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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Safe Routes Nebraska Encourages Schools and Parents to Host Events on Walk to School Day, Wednesday April 22**

Parents, educators and community leaders are encouraged to celebrate Nebraska's 2009 Spring Walk to School Day by organizing an event in their community where schoolchildren can meet to walk together along safe routes. The statewide Spring Walk to School Day takes place Wednesday, April 22.

"Walk to school events are organized to emphasize the importance of increasing physical activity among Nebraska youth while creating safer routes for children to walk and bike," said Kelly Morgan, program coordinator for Safe Routes Nebraska. "We have the opportunity to address pedestrian safety as well as environmental and traffic congestion concerns while building vital connections between families, schools and the greater community."

For ideas and tips on how to hold a Spring Walk to School Day event in your school or community, visit [www.SafeRoutesNE.com](http://www.SafeRoutesNE.com). Once your event has been registered on the site, you will receive a link to the Spring Walk to School Day toolkit, which includes posters, invitations to parents and ideas about how to promote the program in your community. In addition, the toolkit has a certificate of participation that can be used to recognize children who take part in the event.

Morgan said she was optimistic that the program would see an increased number of Safe Routes events statewide compared to 2008, when nearly 20 elementary and middle schools across the state held events on Nebraska's Spring Walk to School Day. The Nebraska Department of Roads already has 2009 events registered in a number of communities.

The statewide Spring Walk to School Day is conducted as part of the Nebraska Department of Roads' Safe Routes Nebraska, which is a part of the National Safe Routes to School Program. Through the 2005 passage of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy of Users, Congress designated \$612 million toward developing the National Safe Routes to School Program. Money is distributed to the Nebraska Department of Roads to fund education, planning and implementation of Safe Routes to School plans and programs.

For more information about how to organize or promote your Spring Walk to School Day event, contact Kelly Morgan, Safe Routes Nebraska program coordinator, at (402) 476-7331 or [kmorgan@sinclairhille.com](mailto:kmorgan@sinclairhille.com).

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**For additional information, please visit these web sites:**

Safe Routes Nebraska

[www.SafeRoutesNE.com](http://www.SafeRoutesNE.com)

National Center for Safe Routes to School

[www.SafeRoutesInfo.org](http://www.SafeRoutesInfo.org)