**WALKABLE WASHINGTON**

Transformation towards walkability is taking place all over the state of Washington. From urban, suburban and small town initiatives, the program showcases the effects of a renewed focus on creating great places for people to walk. The case studies are exceptional projects and programs showcasing how cities, counties, school districts, and community organizations throughout the state are making it safer, easier, and more inviting for people to walk.

**WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO**

We promote walkable communities and empower people throughout Washington to connect to the world by foot.

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**CASE STUDY**

**REDMOND SCHOOLPOOL**

**REDMOND, WASHINGTON**

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE:** Redmond SchoolPool encourages students and families to take fewer drive alone trips to school. To do that, the program connects families through a secure online network so they can form carpools, 'bike trains', and 'walking school buses'. The online network was created by the SchoolPool staff using the Smart Rideshare software platform. After a family has registered on the website, they are matched with other families who live nearby and can then contact them to set up times to walk, bike, carpool, or take the bus together. Participants then add their trips to the online calendar and earn rewards for themselves and their schools. SchoolPool offers incentives for the school when a family creates an account and when they take a walking, biking, carpool or bus trip to the online calendar. To date there are seven schools participating and each school can raise up to $5,000 annually through SchoolPool. Children also get rewards such as free safety gear at Walk or Bike to school events.

**COSTS AND FUNDING:** Redmond SchoolPool is funded through the Go Redmond program (50%) and King County Metro (50%).

**IMPLEMENTATION TIME-FRAME:** The SchoolPool program began as a combination of something the city wanted to do to encourage driving less, and also a need from the community. Schools and government officials were aware of the worsening traffic congestion in school zones and heard that families felt un-safe letting their children walk to school alone.
Redmond SchoolPool came from this need and is part of a larger program to increase ride share options. King County Metro is a big supporter of their efforts as well as the Lake Washington School District, and pedestrian advisory committee. Additionally, Redmond is making downtown more walkable and this program supports those efforts.

The City of Redmond decided to pursue the program in June 2014 and it took about two months to get all materials made and the online system in place. It then took an additional month to work with schools and set up partnerships. The first event took place in October 2014.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:** Redmond SchoolPool has been highly supported in the community. SchoolPool staff works with the principals and PTSA at schools and provide all the support, information, and materials needed to implement the program. They also have the Mayor, Police Department, and local news reporters come out on Walk and Bike to School Days which has been very well received. Having a police and community presence reminded drivers to go slow and re-assured walkers that the school zone speeds were being enforced.

**BENEFITS AND RESULTS:** Currently SchoolPool is partnering with seven schools in Redmond and has seen increased interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Travel Behaviors for Redmond SchoolPool</th>
<th>Number of Schools Participating</th>
<th>Total Users</th>
<th>Total Trips Reduced</th>
<th>Trips Reduced per User</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2015</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>2,042</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2015</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2014*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>2,081*</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Fall 2014 included a paper calendar in addition to the online calendar. SchoolPool had higher rates of participation and may consider going back to the paper calendar for spring 2016.

Additional benefits include:
- Reduced traffic congestion around schools and neighborhoods
- A healthy and safe way for students to get to school
- Time and money saved for families
- Reduced environmental impact and local air pollution
- Money raised for each school’s PTSA
- Opportunities to Teach and motivate kids to make a difference in their community

**CONTACTS:**
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**RESOURCES:**
http://www.GoRedmond.com/schools
Walkable Washington
collaborate. innovate. celebrate.