Start a Walking Bus or Bike Bus

A Provo Walk & Roll to School resource for parent organizers

A walking bus or bike bus starts when one parent decides to help kids travel to school together. You do not need to create a formal program, find a large group, or solve every detail before you begin.

Walking buses help kids travel to school together. Photo from Safe Routes to School Utah.

Walking buses are usually the simplest option. Kids follow the same route at a walking pace and set times, usually with one or more parents or other responsible adults. Kids may bring scooters as long as they keep a walking pace and stay with the group.

Bike buses are group rides for bicycles and, when the parent organizer's plan fits, scooters. They require more equipment and planning for how the group will ride and which streets it will use.

Bike bus at Timpanogos Elementary, 2026.

Pro Tip: Start small & keep it sustainable

Your first group can be small. Five kids walking or riding to school one morning each week is a real start. A schedule families can count on matters more than how often the bus runs. One day a week that continues is better than a daily plan that soon stops.

Seven steps to get started

1. Decide to be the initial parent organizer

Every bus needs someone willing to start. You do not have to do everything forever. Help the first families meet, choose a plan they can follow, and begin. Ask other parents to share the work as they join.

2. Find interested families

Start with neighbors, classmates, or families you already know. Ask whether they want to walk, bike, or scoot together on a regular day. A PTA or school may be willing to share your information or help nearby parents find one another.

You do not need a large group. Begin with the families who are ready.

3. Look at a possible route and meeting points

Mark where interested families live. Look for sidewalks, crossings, a school entrance the group can use, and places where kids can meet.

A walking bus crosses a street together. Photo from Safe Routes to School Utah.

If your school is listed, consider starting with the Provo Safe Routes to School map. It shows recommended walking and biking approaches and plan features such as crossings, signals, and crossing guards. Families should still look at current conditions and decide what works for their group.

Walk or ride the route at the time you plan to use it. Notice traffic, visibility, crossing needs, construction, and where the group can safely gather without blocking sidewalks or driveways.

Mayor Marsha Judkins and District Superintendent Wendy Dau joined the Rock Canyon Elementary bike bus in August 2026.

BikeWalk Provo volunteers will give practical guidance when you ask, including helping you think through possible routes and answering questions.

4. Choose days and times you can keep

The bus can run every day, but it does not have to. You might start with one or two mornings each week or with the same day every week.

Choose days and times families can remember and keep. You can add more days later if more adults join and the group wants to meet more often.

5. Decide how adults will participate

We strongly encourage at least one parent or other responsible adult to travel with the group. A group may need more adult help depending on the kids' ages, the route, traffic, and the number of kids.

Talk openly about who will go with the group, how adults will share the work, and what happens when an adult cannot come. Each family decides what is right for its own kids.

6. Share the basic plan

Give families a short, clear plan:

- Whether the group will walk, bike, or scoot.
- Days and start time.
- Starting point and any meeting points.
- Expected dropoff time at school.
- How adults will participate.
- How the parent organizer will send changes and updates.
- What each family should plan for the trip home.

Starter safety kit included

A BikeWalk Provo volunteer will provide every new parent organizer with a starter safety kit: a high-visibility meeting-point sign, a high-visibility crossing flag, one or more reflective vests for adults, a first-aid kit for minor scrapes and cuts, and a durable laminated list of safety reminders to review together.

Start with this basic information. Add more detail later only when the group needs it.

7. Start, learn, and adjust

Choose a first day and make the trip. Before the first trip, review the walking bus safety reminders or bike bus safety reminders with the group. Afterward, ask what worked and what the group should change. Starting with a simple plan helps you learn what families need.

Ready to take the first step?

Write down the school, the part of town, whether the group will walk, bike, or scoot, and the days and times you are considering. Then **Contact BikeWalk Provo**. BikeWalk Provo volunteers will talk with you one-on-one and help you work through the first steps. You do not need a final route, schedule, or complete group before you reach out.