

SRTS Carson City Stakeholders Meeting

November 19, 2009

Next meeting: Thursday, December 17, 2009, 2:45–4:00PM, Bordewich-Bray Elementary

In attendance: Casey Gilles, Principal; Jackie Geraets-Rauh, PE Specialist, Patrick Pittenger, Carson City Public Works Transportation Manager; Anne Macquarie, Muscle Powered board member, E.J. Maldonado, Carson City Health and Human Services; Bill Story, NDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Program; and Dan Allison, Coordinator, Safe Routes to School Carson City.

Fremont Projects

additional signing and curb painting (both on and off campus)
minor improvement to the drop-off/pick-up lane with sidewalk, signs and curb
bicycle racks
wide sidewalk along Saliman Rd from Firebox Rd to the bus loop
wide sidewalk entering campus east from the Saliman crosswalk

Fremont Drop-off/Pick-up Challenges

Staff commented that Fremont is unique in Carson City because it has a very spread out attendance zone so that fewer students live within the one-mile walk zone, and that the uncertainty whether Fremont was going to remain open distracted the staff and reduced attention to Safe Routes issues. Fremont has the worst drop-off/pick-up challenges because of the constrained nature of Firebox Rd, which is small dead-end street that receives all of the drop-off/pick-up traffic. The district and Safe Routes to School Coordinator have been studying the issue for years and have not come up with a definitive solution, but we continue to watch and think and wait for inspiration. It is likely that solving the problem will require both major physical changes to the campus and drop-off/pick-up area, and significant success of the SRTS program in reducing parent driving.

Dan handed out copies of the Fremont Drop-off/Pick-up brochure for parents, which is available at <http://srts.raincloudpub.com/schools/fre/FremontBrochure.pdf>.

Fremont Walking Program

Fremont has had a regular recess/lunchtime walking program in the past, but does not currently because the PE Specialist (Jackie Geraets-Rauh) cannot carry out a successful program without additional help from other staff, parent volunteers, or student volunteers. Jackie will try some different things in the spring, with the objective of having a program at least one day per week.

Fremont Community Concerns

Fremont had a successful bike train program last spring, the first in the district, which was supported by Jackie and Mary Berge, riding from the Eagle Valley neighborhood to school along Fifth St. Now that the multi-use path is complete, it will be more enjoyable and more students are likely to participate. It will start up again in the spring, and Dan will work with Jackie to ensure that it gets media coverage.

Several people expressed concern about illegal and unsafe drivers during drop-off and pick-up. Patrick agreed to talk to the Sheriff's Office, and Dan agreed to do detail observations of drop-off and pick-up that could be reported to the Sheriff's Office to prepare them.

Status of SRTS Grants and Infrastructure Projects

The district received authorization from NDOT to proceed with the infrastructure projects in both the old 2008–2009 grant and the 2009–2011 grant, except for sidewalks at Fremont and Eagle Valley, which will come in a separate authorization at a later time. Carson City Public Works has been communicating with NDOT, but has not yet received authorization to proceed on any projects. They are being asked by NDOT to do a separate agreement for every project, which was unexpected. The multi-use path from Lepire Ave to the existing path in Moffat Open Space, which provides access for Eagle Valley students, will probably be the first project.

Other projects, not SRTS funded, have been completed, such as sidewalks in the Empire ES neighborhood, and will be completed, such as the Fifth St path/sidewalk between Fairview and Hells Bells.

Application for Nevada Bicycle Advisory Board mini-grant

A grant will be submitted to obtain two larger bikes for the bicycle safety education program, as well as maintenance on half the the bike fleet.

PTA Meetings

Dan has been meeting with PTA/PTOs at each school site and will continue to do so.

Connections between health and SRTS

Dan has been to several conferences, meetings and webinars where the connection between the objectives of SRTS and the objectives of children's health professionals and advocates has been explored. He has also been researching information on the Internet. He feels that this is the coming big focus of the SRTS program, both locally and nationally.

E. J. Maldonado, our new stakeholder from Carson City Health and Human Services, stated that Carson City is applying for stimulus grants with the state for programs that will focus on tobacco, but include other issue. The health department is very interested in working with the SRTS group on health concerns including obesity and physical activity.

Dan handed out copies of "Health and Safe Routes to School Connections" which is available at <http://srts.raincloudpub.com/documents/HealthConnections.pdf>.

Nevada Moves Day

The spring Walk to School Day will be called Nevada Moves and be held statewide on Wednesday, April 28.

Parent Education

Bill suggested that some NDOT employees may be available to help with during the first week of school with helping parents learn drop-off/pick-up procedures. We can also invite the school board, district office staff, and employees of other agencies to help out with this critical time.

Next Meeting

The group suggested that it might be interesting to do something hands-on and outside for future meetings, so the next meeting will include an observation of pick-up traffic and procedures at one of the schools.