  [YOUR LOGO HERE]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: [NAME], [PHONE #s], [EMAIL]

**[CITY OR SCHOOL NAME] Celebrating International Walk to School Day**

***Parents, Students, Teachers and Communities Invited to Participate in***

***[SHORT DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL EVENT HERE]***

([CITY NAME], [DATE]) – The Ohio Department of Transportation’s (ODOT) Your Move Ohio campaign, along with [CITY OR SCHOOL NAME] encourage students, parents, teachers and local community members to celebrate International Walk to School Day on DATE [LOOK UP: [walkbiketoschool.org](http://walkbiketoschool.org/)]. The observance highlights the benefits of walking to school and raises awareness of the importance of children’s safety while walking or biking to school.

[ADD LOCAL QUOTE HERE – encourage families to participate, alert drivers to more students walking]

 [ADD LOCAL EVENT DETAILS HERE – include date, times, locations, activities, and who should come!]

Your Move Ohio and [CITY OR SCHOOL NAME] invites all students and families to walk to school and alerts drivers to the expected increase in students walking.

“Opportunities to walk to school improve student health, air quality and community safety,” said Cait Harley, ODOT’s Safe Routes to School and Active Transportation Manager. “Drivers should slow down and look for students walking along and crossing the road near schools on this day and all days.”

Your Move Ohio, offers these safety tips.

Safety tips for motorists:

* **Put your phone away.**
* **Slow down**. Speed limits are the maximum.

• **Yield to people walking at intersections and marked crosswalks.** Every intersection is a crosswalk – painted or not.

• **Don’t pass a vehicle** **stopped at a crosswalk.**

* **Give people biking at least 3 feet when passing**. Bikes are vehicles and can legally use the full travel lane.
* **Check for people** **walking and biking** when making a turn.
* **Look out for people walking and biking**, especially outside of daylight hours and in the rain.

Safety tips for pedestrians:

* **Cross at intersections or in marked crosswalks.**
* **Walk in the opposite direction of traffic**.
* **Reflective clothing and lights** can increase visibility.

Learn more, register an event and get involved with International Walk to School Day at [walkbiketoschool.org](http://walkbiketoschool.org/).

**About Your Move Ohio**

ODOT created Your Move Ohio ([YourMove.ohio.gov](https://www.dot.state.oh.us/ActiveTransportation/Pages/choose.aspx)) in response to a multi-year surge in fatal bicycle and pedestrian crashes and epidemic levels of chronic diseases – obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes – in the state. Its main goals are to encourage more Ohioans to choose active transportation and improve safety for everyone on Ohio’s roadways.

Details and free downloadable resources are available at [YourMove.ohio.gov](https://www.dot.state.oh.us/ActiveTransportation/Pages/choose.aspx) and on [Facebook.com/YourMoveOhio](https://www.facebook.com/yourmoveohio/). Share your active transportation story with the hashtag: #YourMoveOhio.

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