

Bike Rodeo

CASE STUDY

Wellesley

EDUCATION ENCOURAGEMENT ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION ENGINEERING EQUITY | URBAN RURAL **SUBURBAN**

Background

MassDOT's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program offers bike rodeos designed to fit the specific needs of a school or community. We provide support throughout the rodeo planning process, instructors to teach students rules of the road and safe cycling skills, and our Bike Rodeo Kit with cones, cardboard road signs, and spray chalk to create an interactive loop course.

Overview

Bike education in Wellesley takes a three-phased approach for fourth grade PE classes. Students attend bike safety instruction in the fall and skills-based instruction in the spring. This gives them a head start so that they are ready to practice their bike safety knowledge at the annual Bike Rodeo. Most students bring their own bikes and scooters to the Bike Rodeo, but bike sharing is also common. The PE teacher also provides several bikes for students' use. The school and abutting neighborhoods enjoy good infrastructure that makes it easier for more students to ride to school.

Lessons Learned

- ✓ Consistent programs can be honed year after year to build best practices
- ✓ To accommodate a variety of PE class schedules, Bike Rodeos take place over three weeks, requiring advance scheduling with the SRTS Outreach Coordinator
- ✓ Taking advantage of SRTS DESE-accredited professional development for faculty members would alleviate the scheduling obstacles



Impacts



Incorporating bike education into the grade four curriculum makes bike safety sustainable and equitable across the district



Addressing one grade level allows for age-appropriate learnings, such as practicing turn signals and understanding road signage



Parents and guardians are aware and engaged in the bike education program