

# Safe Routes and Pedestrian Safety Resources



## Safe Routes Partnership

[SafeRoutesPartnership.org](http://SafeRoutesPartnership.org)

## America Walks

[AmericaWalks.org](http://AmericaWalks.org)



## Walk, Bike and Roll to School Days

[WalkBikeToSchool.org](http://WalkBikeToSchool.org)

# Upcoming Events

## National Walk, Bike and Roll to School Days



October 9, 2024

May 2025 - date TBD



## Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

November 14, 2024

[RubyBridges.Foundation/walk-to-school-day](https://RubyBridges.Foundation/walk-to-school-day)





Mount Rainier Elementary has been participating in this twice-a-year event since 2019.

Other recent PGCPS participants include: Thomas S. Stone Elementary, Hollywood Elementary, Beacon Heights Elementary, Greenbelt Elementary, Springhill Lake Elementary, and Cesar Chavez Dual Spanish Immersion





Sign up to register and promote event on social media.

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

Hand out stickers to everyone who participates.



Measure progress by tallying how many students walked, biked or rolled versus car and bus riders.





Designate locations for student and family walking groups.

Invite local elected officials, PGCPS leaders, and the media.

Create a walking school bus.







# Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day at Mount Rainier Elementary School



**A Morning of Community Togetherness and  
Promoting the Benefits of Walkability**





# Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day at Mount Rainier Elementary School



**Hosting Elected and Local Officials to  
Raise Awareness of Walkability and Ruby Bridges**





# Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day at Mount Rainier Elementary School



**A Day of Education and Engagement by  
Reading to Every Classroom and Teaching Ruby's Story**





# WHY WE WALK

## American Road Deaths Show an Alarming Racial Gap

*“... fatalities follow a clear and consistent pattern: Across the country, Black and Hispanic pedestrians are killed at significantly higher rates than white pedestrians.*

*A study published last year by Harvard and Boston University deepened our understanding of this phenomenon by controlling for the distance traveled by different racial groups when driving, walking or riding a bicycle. It found that Black people were more than twice as likely, for each mile walked, to be struck and killed by a vehicle as white pedestrians. For Black cyclists, the fatality risk per mile was 4.5 times as high as that for white cyclists. For Hispanic walkers and bikers, the death rates were 1.5 and 1.7 times as high as those for white Americans using the same modes of transportation.”*

*-New York Times, 4/26/23*

## Walking While Black: New Research Examines Why It's So Dangerous

*"Traffic engineers can design roadways that give pedestrians more visibility and more space, says Goddard. Adding crosswalks and other traffic devices for pedestrians helps drivers better understand that pedestrians are intended users of the road."*

*-Governing.com, 3/23/17*

## To build safe streets, we need to address racism in urban design

*“Across the nation, street safety is dictated by race, class, and place. The lower a metro area’s median household income, the more dangerous its streets are for people walking.”*

*“Investments in infrastructure and street design—like those included in Vision Zero campaigns across the country—are critical to building safe streets.”*

*-The Brookings Institution, 8/28/19*



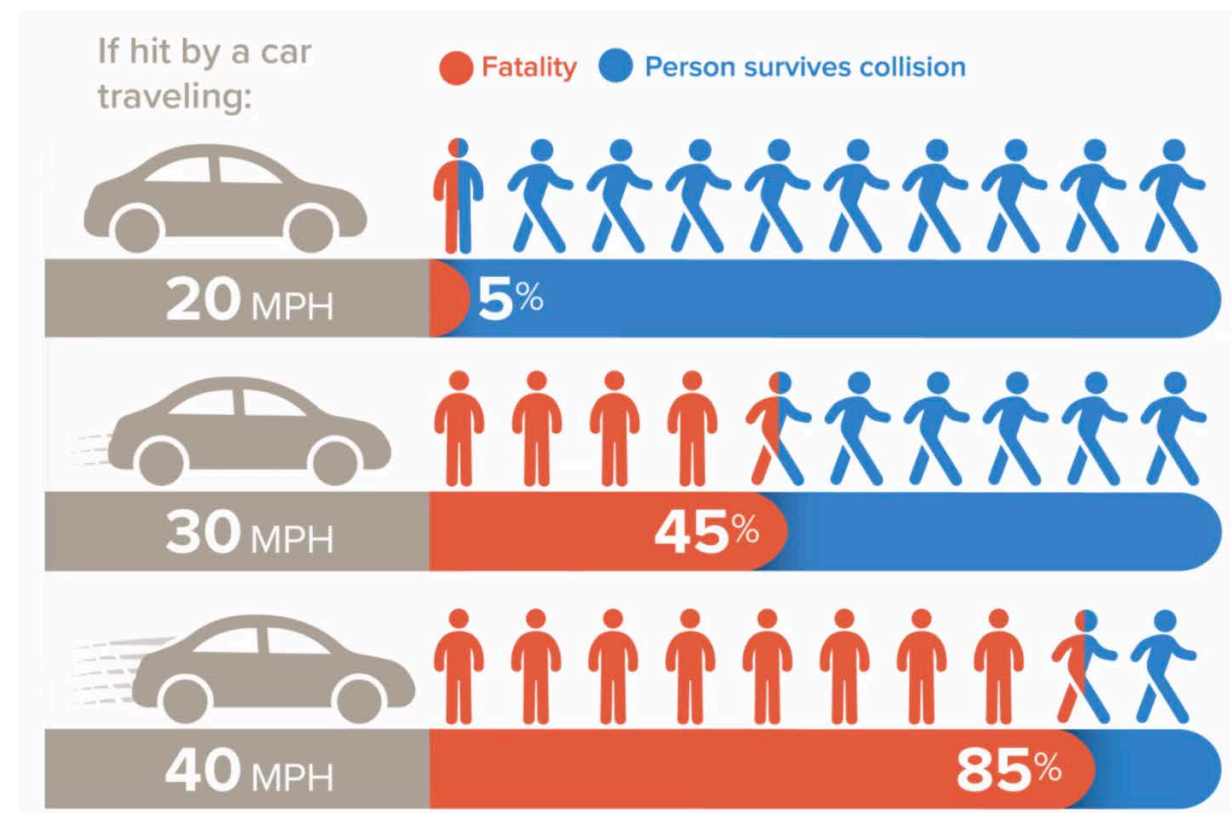
**We can't expect students and families to walk or bike to school if we don't provide them with the safe streets they need to do so.**



# Advocacy Opportunities



Work with local municipalities and county officials for **more crosswalks**



Advocate for **lower speed limits** in our communities



Successfully worked with state legislators to authorize **stop sign cameras** (HB 364)



# Safe Streets for All

\$9.7 million in federal funding awarded to Mount Rainier



Additional planning funds for:  
Brentwood  
Edmonston  
Riverdale Park

Prince George's County municipalities were awarded nearly \$11 million out of \$28 million statewide.

Mount Rainier included both PTOs as advisory members of City's Vision Zero Task Force.



# SAFE ROUTES PGCPS

Coalition of 11 PGCPS parent groups (representing 8,200 students) who mobilized after tragedy at Riverdale Elementary. Supported by several municipalities and key advocacy groups like WABA.

**Prince George's Co. parent-led school groups demand safer roads after 2 kids killed in crosswalk**



**'Our kids can't wait': Prince George's County parents demand safer roads**  
2 hours ago

**‘Every child has the right to get to-and-from school safely’| Demand for more crossing guards in Prince George's Co.**

This comes less than a month after two children were killed in the crosswalk outside of Riverdale Elementary School.

**PGCPS Parent Leaders: Our Kids Can't Wait for Safe Routes to School**

As parent leaders within PGCPS, we all mourn the tragedy that occurred on November 20, 2023 at Riverdale Elementary. We are heartbroken for the two students whose lives were lost, their families, and the entire Riverdale community.

This tragedy was preventable and should never have happened. Parent leaders have spent years warning county officials about the dangers of unfilled crossing guard positions and a lack of pedestrian safety around our schools. We are tired of excuses, and this tragedy in Riverdale proves our kids can't wait.

Doing everything possible to protect the safety of our students, teachers and staff is not a choice. It is the core responsibility of every leader in Prince George's County. This failure of leadership must speed happen again.

- We call on the Prince George's Police Department (PGPD) to take immediate action and fill all vacant crossing guard positions by January 1, 2024 or sooner. If more funding is required in order to offer the increased competitive pay and benefits needed to successfully fill these positions, we urge county officials to provide it.
- If PGPD cannot do this, we call on them to immediately coordinate with local governments and PGCPS to provide urgent funds so municipalities and PGCPS can recruit, hire and pay their own crossing guards on an emergency basis. Every school community is unique and specific needs may vary, but this crisis is universal. These positions could be filled now. This would allow the county and PGCPS to assign crossing guards to schools in unincorporated areas, while allowing local municipalities to fill guard positions with residents from and most involved in their own communities. Provide grants to local governments, draft MOUs, work out some other arrangement - but get the jobs done.
- Finally, we call on local, county and state leaders to explore and urgently act upon any additional ways to ensure safer routes to and from school. From infrastructure investments like crosswalks and traffic calming to increased funding for traffic enforcement around our schools to allowing municipalities the flexibility to implement alternatives like stop sign corners, all efforts must be on the table to protect our children and keep our school zones safe.

No more excuses. No turf wars or passing blame between various departments or levels of government.

Every child has the right to get to and from school safely - and our kids can't wait.

Mount Rainier Elementary School PTO  
Thomas S. Stone Elementary School PTO Executive Board  
Hyattsville Elementary School PTA  
UPES PTA Board  
Cesar Chavez Dual Spanish Immersion School PTO Executive Board  
Hyattsville Middle School PTO  
Glenarden Woods Elementary School PTA Executive Board  
Buck Lodge Middle School PTO  
Chesapeake Lane Elementary School PTO  
Overbrook Elementary School PTA Board  
Eleanor Roosevelt High School PTSA

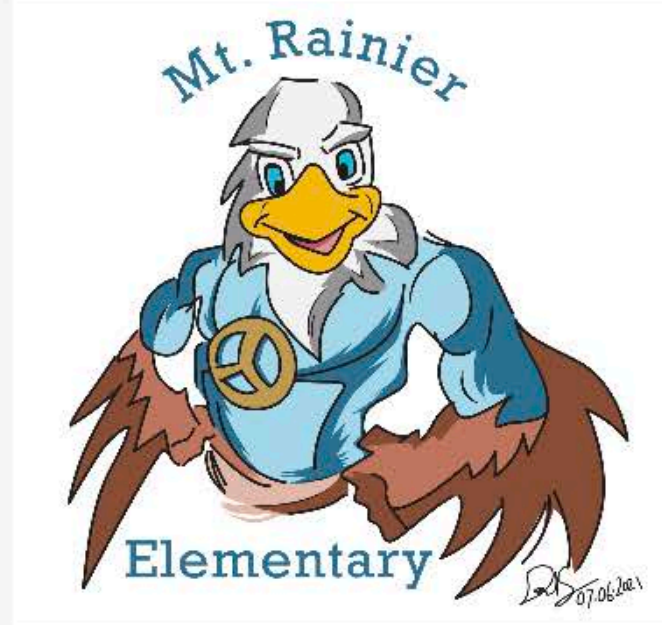
**FILL VACANT CROSSING GUARD POSITIONS BY JANUARY 1, 2024**

**COORDINATE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND PGCPS**

**INVEST IN OPTIONS TO MAKE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS SAFER**



# COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS RECIPIENTS



## **Mount Rainier Elementary PTO**

Create a dedicated equity-focused safe walking route to and from school that is not only a pathway on paper, but a vibrant and visual artistic reflection of our community.

Working with students, local artists, school administration, and municipal officials to design street and sidewalk art, plus signage, for a dedicated safe walking route to school.

Focus on cluster of apartment buildings housing many of our lower-income students, with potential to use designs as a template for other safe routes to MRES and other schools.