Safe Routes to School
West Union

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Education: Barriers

- Distance
- Traffic volume along route to school
- Safety of intersection crossing
- Weather
Education: Solution

- Pedestrian and bicycle safety in education curriculum
- Newsletter to convey information about:
  - SRTS
  - Benefits of walking and biking
  - Distance perception vs. reality
Bus stopped at about 5 locations within the edge of the town.

Students living within a distance 1-2 miles do not walk to school
Encouragement: Solution

- Form committee, identify volunteers to structure and implement SRTS

- Identify a route where student in West union can walk and structure a Walking school bus

- 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 come up with other strategies applicable to West Union
Lack of Infrastructure

- Incomplete sidewalk system: Less than 23% of the road segments have sidewalks
- Mediocre to Poor sidewalks: 33%
- No ramps in north side
Highway 150; Highway 18 and Pine
Motorists speed along the highways despite signals
Bicycles not allowed on sidewalks
Engineering: Barriers

- High crash rates
  - Highway 18 and Pine
  - Highway 18 and Vine
  - Vine and Lincoln
Engineering: No-cost Solutions

- Encourage children within 2 miles to walk to school
- Parents pick-up/drop-off
- Modify bussing policy
- Allow bikes on sidewalk
- Crossing guards & police
- Bike racks
- Repaint crosswalks if not visible
  - Minimum cost is $100 per crosswalk
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](chart)

A pedestrian’s chance of death if hit by a motor vehicle

- 5% chance at 20 mph
- 45% chance at 30 mph
- 85% chance at 40 mph

*Killing Speed and Saving Lives, UK Department of Transportation*
Enforcement: Barrier
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
Questions