

Ulster County Safe Routes to School Demonstration Project

December 18th, 2013 – 10:00 am to 11:30 am; Lloyd Town Hall

Goals / Introductions:

- Carol – improving the intersection by the Middle School; this is the second most dangerous intersection in New Paltz.
- Dan – has to guide the kids in the morning at the Highland Middle School and is worried about their walk into school, even if it's a short distance. Sidewalks are needed.
- Paul – The middle school has a large walking population; sidewalks are needed; a connection to the Sunny Brook Apts is needed.
- Dennis – engage stakeholders and get by in for the study; implementation of the plan over the next few years; there is an existing healthy Ulster campaign; would like to change the discussion where all bike/peds are safe and hopes SRTS will lead to complete streets
- John – there have been two fatalities near the school in Wallkill – one in kindergarden, the other a crossing guard. They applied for a SRTS grant to install sidewalks but were unsuccessful.
- Brian – communities involved are happy with the plan and feel it has achieved their goals.

School Plans:

- Some parents may be reluctant to let their children walk or bike to school for various reasons. In Highland, bullying was given as the #1 fear.
- There is a desire to connect the Highland School to the rail trail and incorporate bicycling into gym classes
- New Paltz has started putting together a SWG including parents and a crossing guard
- Lloyd/Highland has started putting together a SWG with the town board and school members
- Wallkill needs to develop a SWG, but discussions have already happened with the police department and school superintendent
- Alta and Ulster County will assist the SWG in recruiting members (see suggested list below)
- Incorporating data collection into the class room can be a useful and educational tool (raised hands – “how do you get to school?” or as part of math or geography classes). Each SWG should discuss this within each school and Alta will assist with any materials or information that is needed.
- Wallkill – drop off and pick up are issues and should be considered.
- Data collection should also include: school policy information, budgets, and crossing guard information.

County Website:

- Will include an online survey
- Web-based that can be easily printed
- Mobile version compatible
- Include tools or links to keep people involved and excited – such as a “get involved” section where students can download “map my ride” or “moves”. There's potential for contests such as riding the equivalent of all the rail trails in Ulster County.

General:

- All comments from the TAC will be submitted to and compiled by Brian and sent to Lindsay at Alta



- All comments from each SWG will be submitted to and compiled by one person designated by the SWG and submitted to Brian to send to Lindsay at Alta.
- Brian should be copied on all email correspondence with Alta.

Next Steps:

- The TAC meeting #2 will be February 26th at 10 am (location TBD)
- The Highland SWG meeting #1 will be January 21st at 1pm at Highland Middle School
- The remaining SWG's should contact Brian and Lindsay to set up the first SWG meeting for the last two weeks of January

List of Recommended SWG members:

- County transportation staff
- City transportation staff or DPW School district representative
- School representative - preferably principal or asst. principal
- PTA or other parent representative(s)
- Police department
- Public health representative
- Local bike/walk advocacy group
- Teachers or other interested school staff
- Parks & recreation staff
- After school program staff
- Neighborhood association representative

*Meeting Materials are attached (agenda, scope of work, data collection requests, and schedule)

** One page handout to potential school group members attached



Ulster County Safe Routes to School Project

County Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #1 - Agenda

December 18th, 2013 - 10 AM

Name	Affiliation	Contact
Lindsay Zeffing	Alta	lindsay.zeffing@altaplanning.com
Brian Slack	UETC	bsl@co.ulster.ny.us
JEFF OLSON	ALTA	www.altaplanning.com
Carol Connolly	New Paltz	assistant@townofnewpaltz.org
DS Wetzel	Highland Central Schools	dseyler-wetzel@Highland-K12.org
Paul Hansur	Town of Lloyd	phansur@townoflloyd.com
Dennis Doyle	UETC	ddoyle@co.ulster.ny.us
John Valt	Shawangunk	JValtJr@HVC.RR.COM



Ulster County Safe Routes to School Project

County Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #1 – Agenda

December 18th, 2013 - 10 AM

1. Introductions / Goals (10 min)
2. Scope of Work (10 min)
3. County wide plan / toolbox (15 min)
4. School working groups – school plans (15 min)
5. Data Needs (5 min)
6. Next steps
 - a. Overall project schedule
 - b. Schedule next committee meeting
 - c. Schedule school working group meetings



SCOPE OF WORK

Task 1: Project Outreach and Communication Deliverables:

- TAC Meeting #1 (kick-off / initial site visits / existing conditions / opportunities and challenges)
- SWG Meeting #1 (kick-off / site visit/ existing conditions / opportunities & challenges)
- TAC Meeting #2 (SRTS toolbox 50% / findings of school audits)
- SWG Meeting #2 (draft infrastructure and action plans)
- TAC Meeting #3 (draft SRTS toolbox / infrastructure and action plans)
- SWG Public Meetings
- Project Website

Task 2: Transportation Infrastructure Evaluation and Engineering Deliverables:

A SRTS Plan will be developed for each of the three schools. The SRTS Plans will be developed in three parts:

- Existing conditions (1 mile radius)
 - Walking audit
 - Inventory of roadway conditions (sidewalks, crosswalks, travel lanes/widths, bicycle accommodations)
 - Volumes (traffic, pedestrian, and bicycle volumes)
 - Number of students and the mode share (walking, bicycling, bus, and parent drop off)
 - School amenities and policies and programs (bike racks, bus policies, drop off/pick up operations)
- Infrastructure Improvements
 - Improvements to sidewalks, roadways, and crossings
 - Improvements mapped, and conceptual plans developed
- Action Plan
 - Cost estimates for each of the proposed infrastructure improvements
 - Proposed operational changes
 - Phased implementation plan
 - Program recommendations related to education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation

Task 3: Web Based Toolbox and/or Guidebook Development Deliverables:

Online toolbox that would address the five “E’s” of the Safe Routes to School Program and serve as a resource for those interested in learning about SRTS. The Toolkit will cover:

- Description and brief history of SRTS Movement
- Summary of Ulster Counties SRTS Programs
- SRTS’s “Five E’s” (Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Engineering, Evaluation)
- Common issues associated with school-related travel and solutions for improving school-related travel (Engineering, Enforcement)
- Methods for encouraging students to walk and bike to school (Education, Encouragement)
- Methods for evaluating the success of a program (Evaluation)
- Tips for creating and maintaining a school-based SRTS program
- Local, state, and national resources for more information
- Guide for completing a SRTS Evaluation - mapping templates, engineering guidelines, and typical costs



County Data Collection

- GIS: roadways, sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, parks, schools, school districts
- Traffic volumes, speeds; crash data in school areas
- County enrollment
- Upcoming local roadway projects
- Current programs
- County logo

School Data Collection

- School district maps
- Start and release times
- Enrollment numbers
- Current mode share data (if available)
- Bus routes
- Current infrastructure (bike racks, crosswalks, sidewalks, bike lanes, trails, parks)
- Crash data, speed limits, roadway data
- Current encouragement/education programs
- School and Town logos

	Dec	January	February	March	April	May
Task 1						
TAC Meetings						
SWG Meetings						
School Presentations						
Task 2						
Existing Conditions						
Infrastructure Plans						
Action Plans						
Task 3						
Online Toolbox						



School Working Group Project Summary:

What is Safe Routes to School?

“Safe Routes to School is a national and international movement to create safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to bicycle and walk to and from schools. The program has been designed to reverse the decline in children walking and bicycling to schools. Safe Routes to School can also play a critical role in reversing the alarming nationwide trend toward childhood obesity and inactivity.” – saferoutespartnership.org

What is the scope of this project?

The committee will be asked to provide input on existing conditions in regards to students walking, bicycling, taking the bus, and being dropped off/picked up at school; opportunities and challenges on and around the school campus; and potential improvements, both programmatic and physical. The committee will also be asked to review three documents and provide comments: existing conditions; infrastructure plan; and action plan. Each of these documents is summarized below:

- Existing conditions (1 mile radius)
 - Walking audit
 - Inventory of roadway conditions (sidewalks, crosswalks, travel lanes/widths, bicycle accommodations)
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What is the time commitment and schedule?

The SWG will meet twice during the course of the project for an hour each time, and will be invited to participate in the school public meeting in May/June. The SWG is also invited to participate in the walking audit of the school and surrounding roadways / neighborhoods before or after the first SWG meeting. The SWG committee will also be responsible for reviewing and providing comments on the existing conditions, infrastructure plan, and action plan.

Where can I get more information?

National Safe Routes to School Website - <http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/>

Who is the lead agency and the consultant we'd be working with?

- Ulster County Transportation Council is the lead agency (Brian Slack - bsla@co.ulster.ny.us)
- Alta Planning + Design (www.altaplanning.com) was selected as the consultant (Lindsay Zefting - lindsayzefting@altaplanning.com)

