

MINUTES
Safe Routes to School Committee Meeting
March 2, 2011 - 1:30 P.M.

The Safe Routes to School Committee met during a regular meeting on March 2, 2011 at 1:30 P.M., in the Civic Center, 200 W. Arrington St, Farmington, New Mexico.

Present:	Champion:	Debra Mayeux
	Members:	Joe Delmagori Martin Lucero Sergeant Taft Tracy Steve Krest Shawn Lyle
Absent:	Members:	Lieutenant Hardy Officer Kyle Tyson Candace Young William Young

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by Debra Mayeux and the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

DISCUSSION

Debra Mayeux opened the meeting. Mr. Lucero motioned to approve the November 22, 2010 minutes. Sergeant Tracy seconded the motion. The minutes were passed unanimously.

Mrs. Mayeux asked for an update on the Farmington Walk and Roll Phase II application. Mr. Krest indicated that the application had been submitted and that the City of Farmington was awaiting a response from NMDOT. He anticipates hearing from the State coordinator by April 1, 2011.

Mrs. Mayeux then proceeded to discuss her meetings with the four participating school principals. She indicated that she had made contact with each school principal except for Mrs. Dixel at McKinley Elementary.

Mesa Verde Elementary - Mrs. Cynthia Sosaya: Mrs. Sosaya was anxious to start up the program again at Mesa Verde Elementary. She had indicated that the school had not really done anything since the International Walk to School Day in October. Mrs. Sosaya had asked for help in discussing the rules of the road and safety rules with her students. She would also like to see a spring walk to school day. When Mrs. Mayeux discussed the Promoting Active Children Everywhere (PACE) program she was in favor of trying to have the program on board by early April. Mr. Krest suggested having the PE teacher champion the PACE program at the school. He also suggested having all the PE teachers at the Farmington Walk & Roll schools on board as school representatives for the Farmington Walk and Roll Committee.

Ladera Del Norte Elementary- Mr. Gary Jackson: Mr. Jackson would like to see the SRTS program started again at Ladera Elementary. When asked about the needs at the school Mr. Jackson asked if the committee could help organize a spring walk to school day. He suggested placing the notification on the school district call tree so that all the parents would receive the notification of the walking event. The main concerns for the school are students walking north along Dustin Ave. The majority of the walking students at Ladera Elementary walk from the south. Mr. Jackson would like to see an organized walking school bus to help direct these students to the school. Mrs. Mayeux explained the benefits of having the walking school bus at the school. Sergeant Taft Tracy discussed how the intersection located at 30th and Dustin has been timed to facilitate the safe crossing of the students. The signal is currently timed for the students but the intersection would function better if there were a parent there to help direct the students across the intersection and keep them from being distracted. A discussion ensued about maybe having a parent volunteer help direct the students across the intersection of 38th and Crestridge, which currently has no crossing guard.

Apache Elementary – Mrs. Debbie Braff: Mrs. Braff is unsure how the SRTS program will function in the school. Mrs. Braff main concern is motivating her students to exercise more. She would not mind encouraging the students to walk around the school track after arriving to school. Mrs. Mayeux did discuss the opportunity of organizing a walking school bus for the students walking along the river path. Mrs. Braff did feel that the school would benefit from a walkathon to teach students and parents to utilize the river path as a way to get to and from the school.

McKinley Elementary- Mrs. Marilee Dixel: Mrs. Mayeux had left various messages for Mrs. Dixel but had not made a visit to the school. If she doesn't hear a response soon she will make a visit to the school to verify concerns and needs of the school in regards to the SRTS program. Mr. Lucero added that the school had lost their full time secretary and that the school was sharing an administrative aide with Animas Elementary.

Mr. Krest asked if the SROs could help by making the walking presentation at Mesa Verde. Sergeant Taft indicated that the SROs could be used to make the presentation at all four schools. Sergeant Taft Tracy will contact Michelle DeLese and have her have the SROs make a presentation on the Rules of the Road and Stranger Danger.

Mrs. Mayeux indicated that she felt that a "Spring Walk to School Day" would be a good opportunity to help all of the schools become engaged in the Farmington Walk and Roll program. Mr. Krest stated that a special event could be held for Apache Elementary to help the students learn to utilize the river path. If the school could corral all of the students who walk home heading east, the City could help organize a walking party to teach the students and parents how to access the path. Mr. Lyle stated that the Parks and Recreation Department may help organize the walking event. Mrs. Mayeux asked if the committee would be willing to help organize a bike rodeo. Mr. Lyle stated that he is interested in having a City sponsored bike rodeo. However, he will need help in organizing the event. Mr. Lyle is currently trying to organize a bike rodeo by the following school year. Mr. Lyle also indicated that he felt it was important to have the police and fire department at these events. He feels that it is important to teach kids about safe walking and biking and habits.

Mrs. Mayeux participated in a SRTS webinar aimed at teaching programs how to work with law enforcement. In the webinar they discussed a new law enforcement manual developed to inform officers how each position may work in conjunction with SRTS. Mrs. Mayeux felt that any law enforcement officer could use this manual to further learn how they can participate in SRTS. Also discussed in the webinar was a weed and seed program where a grass root effort brought about a new resolution for a no phone zone. Third and fourth graders developed a pledge that was taken to the City Council. The City Council accepted the pledge as a way to promote a 2 mile zone around schools in which talking or texting on your cell phone would be discouraged. Mrs. Mayeux pointed out that it was an educational activity that will continue through generations. Sergeant Tracy added that the resolution also could be applied to walking students. Mr. Lyle indicated that the pledge would be another way of educating adults without having to create a new law that would have to be enforced by the police department.

Mrs. Mayeux discussed an opportunity to work with Paul Stasso. Every year he walks or bikes more than 500 miles. This year he has asked SRTS programs in New Mexico to participate by tracking and monitoring his movements, as he travels through the Mojave Desert and back through New Mexico.

Mrs. Mayeux then asked for a report from each "E".

Evaluation: Mr. Delmagori indicated that it is time for performing the walking counts at the participating schools. He discussed how every fall and spring the MPO coordinates student arrival counts to evaluate the program. The counts are a way to monitor the progression of each school and the program as a whole. April would be the target for performing these counts. After a discussion on when the dates would be taken it was decided that the counts be taken the week of April 11th for Ladera and Apache and the week of April 18th for Mesa Verde and McKinley Elementary. Three to four volunteers will be need for Apache and Mesa Verde and 5 volunteers for Ladera and McKinley. Mr. Lucero added that in an attempt to help students walk and to prepare for the kid counts it may be beneficial to hold the spring walk to school day on April 6, 2011. Mrs. Mayeux agreed and will work with the schools on announcing the walk event.

Enforcement: Sergeant Taft Tracy discussed the email he had received from Mr. Krest concerning the tint that vehicles were allowed to have. Mr. Krest indicated that it is important for pedestrians and bicyclist to be able to make eye contact with drivers. Sergeant Taft Tracy indicated that currently under state law vehicles are allowed to have up to 20 percent tint on all windows except the windshield and front driver and passenger windows. That means that only 20% of the light is coming in through the windows. It becomes problematic to enforce as it requires a special tool to measure the amount of light that is coming through the window. Currently the officers are citing the vehicles and giving them the opportunity to remediate the issue. The law has been in effect since 1997 and currently allows for the darkest windows in the nation.

Sergeant Taft Tracy added that the Farmington PD will continue to work and enforce schools zones as the weather continues to warm up because this is most often when there is an increase in the number of students walking to and from school.

Engineering: Mr. Krest stated that he had met with the architects for the Farmington School Board to discuss the new Tibbetts Middle School design. They are currently not providing for any pedestrian facilities as the school is currently located away from any development. They are however doing a good job in separating bus and parent drop-

offs. Mr. Krest then discussed his plans for marking school zones and cross walks this summer. The City has purchased a new machine and 15 tons of thermo plastic. The City is reviewing placing a reduce speed flasher along Dustin approaching Ladera Elementary. Sergeant Taft Tracy added that another location that would benefit from the placement of a reduce speed flasher would be along 38th St. from Dustin to Crestridge

The next SRTS meeting will be on April 6, 2011 at 2:00 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.