

MINUTES
Safe Routes to School Committee Meeting
November 13, 2012 3:15 P.M.

The Safe Routes to School Committee met during a regular meeting on November 13, 2012 at 3:15 p.m., at McKinley Elementary School, 1201 North Butler, Farmington, New Mexico.

Present:	Coordinator:	Anngela Wakan
		Marilee Dixel
		Steve Krest
		June Markle
		Sergeant Dave Monfils
		Carrie Olson
		Angela Richensen
		Mary Richensen
		Jeff Treat
		Elena Triplett
		Duane Wakan
Absent:		Pat Cordell
		Joe Delmagori

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by Anngela Wakan and the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

Mrs. Anngela Wakan is the new Safe Routes to School Coordinator taking over from Debra Mayeux. Mrs. Wakan asked those in attendance to introduce themselves to the rest of the group.

REPORTS FROM PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Mrs. Wakan met with the principals of each of the SRTS schools:

McKinley Elementary

Mrs. Wakan said McKinley completed a bike rodeo for the 3rd and 4th grade students in September. She hoped that SRTS could participate in a bike rodeo next year of the end of a school day and that might include more grades. Mrs. Wakan said that SRTS funds cannot be used to purchase bikes or helmets and asked for suggestion on who might be willing to donate money or helmets for the bike rodeos. Mrs. Wakan said that Mr. Pat Cordell would be interested in organizing the bike rodeos and would contact Conoco-Phillips for possible donations and/or other resources. Mrs. Wakan will also re-contact the trainer from Albuquerque who was scheduled to present a bike rodeo training and bicycle safety class in September to see about getting this class re-scheduled.

Mrs. Wakan and Ms. Dexel commented on haphazard student drop-offs especially in the handicapped parking area in the front of the school. There are non-handicapped parents pulling in and out of these marked stalls and causing congestion and unsafe conditions. Mr. Krest said that he thought a map of the drop-off and pick up procedures for each school had been provided at the beginning of the school year. He was able to provide Ms. Dexel another copy that could be duplicated and then given out to each parent.

There was also discussion on the unsafe crosswalk at the front of the school. Because the crosswalk does not have a crossing guard, the school does not encourage its use. Mrs. Wakan suggested training 5th grade students to act as crossing guards and walk students across Tycksen Drive. Ms. Dexel said they have a group of student “ambassadors” that could be trained, if interested, in being crossing guards at this crosswalk. Ms. Triplett will communicate these ideas with the school’s Safety Committee. Mr. Krest said he could provide vests for the students and/or teachers who volunteer. Mrs. Wakan suggested pairing two students together or having a student and a teacher as a cross-walk team. Mrs. Wakan asked if the police department could provide the needed training. Sgt. Monfils said he could provide stop signs for the volunteer crossing guard(s) and could also get some training scheduled. He will contact Ms. Dexel when he has arranged for the training.

Mrs. Wakan would like to build a walking school bus this school year for each of the SRTS schools. If there are interested parents or other neighborhood volunteers, please let her know.

Mesa Verde

Mesa Verde would like to implement a “no cell phone zone” this year for their school. Mrs. Wakan said that their principal was on-board and the paperwork was ready. Mr. Krest said he would install the signs along College Boulevard when the school was ready.

Mrs. Wakan added that Mr. Jeff Treat would like to implement a mountain bicycle program for the 5th grade students at the school. To get this off the ground, Mr. Treat would need to get 25-50 helmets for the program. Mr. Krest suggested the Villa De Animas group as possibly being able to provide the helmets or donate money to purchase helmets. Mr. Krest provided Mr. Treat with the name of the contact individual. Mrs. Wakan also asked Sgt. Monfils if the police department had a dented helmet that could be used for training purposes. Sgt. Monfils said he would check with Michele DeLese who oversees the bicycle training for the police department.

Ladera

Mrs. Wakan reported that the principal would like to establish a walking school bus from the apartments on 30th Street to the school.

Consider hosting a future bike rodeo at Ladera at the end of a school day. The children who attend the latch-key program from 2:45-6:00 p.m. could also participate.

Potential contacts at Ladera include: Janae Black (PTO President) – next PTO meeting is January 15, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.; Josie Wallace (PE teacher), Penny Ehrlich (Secretary), Cheri Montoya (kindergarten teacher). Ladera has staff meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month and Mrs. Wakan will contact the principal for the exact day and time.

Apache

Mrs. Wakan reported that Principal Braff does not believe it is safe to allow students to walk to and from Apache because Apache Street is so busy and has no buffer zone from traffic. Mr. Krest commented that part of the SRTS infrastructure funding is to repair/construct sidewalks along Apache Street that he expects to complete in the spring of 2013.

Mrs. Wakan added that a walking school bus could be developed from the glade area to the school. She asked if there might be parent or teacher contacts at Apache who would be interested in leading a walking school bus.

ENGINEERING

Mr. Krest reported on the four projects for Phase II SRTS infrastructure funding:

1. Sidewalk repair/construction from Apache Elementary east to Auburn along Apache; construction to begin in 2013.

Mrs. Wakan asked if a wider waiting area and "stand back line" could be added on the corner of Apache Street and Auburn Avenue. Mr. Krest said that he would look into this.

Mrs. Wakan walked along Apache Street and commented on some additional issues:

- With utility poles, fences, and cement barriers, sidewalks all along Apache Street are too narrow to pass the double-stroller test.
- Can the bush on corner of Auburn/Apache be trimmed or removed to provide for better visibility.

Mr. Krest will put these items on a list of needed sidewalk changes. He stated that he cannot move the utility poles but can build the sidewalk out and around the obstructions.

2. Mr. Krest will be meeting with state DOT representatives on November 14 to discuss the installation of a raised crosswalk at Monterey and Boyd for McKinley Elementary.
3. Construction of missing sidewalk along Victoria Way for Mesa Verde Elementary students.
4. Purchase and install a HAWK signal (High-intensity Activated crossWalk) on College Boulevard for Mesa Verde Elementary. This signal would be activated by the crossing guard during school hours and by pedestrians wanting to cross College Boulevard at other times of the day.

Mrs. Wakan asked about missing crosswalk road markings for McKinley at the corner of Tycksen and Monterey. She also commented that the crosswalk markings at the corner of Tycksen and Dustin are extremely faded and there is no crossing guard at that crossing. Mr. Krest and Ms. Dixel said that students are not supposed to cross at that intersection and are encouraged instead to cross Dustin at Boyd.

Mrs. Wakan said that at some intersections in Salt Lake City, they have flag buckets. The buckets are filled with orange flags that pedestrians carry when they cross the intersection. The flags make the pedestrians more visible and alert drivers that a pedestrian wants to cross the intersection. Mr. Krest said it would be difficult to keep the flags from being stolen. Mrs. Wakan said an “adopt a crosswalk” program could be started that would provide for replacing stolen or damaged flags.

Mr. Krest added that the state has an additional \$4,000,000 in infrastructure money. He encouraged those present to consider potential project ideas.

ENFORCEMENT

Mrs. Wakan said there was parental concern for the intersection of 30th and Dustin when no crossing guard is present. Sgt. Monfils stated that crossing guards are asked to call in if they are unable to make it to work. The police department will then find a substitute crossing guard or station a police officer at the intersection. He added that it should only be for a short time that there is no one at the crosswalk.

Mrs. Wakan asked if the crossing guards received any training. Sgt. Monfils said they received a briefing at the start of every school year and they are told that student safety is the number one priority.

Sgt. Monfils commented that parking issues at McKinley might be curbed if drivers are made aware that parking in a crosswalk can result in a \$79 fine and parking in a handicapped spot without a handicapped license or tag is a \$130 fine.

EVALUATION

Mr. Wakan reported on the fall student arrival counts conducted at Apache and Ladera on September 25, 26 & 27 and at McKinley and Mesa Verde and on October 1, 2, & 4. Mr. Wakan reviewed the Student Arrival Count Summary for each of the schools and reported that numbers have remained consistent.

There was discussion on the idea of conducting counts in the afternoon. With temperatures warmer in the afternoons, more students potentially walk home from school than walk to school in the morning. Mrs. Wakan wanted to ensure SRTS reaches as many students and parents as possible. Mr. Krest said the teachers would likely know if their students were riding the bus. Mr. Wakan said the MPO could count the afternoon walkers and then the number of students being picked up could be estimated.

Mr. Wakan was able to provide a census block map showing where children between the ages of 5 and 14 were living in the Farmington area. He will try to refine the map to show only the numbers for the four SRTS schools.

EDUCATION

Mrs. Wakan encouraged participation by SRTS at all the elementary schools' upcoming PTO meetings:

- Ladera – January 15 – Mrs. Wakan to attend
- Apache – has no PTO; need to meet with Health and Wellness Committee
- Mesa Verde – November 14 – Mrs. Wakan to attend

- McKinley – Mrs. Wakan waiting to hear back from Carrie Olson; also consider attending their health committee meeting
- Northeast – November 8 – Mrs. Wakan made a SRTS presentation
- Volunteers are needed for the following:
 - Esperanza
 - Country Club – Pat Cordell volunteered to attend their next PTO meeting
 - Animas – Ms. Dexel said she would attend
 - Bluffview
 - McCormick

Mrs. Wakan presented a list of upcoming events that she would like to have SRTS participation with:

- Turkey Trot – Saturday November 17, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Mrs. Wakan plans to set up a SRTS booth with walking maps and games.
- City Christmas Parade – Thursday, November 29 at 5:45pm. Mrs. Wakan would like to have a group of children, parents and/or teachers walk in the parade holding the pedestrian signs and hand out SRTS prizes to parade viewers.

Ms. Dexel will talk with the McKinley “Ambassadors”; Mr. Treat will check with Mesa Verde teachers and students; Sgt. Monfils will ask the school crossing guards, and; Ms. Richensen will speak with other parents and friends.

GOALS

Mrs. Wakan’s goals for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school year include:

- Revisit Action Plans for each school and conduct a survey this year
- Walking School Bus – one for each school; grass roots effort
- Contact other school’s PTOs to share SRTS and encourage parental participation
- Get two bike rodeos scheduled (Pat Cordell to coordinate):
 - One community-wide even in the spring of 2013 prior to National Walk/Bike to school day; consider holding at the college.
 - One at a SRTS school in the fall of 2013
- Have a “Walk Across America” challenge at participating SRTS schools with a swim party at the completion of the event.

Mrs. Wakan asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 20, 2012 meeting. Mr. Wakan moved to approve the minutes and Sgt. Monfils seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next SRTS Committee meeting will be on December 11, 2012 at 3:15 p.m. at the Mesa Verde Elementary School library.

Mrs. Wakan adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.