Minister for Transport and Education, Peter Chandler, will today meet with Nightcliff Primary School students taking part in the Bike Bus initiative.

“Today is National Ride to School Day, which encourages students and their families to leave the car at home to get a taste of the benefits, ease and fun involved in choosing to walk or ride to school,” Mr Chandler said.

“The Bike Bus is a fantastic example of one way students can stay healthy and active while learning about road safety.

“This initiative involves a group of parents and school council members picking up students from dedicated pick up points and escorting them safely to school on their bikes.

“There are several dedicated pick up points where parents and students can join in at set times according to the Bike Bus timetable.

“At the moment the route starts at Rapid Creek, continues past Nightcliff Middle School before reaching the final destination of Nightcliff Primary School.

“It is fantastic to hear there are 25 students currently participating, with the numbers increasing at such a rate that the school is looking at running dual bike buses to cover two different routes to cater for popularity.

“Travelling actively to school builds confidence, independence, self-esteem and social skills in children.

“It is great to see some of our youngest Territorians embracing our fantastic outdoor lifestyle.

“Students who cycle to school arrive energised, alert and ready to concentrate in classes.

“Riding to school encourages a healthy lifestyle by increasing the physical activity of students while also reducing the traffic around schools.

“This program teaches the students about road safety and obeying the road rules, and also promotes riding together with friends.”

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