

Safe Routes to School: Making it Sustainable

August 3, 2010

Statewide Health Improvement
Conference





Opening Questions

- > How did you get to school when you were growing up?
- > If you have kids or think of a child you care about, how do they get to school?



The Need for Safe Routes

- > In 1969 roughly half of all children walked or biked to school. Today, only about 15 percent walk or bike.
- > There are more than three times as many overweight children today as there were 25 years ago.
- > As much as 20 to 30% of morning rush hour traffic can be parents driving children to schools.



Agenda

- > The 5 Es of Safe Routes to School
- > SRTS Policy Needs at Local, State and National Level
- > Questions/Discussion



Assumptions:

- ❑ Safe Routes to School is a program run by Mn/DOT
- ❑ Safe Routes is only about the engineering
- ❑ Safe Routes is only about the Walking School Bus
- ❑ Safe Routes only affects getting to and from school

“What happens when we assume?”

Donna Naylor (Jill's mom)



Most children walking or biking on most days.

THE 5 E's of SRTS

- > Engineering
- > Education
- > Encouragement
- > Enforcement
- > Evaluation



Engineering

- > Identify barriers to walking and biking
 - Are there sidewalks, crosswalks, accessible curbs, bicycle lanes or paths, bicycle parking?
 - How fast is traffic moving?
- > Develop plan with a variety of solutions (cost, timeframe)
- > Look for multiple opportunities to implement the plan



Education

- > Identify audiences
 - Children
 - Parents
 - Drivers
 - Neighbors
- > Key messages depending on environment around school
- > When and how to deliver messages
 - Classroom
 - Events
 - Media and print materials
 - Signage



Encouragement

- > Identify how encouragement fits into the big picture
- > Determine goals and audiences
- > Implement strategies
 - One-time events
 - Clubs and Contests
 - Ongoing activities
- > Plan for sustainability



Enforcement

- > Identify safety issues
- > Community approaches
 - Safety Patrols
 - Adult Crossing Guards
 - Speed Watch Programs
- > Law Enforcement approaches
 - Speed trailers and monitors
 - Pedestrian decoy operations
 - Higher fines and progressive ticketing





Evaluation

- > Incorporate from the beginning
 - What will success look like?
 - How will we measure success?
- > Variety of tools
 - Walking and biking workshops
 - Survey of parents or kids
 - Punch cards
 - Interviews
 - Traffic counts and crash reports

Six Step Process for SRTS Program Evaluation

1. Plan the program/
Collect information
2. Write objectives
3. Decide what, how and
when to measure
4. Conduct the program
and monitor progress
5. Collect information
and interpret findings
6. Use results



The Red Pine Story

Welcome to our school - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites

Address <http://www.district196.org/rp/> Go Links

Red Pine Elementary

School of Excellence

Home About RP Grade Levels Specialists Support Services Family Connection Student Activities RP Community District 196

Welcome to Red Pine Elementary!

Building Info
Red Pine Elementary
530 Red Pine Lane
Eagan, MN 55123
651-423-7870

Principal
Gary Anger

Teacher Hours
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Student Hours
9:25a.m.-3:45p.m.

Student Absences
Please call
651-423-7870
to report any student
absences

Staff Links
Email
iCue
Intranet

[View complete Red Pine Calendar](#)

No School - Winter Break
(Thu, Dec 31, 2009)

No School - Winter Break
(Fri, Jan 01, 2010)

No School - Winter Break
(Sat, Jan 02, 2010)

No School - Winter Break
(Sun, Jan 03, 2010)

PTO Meeting 6:30 pm
(Thu, Jan 07, 2010)



Red Pine Elementary (Eagan, Minn.)

Identified problem

Bike safety classroom ed

Workshop with kids;
made signs

Identified safe routes/drop off sites

Walk/Bike to School day events

Web link promoting routes

Reached out to stakeholders

Bike Drive

Tri-city walk

Purchased bike racks

Parent committee developed
summer activity card...

Parent Communication

...and School Travel Plan



SRTS in MN...The Players





State Policy Priorities

1. Increase Local Capacity for Mn/DOT SRTS Solicitation
2. Successful implementation of Complete Streets
3. Develop Safety Curriculum
4. SHIP is Successful

The Future





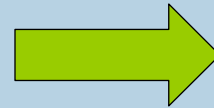
SRTS Initiative

One parent leads a walk to school



Host school Safe Routes audit

One teacher does a bike rodeo



Walking and biking safety curriculum in school

Local law enforcement occasionally watches for speeding



City implements double fine for School zones

One city staff submit SRTS non-infrastructure grant



Grant is submitted with input and support from SRTS workshop



Questions:

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- > Jill Chamberlain, MN SRTS Network Organizer
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