# Smart Riders: Smart Town Launch Event

On October 15th, MoDOT's Highway Safety Office hosted a traffic garden event in conjunction with the Sedalia 200 School District and the Sedalia SAFE coalition. The event was a launch for the Smart Riders: Smart Town traffic garden guide.

## How much did it cost?

Materials (tape & chalk): $69.39
Supplies (broom, tools, measuring devices): $40.81
Equipment (scooters & helmets): $1,241.12

**$1,351.32**

## How long did it take?

- Coordinating with school and coalition: 2 hours
- Coordinating with organizations for bike donations: 5 hours
- Set up on day before event: 3 hours
- Volunteer coordination on day of event: 1 hour
- Hosting actual event: 4.5 hours
- Cleaning up after event: 1 hour

**16.5 hours**

## What was the flow of the event like?

There were four different sessions, one for each 2nd grade class. Two volunteers presented each class with two Smart Riders modules in the classroom, all volunteers helped fit the students with a helmet, a few volunteers walked the students through the traffic garden, and then the students picked a wheeled device and began navigating through the traffic garden. The volunteers walked beside students to help them and make sure they were being safe.

## How was it installed?

We used an outdoor space at the Parkview Elementary School in Sedalia. They had a large, unpainted asphalt area on their playground. We used the "Railroad Fun" layout from the guide. We primarily used vinyl tape to mark the roads. The center of the roundabout (BUPD logo) was made with duct tape and chalk. The railroad tracks were made with duct tape.

We lightly marked the longest parts of the layout with a chalk line snap tool. For the shorter segments, we used a piece of sidewalk chalk and a yardstick. Once the outlines were made, we rolled out tape in about 10ft segments and applied it to the ground. Walking over the tape after putting it on the ground helped it stick better.

## How many materials and supplies were needed?

We used 14 rolls of tape (either in full or partially). The amount of chalk used was negligible. We purchased a heavy-duty broom to clean the area beforehand, but we did not end up using it. We used one 100' open wheel tape measure, four yardsticks, three pairs of scissors, and one chalk snap line tool.

## How many people were involved?

Set-up team: 7 people
Volunteers on day of: about 20
Students: about 81
Teachers and aides: about 7

## Lessons Learned

- Double-check your measurements. The layout example we had was wrong (my bad…) so one of the streets was wider than all the rest. Again, it was easy to fix once we realized the problem, but it took us way too long to figure out.
- If you're working with tape, don't wait until the end of set-up to round all your corners; maybe do it as you go. Rounding corners with tape is not easy, and we were so tired by the end of set-up that our exhaustion made us forget how important rounding the corners was. You could definitely tell during the event how rounded corners would have made it easier for the students. We shouldn't have ignored the guide!
- After the first session, it became very clear that we needed an entrance and exit to the traffic garden to discourage students from going in and out wherever they wanted and causing crashes. It was really easy to make this adjustment on the fly.
- Getting the helmets on the students while they were still in the classroom worked better because it prevented the students from being incredibly distracted by the shiny bikes. It was definitely more cramped doing it in the classroom rather than on the playground, but it made things go smoother overall.
- Having a volunteer available to check the bikes, etc. throughout the event is invaluable. We were able to have a volunteer there to fix training wheels, tighten loose parts, and air up tires.
- Smaller groups work better, obviously. Also, second grade students did well, but third grade students may be a better fit.
- Don't be afraid to remove a student from the traffic garden if they will not change their behavior to be safe.