

How to Start a Bike Bus

Join the movement to promote sustainable transportation and active living in your school community!



**kidical
mass
halifax**

What is a bike bus & why do we need them?

- A bike bus is a way to get to school or work as a group via bike, scooter, or other form of active transportation
- Bike buses are a strategy to enhance safety, reclaim the streets, and champion alternatives to the personal car
- Bike buses provide a safe, active, social, joyful, and sustainable school run or commute
- Lifelong skills gained from biking to school include confidence, navigation skills, agility, negotiation, and teamwork.

Steps to Starting your own Bike Bus

Recruit Participants

Reach out to students, parents, and teachers who are interested in biking to school. Spread the word through school newsletters, social media, and flyers.

Plan the Route

Choose a safe and convenient route that accommodates all levels of riders. Consider factors such as traffic, cycling infrastructure, and intersections.

Establish Meeting Points

Determine a few meeting points along the route where riders can join the bike bus. Make sure they are visible and easy to find.

Set a Schedule

Decide on a start time and arrival time for the bike bus. Be sure to allow enough time for riders to get to school and arrive on time.

Ensure Safety

Prioritize safety by encouraging the use of helmets, following traffic rules, and riding in a group. Consider organizing a safety workshop or training for participants.

Have Fun!

Enjoy the ride and celebrate your success in promoting sustainable transportation and healthy living.



Recruiting Participants

We've seen the Bike Bus movement grow very quickly worldwide. Much of the feedback from Bike Bus leaders around the globe is....to just start. We anticipate that as others see what you're up to this will positively contribute to the growth of your Bike Bus.

One tool that can be helpful in order to best understand the needs of your ridership and help ensure others understand the parameters of the Bike Bus, is to build an online form that families can complete. This can be created simply through Google Forms. This allows for you as the organizers to outline the details of your Bike Bus (ie. schedule, route, parent/caregiver expectations, etc.).

TOP TIPS

Choose what day of the week you want to Bike Bus.

Focus on the morning ride to school, families will figure out what they need to do at the end of the day. There is so much variation in afterschool activities and schedules.

KEY ROLES ON THE BIKE BUS

Marshals

Ride back and forth, blocking an intersection until the whole group passes and then catching back up to the front to repeat. In larger groups, work as a team and trade off!

Leader

Front riders leading the route and keeping track of time and rides at a pace that keeps the group together!

Sheepdog

Ride alongside, keeping the pack together.

Sweep

Keep to the back to handle any stragglers.

Stay Connected

We've been inspired by others around the globe, and thanks to their enthusiasm and willingness to share what's worked, we've been able to reach out to you.

We would love to keep in touch locally to build momentum and continue to expand our community. Please consider joining us on our Slack channel. Here we can chat about what's working well, and share challenges to overcome.

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