

MINUTES
Safe Routes to School Committee Meeting
September 11, 2014 3:30 P.M.

The Safe Routes to School Committee met during a regular meeting on September 11, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. at Mesa Verde Elementary, 3801 College Boulevard, Farmington, New Mexico.

Present:	Coordinator:	Anngela Wakan
	MPO & City of Farmington Staff	Ofcr. Michele DeLese Gary Moore June Markle Duane Wakan
	Participants	Lisa Eaker, Farmington School District Ann Johnson, Animas Elementary Leslie Nord, McKinley Elementary Jeff Treat, Mesa Verde Elementary

Mrs. Wakan called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Mr. Wakan moved to approve the minutes from the August 7, 2014 meeting. Ms. Nord seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Moore gave an Engineering update first as he had to leave the meeting early.

ENGINEERING

Mr. Moore reported:

- all the school sidewalk projects have been completed;
- HAWK signal along College Boulevard is still being reviewed by engineering; the City of Farmington plans to relocate the crosswalk about 120 feet south of its current location;
- a pedestrian safety project will construct sidewalks along the South side of Pinon Hills Boulevard from Butler to College;
- along with the raised speed hump, a three-way stop sign may be installed at the intersection of Monterey and Boyd to further slow traffic in the area of McKinley Elementary;
- new “no parking” striping along the south side of Tycksen appears to be working well.

EDUCATION & ENCOURAGEMENT

With SRTS funding ending as of September 30, 2014, how to continue funding for SRTS programs, activities, and the Coordinator were discussed:

- Mrs. Wakan reported that she had made a SRTS presentation to the San Juan Safe Communities Initiative (SJSCI) board this morning to see if they would be

willing to partner with SRTS. No actual funding can be provided by SJSCI but Mrs. Wakan is hoping that they would be willing to act as the umbrella 501-3 (c) organization for SRTS and allow SRTS to apply for grants. Mrs. Wakan said she had not heard the outcome of their vote.

- Mrs. Wakan also gave a SRTS presentation to Mr. David Sypher, the Public Works Director for the City of Farmington. He said he could provide a few thousand dollars that could be used for grant writing purposes.
- Mrs. Wakan asked if the schools could provide some funding for SRTS through their PTOs or if the School District itself could help support SRTS. This funding would cover the next few months while potential grants were sought.
- Mrs. Wakan said she had not yet heard if SRTS could be the recipient of this year's proceeds from the Turkey Trot.

Mr. Wakan explained how previously earmarked SRTS funding under the federal transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU, had been changed under the new MAP-21 bill. He also explained the workings of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and how it was replacing the retired SAFETEA-LU transportation enhancements (TE) program which used to fund SRTS. Under the TAP program, funding for SRTS is now combined with bike/ped funding and entities must specifically request funding for SRTS. Since this was not requested by any local jurisdiction for FY 2014-2015 under the TAP program, the SRTS funding will end as of September 30. In order to obtain funding in FY2016-2017 as a 501-3(c), SRTS will need to partner with a sponsoring local entity or agency such as a school district in order to request funding through the TAP program. New TAP guidelines do not dictate a minimum or maximum limitation of the amount of funds that can be sought by a SRTS program.

Walking School Bus

Mrs. Wakan reported on the walking school buses set up so far and leader training:

- Animas Elementary – one route from the west
- Ladera Elementary – two routes; one from the north and one from the south
- McKinley Elementary – two routes; one from the north and one from the east
- Mesa Verde Elementary – one route from the east on Tuesday mornings
- Apache Elementary – not enough interest at this time

Mrs. Wakan has asked each of the schools to announce where and when their walking school buses could be joined and to encourage more students to participate and walk to school. Some of the walking school buses walk every day while others may only walk twice per week. Mrs. Wakan is leaving the decision up to the leaders on whether they continue to walk during the winter months or not. She noted that it was important to get any interested walking school bus leaders trained before the SRTS funding ran out.

The group discussed having a school zone sign on 20th Street and Hutton for Animas students. They thought this would be comparable to the one on 30th Street and Knudsen for students going to Northeast Elementary and Hermosa Junior High schools.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Walking Program

McKinley, Mesa Verde, and possibly Animas Elementary plan to participate in the walking program at school for this school year. Ms. Johnson said she would check with her principal on Animas' involvement with the program for the year.

Mr. Treat said he thought Mesa Verde had enough prizes for this year's walking program, but requested 200-300 additional punch cards.

The group thought that the prizes should be the more active choices such as water bottles and jump ropes. Mrs. Wakan said there was still about \$600 that could be used for prizes and/or supplies and she said she would order more water bottles and jump ropes.

Road Apple Rally

The Road Apple Rally is on Saturday, October 4 at Lions Wilderness Park at which SRTS will host a bike rodeo. Mrs. Wakan said volunteers from the Sycamore Center were not available to help SRTS with this event. She asked Officer DeLese if two SROs could participate and help out with several of the stations. Officer DeLese said she would get that arranged.

Mrs. Wakan has also asked the Hermosa's National Honor Society teacher sponsor if members of this group would be able to assist with the rodeo as part of their community involvement goals. Mrs. Wakan also asked for others who might be able to help with this event to arrive by 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Treat said that SRTS could borrow the helmets from Mesa Verde again for this event.

International Walk to School Day

The International Walk to School Day is October 8 this year.

Mrs. Wakan said she was working on getting some local mascots to participate in this event at the schools: Juan Heart for McKinley; Eddie Eagle for Animas; Piedra Vista panther for Mesa Verde; and the Farmington High scorpion for Ladera.

The group discussed how to hand out the prizes to students who walk to school that morning for International Walk to School Day. Ms. Johnson, Ms. Nord, and Mr. Treat said they could get enough teachers involved to hand out prizes at each of their schools. The schools that may need assistance are Apache and Ladera. Mrs. Wakan said she would try to schedule the SRO and Mr. Quakenbush to hand out prizes at Apache. She and Ms. Markle would hand out the prizes at Ladera.

Student Counts

The fall student counts are scheduled:

- September 16-18 – Mesa Verde – Mrs. Wakan will assist Mr. Treat and one other teacher for these counts;
- September 23-25 – Ladera and Animas – Ms. Johnson, one teacher, and one other volunteer will do the counts at Animas while Mr. and Mrs. Wakan and Ms. Markle will count at Ladera

- September 30-October 2 – Apache and McKinley – Apache will need only two volunteers; Ms. Nord, one teacher, and one other volunteer will take the counts at McKinley.

ENFORCEMENT

Officer DeLese did not report on any Enforcement issues.

EVALUATION

Mr. Wakan said that once updated information is available from the school district, he will again produce the geo-coded maps showing where students from each school live in relation to their school.

There were no additional concerns or topics for discussion.

The schedule for the next few meetings is as follows:

- Thursday, October 9 at 3:30 p.m. at Animas Elementary (conference room)
- Thursday, November 13 at 3:30 p.m. at McKinley Elementary

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.