

## Transportation Professionals Partner for Safer Routes for All

The [Institute for Transportation Engineers](#) (ITE), founded in 1930, is a community of professionals including transportation engineers, transportation planners, consultants, educators and researchers who are responsible for meeting mobility and safety needs.

ITE is working with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to enhance the transportation professional's role in reducing childhood obesity. The ITE [website](#) includes links to presentations, articles and other technical and informational resources on the subject. ITE seeks to include more information about the GP RED initiative [Safe Routes To Play](#) to balance this resource.

Since 2008, ITE has also provided the transportation/traffic engineering link in the development of the Alliance for Biking and Walking's, [Bicycling and Walking in the United States Benchmarking Report](#) (2008, 2010, 2012).

As communities focus increasingly on concepts of Active Living, transportation professionals often are not significant stakeholders, but should be as communities work to truly achieve "active living by design". ITE's Pedestrian and Bicycle Council, related technical committees and staff expertise, work to forge this connection by broadening informational support for the design and construction of safe and accessible routes for walking and biking that can have a positive impact on communities.

ITE's leadership role as a steering committee member of the Safe Routes to School National Partnership and Complete Streets Coalition, and ongoing relationships with the US Access Board, AARP and Easter Seals Project Action helps to address personal and community mobility issues. Opportunities to partner with [Safe Routes to Play](#) are developing.

Current ITE initiatives include a partnership with the National Center for Safe Routes to School to develop information and training materials for ITE members to better advise, participate and communicate when involved in Safe Routes to School (SRTS) activities. ITE is currently developing informational/instructional briefing sheets to support membership engagement with SRTS coordinators, school officials and other decision makers. Expected to be available in summer 2012, topics include walking and bicycling audits, school policies, onsite access, school site selection and off-site access, school route maps, managing speed/traffic calming and school area traffic controls.

Transportation professionals strive to balance the needs of a broad range of transportation users within diverse neighborhoods and contexts. To succeed, they must design transportation systems that not only provide safe access and mobility but also enhance the community and surrounding areas they serve. The successful design of roadways is largely dependent on the transportation professional's ability to define, understand and meet the needs of a diverse set of roadway users. Accordingly, *Designing for All Users* is an identified "mega issue" for ITE, receiving increased focus and attention.

For more information about the Institute of Transportation Engineers, please visit [www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org) or Aliyah N. Horton, Senior Director, External Affairs, [ahorton@ite.org](mailto:ahorton@ite.org)