How Creative Partnerships Lead to Well-Rounded SRTS Program

Crossing Guards
Champions
Education
Engagement
Infrastructure

Kansas City, Kansas & City of Austin
Wyandotte County, Kansas
Safe Route to School

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Kansas City, Kansas
About the Unified Government
Wyandotte Co/Kansas City, KS

- City and County were merged (1997)
- Total Area 156 square-miles
- Population 160K
- County/City Annual Budget $385 million
- Public Works Budget $85 million/yr
- SRTS education program $50K/yr
- $300-500K sidewalk per capital project
Wyandotte County, Kansas

- Diverse, growing population
  - Second highest minority population in U.S., next to Broward County, Florida
  - Students and their families have introduced more than 60 languages to the schools and community
Importance

- Balance the City’s limited resources
- Strategically invest in the community
- Focus on the areas with greater needs
- Work with the youngest population
- Develop responsible citizens through education
- Create a built environment to help them succeed
National Goals empower Wyandotte County’s Vision

Our vision is a Wyandotte County where neighborhoods are engaged in creating safe, healthy, and active environments.
SRTS WYCO Background

2007: WYCO began the SRTS program
- Began with school evaluations
- 1st sidewalks: 2010-2012
- 10 miles of sidewalk by 2022

2013: Walking School Bus began
- Bikewalk KC partnership
- Safety Education curriculum
- Champion Stipend
Components of our Safe Routes to School

- Walking School Bus
- Infrastructure
- Safety Education
- Crossing Guards & Enforcement (2022)
WYCO Safe Routes to School
Road Map

1. Initial Outreach
   - Meet with Safe Routes to School Team

2. Engage
   - Safe Routes to School Team
   - Technical Assistance

3. Implement
   - TIP: Start small with a few activities to generate excitement about walking!

4. Sustain
   - Getting Started
   - Kick Off
   - Walk to School KC
School Statistics

- 10 schools actively walking p/ semester
- 20+ schools involved in SRTS
- Walking *at least* once a week
- Group sizes vary from 10-30 kids
- **Largest group has 41 kids & 18 staff members!**
Walking School Bus Benefits

- Increases rates of walking & bicycling to school
- Reduces student absences and tardiness
- Addresses traffic dangers & reduces congestion
- Reduces bullying
- Builds relationships outside the classroom
- Creates other community opportunities
Infrastructure Investment

Over 10 years of sustained funding

- **80/20 federal and local** funding for infrastructure
- Approx. **$10 million** in sidewalk investment around schools (2022)

- Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)
- Mid- American Regional Council (MARC)
Sidewalks Impact All

Before

After
Improving Built Environment by Maximizing Resources
Shifting Walking Culture
Rain, Shine, or Snow!
Pedestrian Safety Education

Strategically developed a curriculum to educate students on pedestrian safety

- Crosswalks
- Sidewalks
- Signage
- Best practices for various traffic situations
Creative Exploration
Challenges & Opportunities

- Yearly, inevitable changes impact our delivery
- Language Barriers
- Needed Infrastructure Improvements

- Every challenge creates an opportunity to have the right conversations
Partnerships

Unified Government and BikeWalk KC with support from:

- School Districts
- Health Department
- Community organizations
- Law enforcement
- **Enthusiastic Champions!**
Contact Information

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Thank You
CITY OF AUSTIN
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Education, Crossing Guards, Engagement, and Infrastructure

SUPPORTING THE HUMAN POWER IN YOU
Mission

To increase the number of students walking and biking to school by creating a safer, healthier and more equitable environment that fosters human-powered transportation.

Vision

Engage with the community to create a safer, healthier and more equitable environment that fosters human-powered transportation as the first choice for City of Austin students.
Approach

- Education
- Infrastructure
- Crossing Guards
- Engagement
Staff Breakdown

20 Full Time Staff
226 Part-Time Staff
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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Education Program

SUPPORTING THE HUMAN POWER IN YOU
Services Offered

- Elementary school education
- Daycare education
- School fitness nights
- Community fairs
- Adult education
- Safety Patrol training
- Bike rodeos
- Bike trains
- Walking school buses
- Walk to School Day
- Bike to School Day
- BOW WOW
2018-2019 Achievements

• Serviced over 100 schools
• Trained over 48,000 students
• Conducted 3 bike rodeos
• Worked 30 community and school fairs
• Provided 1 adult education training
Lessons used in Training

**Pk – 2nd grade**
- Blue chart storybook
- Flannel graph
- Rebus book
- Power point
- Safety treasure
- Teaching Sally Safety

**3rd – 5th grade**
- Safety Wars game
- Safety bingo game
- Game board
- Safety jeopardy
- Power point
- Bean Bag Toss

**Daycare lesson**
- Daycare rebus book
- Flannel graph
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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Crossing Guard Program

SUPPORTING THE HUMAN POWER IN YOU
Program Breakdown

Service 7 school districts
- Austin ISD
- Leander ISD
- Round Rock ISD
- Del Valle ISD
- Eanes ISD
- Pflugerville ISD
- Manor ISD

7 Crossing Guard Supervisors
21 Supervisor Assistants
Over 205 Crossing Guards
Trainings and Special Events

- Fall training
- Spring training
- Team building
- New employee orientation
- Partner Trainings
- Back to School Bash Stuffing
- Crossing Guards Rewards and Recognition Celebration
- Deferred Disposition Program
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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Engagement Program

SUPPORTING THE HUMAN POWER IN YOU
Goal:
Create sustainable behavioral change that results in an increase of the number of students walking and biking to school.

Approach:
• Involve the greater community
• Activate new Infrastructure
• Coordinate with other City Programs and Departments
• Create and implement Recognition Program
• Data Driven (UT and A&M Studies)
## Data Driven

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Council District</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Students Currently Choosing Active Transportation (Walk, Bike, Skateboard)</th>
<th>Total # of Students living within .5 miles</th>
<th>Percentage within .5 miles utilizing Active Transportation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Allison</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>156</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brooke</td>
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<td>256</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>48%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dawson</td>
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<td>314</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Galindo</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>566</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Govalle</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linder</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metz</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oak Springs</td>
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<td>Ortega</td>
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<td>303</td>
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<td>182</td>
<td>40%</td>
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Infrastructure

SUPPORTING THE HUMAN POWER IN YOU
Approach

- Bond Passage
- Initial Ask of Concerns
- Consultant
- School Identification
- Walk Audits & Community Meetings
- Internal Review
- Release of Draft Infrastructure Reports
- Final Infrastructure Report
Infrastructure Report

- Background
- Process
- Benefit (Very Low - Very High)
  - Demand
  - Safety
  - Equity
  - Stakeholder Input
- Cost Benefit (Very Low - Very High)
- Recommendations by School
- Map of Barriers
Draft Report Identified # Of Barriers

District 1: 417
District 2: 407
District 3: 561
District 4: 448
District 5: 389
District 6: 367
District 7: 480
District 8: 253
District 9: 317
District 10: 256
Draft Report Estimated Cost of Barriers

District 1: $93,600,000
District 2: $91,700,000
District 3: $89,300,000
District 4: $87,800,000
District 5: $105,600,000
District 6: $64,300,000
District 7: $72,300,000
District 8: $45,300,000
District 9: $41,900,000
District 10: $43,600,000
Questions?

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