Safe Routes to School

Improving Health, Safety and Transportation

St. Thomas Aquinas

Jennifer Pyrz, PE

Lenexa, KS

Agenda

- Overview of SRTS
- Process
- Data
- Recommendations
Overview of Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

The need for Safe Routes to School

1. Fewer kids today walk and bike to school
2. Unintended consequences have resulted
3. SRTS programs are part of the solution
Safe Routes to School programs are part of the solution...

...to improve walking and bicycling conditions

...to increase physical activity

...to decrease air pollution

Elements of SRTS programs

- Education
- Encouragement
- Enforcement
- Engineering
- Evaluation
Education

- Imparts safety skills
- Creates safety awareness
- Fosters life-long safety habits
- Includes parents, neighbors and other drivers

Encouragement

- Increases popularity of walking and bicycling
- Is an easy way to start SRTS programs
- Emphasizes fun
**Enforcement**

- Increases awareness of pedestrians and bicyclists
- Improves driver behavior
- Helps children follow traffic rules

**Engineering**

- Creates safer conditions for walking and bicycling
- Can influence the way people behave
Evaluation

Is the program making a difference?

Safe Routes to School goals

- Where it’s safe, get children walking and biking
- Where it’s not safe, make changes

Winston-Salem, NC
Planning Process / Public Involvement

Getting started

- Poster at Sausagefest
- Sign up sheets for focus groups
- Brochures
- Kickoff meeting
Focus Groups

- Four groups
  - Teachers
  - School/Church Leadership
  - Parents
  - Neighbors

Kidspeak

- 17 participants
- Grades 1-8
- 2 hour session on October 7th
Kidspeak

- Presentation
- Brainstorm
- Mapping exercise
- Quiz
- Paragraph

Two Public Workshops

- 1st to introduce program / solicit input
- 2nd to present draft recommendations / solicit input
- Invitations sent to:
  - Media
  - Governor’s office
  - City agencies (DPW, Mayor’s office, DMD, MPO, etc)
  - Neighborhood Associations
  - INDOT
- Flyers posted at local businesses and in school newsletter and church bulletin
Other Publicity / Press

- Plan information provided:
  - Two posters in school / church
  - Church bulletin
  - School newsletter
  - School website

Implementation

- Meetings to present plan to:
  - DPW
  - Home-School Association
  - Neighborhood Associations (BTNA and MKNA)
  - IMPD
- SRTS Committee established
- Training provided to SRTS Cmte
St. Thomas – Current State

- Parent / Student Surveys completed in Spring 2007
  - 48% live within ½ mile of STA
  - 70% live within 2 miles of STA

- Of all students...
  - 17% walk
  - 5% bike
St. Thomas – Current State

Existing Barriers to Biking and Walking

% Responding

- Closest
- Commuting
- Time
- High-traffic
- Safety
- Stacked
- Anti-Social
- Crime
- Weather

Existing Conditions

- Community resources
Existing Conditions

- Existing Routes

St. Thomas – Students
St. Thomas – Traffic Counts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Flow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>46th &amp; Meridian</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>46th &amp; Illinois</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Existing LOS

- 46th & Meridian
- 46th & Illinois
Recommendations

- Encouragement
- Education
- Engineering
- Enforcement
Encouragement

- Mileage Club
- National Walk to School Day
- Giveaways and Prizes
- Walking School Buses
- Bike Trains
- Frequent Walker / Biker Program
- Back Door Reading Fact Sheets

Education

- Annual safety training program
- Provide bicycle maintenance training
- Provide crossing guard training
- Incorporate biking and walking rules into established programs
- Include a safety tip in each school newsletter
- Educate neighbors about trash cans blocking sidewalks
- Educate neighbors about right-of-way rules
- Educate neighbors about the SRTS plan
Maps and Routes

- Provide walk/bike route maps to all families
Improve Signals

- Add pedestrian indicators with countdown at Meridian St and 49th St
- Add pedestrian countdown indicators
  - Meridian St at 46th St
  - Illinois St at 46th St

Improve Signals

- Improve signal timing at 46th and Meridian - longer East/West and corresponding pedestrian phase
- Add crossing instruction signs at signals
Improve Crossings

- Paint continental-striped crosswalks at all street crossings along Tier 1 routes.
  - Prioritize 46th / Meridian and 46th / Illinois
- Paint conventional crosswalks at all street crossings along Tier 2 routes

Improve Crossings

- Paint / pave stand back lines at signalized intersections on school routes
- Purchase and utilize an in-street crosswalk sign
Install Mid-Block Crossing Treatment
(Pennsylvania St at 45th St)

Install Mid-Block Crossing Treatment
(Washington Blvd at 45th Street)
Improve Signage and Markings

- Install school zone signage and pavement markings according to Plan

Walking Routes Improvements

- Trim bushes/trees for signal/sign visibility along all primary and secondary routes
- Add stop bars at all signalized and stop-controlled intersections along walking/biking routes
Improve Sidewalks

- Sidewalk along all Tier 1 and Tier 2 routes should be 5 feet wide (minimum) and on both sides of the street.
- Conduct infrastructure assessments on semi-annual or quarterly basis to identify sidewalk repair needs.
- Add / upgrade curb ramps along all walking / biking routes.

Improve Sidewalks

- Improve sidewalk pavement condition along Kenwood Avenue.
- Add grass buffer strips along Illinois Street south of 46th Street with bump-ins to allow intervals of on-street parking.
Reduce Traffic Speeds/Alert Drivers to Students

- Improve radius at NE corner of 46th and Illinois
- Eliminate westbound right turn lane at 46th and Illinois
- Install speed limit signs with flashers to indicate when speed limit is in effect

Reduce Traffic Speeds/Alert Drivers to Students

- Convert intersections from 2-way to 4-way stop control
  - 47th and Kenwood
  - 49th and Kenwood
  - 52nd and Kenwood
  - Berkley and Boulevard
  - Delaware and 45th
  - 44th and Central
Improve 46th & Illinois St. for Vehicles and Pedestrians

Curb Extensions
Improve Bike Parking

- Add new bike racks and increase number of bike parking spaces
- Construct concrete pad for bike parking

Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

- Continue, expand, and train safety patrol
- Add sidewalk on north side of 46th Street at Illinois to provide access between Governor’s parking lot and intersection crossing
Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

- Add entrance gate at south end school parking lot. Close north gate during afternoon pick-up to discourage jaywalking.

Enforcement

- Ticket red-light running vehicles
  - 46th and Meridian
  - 46th and Illinois
- Use speed trailer at random times on Illinois and 46th
- Continue to enforce speed limits - especially along Illinois Street and 46th Street
- Have bicycling enforcement officer patrol during school arrival/dismissal hours to enforce traffic laws
What’s Next

- SRTS Committee met last week!
  - Funding for infrastructure improvements will be sought – SRTS, Corporate Sponsorships, Grants, etc.
  - Committee will work with DPW and IMPD to address some needs
  - Programs and improvements should start rolling out later this semester!
- Watch for us on Walk to School Day this fall!

Thank You!