

FOND DU LAC

Safe Routes to School Plan



Steering Committee Meeting #1
Tuesday, April 7, 2009 2:00 – 4:00PM

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Facilitated by Ben Van Tassel and Bonnie Hundrieser, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission

The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the Safe Routes to Schools planning process, review assets and issues for the Fond du Lac community for biking and walking, and develop goals for a Fond du Lac SRTS Program.

FOND DU LAC SRTS – COMMUNITY ISSUES

The SRTS Committee was asked “What things concern you about biking and walking in your community? What issues to you feel exist as barriers to biking and walking opportunities?”

- No signs, crosswalks or trails. No shoulders or sidewalks. (We have a lack of infrastructure to support biking and walking)
- Living distance from the school is a challenge for biking and walking.
- There is open-enrollment for multi-school districts. (Students can attend a school further away if they choose to do so).
- Crossing Big Lake Road is very busy and dangerous, especially at the hours of work commuters (morning / late afternoon)
- There is no way to get to the Community Centers safely via biking / walking.
- There is a lack of night lighting on streets.
- There is a lack of funding to implement infrastructure improvements.
- Kids need to receive safety education for biking / walking safely.
- Kids need to be inspired / have incentive to start biking and walking more, especially to school.
- Kids need bike helmets.
- The reconstruction of Cartwright Road could be an issue. It will be a “faster” road.

FOND DU LAC SRTS - COMMUNITY ASSETS

The SRTS Committee was asked “What things do you feel are currently available or upcoming that would act as a benefit to developing a SRTS program, and working to increase biking and walking opportunities in your community?”

- We have people in the community who care and will be willing to get involved.
- The school system has a “Health Seekers” program that is in it’s first year for K-12 students. There is the potential to work together on SRTS.
- The Human Services office of the Clinic has a Diabetes Prevention Program that could help compliment outreach and education to older adults on biking / walking.
- We have three Community Centers.
- The Fond du Lac – Cloquet Trail has federal money approved for extending it and planning for connecting access to our communities. However, the funding cycle is not until 2013.
- The trail is started and there is a portion of it that exists.
- We have plenty of land to work with in our area for creating new bike / walk infrastructure. We are not overdeveloped and limited by a lack of land to work with.
- We have a positive community receptiveness to bike / walk improvements

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- We have our own police department to help with enforcement and education.
- Fond du Lac has “Wisdom Steps” program for older adults focusing on biking / walking.
- There is a potential funding source in the “Indian Reservation Roads Program”, which supports things like roads, bridges, and trail development. The amount of money available is based on miles of road, road conditions, etc. Perhaps Fond du Lac could propose money for engineering of infrastructure for biking / walking and development of trails.
- Fond du Lac has an early Head Start program, where education could start early on the benefits of biking / walking as well as safety ed.
- We can look to connect our SRTS program to our Transportation Plan.

FOND DU LAC SRTS – PROGRAM GOALS

The SRTS Committee was asked “After reviewing the issues and assets you have identified for biking and walking in the Fond du Lac Community, what goals would you like to see developed as part of a SRTS program?”

- Decrease childhood obesity
- Increase family participation in biking and walking
- Provide an increase in safety education for our children and adults
- Increase coordination of Education Programs and Service Programs in the Fond du Lac Community to include SRTS components
- Provide increased opportunities for biking and walking
- Increase community interest / incentive for more biking and walking
- Increase community participation in the planning process for SRTS

The meeting ended with a review of the next meeting on Friday, April 24th with the National Center for Biking and Walking. Items covered included publicity for the event (public outreach via flyers, press release, and personal contacts); the morning observation, and what key partners to invite.

A summary was also provided on the upcoming SRTS Survey for teachers and parents, which ARDC will help to facilitate with a Fond du Lac teacher as our survey coordinator.

For questions or comments contact:

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