
Bike to School Day Volunteer Training

— March 7, 2023 —

Please add your Name, School(s), and whether you've done this before in the chat!

Who we are



- ❖ Grassroots organization of parents, advocates and educators empowering families to ride bikes
- ❖ Events include family bike rides (Kidical Mass) and pop up bike obstacle courses
- ❖ Large online presence
- ❖ Chicago Safe Streets for All Coalition Founding Partner

Community Partners



What is National Bike to School Day?



- ❖ Wednesday May 3, 2023
- ❖ A day celebrating bicycling and promoting healthy active lifestyles by biking to school!
- ❖ Nationally supported by The National Center for Safe Routes to School

Why Participate?

- ❖ Promoting healthy lifestyles
- ❖ Physical activity improves focus for children
- ❖ Relieving traffic congestion
- ❖ Improving air quality
- ❖ Plant seeds for additional bike programming / organizing at your school
- ❖ IT'S FUN!

How to plan a Bike to School Day!

Pre-Event

- ❖ Send a letter and confirm school participation with principal
- ❖ Reach out to your PTO and/or LSC to see if they'll support it
 - Ask school to share announcements in existing communications and social media parents group
- ❖ Find an alternative lead in case you/your family is sick; rain plan for bad weather
- ❖ Make a bike parking plan with the school and share with families
- ❖ Register event with National Bike to School Day website and Chicago Family Biking

Optional:

- ❖ Plan before/after school activities with support from the school
- ❖ Ask teachers/staff to join in

Day of Event

- ❖ Take lots of pictures and ask others for their pictures
 - Send them to the school to post on socials
 - Also tag @chicagofamilybiking or share with chicagofamilybiking@gmail.com so we can share on our channels
- ❖ Keep in communication with your collaborators and volunteers
- ❖ Make a plan for meeting kids/families at the school
 - Stickers or stamps for participating kids
- ❖ Bring a bike-related book for your kid(s) class to read

Post-Event

- ❖ Evaluate
 - What worked well?
 - What were some opportunities for growth?
 - Who was excited that might get involved in future?
 - School Bike Buses
 - Kidical mass
 - How could we incorporate more bike to school efforts year round?
 - Celebrate Walk & Roll Day in October?

Bells & Whistles (Pun Intended)

- ❖ Engaging Community Partners
- ❖ Engaging Alderperson
- ❖ Identify easy routes to school from various directions
 - Make an interactive google map to show bike lanes around the school boundaries, safe routes
- ❖ Print stickers or bring a stamp for the kids who participated
- ❖ Offer helmet fittings
 - SAFE Ambassadors
- ❖ Work with school to include SAFE Ambassador programming
- ❖ After school bike obstacle course
- ❖ Bike Zoo
- ❖ Organize a bike bus day of
 - More on this later!
- ❖ Offer Bike Valet day of
- ❖ Host a bike tune up day the week before
- ❖ Raffles, Incentives, Prizes
 - Get local businesses involved

School Bike Buses



San Francisco bike bus

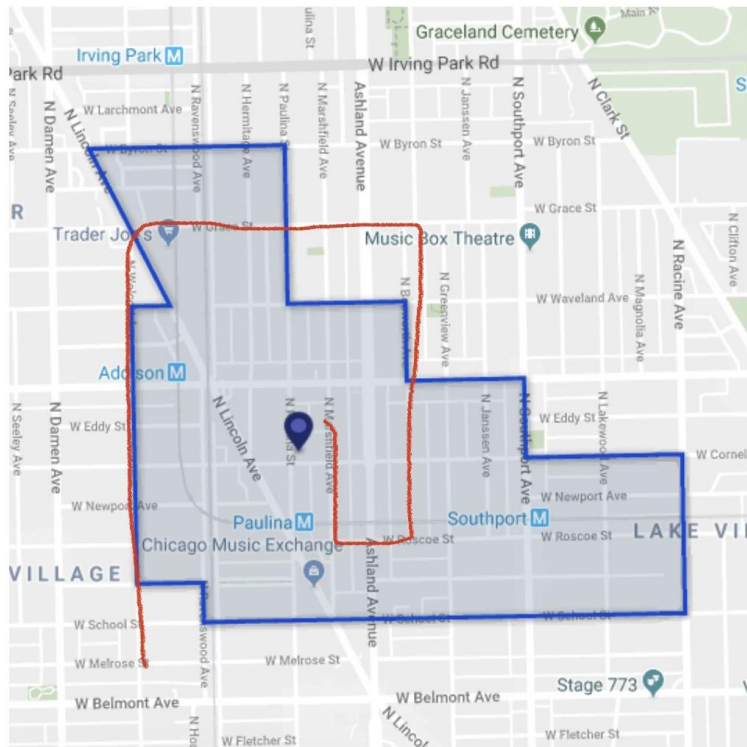
Bike Buses Bike to School Day


- ❖ If you already know some families who bike to your school, you could plan a bike bus!
- ❖ Needs to be inclusive - invite everyone to join and make sure to include it in the school communications
- ❖ Consider the neighborhood boundaries and what is possible
 - One large bus route or a few smaller routes with different leads?
 - Who will lead? Do you have a sub if you can't make it?
 - Right turns, one ways, stop signs, limited lights, slow traffic streets make good routes
- ❖ Think about timing of the route
- ❖ Reach out to our community partners for support for leading, corking, keeping the group together so you can also focus on your kid(s)
- ❖ Create a google map showing the route(s) and meeting places
- ❖ Ask teachers/staff to join in
- ❖ Consider it a test for a future weekly bike bus!

Bike Buses Weekly/Monthly

- ❖ Use Bike to School Day as a way to recruit/advertise for a school bike bus
- ❖ Same ideas apply to this bike bus, needs to be inclusive
- ❖ Take what you've learned from Bike to School Day about where people are coming from to help consider the route
 - One large bus route or a few smaller routes with different leads?
 - Who will lead? Do you have a sub if you can't make it? Who will cork or help with busy crossings?
- ❖ How do you communicate any changes or cancellations?
- ❖ Think about timing of the route and bell schedule
- ❖ Create a google map showing the route(s) and meeting places
- ❖ Ask teachers/staff to join in
- ❖ Be consistent, so people know you'll show up.
- ❖ Sometimes, it might just be you, and that's ok!

Bike Buses Bike to School Day





HAMILTON ELEMENTARY BIKE BUS

Wednesdays in October!
LEAVES BELMONT/WOLCOTT AT 7:10AM
WITH PICK UPS ALONG THE ROUTE

ESTIMATED TIMES:

- 7:10 Wolcott/Belmont
- 7:14 Wolcott/Roscoe
- 7:17 Wolcott/Addison
- 7:20 Wolcott/Grace
- 7:22 Grace/Hermitage
- 7:26 Bosworth/Addison
- 7:30 Bosworth/Roscoe
- 7:35 HAMILTON!


START ★ Belmont

END ★









PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN CHILDREN.
SCOOTERS / TRAINING WHEELS NOT RECOMMENDED.

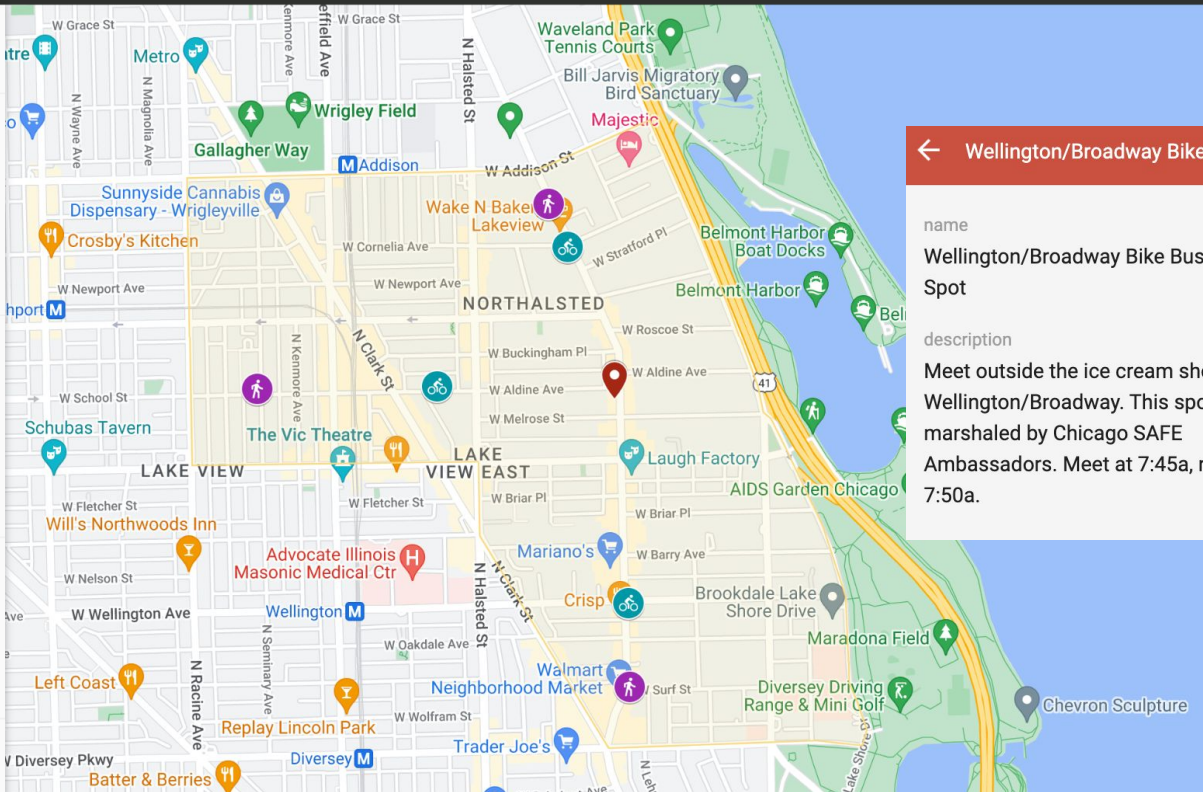
Bike Buses Bike to School Day

[Link to map](#)

 **Nettelhorst Walk and Roll to School Day 2022** ★
Christina Hayford

2,253 views
Published on October 1, 2022

- Bike Bus Locations**
 -  Cornelia/Broadway Bike Bus Me...
 -  Wellington/Broadway Bike Bus ...
 -  Dayton/Aldine Bike Bus Meeting...
- Walking Bus Locations**
 -  Brompton/Broadway Walking S...
 -  School/Seminary Walking Scho...
 -  Surf/Broadway Walking School ...
- Nettelhorst**
 -  Nettelhorst School Boundaries
 -  Nettelhorst



Wellington/Broadway Bike Bus ...

name
Wellington/Broadway Bike Bus Meeting Spot

description
Meet outside the ice cream shop at Wellington/Broadway. This spot will be marshaled by Chicago SAFE Ambassadors. Meet at 7:45a, roll out at 7:50a.

Bike to School Day Example



B2S Example

Nettelhorst 2022

- ❖ First time school participated
- ❖ All volunteer coordinated without any school support (beside comms)
- ❖ Three bike buses, since arterial locked
 - SAFE Ambassador led one segment
- ❖ Had at least 30 kids who participated
- ❖ Not allowed to lock bikes to fence, so pointed families to local bike racks
- ❖ Supported by Assistant Principal
- ❖ Gave out stickers to kids who participated, sent book about biking to my kid's class



B2S Example

Nettelhorst 2022

Success of Bike to School Day led to:

- ❖ Kidical Mass creation/participation for Lakeview East
- ❖ Weekly Bike Bus (Fridays!)
- ❖ Walk, Roll and Bike to School Day event in October 2022, co-hosted by PTO
 - After school event that included a bike obstacle course, SAFE Ambassadors doing helmet fittings
 - Bike Bus day-of with Bike Grid and SAFE marshals
- ❖ PTO community events team co-sponsoring Walk/Roll and Bike to School Days moving forward



Community Partners



Community Partner

SAFE Ambassadors

- ❖ Streets Are for Everybody, Outreach and Education Team for the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)
- ❖ Offers school programming for all ages
 - 2nd Grade Walking Safety
 - 5th Grade Micro Mobility
 - Drivers Ed
- ❖ Can help with helmet fittings, bike marshalling, etc
- ❖ Free Learn to Ride a Bike classes
 - Beginner
 - Skills
 - Road

★ We are Chicago's SAFE Ambassadors ★

The education and outreach arm of the Department of Transportation.



We work to help Chicagoans envision and achieve a safe, comfortable and healthy public transportation space, no matter how they get around.



The SAFE Ambassadors offer a wide range of

Free transportation safety programming

Scan the QR code to request us today!



- Virtual or in-person, customizable transportation safety presentations
- Learn to Ride classes
- Helmet fittings
- Distribution of bike maps
- Elementary and high school presentations
- Elder safety workshops
- Event tabling
- Community bike ride support
- Bike light giveaways

Follow us on Ticktok and Instagram @chicagoSAFE

Community Partner

Chicago, Bike Grid Now!

- ❖ Collective of ~100 organizers demanding a network of slow, safe residential streets across Chicago
 - Backgrounds in public policy, urban planning, analytics, public health, PR, architecture, etc.
- ❖ Host Bike Jams, Bike Buses, public commenting, and community conversations
- ❖ Activists experienced with marshalling, designing safe routes
- ❖ bikegridnow.org | [@bikegridnow](https://twitter.com/bikegridnow)



Community Partner

Bikes N' Roses

- ❖ Youth development organization started by high school students in Albany Park 11 years ago.
- ❖ Host free bike repair clinics, group rides, and a kids bike program.
- ❖ Working to bring community-oriented cycling clubs to Albany Park, Austin, Belmont Cragin and Roseland.
- ❖ Shop is open and located in Belmont Cragin.
- ❖ bnr@communitiesunited.org



CFB Resources

www.chicagofamilybiking.org

- ❖ Toolkit
 - Recruitment Flyer for schools
 - Sample marketing copy
 - Flyer Templates
 - This presentation (posted shortly)
- ❖ Facebook Group
- ❖ Reminder emails, Slack channel
- ❖ What else would help?

National B2S Day Resources

<https://www.walkbiketoschool.org/>

- ❖ Downloadable Materials
 - Flyers to send home with students
 - Logos
 - Sticker templates
- ❖ Register your school on their map
- ❖ Great resource for additional copy

Quick Review of Main Steps

- ❖ Identify Volunteers/Leaders in your school
- ❖ Connect with school admin
- ❖ Decide on programming
- ❖ Spread the word
- ❖ Ride to school on May 3rd!
- ❖ Share pictures and stories with your school community (and us!)

BONUS: Keep on encouraging people to bike once everyone declares “we should do this more often!”

What's Next

We'll be in touch!

- ❖ Official School Sign Up Form
- ❖ Share Presentation
- ❖ Invite to slack channel to communicate with other organizers
- ❖ Check-in call on 4/20

Questions?