

# SRTS Notes from October 22 ProfDev Day

## Successes and challenges

- communication with new people is critical; people feel like they are not completely aware of what is going on with the program and the current grants
- bike safety program is a positive for all schools
- Walk to School Day was a big plus where it occurred, but other schools would have participated if they'd known there was going to be a program on that day and if they'd known the availability of incentives; in the past, the whole district did Walk to School Day
- fairness in availability of incentives argues for a district-wide program
- King St is a problem for both Bordewich Bray and Carson MS, needs signing and traffic calming
- school zone flashing lights: why do some school zones have them and not others, are they good or bad, what about the signed times for school zones, signing is inconsistent
- reinforce bike safety at middle schools to continue good behavior taught in elementary
- should the focus of the SRTS program be middle school since that is where much of the unsafe behavior is occurring?
- in the past, Sheriff's officer came to the schools on bikes and made presentations on bicycle safety, the role-modeling was great; would like to see this done regularly

## Ideas

- traffic flow is an issue at every school, it has improved but could use more improvement
- have student pick up/drop off a block or more away to reduce congestion on streets immediately adjacent to the schools
- more staff on duty could do a better job of managing traffic flow and student behavior
- all specialists would like to do a regular weekly program, but they are concerned about being able to handle this frequency without strong support from administration, other school staff, PTA, and parents; rather than committing to a frequent program, they would rather do something district-wide on a monthly basis and let each school decide whether it has the capacity to do something more often than that - this includes both walk/ride to school programs and lunch-time programs
- would like to see parent brochures, like the one developed by Mark Twain, completed for each school, with some common information, but also tailored to the issues at each school
- want to share incentives with all six elementary schools
- the specialists were very excited about the light-up daypacks [however, this item is no longer manufactured by Lands End, and I've not found an alternate source]
- offer a district-wide safety, health and SRTS meeting for parents, rather than one at each school
- what is the relationship between parents, PTA, PE specialists, and other staff? we discussed this but didn't come to any conclusions
- meet again on the next minimum day (Wed, Dec 10, Feb 25, Mar 25 - Fremont is off track on Mar 25), and next full professional development day (Wed, Apr 29)
- all PE specialists would like to go to the SRTS training November 18, but would probably need substitute reimbursement; Dan will continue to negotiate with Bill Story of NDOT to see if we can get more than two slots in the training, and can use grant money for substitute reimbursement [the training money included in the three grants under the Education element]

## **Future Grant Application**

- engineering to continue traffic flow and signing improvements
- once-a-month district-wide walking/bicycling days with publicity, which would include the official October day but be more regular
- substitute reimbursement for PE specialists to have planning meetings and obtain additional training on SRTS, bicycle safety, and health
- update school-site brochures to address current concerns and issues
- have the SRTS program and the bicycle safety program aligned and working towards same goals
- new bicycle helmets for use in the bicycle safety education program used at all elementary schools
- incentives pool to be shared district-wide, including laces and left/right tags for all Kindergarten students
- address issue of snow thrown onto sidewalks and plowing of bicycle paths which are routes to school, and at Fremont the bicycle path used for lunch-time walking program
- consider district-wide bicycle helmet program where students would receive a free helmet at a certain grade level, regardless of income level
- video pool to be shared district-wide, including bicycling safety, walking safety, and health topics