

# Rural Communities

## CASE STUDY

## Bourne

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

### Background

Bournedale Elementary School is located off U.S. Route 6, a scenic highway on Cape Cod. The school serves all Bourne students in grades Pre-K – 2, so many students and families must travel across the Bourne Bridge to access the campus. While a small number of students are able to walk or bike to school from their homes, most travel via family vehicle or school bus.

### Overview

Despite its proximity to a busy road, Bournedale has established a sustainable Safe Routes to School program which allows all students to learn about safe walking and biking, regardless of how they get to and from school. On Walk to School flagship days, students are dropped off about a quarter mile away from the campus and walk the remaining distance under adult supervision. In addition, Bournedale Elementary School hosts pedestrian safety training for second graders every year prior to Massachusetts Walk, Bike, and Roll to School Day in May. These interactive lessons teach students the importance of safe walking and rolling and generate enthusiasm on the idea of active transportation.

### Lessons Learned

- ✓ Weather in New England poses a challenge to walk to school Flagship Days, having an inclement weather backup date can lead to greater participation in the school event
- ✓ Establish roles and expectations with school staff and community members to ensure the flagship events and pedestrian safety sessions run smoothly and safely each year
- ✓ Advanced scheduling with buses and the local police force is recommended to coordinate park and walk locations for all students and families to participate in walk to school events, regardless of their proximity to the school



### Impacts



Addressing one grade level (Grade 2) for pedestrian safety training allows for developmentally appropriate learning of safe walking, biking, and rolling



Walk to School events held annually allow parents/guardians to be more familiar with the Safe Routes to School Program and support participation in active transportation with their students