Safe Routes to School
Guttenberg

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What is the Safe Routes to School Program?

Program that encourages children to walk and bike to school
The Plan

- Encourage walking and biking through the 5E strategy
  - Education
  - Encouragement
  - Enforcement
  - Engineering
  - Evaluation
Education: Barriers

- Distance
- Traffic speed along route to school
- Weather
- Safety at intersections and crossings (RR and Hwy 52)
Education: Solution

- Pedestrian and bicycle safety in education curriculum
- Use school newsletter to convey information about:
  - SRTS
  - benefits of walking and biking
  - distance perception vs. reality
Encouragement: Barriers

- Parents lack of information on school’s walking and biking policies (about 80% of respondents)

- Student households living close to school do not walk to school
Encouragement: Solution

- Form committee and identify volunteers to structure and implement SRTS

- Supervised Walking school bus from St Mary to Clayton Ridge and another from the Clayton ridge to the day care

- Provide students incentives: punch card, rewards

- Events: Participate on the international walk to school day in October

- Use Iowa Bicycle and pedestrian encouragement guide to brainstorm other strategies applicable to Guttenberg
Engineering: Barriers

- Highway 52
- Railroad Crossing
- Lack of Infrastructure
  - Incomplete sidewalk system
  - Unmaintained walking trail down the bluff
  - Crosswalks less visible
Engineering: Barriers

- St. Mary’s students dropped off by bus to Clayton Ridge to be picked up by another bus

- Morning conflicting traffic with bus unloading and family vehicle unloading

- Blind spots due to on-street parking at corners
Engineering: No-cost Solution

- Normal bus route
- Parents loading/unloading zone along Pearl Street
- Utilize on-street parking
Engineering: No-cost Solutions

- Close off intersection between River Park Drive and Pearl
- Traffic controlled by crossing guards/ police
- Add crosswalk
- Restrict parking at corners to avoid blind spots
Walking School Route
- Parents and Bus Loading/Unloading Zone
- Connect to both schools
- 0.8-1 mile walk
Crossing Guards
Connecting Trails
Bus Loading Zone Sign
Engineering: Low-cost Solution

- Repaint existing crosswalks
- New crosswalks
  - Cost: $100 per crosswalk
- Advanced warning signs and crosswalk signs
Engineering: Medium-cost Solution

- Maintain walking trails down the bluff
- Add more railway crossing signals with flashers (3 proposed for Fall)
- Place crosswalk on highway 52
  - Cost: $300 - $3,000
Engineering: Future Solution

- Upgrade mediocre and poor sidewalks
- Complete sidewalk system
  - Ramps and warning panels
- Supporting infrastructure: Speed Reduction zone, pedestrian signals
  - Cost: $20,000 - $140,000
Enforcement: Barriers

- No visible law enforcement in morning.
- High Traffic Speeds on Hwy 52.

**Fatalities Based On Speed of Vehicle**
A pedestrian's chance of death if hit by a motor vehicle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speed (mph)</th>
<th>Chance of Death</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>85%</td>
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*Killing Speed and Saving Lives, UK Department of Transportation*
Enforcement: Barrier
Enforcement: Solution
Enforcement: Solution

School Safety Zone

- Zone should cover the entire school grounds and related areas that have school generated traffic
- Loading and unloading zones should be clearly marked
- Hazards identified and eliminated
- Parents and children given frequent verbal and written reminders about the rules and procedures
Enforcement: Solution

- Pedestrian Sting Operations
  - Police officers pose as pedestrians
  - Quickly identifies offenders
  - Requires police resources
  - Progressive ticketing
Enforcement: Solution

- Safety Patrols
  - Students assist with student arrival and departure at school
- Advantages
  - Provides needed help
  - Builds student role models
- Considerations
  - Requires adult coordinator
  - Liability issues need to be discussed

Past school safety patrol officers include Presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter
Enforcement: Solution

- **Speed Trailers**
  - Portable trailer that displays drivers’ speeds

- **Advantages**
  - Does not require officer to be present
  - Provides immediate feedback
  - Relatively low cost
  - Can be moved to varying locations

- **Considerations**
  - Not a substitute for permanent action
Enforcement: Solution

- Neighborhood Speed Watch Programs
  - Citizens play an active role
  - Use of radar guns by residents
  - License plate number and speed recorded
    - Letters sent to violators
  - Requires volunteers and training

- Escort Programs
  - “Corner Captains”
  - Walking School Buses
  - Biking Trains
  - Crossing Guards
Evaluation

- Establish a SRTS Committee
- Performance Measures
  - Behavioral Survey
  - Infrastructure maintenance program