

UNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PLAN

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Unity Safe Routes to School Task Force

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Introduction	3
Safe Routes to School Program	3
School District of Unity	4
Safe Routes to School Task Force	6
Previous Safe Routes To School Work.....	6
Vision and Goals	6
Existing Conditions	7
Task Force Discussion	7
Existing Policies and Practices	7
Traffic	7
School Buses and Parent Drop Off.....	8
Other Plans	8
Recommended Strategies	10
Education	10
Encouragement.....	11
Enforcement.....	11
Engineering	12
Evaluation	13
Implementation	17
Funding and Resources	18
Additional Funding.....	18
Related Programs	19
Other Resources	20

List of Figures

Figure 1: Location Map	5
Figure 2: Balsam Lake - Proposed Safe Routes To School Systems	14
Figure 3: Centuria - Proposed Safe Routes To School Systems	15
Figure 4: Milltown - Proposed Safe Routes To School Systems.....	16

Executive Summary

Introduction

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is an international movement that promotes walking and biking to school. SRTS began in the 1970's in Denmark, which had an alarming number of child fatalities due to crashes on roadways. SRTS reached the United States in 1997, when The Bronx received local funds to implement a SRTS program to reduce the large number of student injuries and fatalities due to crashes around schools. The success of the program convinced other communities to adopt similar measures. By 2000, SRTS programs were nationwide. In 2005, Congress saw the importance of these programs and consequently signed into law a federally funded SRTS program. The new law facilitated the allocation of money to all 50 states and the District of Columbia to create, implement, and administer SRTS programs. Federal SRTS funds can be used for projects within two miles of an elementary or middle school (K-8). In 2014, the Unity School District and villages of Balsam Lake, Centuria, and Milltown were awarded a SRTS planning grant to develop this plan.

The SRTS program has its roots in both health and transportation safety. The major program goals are to make the school trip safe for walking and biking and to encourage children to walk and bike to school and home. SRTS strives to reduce congestion around schools, improve the health of school-aged children through increased physical activity, reduce vehicle emissions and fuel consumption, increase community security, enhance community accessibility, increase community involvement, and improve partnerships among schools, local municipalities, parents, and other community groups.

The Unity SRTS Task Force consists of representatives from the Unity School District, villages, and Kobussen bus company. The Task Force worked together to identify issues and opportunities in the villages, and developed strategies to make walking and biking to and from school bus stops safer for students.

Unity's SRTS Vision

The Unity School District, Village of Balsam Lake, Village of Centuria, Village of Milltown, and Kobussen Bus Company will work together and collaborate with other community stakeholders to create a safe and encouraging environment for walking and biking to and from school bus stops.

Key findings include:

- The overwhelming majority of students are not able to walk or bike to the school campus.
- The goal is to get more students to walk to and from bus stops.
- Each village has its own issues. However, each village does have a State Highway that travels through the village which contributes to a less safe environment.
- Each village has numerous school bus stops.
- There is a good working relationship between the School District, villages, and bus company.

Existing Conditions

As part of the planning process, collecting existing conditions and data are important. The Task Force members discussed existing conditions in the villages. Key findings from the task force and observation are shown in the colored boxes.

Strategies

The SRTS framework recommends using five categories when looking at issues and strategies. These are called the *Five E's*. Recommendations in the plan were developed using all five E's (Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, and Evaluation). For a full listing, see pages 9-12.

Safe pedestrian systems for Balsam Lake, Centuria, and Milltown were planned. This includes sidewalks, intersection and crossing improvements, and signage improvements. In addition to the sidewalk system (shown in Figures 2-4) some of the improvement recommendations include:

- An educational program is needed at all levels.
- Newspaper articles and correspondence from the schools will help to inform parents of the SRTS plan and progress.
- Training to be a lawful and safe pedestrian, cyclist, and driver.
- As dangerous traffic corridors and intersections are prevalent, infrastructure projects are key items in the SRTS program.

Funding

Funding sources vary widely in their eligibility and magnitude. Federal Transportation Alternatives Program funding (formerly Safe Routes To School and Transportation Enhancement programs) is a primary source for those projects that specifically address the SRTS focus on biking and walking safety and encouragement, both infrastructure and non-infrastructure. However, other grants may be appropriate for funding smaller projects. Other funding sources from both health and transportation sources are listed and described on pages 17-20.

Introduction

Safe Routes To School

An active SRTS program will help Unity School District create safer, easier, and more enjoyable walking and biking routes to school bus stops so more students choose walking and biking as their main mode of transportation. There are a number of benefits to the entire community when walking and biking conditions are improved.

Safer routes

One of the reasons parents do not allow their children to walk and bike to school is because the routes to school are too dangerous. Problems such as incomplete, poorly maintained, or missing sidewalks and trails, congested streets, and lack of traffic calming devices in the vicinity of schools discourage walking and biking to school. SRTS programs help communities identify and fix these problems making it safer for all residents and visitors to the area.

Healthier children

In the past few decades, the number of active children in the United States has decreased and the number of overweight children has almost doubled. Recent data shows that $\frac{2}{3}$ of Wisconsin adults are overweight or obese. In addition, kids are spending more and more time indoors not being active. The American Heart Association recommends that children participate in at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity every day. One of the ways to achieve a large portion of this goal is to walk or bike to school. SRTS programs encourage children to be more active by walking and biking to school.

Cleaner environment

Emissions from vehicles pollute the air our children breathe and can cause serious health problems such as asthma and bronchitis. Motor vehicle use is now generally recognized as the source of more air pollution than any other single human activity. In order to decrease air pollution, communities should look to reduce the number of vehicles on the roads especially in the vicinity of schools. Fewer cars emitting pollutants will improve the air quality, thus decreasing health problems in children. SRTS programs aim to decrease the number of cars in the vicinity of schools thereby creating a cleaner environment.

Other desired outcomes of Safe Routes to School:



- Enhanced community accessibility
- Increased community involvement
- Reduced fuel consumption
- Increased community security
- Improved partnerships among schools, local municipalities, parents, and other community groups.

5 E's

In order to accomplish the goals of SRTS programs, the Unity School District and villages must focus on the 5 E's: Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, and Evaluation. This comprehensive approach allows communities to maximize the number of students walking and biking to school.

Engineering

Problems with the physical environment around schools such as damaged or missing sidewalks, lack of traffic calming measures, or unsafe crosswalks prevent children from walking and biking safely and easily to and from school. These problems can be dangerous enough to cause pedestrian injuries and fatalities, often to children. Clearly, a safe physical environment is necessary for enabling children to walk and bike to school. Therefore, SRTS funds can be used



to make infrastructure improvements that will fix these problems and make the physical environment safer for children. Improving the physical environment near schools is necessary for a successful SRTS program. In addition, other measures are needed, in tandem with those improvements, to get students walking and biking to school.

Encouragement

Another key component to the SRTS program is encouraging children to walk and bike to school. Convincing children, as well as parents and guardians, that walking and biking to school is safe, fun, and healthy can be a difficult task, especially since SRTS may interfere with a parent's already busy schedule or established routine of driving their child to school. That is why a comprehensive SRTS program offers activities and events that promote walking and biking to school that are fun, safe, and easy. This will help to ease the safety concerns of parents and guardians in their decision to allow their children to walk and bike to school.

Education

Educating children and parents is an important part of SRTS. Children as well as parents need to learn about biking and walking safety and about the benefits of walking and biking to school. Equally important is educating drivers about safe driving around schools. These programs will help ensure that walkers, bikers, and drivers think about safety first.

Enforcement

Driver education and safety campaigns do not ensure the elimination of unsafe driving behaviors. Therefore, SRTS programs should partner with local law enforcement to make sure traffic laws are obeyed (including enforcement of speed limits, yielding to pedestrians in crossings, and proper walking and biking behaviors), and to initiate or strengthen community enforcement such as crossing guard programs. Enforcement programs also keep an eye on any criminal or threatening behavior, which could possibly discourage walking and biking, especially around schools. Each of these approaches is necessary for a successful program. By tackling the project from multiple angles, communities can maximize the safety of the routes to school and increase the number of students that use the routes.

Evaluation and Sustaining a Program

Understanding the barriers and obstacles that prevent children from walking and biking to school are essential in implementing an effective SRTS plan. Evaluation techniques such as surveys will help communities see the current walking and biking behaviors and understand the attitudes that parents and children have towards walking and biking. With this information, communities can make the necessary adjustments (through Engineering, Education, Encouragement, and Enforcement techniques) to change behaviors and attitudes. Also, evaluation of the program will be vital to continuing SRTS, as being able to show improvements by comparing before and after data is very helpful in maintaining local commitment to the program. Even more, evaluation can show what techniques did not work so that adjustments can be made in the future. A successful SRTS program is dependent on the use of all 5 E's.



Unity School District

The Unity School District has a total enrollment of 993 students. The school campus is located in the Town of Milltown, between the Village of Balsam Lake and the Village of Milltown. Balsam Lake's 2010 population was 1,009. Centuria's 2010 population was 948. Milltown's 2010 population was 917. Regionally speaking, the area that the School District serves is in an area that has not experienced significant growth over the past two decades.

**Figure 1
Location Map**



In order to specifically consider the economic standing of students attending the elementary and middle schools, a commonly used and carefully tracked index is commonly used. An "economically disadvantaged" student is a member of a household that meets the income eligibility guidelines for free or reduced-price meals (less than or equal to 185% of Federal



Poverty Guidelines) under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). In the School District, the percentage of students that meet this income eligibility is 54 percent.

Safe Routes To School Task Force

A SRTS Task Force is a group of people who represent all facets of the SRTS program in the community (transportation, health, fitness, safety, etc.), and work together to develop and implement a plan to increase the number of students walking and biking to school.

Unity's SRTS Task Force developed a vision and goals for their SRTS program, considered relevant issues, and discussed strategies to overcome the barriers to walking and biking. They have the opportunity to conduct surveys and coordinate a walking and biking audit. The surveys and audit will collect data to better understand the challenges of walking and biking to school.

Previous Safe Routes to School Work

To date, there has been no previous Safe Routes To School work done.

Vision and Goals

A vision and two goals were developed to bring the SRTS program's direction into focus and to make it fit the specific needs and desires of the school district and the three communities. It is important to revisit this vision and the goals throughout the planning and implementation stages of the program to ensure that projects are heading in the intended direction, in a coordinated manner. There may be times when the vision and goals need to be updated to meet changing needs in the local environment, but kept current, they will help to lead toward a unified implementation and an eventual realization of the vision.

Vision:

The Unity School District, Village of Balsam Lake, Village of Centuria, Village of Milltown, and Kobussen Bus Company will work together and collaborate with other community stakeholders to create a safe and encouraging environment for walking and biking to and from school bus stops.

Goals:

- Make walking and bicycling safe ways to get to school.
- Encourage more children to walk or bike to school.

Existing Conditions

Task Force Discussion

The Unity Safe Routes To School Task Force met on October 15. There were a variety of issues and opportunities that were brought up during the meeting. Most issues stemmed from the lack of ability for students to walk and bike to the school campus, due to its rural location. Discussion included the lack of sidewalks in the three villages, the number of bus stops in the three villages, and safety issues in each village. Unlike the majority of SRTS plans which work to get students to walk and bike to school, the Unity SRTS plan focuses on getting students to walk and bike to bus stops.



State Highway 46 in Balsam Lake.

Existing Policies and Practices

The existing policy in the community that influences students walking and biking is the location of the school campus and the number of bus stops in each village. In addition, the villages do not require that sidewalks be provided in the construction of any new development.

Traffic

Traffic volumes are not particularly high on the streets adjacent to the schools. However, in most cases traffic is highest when students are walking and biking to school. The most recent data available ranges from 2009 to 2012. The locations that are at least somewhat pertinent to the SRTS Plan include:

Balsam Lake

- State Highway 46 (West of Idlewild Dr.) – 4,200 ADT (06/2012)
- State Highway 46 (North of the Polk County Government Center) – 5,800 ADT (05/2009)

Centuria

- Minnesota Ave (North of 4th St.) – 80 ADT (05/2009)
- Wisconsin Ave. (North of 4th St.) – 260 ADT (05/2009)
- 4th St. (East of Michigan Ave.) – 1,500 ADT (05/2009)

Milltown

- Main St. (East of Central Ave.) – 1,800 ADT (05/2009)
- 2nd Ave. (South of STH 35) – 610 ADT (05/2009)
- STH 35 (East of Dairyland Ave.) – 4,000 ADT (07/2012)
- Milltown Ave. (South of STH 35) – 680 ADT (05/2009)



Wisconsin Ave. in Centuria

School Buses and Parent Drop Off

Due to no kids walking and biking to school, there are no issues with school bus areas and parent drop off areas.

Other Plans

The villages' Comprehensive Plans discuss the importance of safe walking and biking in the community. There is no specific mention of Safe Routes To School in the plan.



The Balsam Lake Comprehensive Plan states:

1. Encourage the development of sidewalks and/or trails/paths in new developments.
2. Encourage new streets to be designed with alternative modes of transportation in mind.
3. Implement a Village-wide plan for path, trail and sidewalk development.

The Centuria Comprehensive Plan states:

1. Consider requiring new developments to install sidewalks when they develop new residences
2. Prioritize sidewalk improvement needs to address the most needed improvements first

The Milltown Comprehensive Plan states:

1. Continue to identify areas such as residential developments, parks, elderly housing, etc. and link them with sidewalks or trails.
2. Investigate ways of making the 2nd Avenue/Main Street intersection safer for pedestrians to cross by using crosswalk markings, pedestrian crossing signs, or pedestrian crossing delineators.
3. Coordinate bicycle facility improvements, such as a vehicle parking area, bike racks, and additional access points to and from the Gandy Dancer Trail to promote bicycling and encouraging trail users to visit the downtown area.

Recommended Strategies

Numerous strategies are recommended for the three villages and Unity School District. It is important to remember that a community that is safe for students to walk and bike is also a walkable and livable community for everyone. The three communities face some challenges to safe walking and biking to bus stops, specifically lack of sidewalks throughout the majority of each community. The communities are a size that virtually all students who live within the Village limits should be able to walk and bike to one central bus stop, and at one time the vast majority of students in each community did walk to a school. For the strategies, there are three different timeframes recommended for implementation: ongoing, short-term (2016), and medium-term (2017-2019).



East Main St (CTH G) in Milltown

Education

Villages

- Locate signs at entrances of the villages that say the community is a SRTS community. (short-term)

School District

- Host fitness speakers that promote walking/biking (athlete/coach from High School, members of the community, etc.). (short-term)
- Distribute an annual letter at the beginning of the school year with a brief description stating that the community has completed a SRTS plan and where designated SRTS corridors are located. (short-term)
- Start a P.E. bike unit for elementary school students. (short-term)

- Include vehicle/bike/pedestrian law education in school newsletters. (short-term)

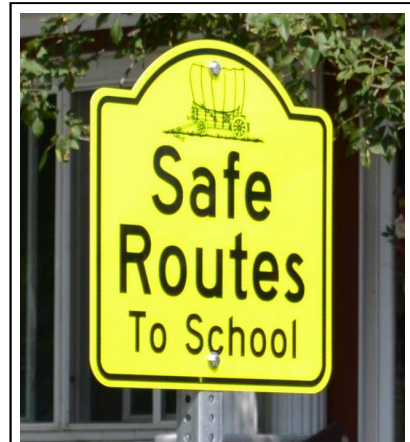
Villages/School District

- Promote SRTS on the website and social media. (short-term)
- Work with local media in promoting SRTS. (ongoing)

Encouragement

Villages

- Create a map that shows distances by walking, calories burned, and designated safe routes for each village. Distribute annually. (short-term)
- Locate signage around each village that shows designated safe routes, distance, and calories burned. Possibly incorporate this with a community based theme. (short-term)



A SRTS street sign in De Smet, SD. The sign uses De Smet's theme of a covered wagon with the Laura Ingalls Wilder "Little Town On The Prairie" theme.

School District

- Start a Walk to School (Bus Stop) Day event/activities. This could include larger annual events/activities and smaller weekly events/activities. (short-term)
- Organize a walking school bus from strategic locations along SRTS routes. (short-term)
- Work with the Kobussen bus service to determine if reducing the number of stops in the villages would be economically beneficial and/or reduce ride times. (short-term)

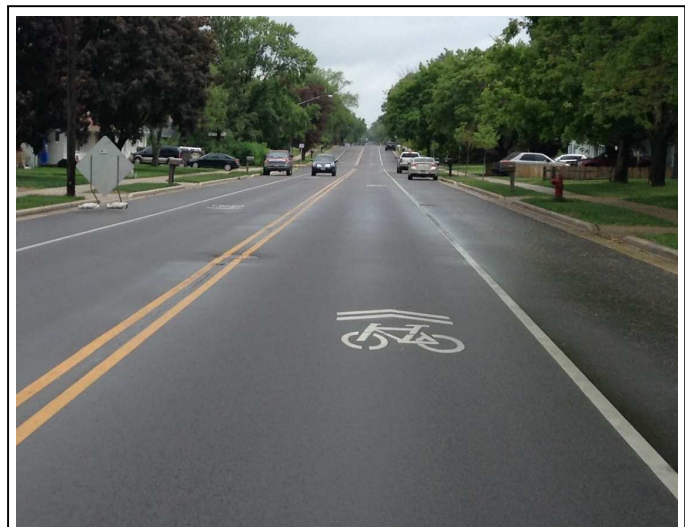
Villages/School District

- Distribute reflectors for backpacks. (ongoing)
- Collaborate with community organizations (outdoor groups, health organizations, etc.) to help promote walking and biking to/from designated bus stops. (short-term)
- Create 15mph school zones at nodes where buses pick up students, if bus stops are consolidated. (short-term)
- Work with parents to create walking school buses in the three villages. (short-term)

Enforcement

Villages

- Enforce speed limits. (ongoing)
 - Balsam Lake
 - State Highway 46
 - Centuria
 - 8th St.
 - Milltown
 - Main St.
 - 170th St./2nd Ave. SW
- Investigate activity that is currently deterring walking and biking to/from bus stops. (ongoing)



Example of a roadway with centerline, parking lines, and sharrows. Eau Claire, WI.



4th St. in Centuria.

Engineering

Villages

- Require all future development to meet pedestrian and bicycle and SRTS policies and needs. (short-term)
- Require all future development that is adjacent to the school campus to have adequate pedestrian/bicycle trail, sidewalks, and feeder system to the school. (short-term – Town of Milltown)
- Where they do not currently exist, construct sidewalks along all SRTS routes, as shown on the maps. (short-term/medium-term)
- If sidewalks are not feasible along certain SRTS routes, create a designated painted walking lane on the pavement. (short-term)
- Research feasibility for bicycle lanes on proposed SRTS routes. (short-term)
- Locate safety-green colored pedestrian crossing signs with arrows on both sides of the street in both directions and painted crosswalks at all Improved Intersections labeled on the map. (short-term)
- Replace all old yellow/orange pedestrian signs and school zone signs with safety-green colored pedestrian crossing signs, along SRTS corridors. (short-term)
- Paint centerlines and parking lanes and sharrows and/or bike lanes along the SRTS corridors. (short-term)



Covered bicycle parking in Tomelilla, Sweden.

- Research opportunities for two-way stops, four-way stops, and yield intersections in each of the three villages. (short-term)

School District

None.

Villages/School District

- Consolidate bus stops in each of the three villages. These bus stops would have a shelter and lighting. In addition, additional items could include bike parking, security camera, student art, and a panic alarm. The design of the shelters would have the Unity School District Eagle and the shelters could be called Eagle Nests. (short-term)
- Locate SRTS signs that have a specific theme along SRTS corridors. This could include community theme and/or school age interests. An example is something with the District mascot. (short-term)
- Improve lighting along SRTS corridors, where needed. (short-term)

Evaluation

- Nominate a chairperson for the SRTS Task Force (ongoing)
- Continue to meet as a SRTS Task Force (at least three times a year) (ongoing)
- Complete a teacher tally sheet in Spring 2016 and Spring 2018 (medium-term)
- Complete a parent survey in Spring 2016 and Spring 2018 (medium-term)

Figure 2
Balsam Lake
Proposed Safe Routes To School Systems

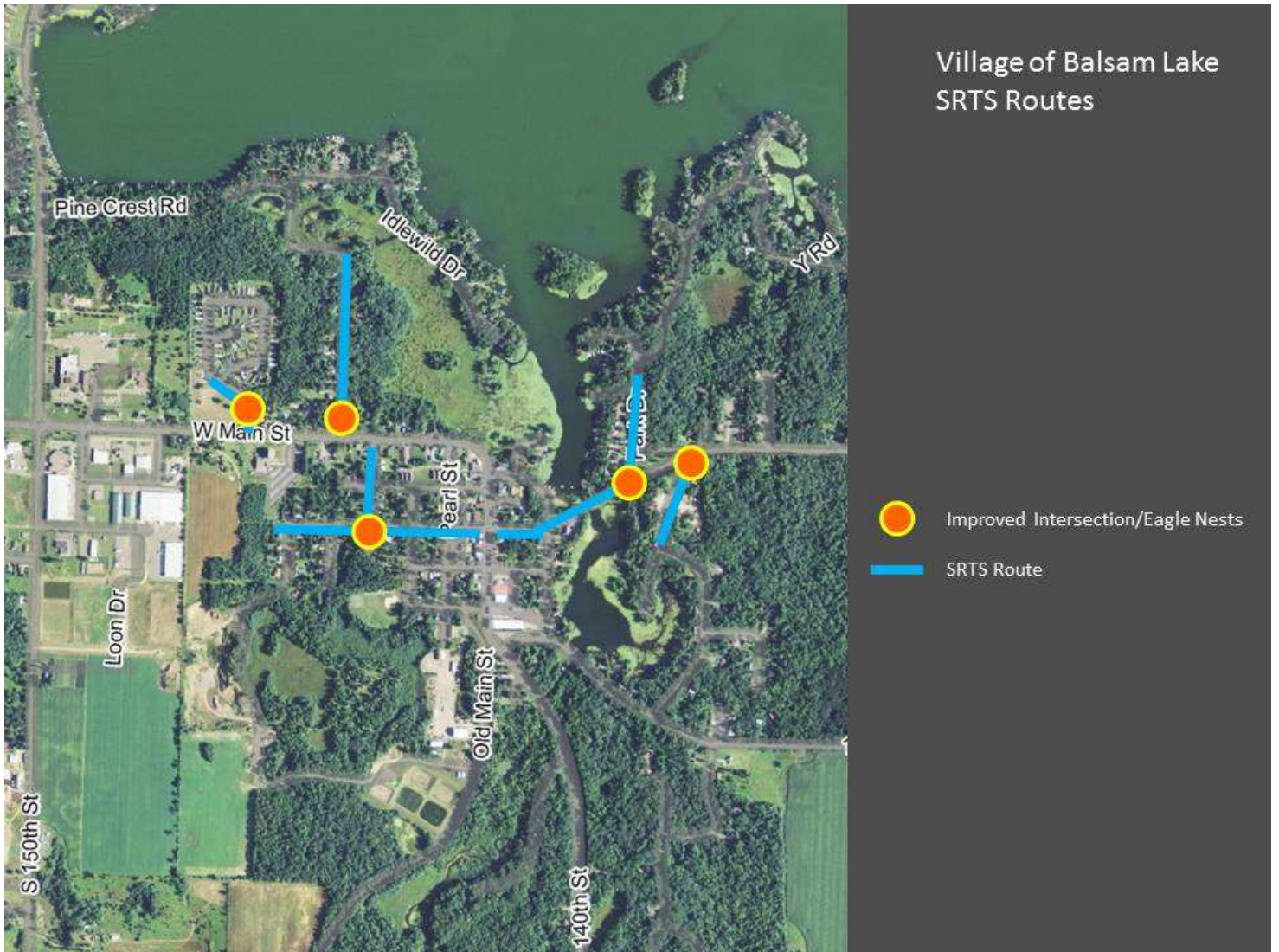
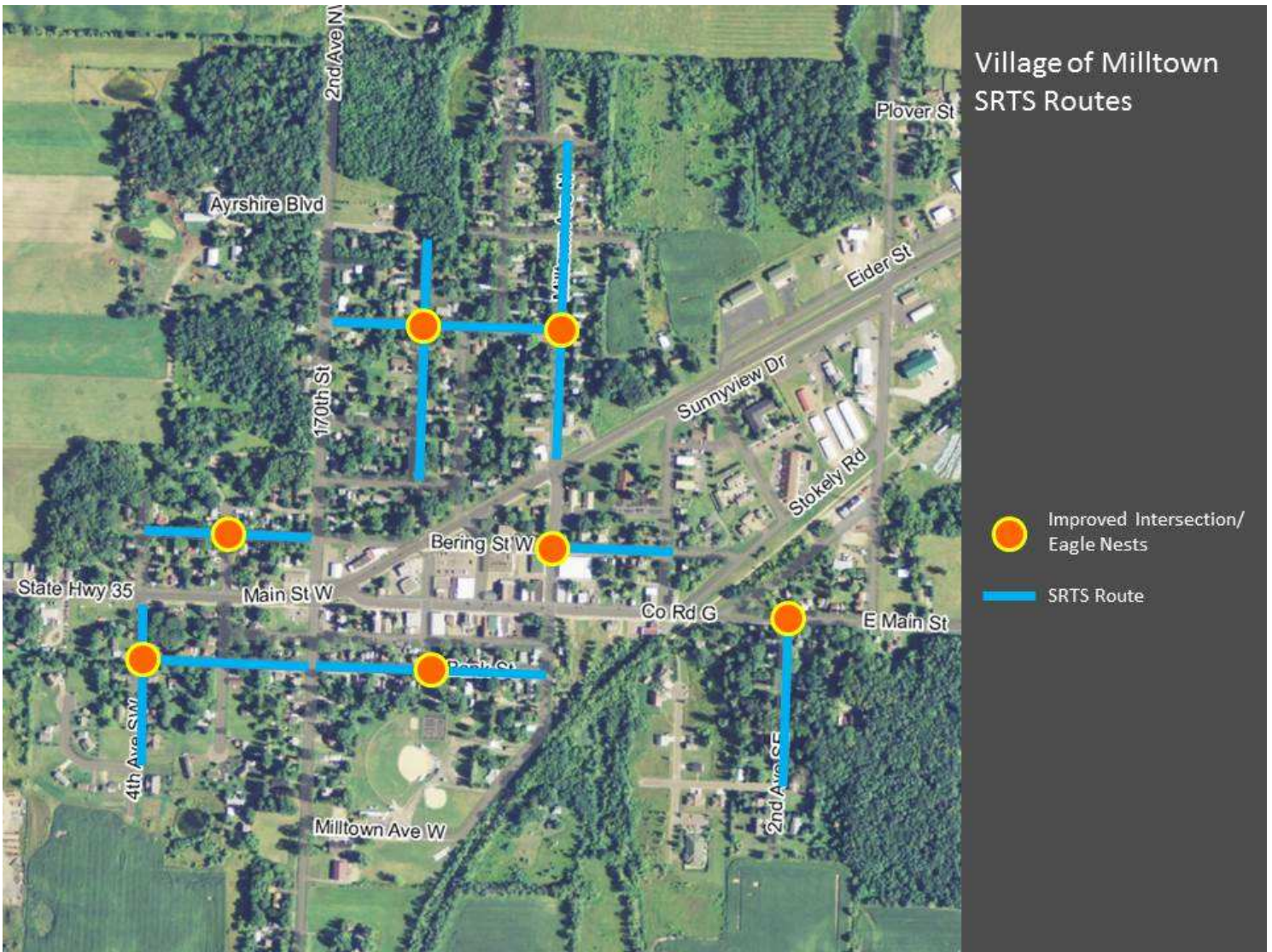


Figure 3
Centuria
Proposed Safe Routes To School Systems



**Figure 4
Milltown
Proposed Safe Routes To School Systems**



Implementation

In order for the recommendations included in this SRTS plan to become reality, it is important that the SRTS Task Force remain active. The group's role will be to coordinate, track, and evaluate projects, programs, and grant applications. They will serve as the champion of SRTS in the communities.

In the list of recommendations, the strategies all have a stated timeframe. There are three different timeframes for starting implementation: ongoing, short-term (2016), and medium-term (2017-2019). The ongoing projects are those that can be implemented without the need for specific grant funds or large coordinative efforts. The short-term category includes those projects that may require some planning to include in school curriculum during 2016 or would be eligible for upcoming grant cycles, such as applications to Wisconsin Department of Transportation TAP grant program. Projects included in the medium-term are longer term projects that either require more coordinative effort, design time, or may need more complex funding schemes. With the correct planning and coordinated effort, some of these could start sooner.

The following is a list of criteria that could be used by the SRTS Task Force. During the planning process, it was discussed that several strategies were of high priority. It is planned that over the coming months and years, the SRTS Task Force will update the strategies that are to be at highest priority levels. In addition, it should be noted that some strategies can be accomplished easily and that even though they are not the highest priority, these can and should be implemented when the resources are available.

1. Safety
2. Ease of Implementation
3. Usage
4. Cost
5. Healthy Outcomes
6. Time Required

The engineering strategies of highest priority include:

- Construct Eagle Nest shelters at consolidated bus stop locations.
- Construct sidewalks along SRTS corridors.
- Locate school zone signs and 15mph speed limit signs in the three villages.

Funding programs and abbreviations are described in the following pages. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list, as new programs concerning the health and safety of children are being established every year, but gives a starting point for some of the major programs that are currently available. It is important to partner with local service groups, as well as organizations with children's health and safety as their mission.

The best means of implementation is an organized and diligent task force working to bring the Village of Balsam Lake, Village of Centuria, Village of Milltown, Unity School District, and Kobussen Bus Company together and guide them toward the goal of becoming Safe Routes to School communities.

Funding and Resources

Additional funding

Bicycle Safety – Rodeo (BS-R)

This grant is intended to provide one-time funding that will contribute to a community's ability to set-up a bicycle-training rodeo or similar hands-on event. The purpose of this event is to teach safe bicycling operation, skill and judgment to elementary and middle school children and their parents. Many of the skills and attitudes developed in this training are precursors for skills and attitudes necessary for safe driving. For more information, contact: Larry Corsi, Wisconsin Bureau of Transportation Safety, Phone: 608.709.0081, email: larry.corsi@dot.wi.gov

Community Academic Partnership Fund

For information about this funding source: <http://www.med.wisc.edu/wisconsin-partnership-program/community-academic-partnership-fund/634>

Driven to Better Health

Physical activity involves the development, implementation, and evaluation of school - based, school - linked efforts to increase exercise among students, staff, and community. There are a number of ways the Department of Public Instruction is addressing this important issue. Driven to Better Health is one such program that addresses this issue. It is a DPI sponsored program to engage families in physical activity and healthy eating by having students and their families count moving miles based on the amount of physical activity they complete, and the food choices a person makes. To find out more about how your school can begin a Driven to Better Health program contact: Eileen Hare at 608.267.9234 www.sspw.dpi.wi.gov/sspw_driventohealth

General Mills Champions for Healthy Kids

In partnership with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation, the General Mills Foundation developed the Champions for Healthy Kids grant program in 2002. Each year, the Foundation awards 50 grants of \$20,000 each to nonprofit organizations working to improve nutrition and physical fitness behaviors for youth. Web: www.eatrightfoundation.org/foundation/championgrants/ for more information.

Green & Healthy Schools Program (GHSP)

Green & Healthy Schools is a Web-based, voluntary program available to all public and private elementary, middle and high schools across Wisconsin. The program encourages teachers, staff, students and parents to work together to use the school, its grounds and the whole community as learning tools to teach, promote and apply healthy, safe and environmentally sound practices. Green & Healthy Schools is an integrated program that addresses many of the same issues as Safe Routes to School such as transportation alternatives, improved air quality, a safe transportation environment and community involvement. Small grants are available for schools that show a commitment towards these goals. For more information, visit:

www.dnr.wi.gov/education/educatorresources/ghs/ or contact DNR staff at: DNRGHSchools@Wisconsin.gov

Local Transportation Enhancements (TE) (part of the Transportation Alternatives Program-TAP)

The Transportation Enhancements program funds projects that increase multi-modal transportation alternatives and enhance communities and the environment. Federal funds administered through this program provide up to 80% of costs for a wide variety of projects including "provision of facilities for bicycles or pedestrians" and "provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists." Projects must meet federal and state requirements. Local governments with taxing authority, state agencies and Indian tribes are eligible for funding. A project sponsor must pay for a project and then seek reimbursement for the project from the state. Federal funds will provide up to 80% of project costs, while the sponsor must provide at least the other 20%. For more information, contact: Tanya Iverson, Department of Transportation, Phone: 608.266.2574, email: tanya2.iverson@dot.wi.gov

Pedestrian Road Show-Walking Workshop (PRSWW)

The Pedestrian Road Show-Walking Workshop provides funding to communities that are working on local expertise and on-going commitment to increase public safety by reducing pedestrian related traffic crashes and injuries while improving the community's Walkability. The grantee will arrange a Pedestrian Road Show/Walking Workshop with a trained facilitator from a Bureau of Transportation Safety list. The Pedestrian Road Show/Walking Workshop is the initial event to a pedestrian improvement commitment by this community. The invitation of community leaders encourages the formation of a local group of pedestrian advocates and experts to focus on identifying and solving potential problems that affect pedestrian safety and walkability in the local community. They also identify good pedestrian environments and determine how those can be replicated in the less desirable locations for pedestrians.

For more information, contact: Larry Corsi, Wisconsin Bureau of Transportation Safety, Phone: 608.709.0081, email: larry.corsi@dot.wi.gov

People For Bikes

The People For Bikes Community Grant Program provides funding for important and influential projects that leverage federal funding and build momentum for bicycling in communities across the U.S. These projects include bike paths and rail trails, as well as mountain bike trails, bike parks, BMX facilities, and large-scale bicycle advocacy initiatives. Visit www.peopleforbikes.org/ for more information.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Funding for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is provided through federal gas excise taxes paid on fuel used by off - highway vehicles. Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governing bodies, school districts, state agencies, federal agencies and incorporated organizations are eligible to receive reimbursement for development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. Eligible sponsors may be reimbursed for up to 50 percent of the total project costs. www.dnr.wi.gov/aid/rta.html

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) — (part of the Transportation Alternatives Program-TAP)

The Wisconsin Safe Routes to School Program provides funding for planning, infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects within two miles of an elementary or middle school (kindergarten through eighth grade). For information about the guidelines and funding cycles, contact the program coordinator: Wisconsin Safe Routes to School Coordinator, email: srts@dot.state.wi.us

Teaching Safe Bicycling (TSB)

This training is normally scheduled in April and designed to work with teachers, YMCA staff, summer program instructors, law enforcement officers, programs and organizations putting on bike rodeos and people interested in teaching safe bicycling to children. This is a one - day course at no cost to the participants. The course teaches attendees how and why children are different from adults when it comes to bicycling and what the most common child bicycle crashes are. It also provides useful information that can be used at future training sessions, hands on training for participants and strategies for developing better ideas and methods for teaching children. Sponsors will also receive useful safety materials for children. For more information, contact : Larry Corsi, Wisconsin Bureau of Transportation Safety, Phone: 608.709.0081, email: larry.corsi@dot.wi.gov

U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Program of the Federal Highway Administration's Office of Human Environment promotes bicycle and pedestrian transportation use, safety, and accessibility. There are many funding opportunities under this department. For more information: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/funding_opportunities.cfm

Wisconsin Medical Society Community Grant

The Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation focuses on providing support for physician-led, community-based or statewide programs to improve health through education and outreach. We seek to support primarily high impact, high visibility programs that support the Foundation's mission. More information is online at: www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/about-us/foundation/grants-and-awards/grant-program/

Wisconsin Pedestrian and Bicycle Law Enforcement Training Course

This two-day course provides Wisconsin law enforcement officers with the training and information that they need to manage traffic for pedestrian and bicycle safety and enjoyment in their communities. It will explain the causes of crashes and the chief countermeasures for preventing these crashes, teach Wisconsin laws and statutes relating to pedestrians and bicyclists and provide hands on training.

For more information, contact: Larry Corsi, Wisconsin Bureau of Transportation Safety, Phone: 608.709.0081, email: larry.corsi@dot.wi.gov

Related Programs

Comprehensive School Health

Healthy kids make better students and better students make healthy communities! This belief is the cornerstone to coordinated school health and the reason why organizations and agencies representing public health, higher

education, school districts, parents, and other groups have joined the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) in supporting CSH initiatives. DPI incorporates a variety of strategies to address these critical health behaviors and they include funding opportunities; technical assistance; free resources through printed publications, internet, and media resources; and professional development events. http://sspw.dpi.wi.gov/sspw_cshp

National SAFE KIDS Campaign

The National SAFE KIDS Campaign is a national nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to the prevention of unintentional childhood injuries (motor vehicle crashes, fires and other injuries), which is the number one cause of death of children under the age of 14. The Campaign's aim is to stimulate changes in attitudes, behavior and the environment. Since its inception in 1998, the Campaign has focused on developing injury prevention strategies—conducting public outreach and awareness campaigns, stimulating hands-on grassroots activity and working to make injury prevention a public policy priority. The National SAFE KIDS Campaign and program sponsor FedEx Express developed SAFE KIDS Walk This Way in 2000 to bring national and local attention to pedestrian safety issues. The SAFE KIDS Walk This Way program involves *Walk to School Day* events, data collection, school pedestrian safety committees and community pedestrian safety task forces. The Campaign relies on the support of more than 400 grassroots coalitions in 49 states and the District of Columbia to reach out to local communities. For more information, visit: <http://www.safekids.org/united-states-0>

Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity Program

The Nutrition and Physical Activity Program provides statewide leadership to decrease overweight and obesity, increase physical activity and improve nutrition. Located in the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Program and its partners have developed and are implementing the Wisconsin Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity State Plan to accomplish the overall goal of preventing obesity and chronic disease. For more information, visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/physical-activity/index.htm>

School Wellness Policy

With the passing of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, school districts participating in federally subsidized child nutrition programs (e.g., National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program and After School Snack Program) will be required to establish a local school wellness policy by the beginning of the 2006-07 school year. In 2010, Congress passed the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 and added new provisions for local school wellness policies related to implementation, evaluation, and publicly reporting on progress of local school wellness policies. Part of Wisconsin's School Wellness Policy requires schools to set goals for physical activity for their students. Safe Routes to School Programs will help meet these goals. For more information visit: http://fns.dpi.wi.gov/fns_wellnessplcy

Wisconsin School Health Award

State Superintendent Evers supports the Wisconsin School Health Award as a way to recognize and celebrate schools with policies, programs, and the infrastructure to support and promote healthy eating; physical activity; parental and community involvement; and staff wellness. The goal of this award is to motivate and empower Wisconsin schools as they create and maintain healthy school environments. For more information on how your school can apply for the award, visit http://sspw.dpi.wi.gov/sspw_wischoolhealthaward



Other Resources

Active Living by Design

Since 2002, Active Living By Design (ALBD) has supported community-led change to create healthier environments in rural, suburban and urban communities across the United States. By working in more than 30 states and with more than 160 local partnerships, dozens of national collaborators and many philanthropic organizations, we are helping to build a culture of active living and healthy eating for all. For more information, visit www.activelivingbydesign.org

Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin (BFW)

The Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin (BFW) is a statewide, nonprofit, bicycle advocacy organization working to make Wisconsin a better place to bicycle. The BFW is actively involved with Safe Routes To School Programs. For more information, visit www.bfw.org/



Girls on the Run

Girls on the Run is a non - profit prevention program that encourages preteen girls to develop self – respect and healthy lifestyles through running. Girls on the Run International (GOTRI) is the parent organization of more than 225 Girls on the Run councils across the United States and Canada. GOTRI establishes, trains and supports a network of community - level councils with local volunteers. The volunteers serve as role models to the girls through coaching the 12 - week, 24 lesson curricula. The curriculum is delivered in these areas through after - school programs, recreation centers and other non-profit settings. For more information, visit www.girlsontherun.org

Kid Power

Kid Power is a global non-profit leader dedicated to providing empowering and effective child protection, positive communication, and personal safety skills for all ages and abilities. For more information, visit www.kidpower.org