



The Alabama Bicycle Coalition | P.O. Box 18984, Huntsville, AL 35804 | [www.alabike.org](http://www.alabike.org)

AAA Alabama  
2400 Acton Road  
Birmingham, AL 35243-2902

Dear Mr. Al Gibbs:

I read your New Directions remarks about creating safe traffic environments around school in the September/October issue. We share your concerns about schools being safe environments for vehicles, buses, cyclists, and pedestrians to move about. I believe school traffic increases congestion by 25% or more each weekday. As a mother I found the worst motorist attitudes within sight of the schools at drop off and pickup time. It amazed me.

Then again I know schools that have the same bus, bike, walk, motor ratios as they did 50 years ago; i.e. only a small percentage of pickups done by motorists. So, we aren't doing something quite right and I believe it would be a good thing if we do.

I want to bring to your attention Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs that have been extremely popular with voters, politicians, and kids all around the nation for more than a decade. Since 2007, Alabama has annually received \$2 million to safe routes to school programs. That money is distributed through the Alabama Department of Transportation.

Tom Maxwell, a regional planner in Birmingham is a key player in our state wide programs related to SRTS. In fact, in December a national level instructor training program for future leaders and instructors will take place in Birmingham. His phone number is 205.264.8445

If this interests you, I've enclosed some materials for your reference. Web sites to visit are easy to figure out. Safe Routes to School, Complete Streets, National Bike and Walk Center, League of American Bicyclists (LAB) can all be googled and found. Take a look at the bicycle friendly community awards. About 25% of our competitors around the nation already have an award. Attracting business requires good living.

I hope that in the future we can figure out how to be partners in creating an Alabama transportation system that is truly multi-modal, provides independence for non-motor drivers (and free motorists from taxi services for kids and elderly), and great for quality living.

Respectfully;  
Marjorie Holderer - President