

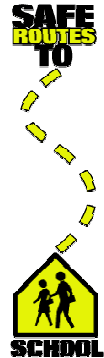
Memo

Date: November 16, 2007

To: International Falls Safe Routes to School Steering Committee Members

From: Ellen Pillsbury, ARDC

Re: SRTS Planning Process Kick-off Meeting Summary



Location: Falls Elementary School Library November 13, 2007 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Attendance: Jeff Veeder, Tim Everson, Jerry Hilfer, Gary Anderson, Jean Reinke, Patty Bahr, Steve Johnson, Gail Rognerud, Daryl Waller, Ellen Pillsbury, Kara Kent

Meeting Purpose: Introduce SRTS planning process, review issues and concerns, develop Vision

Jeff Veeder welcomed steering committee members and introduced Ellen Pillsbury and Kara Kent from ARDC. Ellen presented an overview of SRTS Program along with the International Falls SRTS planning process timeline and three main planning phases. The first phase will include collecting information on the existing conditions and conducting a survey of students, parents, and teachers. Ellen also reported that Mn/DOT anticipated a next fall deadline for 2009 SRTS application submission.

Committee members then discussed existing safety issues and used aerial maps to identify the areas of concern. Also suggestions were given on how to improve the design and manage the parent drop-off areas. Jeff shared the International Falls School Site Master Plan maps which included previous recommendations for traffic flow management.

Identified issues:

- ❖ Parents dropping off students in the Fall's Elementary bus zone
- ❖ Parents dropping off students at the high school's west end first and second grades' entrance
- ❖ Bus traffic route, especially behind the high school
- ❖ Buses needing to maneuver around idling vehicles at all drop-off areas
- ❖ 15th Ave/11th St crosswalk
- ❖ Vehicles going the wrong way on access road off of 11th St back of High School
- ❖ 15th St/15th Ave intersection, there's only one stop sign eastbound
- ❖ Limited school access, only one entrance
- ❖ Community-wide lack of respect for pedestrians in crosswalks
- ❖ City does not build sidewalks and existing sidewalks aren't plowed
- ❖ Cutting through the church parking lot to reach 15th Ave from Hwy 71



Committee members then shared ideas on an International Falls SRTS Vision Statement and plan priorities. These comments include:

- ❖ Improved access to Falls elementary
- ❖ A comprehensive SRTS plan which included pick up/drop off zone, walking and biking facilities and trail access/development
- ❖ On school site bicycle facilities
- ❖ Raise awareness for SRTS and student safety

Next Steps

ARDC will send out meeting summary, survey samples, and draft a vision statement for member's review. An introductory article for school newsletters will also be included.

ARDC will work with Gerry and Tim to coordinate the survey's distribution and collection. The target date for survey completion is the end of December before the holiday break.

Next Meeting: Community Meeting January 10, 2008 7:00 p.m. City Hall Council Chambers. Gail will reserve the Council Chambers for the community meeting

CC: Doug Grindall, Koochiching County Engineer