

FOND DU LAC

Safe Routes to School Plan



Safe Routes to School Workshop
Meeting #2, National Center for Bicycling and Walking Visit
Friday, April 24, 2009 7:45 AM

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Meeting Attended by:

Jason Holliday
Cassie Diver
Maria Defoe
Vicki Oberstar
Dan Anderson
Vanessa Northrup
Daniel Lund
Tina Myhre
Mike Rabideaux

Meeting Facilitated by:

Ben VanTassel (ARDC)
Bonnie Hundrieser (ARDC)
Bob Chauncey (NCBW)
Mark Plotz (NCBW)

The purpose of this meeting was to learn more about Safe Routes to School Programs and gain further insight from the National Center for Bicycling and Walking. The public was encouraged to attend in order to spread more interest about the project.

PRE-WORKSHOP OBSERVATION

An observation period was set up for 7:45 AM to watch the morning school bus and parent drop-off. Bob Chauncey and Mark Plotz of NCBW helped to identify issues with parking and traffic. Pictures and notes were taken to be sure issues are addressed throughout the planning process.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ben VanTassel and Bonnie Hundrieser welcomed the attendees and gave a brief introduction of the Safe Routes to School Program. Briefly described the Fond du Lac process and gave an overview of the Safe Routes to School funding and Minnesota's efforts.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR BICYCLING AND WALKING PRESENTATION

Mark gave a presentation that touched on common barriers and best practices, the reasons for undertaking a Safe Routes to School Program, implementing the program, and how to get started. Mark and Bob provided many examples of common problems and solutions and ways that communities have been successful in implementing small practices and large efforts, while making walking and biking to school an easier choice.

FOND DU LAC STRATEGIES

Ben and Bonnie then led the group through a strategy and partnership identification session that identified ways to develop an ongoing Safe Routes to School Program and to develop a successful plan.

Enforcement Strategies

- Acquire speed feedback signs that inform drivers of their speed and aid in reducing speed near schools
- Look into a police presence at the community health fair that will lead to safe driving and walking education
- Consider neighborhood pace car stickers that will help to keep safe driving on the minds of drivers and encourage safe driving habits

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- Look into cooperative efforts for enforcement funding
- Advertise SRTS safety measures
- Work to improve road signs of Carlton County and Fond du Lac roads

Encouragement and Education Strategies

- SRTS presence at Health Fair (June)
- SRTS presence at Enrollee Day
- Work to provide an incentive for children to bike/walk in the summer- more events
- Promote SRTS in monthly newspaper
- Collaborate with Cloquet and other possible partners in implementation (including regional partners)
- Look into "Trips for Kids"
- Host Helmet Heroes and other bike education and helmet distribution events

Engineering Strategies

- Continue and support trail planning (underway)
- Integrate SRTS program with Transportation Plans- include Youth Mobility Program
- Use "Complete Streets" engineering techniques (ordinance revisions and required improvements)

Other comments/suggestions

- Look for quick and easy wins to help with public support
- Seek/utilize health data from Human Service surveys that may further the program
- Get the school actively involved and look for partnerships
- Maximize public support- Create a diverse, ongoing Community Task Force
- Plan for mobility for kids
- Maximize info in community news (online/print)
- Look for early agreement on some events/actions

Partnerships

- Human services/Clinic
- Fond du Lac Administration (incorporate into Reservation Strategic Plan)
- Community Centers
- Parents/students
- School
- FDL Resource Management Division (Environmental Education Program)
- FDL Planning Division
- FDL Police Department
- Community Leaders (Updates at monthly community meetings)

WALKING REVIEW

After the strategy session, Mark and Bob led a walking review along University Road near the school and identified some issues and strategies that could make for safer walking conditions and ideas for infrastructure changes that may encourage more walking and biking to school. Also suggestions were made for the University Road and Big Lake Road intersection; including addressing speeds and other improvements.

For questions or comments contact:

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