BIKE UTAH'S
STUDENT STREET DESIGN CHALLENGE
Bike Utah’s Youth Bicycle Education and Safety Training (BEST) program has created the Street Design Challenge to engage 4th through 7th grade students in bicycle navigation skills and advocacy. Students will examine the streets in their neighborhoods to gain insight into their ideal design for safer streets.

The following four activities that are intended to build on each other and help students form a confident voice for shaping their communities.
Overview

Materials:
Bike, helmet, bike lock, water bottle, pencil, markers, crayons, paper, chalk, tape, cones, cardboard, rocks, sticks, pinecones

Time:
2 to 3 hours.

If you want to write a song, we look forward to reading those words! Want to shoot a video? We’ll get the popcorn ready! Feel like drawing or even building a model? Please share your ideas with us by emailing at Youth@BikeUtah.org.
My Neighborhood Map

How well do you know your own neighborhood? Use the grid to map out traffic signs and roads near your home.

• Start by marking your home in the center of the grid.
• Then, ride your bike or walk through your neighborhood and mark the location of traffic signs, traffic signals, cross walks, or bike lanes on your map. You may also want to note road directions or street names.
• Is there a park nearby or a big hill? Make sure to put that on your map too.

Wear your helmet and run through the ABC Quick Check before riding in your neighborhood. Remember, you are considered a vehicle while riding your bike on the road, so follow all traffic laws!

Alternate Mapping: Practice course design and ride route planning - digital mapping with Google Maps, select “Bicycling” under the drop down menu to view bike routes and get directions by changing travel mode to “Cycling”.
Safe Streets Observation List

Roads and streets are designed to help us move safely from one point to another; from home to school or from work to the park. Cars, buses, vehicles, pedestrians, and people on bikes are all sharing these spaces. We’re looking for your ideas on changes or improvements to the roads, streets, and trails so that every person feels safe while riding.

Part 1:
List out visible and invisible things that try to keep us safe like stop signs. What do you think are must haves to stay safe? What are optional or nice to have?

Refer back to your neighborhood map or sit in a safe place to examine the street in front of your home.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Must Haves to Stay Safe</th>
<th>Optional/Nice to Have</th>
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Safe Streets Observation List

Part 2:
Can you describe your experience while riding through or observing your street or neighborhood? Use the chart below to list out words or phrases:

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<th>I felt safe when I saw…</th>
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What are a few words that describe your street?

Is it safe to enter the street between two parked cars?
My Ideal Neighborhood

Now that you’ve explored the streets of your neighborhood and brainstormed ideas to make streets safer, your next project is to design a mini-street network.

If you were to design a street for a car, bus, pedestrians, and people on bikes, what would it look like to keep every person safe and look amazing?

How can we get from one place to another while staying safe and having fun?

Check off the items below that you want to include in your street design. Add more items that are important for your neighborhood.

- Stop Signs
- Intersections
- Turtle Crossing Signs
- One-way streets
- Bike Lanes
- Bridges

- Crosswalks
- Ramps
- Yield signs
- Roundabouts
- Ice Cream Carts
- Zip Lines
My Ideal Neighborhood

Use the space below to design a draw your mini-street network.

Ask permission to use a safe area to make your design come to life, such as a basketball court or driveway. Use the materials to make streets and stop signs. Get creative! Create signs to let your neighborhoods and other road users know what’s going on. If your neighbors pass by, ask them to try your street network!

Materials:
Chalk, tape, cones, cardboard, markers, rocks, sticks, pinecones, etc.
A Letter to My City Planners

Sharing your experience as a vehicle and community member is incredibly important in shaping what streets, trails, and neighborhoods look like. Use the template below, or create your own to compose a letter or email to a planner that lets them know what you want and need in your neighborhood.

Who should you send the letter to?
Discuss with your teacher or family who to send this letter to. It might be different for every student because we all live in different places. Some cities have city planners and transportation departments that would love to know what you think. Sometimes, in smaller cities and towns, the mayor or city council are the best options. Try searching for the following positions on your local city government website: Planning, Engineering, City Administrator/Manager, City Council or Mayor.

If you are unsure who to contact in your area, email the Bike Utah staff at Youth@BikeUtah.org. We’d love to see these letters and emails too!

Today’s Date

Greeting
Example: Dear City Planner, Mayor, Neighborhood Designer,

Body (3 paragraphs)
Ideas to Write about:
* Introduce yourself.
* Describe where you live. What does it look like? What do you like about your neighborhood?

* Describe how you feel when biking or walking to your school.
(How did you feel the first time you biked or walked to school?)
* Do you feel safe while biking and walking? What would make you and your family feel safer?
* Describe the rules and procedures your school has established around walking and biking.
* Using the activities from the Checklist of Initiatives for Safer Streets worksheet, describe what might help to improve your neighborhood or encourage you and your friends to bike and walk more.
* Include a drawing or make a video of areas you would like to see improvements made.

Sincerely,
(Your Name)
Resources for students

Traffic Gardens -
www.trafficgardens.com/

Tactical Urbanism Guide -
www.tacticalurbanismguide.com/

Children as Tactical Urbanists -

Colorado Department of Transportation Pedestrian Safety Lesson Plans: 3rd through 6th grade -

Letter Writing for Kids -
www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2d-0dlimgY

Safe Streets Save Lives -
https://globaldesigningcities.org/publication/global-street-design-guide/