



Safe Routes to School Workshop

**SRTS Pilot Teams
February 2, 2010**

Allamakee: Waukon

The Waukon group is still in its infancy with Safe Routes to School. We are now starting to get a core group together to move forward with basic ideas for our community to be more walkable and bikeable. We hope to be developing projects and implementing ideas in the future.

Submitted by Danielle Bucknell

Chickasaw: New Hampton

Since our county was added this fall we are in the beginning stages. New Hampton is targeted as a Safe Routes to School pilot project and we have a core group of 10 individuals from the city, community and school. This fall New Hampton was also asked to participate in the Iowans Fit for Life program. We are using the same core team members for both committees since the programs overlap somewhat. We hope to learn how to make our communities more pedestrian friendly and encourage more walking and running. For most of the team members, this will be our first exposure to this information.

Submitted by Joanne Tupper

Clayton: Elkader

At Central, our SRTS team began by having Mark Fenton come and put on a SRTS workshop at our school. From that workshop we identified some areas that we could improve upon with little to no cost. We have made some changes in supervision of crosswalk areas after school and have had our local police department come and share bike safety issues for riding bikes downtown. Our team has met as a part of the district's Wellness team to share out some of the things discussed at the workshop. Our elementary principal has attended a Crosswalk training with the hope of starting a student crossing guard program next fall.

Submitted by Troy Lentell

Fayette: Valley of Elgin

No Report.

Howard: Riceville

Riceville started planning for SRTS after being introduced to it through the Northeast Iowa R C & D with Lora Friest and Deneb Woods.

- Riceville was the first school to be looked at for barriers and inventory of safe routes to school in the five county regional Kellogg Food and Fitness Initiative.
- All Riceville streets were examined for condition and location.
- An information booth was set up with hospitality on the Open House night in August of 2008 to hand out literature and answer questions.
- Parent Survey forms about walking and biking from the national SRTS website were sent home to parents. These were returned at a 99% rate. Follow up from the home rooms and school office was done by Becky Fister from the local Riceville SRTS Committee
- A large map was made of the school district and the locations of students were marked with a pins.

- The SRTS Committee met many times in 2008 and 2009. They set up a citizen volunteer group to inventory the traffic on the major streets in Riceville, i.e. Pine, Walnut, Woodland, Cherry, and Second Street. One week in April of 2009 volunteer citizens totaling over 30+ counted and observed walkers, bikers, cars, trucks, motorcycles, and farm machinery. In shifts of two hours from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on a Tuesday and a Thursday they kept count. They made comments on what they observed.
- In the spring we applied for a grant for Walk and Roll Day promoted by the State. We did not get it, but we still held the day. Many students signed up. Some ended up crying when they could not go since their parents had not signed their permission slip. Nearly 100 students participated.
- In spring we tried the Walking School Bus to and from school. It was raining, but there were five drop off points for the rural kids and town kids. We departed when the buses arrived and walked to school in the rain. The kids were excited. Parents had to send permission slips.
- Adult volunteer monitors had a check off list of students participating. In the afternoon we went to the school and walked with the kids back to the pick-up points.
- in the winter of 2009 we traveled to Elma to attend a workshop by the Iowa Bike Coalition on safe biking stressing the E's.
- In May we had a Bike Rodeo in conjunction with ISU Extension youth director Lynette Anderson, Farm Safety Workshop Hostess, Rosalie Christensen, and Elaine Govern, Wapsi-Great Western Line Chr. The local police chief, State Trooper Domino from Charles City, the Pink Squirrel Ragbrai biking group, and many volunteers were involved. Money was solicited and raised to give all participants from 1-6 grade a bike helmet. The school cooperated by giving the afternoon off. Teachers participated. The school allowed use of the parking lot. The WGWL trail gave use of the Welcome Center for refreshments and a video and riding bike safely. Parents brought in the student's bikes in the morning and picked them up at night. We borrowed about 20 bikes for the students who did not have bikes. This was a commitment from the counting volunteers from 7:00a.m. to nearly 5:30 p.m. Bikes were tagged and collected in groups according to grade. Two bike shops helped in the tent to check and fix all bikes. One SRTS committee member fitted the helmets to each child. Freebies were given to each child to remind them of safety. There was instruction at an intersection by our Police officer talking about safe crossing. There was instruction at a driveway about the dangers at driveways on their route up and down Cherry Street to the Welcome Center --a distance of about 1/3 mile that they traveled to practice the instruction that was given. The Pink Squirrels and high school students rode as monitors also. The bikers also rode the trail. We had planted adult pedestrians walking so they would learn to give a voice command of "Passing on your left" when coming up on any walker. There also was an obstacle course in the parking lot to check their biking skills. Another instructor went over hand signals for bikers.
- During the summer, the SRTS grant was written with a deadline of October 1. We later found out we were turned down.
- The SRTS Committee hosted graduate students from the University of Iowa who made recommendations on our town possibilities.
- Later we traveled to Postville R C & D for a report from them.
- We contemplated reapplying for October 2009, but were discouraged with all the work done we had done and a feeling that SRTS perhaps was sending a message that SRTS was a program for children in large urban areas, not rural.
- We have been meeting since the fall of 2009 discussing what to do. We have added three youth representatives to our committee. At present the Riceville SRTS consists of them plus our school superintendent, Riceville's mayor, Riceville's police chief, the elementary/middle school PE teacher and coach, a trail representative, a school Special Needs Instructor, and a community-at-large representative and a parent representative.
- We have this meeting today at Luther College followed by a Riceville SRTS Committee meeting at 4:15 p.m. at Riceville. Our agenda for that meeting is to discuss SRTS at an open

community meeting with parent input. We are planning to invite the citizen volunteers who helped with the citizen count in 2009 and to continue their involvement in another Citizen Count so we have a comparison with 2008. We are redoing the parent inventory questionnaire and the "Safe Routes to School Students Arrival and Departure Tally Sheet" this spring to compare with our baseline of 2008.

- Based on all of this, we will decide if we reapply for SRTS funding in 2010.
- We are planning another Walk and Roll day and a Walking School Bus Day.

Submitted by Elaine Govern

Winneshiek: Ossian

- Community involvement: we have developed a bus stop committee and a Safe Routes to School committee.
- Education: we have made presentations to the School Board and the City Council. We have been promoting pedestrian safety with articles in the local newspaper and are planning a Bike Safety Rodeo this spring.
- Enforcement: we are working on enforcing the sidewalk regulations. We hope to train more student cross walk guards and get more adult volunteers.
- Engineering: we have painted better lines on cross walks and moved the bike racks to a safer location. We hope to get flashing lights on our major crosswalks.
- Encouragement: we are planning on the following projects, walking school bus, bicycle train, and mileage club this spring if possible.

From power point presentation by Kristin Kriener