

**Non-Infrastructure Transportation Alternatives  
Safe Routes to School Application for  
FFY 2017 Support Activity Project**

**Vista del Sur Fit, Performing Tigers!**

**City of Phoenix**

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE VIA E-MAIL TO [srts@azmag.gov](mailto:srts@azmag.gov) BY  
10:00 a.m. Monday, September 21, 2015**

**PART A - MAG MEMBER AND LOCAL AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

**1. MAG Member Agency Contact Information (applicant):**

Select you Agency Name from the drop down box below and manually enter the Contact Name, Phone Number, E-mail and Mailing Address in the fields provided below. (See *Note* below)

MAG Member Agency	Phoenix
Contact Name	Don Cross
Phone Number	602-534-2020
E-Mail Address	donald.cross@phoenix. Gov
Mailing Address	Street Transportation Department 200 W Washington Street - 6th Floor

**2. Endorsing Local Agency Contact Information:**

**All project applications must be endorsed by the appropriate Local Agency staff for each project/school location (See *Note* below). Please select the Local Agency below and obtain their signature(s) to complete Part F.** Please select up to four (4) Local Agency (endorsing agency) name(s) by selecting from the drop down box provided next to "Local Agency". Once the Local Agency is selected, the appropriate contact information will automatically populate based on your selection. Contact Margaret Boone at MAG if more that four Local Agencies will be endorsing the project application at MBoone@azmag.gov.

Local Agency Contact #1	Local Agency:	Phoenix
	Contact Name:	Don Cross
	Phone Number:	(602) 534-2020
	E-mail Address:	donald.cross@phoenix.gov
Local Agency Contact #2	Local Agency:	
	Contact Name:	
	Phone Number:	
	E-mail Address:	
Local Agency Contact #3	Local Agency:	
	Contact Name:	
	Phone Number:	
	E-mail Address:	
Local Agency Contact #4	Local Agency:	
	Contact Name:	
	Phone Number:	
	E-mail Address:	

*Note: If a Local Agency is submitting the application as the Sponsoring MAG Member Agency and there are no other Local Agency partners included in your project(s), Only Section 1 of Part A requires completion. Some project(s) may include one or more Local Agency partners. In this case, please select the Local Agency partner(s) for your project(s).*

**PART B - PROJECT INFORMATION**

The purpose of Part B is to provide sufficient information to evaluate the program and to provide assurance that the program will be capable of meeting the ADOT administered federal clearance and implementation process. This process requires an abbreviated environmental, ROW and utility clearances process prior to FHWA authorization letter to encumber federal funding for implementation. Part B Sections 2-5 will demonstrate the proposed project(s) alignment with national SRTS project criteria with known success based on the NHTSA SRTS document referenced at <http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/pedbimot/bike/Safe-Routes-2002/overview.html#12>. The application, once completed, will also demonstrate compliance with the MAG TA Non-infrastructure SRTS goals and objectives which are aligned with guidance for the MAP-21 Transportation Alternative Program and SAFETEA-LU Section 1404 for SRTS referenced at: [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/safe\\_routes\\_to\\_school/guidance/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/safe_routes_to_school/guidance/). (See live links for both of these references located outside the print area of this row in Excel form)

**1. Project Development Determination:**

Does the school(s) or school district(s) have policies that prohibit students from biking or walking to school, or that mandate busing? If the answer to this question is "YES" and a process to change these policies cannot be completed prior to September 21, 2015 this project cannot qualify for funding through the MAG TA Non-infrastructure SRTS program.

YES  NO

If "Yes", please explain any plans currently underway to change these policies, including a timeline and deadline for achieving this:

**2. School Profile(s):** If you are including more than four (4) schools, "unhide" rows 29-82. (Type in school name and use drop down boxes provided for the other information to the right of the school name.) (Maximum Evaluation Points: 5)

Please provide the school name(s):	Title 1? (Yes/No)	# of Students Enrolled	Estimated # Currently Walking/Biking	*Public or Non-Profit (Yes/No)
Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy	Yes	824	65	Yes

\*Is this a public or other school funded through a nonprofit organization? (Yes/No) - if "Yes" see Part D, Required Attachments for charter and other non-public schools that are not for profit. If "No", proposed projects at this school are not eligible for funding through the MAG TA Non-infrastructure SRTS program.

**3. Five E's:** The proposal should demonstrate how the project(s) address the 5 E's (Engineering, Enforcement, Education, Encouragement, and Evaluation). The proposed project(s) may not themselves address all five E's. However, if the proposal documents other on-going efforts that focus on the 5 E's that are not covered by the proposal, those efforts can be counted as qualified E's. Please indicate "Yes" or "No" next to each "E" using the drop down box provided. Provide (type in) a brief two line description of how the project(s) address the associated E in the space provided to the right. (Maximum Evaluation Points: 25)

Engineering	Yes	Addition of a crosswalk on 41st Ave and South Mountain Ave, signage along South Mountain Ave to make vehicles aware of pedestrian traffic. Crosswalk signage was also added. Walking School Bus offers another alternative to get to school.
Enforcement	Yes	Continue to work with our Community Officer to educate our stakeholders and hold them accountable to traveling safely around out school.
Education	Yes	WSB will provide the opportunity for our staff and parent volunteers to teach our students traffic and pedestrian safety throughout the school year. Continue to schedule assemblies through our local agency on traffic, pedestrian, and bike safety. We will also be able to provide fomal safety training to our volunteers and safety materials to our participants.
Encouragement		
Evaluation	Yes	We do and will continue to track the number of participants, volunteers. We will also continue to communicate with the neighboring communities where our stops are located to ensure a positive relationship. There are and will continue to to be two staff appointed to collect and report out this data.

**PART B - PROJECT INFORMATION (CONT'D)**

The purpose of Part B is to provide sufficient information to evaluate the program and to provide assurance that the program will be capable of meeting the ADOT administered federal clearance and implementation process. This process requires an abbreviated environmental clearance process prior to FHWA authorization letter to encumber federal funding for implementation. Part B Sections 2-5 will demonstrate the proposed project(s) alignment with national SRTS project criteria with known success based on the NHTSA SRTS document referenced at <http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/pedbimot/bike/Safe-Routes-2002/overview.html#12>. The application, once completed, will also demonstrate compliance with the MAG TA Non-infrastructure SRTS goals and objectives which are aligned with guidance for the MAP-21 Transportation Alternative Program and SAFETEA-LU Section 1404 for SRTS referenced at: [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/safe\\_routes\\_to\\_school/guidance/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/safe_routes_to_school/guidance/). (Live links for both of these references are provided outside the print area of this row in the Excel form)

**4. Sustainability:** The proposal should demonstrate how the planned project(s) can be continued into the future. Please use the drop down boxes to indicate how many of the suggested strategies to promote the project into the future will be implemented as part of your project(s). Be sure to select unique entries for each field provided below (duplicates will be counted as one). The sixth field is provided to add (type in) any other strategies to be implemented as part of this project. (Maximum Evaluation Points: 30)

- Notify parents by including information about the program in the parent packages that are mailed home at the start of the school year.
- Hold regular SRTS team meetings at a time when most interested people can attend.
- Meet with the principal and teachers at the beginning of the year to plan in-classroom activities for the year.
- Keep measuring your success through new surveys. The greatest satisfaction comes from seeing the increase in the number of children walking and biking to school and the reduction of cars entering the school grounds.
- Hold end of year event to celebrate successes and strategize for the following year
- Use data collected from traffic evaluations around campus and student academic successes related to WSB to advertise the programs success and to encourage stakeholders to participate.

**5. SRTS Strategies:** The proposed project(s) should demonstrate the likely effectiveness of planned SRTS strategies. The following section will indicate the number of known effective SRTS strategies (Stakeholders identified, Events, Escort Programs) to be implemented with the proposed project(s). (Maximum Evaluation Points: 40)

**Stakeholders:**

a. How many of the following Stakeholders have been identified or will be identified as part of this project? Please indicate a number next to each type of stakeholder. (enter a number in the field provided, leave blank for "0")

- Parents  Students  Teachers  Neighbors  School Staff  City Staff   
 County Staff  Elected Officials  Businesses  Community Groups  Law Enforcement  Crossing Guards

b. Does your project include the development of or an existing partnership agreement between stakeholders? (Yes/No)  Yes

**Events:**

c. How many of the following events are planned as part of the proposed project? (Enter a number in the field provided to the right, leave blank for "0")

- Walk/Bike to School Day   
 International Walk to School Day   
 Walk/Bike Safety Assemblies   
 Walk/Bike Safety Education Booths

d. How often are these events planned? (Select Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly, Annually from the drop down box provided below)

- Annually  
 Annually  
 Annually  
 Annually

**Escort Programs:**

e. How many of the following Escort Programs are planned as part of the proposed project(s): (Enter a number in the field provided, leave blank for '0')

- Walking School Bus  Bike Trains

**Other:** f. Are Parent Surveys included as part of the proposed project(s) or do they exist as baseline information? (Select 'Yes' or 'No' in the drop down box provided)

Yes

**PART C - NON-INFRASTRUCTURE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL COST ESTIMATE FORM**

Please provide a detailed cost estimate for this program. See FHWA TA Non-Infrastructure guidance at the following link [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/safe\\_routes\\_to\\_school/guidance/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/safe_routes_to_school/guidance/) (Live link provided outside the print area of this row in the Excel form)

**Inappropriate Uses of SRTS Funds**

States are not permitted to use Section 1404 funds for projects that do not specifically serve the stated purposes of the SRTS Program, nor should they be used for reoccurring costs except as specifically provided in the legislation. For example, in general, Program funds should not be used to pay crossing guard salaries, as these are reoccurring costs (although funds may be used for crossing guard training programs). Funding requests for costs that are expected to be reoccurring costs in future years should include plans for how the costs will be funded in the future and a rationale for how federal funding of 1-2 years will enable leveraging of future financial security for the activity.

The use of Section 1404 funds for projects that reorganize pick-up and drop-off primarily for the convenience of drivers rather than to improve child safety and/or walking and bicycling access is not permitted, nor should Program funds be spent on education programs that are primarily focused on bus safety. Improvements to bus stops are not eligible for this funding.

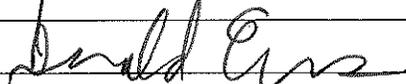
<b>Sponsoring Agency:</b>	City of Phoenix	<b>Project Title:</b>	Vista del Sur Fit, Performing Tigers!
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**Project Programming Year: FY2017**

Item Description	Unit	Quan.	Unit Price	Total	Federally Eligible	Federal Funds (94.3%)	Local Funds (5.7%)	Other	Note(s)
Volunteers Kits - School Crossing Guard Vests, whistle, clipboard, finger print, background check, ID, lanyard, etc	1	1	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	Yes	\$1,131.60	\$68.40		
Incentives for participants - water bottles, umbrellas, t-shirts, lanyards, brag tags, etc	1	1	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	Yes	\$1,886.00	\$114.00		
Print Materials - paper, copies, reward cards, mailing costs, etc	1	1	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	Yes	\$1,886.00	\$114.00		
Support Equipment - wagon, bike, etc	1	1	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Yes	\$943.00	\$57.00		
Develop a SRTS website for communications and tracking project success, consultant if needed	1	1	\$500.00	\$500.00	Yes	\$471.50	\$28.50		
SRTS Coordinator	1	1	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	Yes	\$7,072.50	\$427.50		
Volunteer Stipends	1	1	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	Yes	\$2,357.50	\$142.50		
Training - materials as needed	1	1	\$300.00	\$300.00	Yes	\$282.90	\$17.10		
Bicycle and Pedistrain Educational Materials - coloring books, comics, book marks etc	1	1	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Yes	\$943.00	\$57.00		
Health and Wellness Materials/Competitions - greatest participation from each class, etc	1	1	\$500.00	\$500.00	Yes	\$471.50	\$28.50		
				\$0.00	Yes	\$0.00	\$0.00		
				\$0.00	Yes	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Crossing Guard Salaries	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	No	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	This portion paid for by the District
<b>Subtotal of Program Costs FY2017</b>				<b>\$18,500.00</b>		<b>\$17,445.50</b>	<b>\$1,054.50</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>ADOT Fee</b>	EA	1	\$ 2,000.00	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>	Yes	\$1,886.00	\$114.00	\$0.00	
<b>Total Program Cost Including ADOT Fees FY2017</b>				<b>\$20,500.00</b>		<b>\$19,331.50</b>	<b>\$1,168.50</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	

**PART D - SIGNATURE(S):**

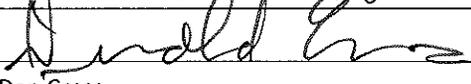
As the MAG member agency's official, I hereby certify that this application is accurate and complete, and that the program will be included in the MAG member agency's local budget if the program is selected for federal funding.

Signature:	
Name:	Don Cross
Title:	Chief Engineering Technician
Date:	

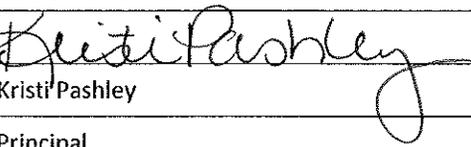
**Note: All below signatures indicate an agreement in principle and a partnership on this project between the MAG member agency and the signing organizations. Although not all signatures are required, applications that include more signatures will be ranked higher**

**Endorsing Local Agency Contact Signature (required):**

Signature of contact(s) listed in Section 2 in Part A. Unhide rows 16-30 for more than one Endorsing Local Agency signatures and 37-51 for more than one School Official signature.

Signature:	
Name:	Don Cross
Title:	Chief Engineering Technician
Organization:	City of Phoenix
Date:	

**School Official (required):**

Signature:	
Name:	Kristi Pashley
Title:	Principal
Organization:	Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy
Date:	9/21/15

**Non-Profit and/or Community Partner (optional):**

Signature:	
Name:	
Organization:	
Title:	
Date:	

**PART E - Checklist**

This checklist is included to facilitate applicant review and verification that all required fields in the form have been completed. Please select Yes or No from the drop down box provided

<b>COVER SHEET</b>	<b>Complete?</b>
Cover Sheet is complete with a representative photo, project title and MAG Member Agency Name inserted.	Yes
<b>PART A - Contacts and Program Description Fields</b>	<b>Complete?</b>
1. MAG Member Agency name and contact information completed.	Yes
2. Endorsing Local Agency Contact selected for all local agencies included in the project application and contact information automatically populated.	Yes
<b>PART B - Project Description</b>	<b>Complete?</b>
1. Project Development Determination complete with YES or NO indicated and an explanation provided if the answer is YES.	Yes
2. School names provided and each of the four fields; Title 1, # of Students, Estimated # Currently Walking/Biking, and Public or Non-profit completed.	Yes
3. Five E's completed with indication of Yes or No for inclusion as part of the proposed project(s) and description of how each "E" is addressed provided in the manual field provided to the right of each "E".	Yes
4. Sustainability section completed with all the elements included in the project(s) selected and any additional elements provided in the 6th field of Part B Section 4 (if applicable).	Yes
5. SRTS Strategies section completed indicating the number and types of Stakeholders identified, Events and Escort Programs to be included, and indication of Yes or No if Parent Surveys are to be included or exist (a through f).	Yes
<b>PART C - Cost Estimate Worksheet</b>	<b>Complete?</b>
Applicant has read and understands federal eligible cost guidance.	Yes
Sponsoring Agency, Program Title, and Application Date are complete.	Yes
Individual Item Costs are complete and accurate.	Yes
Subtotal Cost is complete and accurate.	Yes
Non federalized Local Match of 5.7% is completed for each line item as well as in the Subtotal and Total fields.	Yes
ADOT fee is \$2000 and is a federally eligible expense.	Yes
Total Cost is complete and accurate and does not exceed \$50,000 in FY 2017.	Yes
<b>PART D - Signatures</b>	<b>Complete?</b>
Form is signed and dated (PDF version) by the MAG member agency's official who will be responsible for allocating budget and signing invoices.	Yes
Name, title and date fields under the signatures are completed (both PDF and excel format).	Yes
Form is signed and dated (PDF version) by each endorsing Local Agency staff.	Yes
Name, title, organization and date fields under the endorsing Local Agency staff signatures are completed.	Yes
Form is signed and dated (PDF version) by each School Official.	Yes
Name, title, organization and date fields under the School Official signatures are completed.	Yes
Additional signatures and dates (PDF version) and related name, title, organization are completed (both PDF and excel).	Yes
<b>PART E - Checklist</b>	<b>Complete?</b>
Entire checklist is completed.	Yes
<b>PART F - Required Attachments</b>	<b>Complete?</b>
Any and all applicable attachments scanned into a PDF and inserted into the complete PDF application file.	Yes



Pashley, Kristi &lt;kpashley@laveeneld.org&gt;

**Fwd:**

1 message

Pashley, Kristi &lt;kpashley@laveeneld.org&gt;

Mon, Sep 21, 2015 at 10:51 AM

To: "donald.cross@phoenix.gov" &lt;donald.cross@phoenix.gov&gt;

Don,

I did forget to mention that the Encouragement section on Part B of the Project plan still would not populate last Friday when we completed the grant. If we were able to add to that box we would have written the following...

**Walking School Bus incentives, stipends for super volunteers, health information/incentives on increased exercise and movement, building our volunteers and number of student walkers to grow our WSB program.**

Also my signature on part D, did not scan well. I did it in black pen, but it didn't pick-up through the copier. Please let me know I can use a sharpie and resend?

Thanks for your help.

Kristi Pashley  
Principal  
Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy  
602-237-3046

"Go the extra mile it's never crowded" Wayne Dyer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <noreply@laveeneld.org>  
Date: Mon, Sep 21, 2015 at 7:55 AM  
Subject:  
To: Kristi Pashley <kpashley@laveeneld.org>

This E-mail was sent from "VDS-OfficeCopier" (Aficio MP 5000).

Scan Date: 09.21.2015 09:55:14 (-0500)  
Queries to: noreply@laveeneld.org

20150921095514281.pdf  
1335K



**Laveen School District** creating bright futures

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5001 W. Dobbins Road, Laveen, AZ 85339  
Phone 602-237-9100 | Fax 602-237-9135 | [www.laveeneld.org](http://www.laveeneld.org)

Sarath Joshua, Ph.D., P.E.  
MAG ITS & Safety Program Manager  
Maricopa Association of Governments  
302 North First Avenue, Suite 300  
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Re: Support for Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy Safe Routes to School grant application

Dear Dr. Joshua,

As Superintendent, I am pleased to let you know that the Laveen School District is in full support of Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy's application for a Safe Routes to School grant. Vista del Sur, one of the seven schools (an eighth school is under construction) in the Laveen School District, is very successful, ranking among the highest in the state for student achievement. The school does not have a limited geographic boundary, but serves students from across the entire school district and also accommodates a significant number of students who live outside of Laveen.

With a large number of students coming to Vista del Sur from neighborhoods near and far, the school has a significant challenge and also a great opportunity to provide creative solutions for safe school access and to encourage alternative methods other than passenger cars such as the Walking School Bus.

The school benefits from a very active and engaged parent community. Parents and school staff continuously strive to increase student safety and encourage pedestrian access to the school. They have been proactive in developing creative solutions and have taken the initiative to implement a variety of strategies. The Safe Routes to School grant will provide Vista del Sur with the needed resources to expand and grow its successful initiatives.

Sincerely,

Williams M. Johnson Ed.D.  
Superintendent

September 11, 2015

Dear M.A.G. Representative,

I have been involved with Vista del Sur's Walking School Bus program since its inception last October. I am a parent and, during one of the first school Site Council meetings of the year, during which the traffic situation around campus was being discussed, I asked our principal whether a Safe Routes to School Program had been considered as an alternative transportation option. From that moment, Ms. Pashley and I have worked together diligently to launch our very own grassroots program and, within just the first year, we have seen significant growth in the program.

When we launched the Walking School Bus last October, we had just a handful of consistent participants. By the end of the school year we had grown to approximately forty students ranging from Kinder through eighth grade. With virtually no funding, we developed creative incentives for participation, retaining our current participants and garnering interest among other students. We exceeded each of the goals we set for the first year, which included:

- Enrolling twenty students in the Walking School Bus program, at a minimum of three days weekly, morning and afternoon
- Realizing an increase in testing results, as a direct effect of the increase in students' brain activity
- Reducing school pick-up line traffic by ten percent
- Obtaining a school zone designation and proper crosswalk installation

By May 2015, we had recruited and maintained 23 participants who walked a minimum of three days weekly, in both the morning and afternoon. By quarter four, all participants were recognized on at least Honor Roll, the majority of them earning Principal's List (minimum of 3.8 GPA) recognition. By the end of the school year, we had reduced the traffic on campus by approximately 20 vehicles, or ten percent. Finally, and what could be considered the most significant forward step of the year, the City of Phoenix installed crosswalks at the major intersection, ensuring safety for our participants.

In order to advance our program, we are requesting additional funding through the Maricopa Association of Governments Safe Routes to School Grant Project. Additional funding will enable us to recruit and retain more volunteers, complete proper safety measures on all volunteers, in order to protect our participants, and hire a coordinator to administer all related Safe Routes to School functions. We will also be able to offer incentives to recruit more participants and to further educate our families on the health benefits of walking, and the importance of their students obtaining extra physical activity each day. Additional funding will help cultivate a culture of health and wellness at Vista del Sur.

Thank you for considering Vista del Sur for the Maricopa Association of Governments Safe Routes to School Grant Project. We appreciate your time, and we look forward to growing our program.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Alvarado, Parent volunteer

## Walking School Bus

The walking school bus is a protective, alert and fun way of getting home after school. It has been a great activity for kids like me. The first time I have been on the walking school bus I was alone only with my sisters Dylan and Camryn, it was only a couple days into it one of my friends from my grade joined the walking school bus also and I was so surprised. Now in the fifth grade we have to have a partner. Which is kind of cool. So I chose a new kid that came to our school. So I walked up and said "What is your name?" He said "Alex!" In my mind I said "wow! I made a friend that quick." From that day on Alex and I still walk together and he waits for me even if I'm late. The teachers that walk with us are caring and protective of all of us kids. Every time I go to the walking school bus I see people that don't even have friends on the play yard and they are making friends at the end of each day, which is very cool. The walking school bus is the best way of having fun and going home. We love the walking school bus!

Brooklyn Swindle  
Fifth Grade  
Vista Del Sur  
Accelerated Academy

Brooklyn  
Swindle

Ms. Pashley

September 2, 2015

Vista Del Sur

Dear Ms. Pashley,

I absolutely must take a moment to thank you for introducing and approving the Walking School Bus program to Vista!! All of my children have participated since the program first started and we love it on so many levels. This was a major positive shift for me as a busy mom with the whole parent pick up situation. With three Children at Vista and a fourth that was a new born, ( now toddler) the lengthy time spent in the parent pick up line proved more than challenging most days, depending on the baby! The school bus option would have been a great one, however outside of the normal concerns I have with the buses, I would have had to still drive our children to a bus stop. Considering that, with 3 children and the baby it is of course just simpler for me to drive them to school.

The Walking School Bus is just so fantastic! The kids Love it, even in the HEAT!!, They love to meet as a group after school, they love the friendships, the de brief/wind down from school and just the whole social event and I love that it gives them street knowledge and awareness when learning to cross roads and watch traffic. I love that the teachers are amazing, they engage in great conversations and really make it fun. All that aside, how about the exercise they are getting daily, it's an awesome 15-20 minutes a day that they do not even notice. For a mom this is awesome! This program is just more than we originally expected. Now MOM gets a whole 15 minutes back in her day and for any busy mom that's so huge, I cannot thank Vista enough. I drive right up to the safe pick up area as the children arrive, I literally pull up and they jump in!! This has been a life saver for me. No traffic, no stop and go in the parent pick up with a screaming baby or a potty training toddler ! Its perfect, I just love it!

During the summer I was concerned with the heat, but my kids have not had one complaint! I thank you for keeping them hydrated, advising them to refill water bottles, wear sunscreen and pack an umbrella! Thank you for providing them all with t-shirts, oranges, snacks and sunglasses, you really have done an outstanding job with this program. My kids will stay in this program, its important we communicate our gratitude where due, for the teachers and parents that volunteer and keep it safe for my kids.

Thank you so much to you All for keeping it going and keeping my kids safe!

We love the Walking School Bus!



Samantha Swindle

Parent of :

Brooklyn Swindle

Dylan Swindle

Camryn Swindle

September 11, 2015

Dear M.A.G. Representative,

I am a resident of the community through which Vista del Sur's Walking School Bus participants walk, and I must say, I am very proud of the students. Their display of responsibility and traffic and pedestrian safety rules is outstanding, something you don't see much these days. Seeing children active and moving daily is encouraging, a breath of fresh air.

I walk the neighborhood daily and not once have I ever noticed remnants of the Walking School Bus, be it litter, left items or vandalism of any sort. The parents make a point to park on side streets, avoiding causing traffic congestion. I am also impressed at the efficiency in clearing any traffic. With nearly 60 kids in the afternoons, one would expect to see a drastic increase in traffic. I haven't noticed additional traffic beyond the 10-minute pickup window, and I thank the school administrators for their concern for the neighborhood residents.

I must also disclose I am a participant of the Walking School Bus. My grandson participates in the program, and I volunteer to walk students safely to and from campus. I have a unique vantage point, since I see it from a resident, parent, and from a volunteer perspective. I have seen the positive impact it has had on participants, my grandson included, in just the year since its inception. Through the program, my grandson has an opportunity to meet friends from other grades that he wouldn't otherwise have the chance to become acquainted with. Walking in the mornings wakes him up and allows us some one-on-one time as well. I have also noticed he is better able to focus and complete homework in the afternoons since he began walking with the group. He is even showing an interest in signing up for a sport this year, something he had never previously considered.

Selfishly, the Walking School Bus has enabled and encouraged me to incorporate regular, daily exercise into my routine, and I have noticed significant health benefits since I began volunteering. I have more energy and have been able to maintain a healthy weight.

In summary, I have personally seen the benefits of the Walking School Bus at Vista del Sur on many levels. Receiving additional funding to expand the program will only strengthen the impact the program has on students and their families. I am excited to see how the program grows, and I am honored to be a part of something that promotes health among students. Vista del Sur is very deserving of additional funding for its Safe Routes to School Program.

Thank you for considering Vista del Sur for the Safe Routes to School Grant.

Sincerely,



Inez Benevidez, parent volunteer

September 8, 2015

Ms. Kristi Pashley, Principal  
Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy.  
3908 W. South Mountain Road  
Laveen, AZ 85339

Dear Ms. Pashley:

I am pleased to write to you in support of Vista del Sur's Walking School Bus Program! I have been walking with the Walking School Bus approximately 1-2 times per week since the program began.

#### Physical Activity

As a teacher, I know how important physical activity is for students, and it has been wonderful to see even our youngest students able to complete the walk to and from school. Further, participating in Walking School Bus has provided me with much-needed physical activity! When students see their parents and teachers enjoying a walk, they are more motivated to become active themselves, and daily walks are one of the best activities for overall health. Walking reduces the stress that many students and teachers feel at the end of the school day, and provides a positive beginning and ending for each day.

#### Time Outside

A recent study found that, while many students are adept at identifying corporate logos, very few can name the plants in their own backyards. The Walking School Bus program gives students a chance to be outside and explore their environment. On our walks, students notice the desert flora (and sometimes fauna) around them. They ask questions and notice the changes in the landscape as the seasons pass. I believe this time outside helps students to appreciate the desert environment they live in, and to develop curiosity about the world around them.

#### Traffic/Pollution Reduction

The Walking School Bus provides an alternative to an often cumbersome, and environmentally unfriendly pickup process for students and parents. Instead of idling in a long traffic line, parents are able to quickly pick up their students at the Walking School Bus stop—often, on foot. In the Valley, where the "brown haze" is a daily fact of life, the Walking School Bus Program helps to mitigate some of the pollution that harms our air quality.

Community-Building

Finally, participating in the Walking School Bus Program has helped build the Vista Community. Each day, parents, teachers, and students K-8 spend time together outside, getting to know one another and building relationships. By getting out into the neighborhoods that our students come from, we as teachers gain insight into their lives. By seeing their teachers outside the school walls, students learn that walking, conversations, nature, and friendship are important at all stages of life.

Over the last year, it has been amazing to watch our Walking School Bus Program develop from a few students each day to well over 50. I appreciate the hard work that many parents and staff members have put into this program, and look forward to it growing even more! Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Daly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Meredith Daly  
Fourth Grade Teacher  
Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy  
(602) 237-3046, Ext. 3331

September 4, 2015

Dear Ms. Kristi Pashley,

I believe strongly that The Walking School Bus program is a necessity for our students at Vista del Sur Traditional Academy. Walking School Bus has created an opportunity for parents to safely allow their child to walk to and from school each day. The students arrive to school on time, alert, happy and full of energy to take on their day. Walking School Bus also provides additional exercise that children of this generation are lacking.

Furthermore, Walking School Bus gives students of all ages the independence of walking to school without their parent(s). The younger students, typically Kindergarten and First grade, have a hard time leaving their parents when they are dropped off at school. Walking School Bus allows children to be dropped off near the school without the overwhelming feeling of leaving their parent. Through Walking School Bus, children are able to see familiar faces, his/her friends and leave their parents without pressure.

For myself, Walking School Bus is not just a means of transportation and exercise. Instead, it is a time for myself, as a teacher, to bond with students. I have come to know numerous children through The Walking School Bus program that I would not have otherwise come in contact with on campus. This program also allows me to connect and reconnect with current and former students.

I have developed remarkable relationships with the children who participate in this program. We discuss their day, if it was positive or negative and how we could improve it tomorrow. They tell me about their weekend, family, friends, favorite television show, and after school activities they are involved in. We tell jokes, laugh and discuss what they are learning in school or struggling with at home.

Throughout my time with Walking School Bus, I have created a bond with these students that cannot be broken. I look forward to the days I get to connect with these children and create a lasting bond with the students I have not yet met. The Walking School Bus program is an important asset to our students, teachers, and school as whole.

Best Regards,  
Ms. Kylie Aldrich  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher  
Vista del Sur Accelerate Academy

I like the walking school bus because I get to walk with my friends. I also like that we have a crosswalk for our safety and I get to walk with teachers that will keep us safe.

Ava Wadhwa  
3rd grade

September 3, 2015

Ms. Kristi Pashley

Vista Del Sur Accelerated Academy

3908 West South Mountain Ave

Laveen, AZ 85339

Dear Ms. Pashley:

It is our pleasure to write a letter in support of the Maricopa Association of Governments Safe Routes to School Support Activity Project for the Vista Del Sur Walking School Bus.

We support this program as parents of participants. We believe that the Walking School Bus promotes a healthy fitness routine while allowing our children's minds to prepare for and unwind from the school day. We have had a child participating in the Walking School Bus since it started at Vista Del Sur.

We also support this program as business owners because we believe in quality education for the children of our community. Vista Del Sur Accelerated Academy provides this type of education and the Walking School Bus is a healthy and safe addition to great education. We think that the children who choose to participate in this program should be rewarded and as an ice cream shop we chose to donate rewards to these participants.

In conclusion, We fully support the efforts of the Walking School Bus Team as they seek external funding to support a program designed to strengthen our children physically and mentally while providing a safe alternative option during school dismissal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carissa M. Wadhwa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nindi and Carissa Wadhwa

Owners

Scooptacular

5150 West Baseline Rd

Laveen, AZ 85339



Pashley, Kristi &lt;kpashley@laveeneld.org&gt;

## We Love Walking school Bus!!

1 message

casey@azinthesaddle.com <casey@azinthesaddle.com>  
 To: Kristi Pashley <kpashley@laveeneld.org>  
 Cc: Samantha Adams <sadams@laveeneld.org>

Tue, Sep 8, 2015 at 8:26 AM

Dear Mrs. Pashley,

I wanted to reach out and let you know how wonderful the walking school bus has been for our family. We have explored all avenues of transportation to and from school for our children, and it has always been a bit of a struggle for us.

The walking school bus provided our family with not only a stress free way to get our kids to and from school, but we can see the benefits each of our children are receiving. Allowing our children to wind up in the morning to prepare for their day, and unwind in the afternoon for the evening, has not only helped with class behavior but at home as well. The walking school bus has allowed our children to think "outside the box" as far as exercise goes. They have learned how they can easily incorporate it into their day everyday! Unfortunately, we have not been allowed to let our children walk to school in the past as safety is such a concern. By participating in the walking school bus program, they have gained a sense of independence that is crucial to their development and that they would not normally receive being dropped off by us or riding the school bus.

I feel this program should be implanted in every school and should be considered by all parents as a means of transportation just as much as the school bus or parent pick up. Every child should have a opportunity to start and end the school day in and safe and healthy way. Thank you for introducing this program to Vista students and parents and we are excited to see the long term benefits each child will receive from it!

Look forward to hearing from you soon,

Casey Grantham/602-403-0785/casey@azinthesaddle.com

Owner and Publisher of Arizona in the Saddle Publication and Multimedia Company

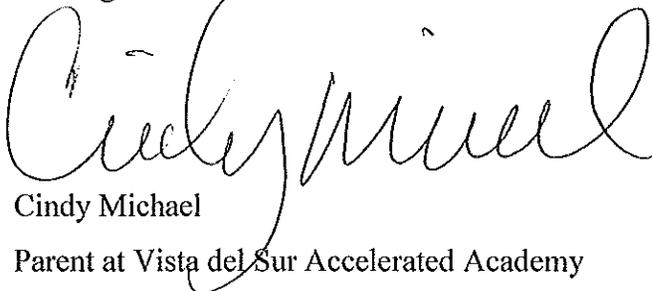


*Casey Grantham*

Dear Ms. Pashley,

The Walking School Bus is such wonderful program to have in our school and community. It allows my children to be more independent and gain confidence, while meeting and connecting with other kids, parents and teacher volunteers. The Walking School Bus provides such a great opportunity for my kindergarten, first grader and third-grader to get wiggles out and have a physical jump start before school allowing them to be more alert and concentrate better throughout the day. Walking to school is a great way to explore the environment. They experienced a variety of weather patterns: sunny, rainy and steamy humidity, with so much to look at and experience. Walking is eco-friendly and economical; leaving your car at home means less pollution and less cost at the gas pump. This is another good lesson to teach our children.

My children began participating in this program this school year. They only walk a few days each week because of the location of the stop. A new stop at Cesar Chavez Park would be more convenient for us to use on a daily basis. I hope as time goes by, we can recruit more community members to walk and open more stops so that more students have the wonderful opportunity of walking to school.



Cindy Michael  
Parent at Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy

Dear Mrs. Pashley,

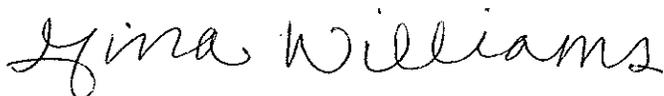
When asked by one of your teachers to write a letter referring to the benefits of walking school bus we were more than willing to do so. We are Cameron and Gina Williams and we have two students that attend school at Vista Del Sur Accelerated Academy and utilize the walking school bus. It is a huge benefit for the parents because of the limited parking and limited access to the school. To have an offsite pickup, plus the additional time allows parents to get off of work and not have to rush to pick up their children. There is a huge benefit for the children because they are able to meet new kids and walk with friends to the pick-up site. They get plenty of exercise and receive walking school bus prizes for taking advantage of that program. And as parents we are at ease knowing that our children are safe while being escorted by a school chaperone. We believe that walking school bus is an excellent program and appreciate you guys offering it.

Thank you,

Cameron Williams

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Williams', written in a cursive style.

Gina Williams

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gina Williams', written in a cursive style.