

MINUTES
Safe Routes to School Committee Meeting
July 21, 2010 - 10:30 A.M.

The Safe Routes to School Committee met during a regular meeting on July 21, 2010 at 10:30 A.M., at Farmington Civic Center, 200 W Arrington St, Farmington, New Mexico.

Present:	Champion:	Theresa Lawing
	Members:	Candace Young Joe Delmagori Martin Lucero Shawn Lyle Steve Krest
Absent:	Members:	Diana Lang Kathee Lucero Lieutenant Hardy Marilee Herman Officer Tyson Sergeant Tracy William Young

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:34 a.m. by Theresa Lawing and the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Krest motioned to approve the June 16, 2010 minutes. Mr. Delmagori second and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The meeting opened with a recap of the July 14 meeting held with Jessica Frost, NMDOT SRTS State Coordinator, Theresa Lawing, Steve Krest, and Joe Delmagori. They discussed the Farmington Walk and Roll program and the various Phases of the State SRTS program. As the Farmington Walk and Roll program has submitted a Phase I application and received Phase I funding the focus of the committee is to develop an Action Plan. The Action Plan should include a narrative and a worksheet as outlined in the NM SRTS Handbook. The Action Plan was missing a narrative and Ms. Lawing intends to add graphs and tables to the narrative to help depict the current situation. She will also update sections within the plan to better reflect the program's intent and add additional verbiage. Once the Action Plan is completed then the program can apply for Phase II funds. Phase II funds are to be focused in implementing the action plan.

Ms. Frost also indicated that she preferred the Farmington Walk and Roll program to focus on the initial three schools and wait to expand to more schools until the Phase II application is awarded. The program would have the option to replace an existing school with a new one, however that would require an update to the Action Plan.

A Phase II application can be made as soon as the committee finalize an Action Plan and turn it into the NM SRTS. Ms. Frost explained that she would be willing to allow the Farmington Walk and Roll program to apply for up to \$250,000 for infrastructure projects and up to \$25,000 for non-infrastructure (education, encouragement and enforcement) activities. Even though an application is made for \$250,000 and \$25,000 there is no guarantee that the program will receive the full amounts requested. Ms. Lawing would also like to structure the program in a way that incentives are not the focus, as Ms. Frost indicated that incentive funds may not be available in the future.

Ms. Lawing then explained that future funding may be available for a full time SRTS coordinator and asked Mr. Delmagori to explain the possible new staff member to the FMPO. Mr. Delmagori explained that the state may be willing to fund a SRTS coordinator, to be housed within FMPO, contingent on a new transportation bill through Congress and the need in the area. The coordinator would be a full-time position, responsible for developing action plans and monitoring all safe routes activities. Ms. Lawing will attempt to show need through performing parent teacher surveys for all the elementary schools in the Farmington School District. Mr. Lucero suggested administrating the survey during back-to-school events and at the parent-teacher meeting on September 17th. Ms. Young suggested that Ms. Lawing speak with Frank Stमित to get each school on board. Mr. Stमित is the individual from the district that speaks and coordinates with each school principal. Ms. Young expressed concern on administering the survey to all elementary students. She also indicated that parents may answer questions differently for each child in the same household. Mr. Lucero explained that the questions are formed in such a way that would allow for the parent to answer the question with all the household children in mind. He also explained that there would be a need to have the surveys in Spanish and not just in English. Ms. Lawing added that she has requested information for schools that currently have hazard bussing from the Farmington School District. The schools that are currently hazard bussing are Esperanza and Bluff View. Ms. Lawing closed the discussion by stating that she had purchased some walking charms to help with the encouragement part of the program.

Mr. Krest moved the discussion to the efforts to change the City Ordinance regarding sidewalk obstructions. Mr. Krest and Ms. Lawing met with the Mayor to discuss the proposed change. The information was then given to the city attorney for review. Mr. Krest is to meet with the Mayor on July 22, 2010 to discuss the ordinance. The ordinance aims to simplify five other ordinances into one simple ordinance, making it a violation to obstruct sidewalks with garbage receptacles, parked cars, and other obstacles. Mr. Krest does not know which way the Mayor is leaning towards.

Ms. Lawing indicated that she plans to meet with the school principals and PE teachers just after school starts. Mr. Krest asked if she had made contact with the school representatives for each individual school. Ms. Lawing will make contact with each parent volunteer prior to the next meeting. It was discussed how the parent volunteers need more support through each individual school or they will burn out. Mrs. Herman is working in the school through Title One. Apache needs a parent volunteer to help Mrs. Herman with the program. Ms Lawing feels Jennifer Bowles, a teacher at Mesa Verde as well as the principal, will be able to support the program at that school. One thought was to involve the SROs to help with information and education at each school. Mesa Verde and McKinley elementary both have relatively new principals which are still building relationships with the school staff. If the program isn't able to be continued at any of the existing schools one option would be to switch it with Ladera or another of the schools with hazard bussing. Animas school could also be included since it has a high number

of students already walking. Mrs. Young suggested having the three PE teachers meet together and form a network or support group.

Ms. Lawing indicated that she has been reviewing the parent surveys from all three schools and that the parent perception of the SRTS program is positive for Mesa Verde and McKinley Elementary. Apache's parent perception is that the school doesn't encourage its students to participate. Mr. Krest commented that the City has already made improvements to help students walk to school. It has made improvements to the bridge and added surveillance to the path under the bridge leading to the school as part of the encouragement efforts. Ms. Lawing is preparing a series of PSAs to be released to the public.

Ms. Young felt the announcement would be received better if the school district endorsed the announcement. Ms. Lawing further elaborated that it isn't the intent to have students walk alone but to encourage them to walk in groups or with parents. Mr. Krest suggested that the PSA remain general rather than specific, which allows them to relate to a greater audience. Mrs. Young suggested that we make them relate county wide by taking in all of the school districts. Ms. Lawing indicated she would feel more comfortable if she had the endorsements of all the school districts prior to forming a PSA for the school district outside of Farmington. Ms. Young indicated that she felt it would be okay to use the Farmington School Districts name but would verify it with the appropriate district staff. She also gave the name and contact information for the other school districts within San Juan County.

Mr. Krest reported on the City's engineering efforts. Currently the McKinley Elementary school zone along Dustin is being relocated from the intersection of Tyckson to the intersection of Boyd and Dustin. The new signal and school zone will be ready for the upcoming school year. Mr. Krest and Mr. Delmagori have identified a few potential projects for Phase II funding: improve the intersection of Boyd and Monterey by creating a raised or elevated intersection; complete the sidewalks on Victoria and Windsor; and improve the sidewalk on Apache from Auburn to the school. The City is currently building a new access along the East side of Esperanza Elementary. The entrance is being relocated at the request of Farmington School District. The sidewalks along Wildflower Parkway are under construction and will be complete by the start of the new school year. School zone markings are being repaired where the thermal plastic failed to adhere and new markings will be placed at various locations.

For the upcoming school year Ms. Lawing is going to request an increase in police enforcement along College Blvd and request that the Farmington PD and Fire Department participate in the start of a new school year blitz to remind motorists to slow down, similar to last year's campaign. Ms. Lawing ended the meeting by elaborating on efforts to reformat the action plan to meet the requirements for Phase II funding and Ms. Lawing is going to review the items within the plan to verify that it is reflecting the concerns of the parents found within the parent surveys.

The next SRTS meeting will take place at Ladera Elementary with a time and day to be determined and sent out via an email reminder. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.