. The remainder of this report details our lessons learned for the next event.

Lessons Learned:

1. Add Volunteer Training to event day to introduce the Balance Bike Method 30 minutes before event start time.
2. Add Balance Bike Demonstrations by staff to introduce the method to event attendees. One at the start the event and every hour afterwards.
3. FreeStyle space increased an attendee's comfort and safety level to learn how to balance & manage a bike.
4. When space is available, complement the group track with a designated space for one-on-one training.
5. All bikes will be assessed for safety by a trained mechanic before participants enter the course.
6. Provide a water cooler on site for participants to refill water bottles.

Oaks and Spokes Staff Time: 57.81 Hours



Mary-Jo Gellenbeck, Safe Routes to School Program Coordinator at Learn to Ride

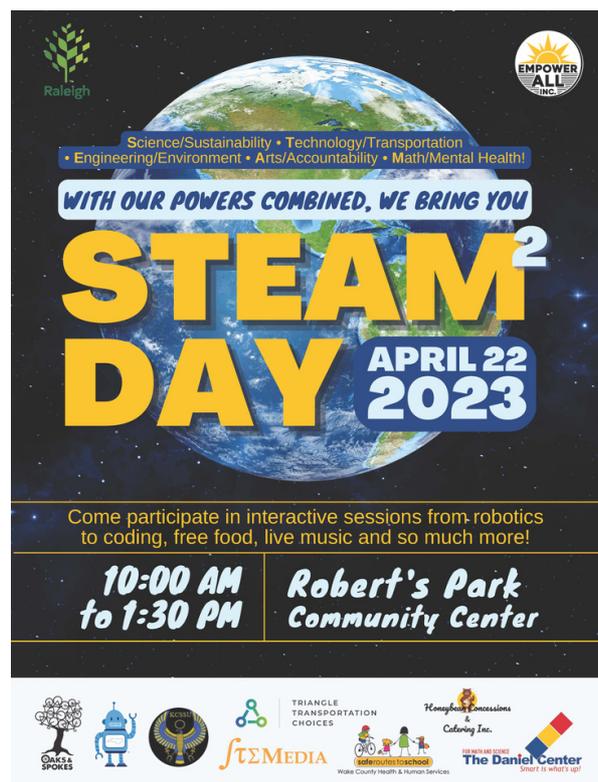
Traffic Gardens

We are looking forward to reporting on the two pop-up traffic gardens Oaks and Spokes will build and operate in the fourth quarter. This scope item includes building and activating two pop-up traffic gardens in partnership with other local non-profits who serve children. We are partnering with Marbles Kid's Museum, and Empower All Inc. These partnerships allow us to focus on delivering the traffic garden and the partners bring the participants and doing the advertising.

The remainder of this item is the fun stuff! Staff will direct teams of volunteers to build and active the two upcoming traffic gardens. The events will be held on Saturday, April 22nd from 10am - 1:30pm at Roberts Park Community Center and Marbles Kid's Museum Annual Traffic Garden on Saturday, May 6th from 9:30am - 12:30pm. Both events will be free, and open to the public. Oaks and Spokes will provide loaner bikes for participants to use as well. Below is a summary of the work that went into making these events possible.

Traffic Garden Preparation:

- Held site visits with both Marbles Kid's Museum and Empower All Inc
- Created volunteer sign up forms and recruitment for 20 volunteers per pop-up traffic garden
- Designed custom traffic garden pattern for Empower All Inc STEAM Day Event
- Reviewed success and opportunities for improvement from last year's Marbles Traffic Garden



Earth Day Traffic Garden Flier

Oaks and Spokes Staff Time: 67.44 Hours

Law Enforcement Officer Training

Oaks and Spokes began work on the Law Enforcement Officer or LEO Training in March of 2023. The goal of this item is to develop a training that will equip police officers with the skills to teach youth traffic safety education. In the United States, children don't learn traffic safety education until driver's education in high school. Age appropriate educational tools are vital for children to be safe users of our streets.

Our objective is to develop a training program for police officers who interact with traffic users, enabling them to view children as equal road users. This means equipping officers with tools to teach children how to be safe pedestrians and bike riders when they conduct bike safety rodeos and other events.

We are exploring a partnership with BikeWalk NC that could provide continuing education credit to officers that attend. In addition, Oaks and Spokes endeavored to reach the Raleigh Police Department to initiate that conversation. A full report on the results of this scope item will be delivered in the Q4 report in June of 2023.

Oaks and Spokes Staff Time: 12.31 Hours