Safe Routes to School

Our health and our future
Nature is important for mental and physical health
Connections are important for people and animals.
Safe Routes to School

Can resources and trail systems to help kids get to/from school?
- **Survey**: Lot of interest
- **Statistics**: Room for improvement
- **Pilot Program**: Walking Wednesdays
- **CT DOT Assistance**: Brochure
- **Infrastructure Grant**: Improvements

- Community Partnerships
- **International Walk to School Day**: October 5, 2011
Stay safe!

- Use walkways where possible.
- Obey all traffic signs and signals.
- Choose routes that provide space to walk and have the least amount of traffic and lowest speeds.
- Look for traffic at all driveways and intersections.
- If possible, cross at a crosswalk or at an intersection with a walk signal.
- Stop at the curb and look for traffic in all directions (left, right, left, to the front and behind).
- Wait until no traffic is coming and start crossing; keep looking for traffic as you cross the road.
- Walk across the road. Do not run.
- Avoid poison ivy and check for ticks.
- Always wear a helmet when biking.

Why walk or bike to school?

To help kids...
- Reach the recommended goal of 60 minutes of physical activity every day.
- Arrive at school energized & ready to learn.
- Leave the car behind & reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- Take an active role in their well-being.
- Learn more about the world around them.

To help communities...
- Reduce speeds in school zones & neighborhoods.
- Provide education on pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- Build a sense of neighborhood.

www.saferoutesinfo.org
www.ctsaferoutes.org
www.walkitbiketct.org
www.letsmove.gov

Safe Routes to School

Tootin’ Hills School
West Simsbury, CT
Getting to Tootin' Hills School

Access Town Forest Road via easement from Wildflower Lane

Access Farmington River Trail from easements (1) at the end of Glenbrook Drive and (2) near the intersection of Wintergreen Lane and Madison Lane

Access Town Forest Road via crosswalk at Stratton Brook Road

Current information available at http://www.simsbury.k12.ct.us/page.cfm?p=4059

Watch the website and the Whistlestop for special events and a regular walking/biking school bus schedule.
International Walk to School Day: October 5, 2011

5 walking / 3 bike sites
158 children, dozens of parents
Police support (car, bike, walking)
Town officials
- **Time concerns**: Schedules
- **Safety concerns**: Multiple
- **Organizational issues**: Chaperones, participants, biking to/from school, “Champion,” attention to detail!!
- **School and community partners**: Adequate lead time enables participation
- **Communication**: School, town, region