

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL WORKSHOP
NOVEMBER 11, 2008 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
Safe Routes to School Program	✓ Resolution Ordinance Motion Discussion Only	Robin A. Weaver Interim Director of Public Works

SYNOPSIS

A resolution has been prepared to participate in the Illinois Safe Routes to School Program through the Illinois Department of Transportation.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Five Year Plan and Goals for 2007-2012 identified *Top Quality Village Infrastructure and Facilities*. A supporting objective of this goal is: *Improved Neighborhood Infrastructure Curbs, Gutters, Streets, Sidewalks, Stormwater and Drainage System*.

FISCAL IMPACT

Participation in this program will potentially lead to a grant agreement that will support infrastructure costs including sidewalk improvements, pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements, and on-street bicycle facilities associated with the Village's *Safe Routes to School Travel Plan*. If Council approves the application, the Village will request funding support for three projects totaling \$250,000:

- Support the redesign of pick-up and drop-off procedures to increase safety and access at the following schools; Lester, Belle Aire, El Sierra, Puffer, Kinglsey, Downer and Whittier. This cost is estimated at \$181,000.
- Support the construction, replacement and repair of sidewalks at Belle Aire and El Sierra Schools. This cost is estimated at \$50,000.
- Install curb extensions to reduce the crossing distance on streets at Kingley and Whittier Schools. This cost is estimated at \$19,000.

This grant program is on a reimbursement basis and it will support 100% of the estimated project costs for the three projects up to \$250,000. Staff estimates a total cost of \$250,000 between the three requested projects and anticipates that approximately 80% of project expenditures will be incurred in the Capital Fund in FY2009 while the remaining 20% of project costs will occur in FY2010.

RECOMMENDATION

Approval on the November 18, 2008 Consent Agenda.

BACKGROUND

The Illinois Safe Routes to School Program facilitates the planning, development and implementation of projects and activities that will improve the ability of primary and middle school students to walk and bicycle to school safely in the Village of Downers Grove. On numerous occasions, Village staff has met with District 58 to discuss partnership in the Village's *Safe Routes to School Travel Plan*. By creating a School Travel Plan, it shows that a community is committed to ensuring that all students can safely utilize walking or bicycling for the trip to and from school. The School Travel Plan aims to address issues which

impede active transportation and it seeks to strategically solve these problems by implementing a Safe Routes to School Program.

This is the second year that funding is available through the Illinois Department of Transportation. This is a two-tiered submittal process whereby, an entity must first submit a Safe Routes to School Travel Plan to IDOT; then, upon IDOT approval of the entity's Safety Plan, the entity is allowed to submit an official application. At this time, staff has submitted the Safe Routes to School Travel Plan to IDOT and seeks Council approval to participate in the Safe Routes to School Program and the submittal of a grant application to the Illinois Department of Transportation.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution

Downers Grove Safe Routes to School Plan

Safe Routes to School Funding Application

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PARTICIPATION IN THE
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM
WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Village of Downers Grove, DuPage County, Illinois, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) was established in August 2005 as a Federal-Aid program through the passage of SAFETEA-LU Act, through 2009 a total of \$612 million was allocated to provide funds to states to substantially improve the ability of primary and middle school students (grades Kindergarten through 8th) to walk and bicycle to school safely;

WHEREAS, the Village of Downers Grove wishes to participate in this program as the lead agency, in conjunction with the Downers Grove Grade School District 58 as partners, toward providing infrastructure and educational improvements within the Village of Downers Grove to promote increased walking, bicycling, educational and enforcement training opportunities to our school children;

WHEREAS, the Village finds that the SRTS program is a beneficial means of improving childhood physical activity and exercise, reducing childhood obesity, reducing air pollution near schools, enhancing Police Department enforcement, and promoting pedestrian safety measures in the vicinity of schools;

WHEREAS, the SRTS is administered through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and the Village is required to submit this resolution as part of the application process to IDOT;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Village Clerk are hereby respectively authorized and directed for and on behalf of the Village to execute, attest, seal and deliver this Resolution substantially in the form approved in the foregoing paragraph, together with such changes as the Manager shall deem necessary.

WHEREAS, the proper officials, agents and employees of the Village are hereby authorized and directed to take such further action as they may deem necessary or appropriate to perform all obligations and commitments of the Village in accordance with the provisions of the SRTS Program.

WHEREAS, all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with the provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the following projects are scheduled within the Village of Downers Grove:

- 1) Redesign pick-up and drop-off procedures to increase safety and access.
- 2) Construct, replace or repair sidewalks.
- 3) Install curb extensions to reduce the crossing distance on streets.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage as provided by law.

Ron Sandack, Mayor

Passed: _____

Approved: _____

Attest: _____
April K. Holden, Village Clerk

Illinois School Travel Plan**Village of Downers Grove Safe Routes to School Plan
10/15/2008**

The following support files have been uploaded for this School Travel Plan:

1. Introduction

Our school is committed to ensuring that all our students can utilize *physically active transportation*, such as walking and bicycling, for a safe and enjoyable trip to school. This School Travel Plan aims to address the issues that impede active transportation and seeks to strategically solve these problems by implementing a Safe Routes to School program.

Our community is motivated to pursue Safe Routes to School because:

- We highly value student physical activity and health.
- We want to improve the air quality and environment around our school(s).

- We wish to improve unsafe or insufficient walkways, bikeways and crossings.
- We are committed to reducing speeding and reckless driving near school(s).
- Other

Increase the number of students walking which will decrease the number of vehicles within close proximity of the schools.

2. The Safe Routes To School Team

We believe that a diverse Safe Routes to School Team develops the most successful School Travel Plans. Our Team is comprised of a variety of stakeholders, each lending their own unique perspective and expertise in order to make walking and bicycling to school more safe, accessible and fun for our students.

The members of our team include:

- Susan Brassfield, Village of Downers Grove, staff
- Lorie Pilster, School or staff official
- Robin Weaver, Village of Downers Grove, Interim Director of Public Works

The primary contact person for our School Travel Plan is:

Name: Susan Brassfield

Address: 801 Burlington Avenue

City: Downers Grove

State: Illinois

Zip: 60515

Phone: 630-434-6878

Fax: 630-434-5571

Email: sbrassfield@downers.us

Organization: Village of Downers Grove

3. The Public Input Process

Our Team worked to include the entire community in developing our School Travel Plan. To accomplish this, we:

- Administered parent surveys

Village and Dist 58 developed a Parent Questionnaire. 3,750 Questionnaires were issued and 730 were returned completed in 2007. A questionnaire wasn't issued in 2008 because District 58 staff felt the results would not have changed within the past year. 2007 survey results: 23% of parents cite that other parents double park on street this a major issue. 53% of parents say that their children don't walk to school presently. 82% of parents say their children don't bike to school. Reasons cited that their child don't walk or bike - 14% crossing major streets, 12% lack of adults to support kids along the route, 10% missing or insufficient sidewalks, 10% speeding of vehicles near the school.

4. School Description

Our School Travel Plan addresses the needs of :

■ A school district

The school(s) and district(s) included in our School Travel Plan are:

- BELLE AIRE ELEM SCHOOL in district 0580
- EL SIERRA ELEM SCHOOL in district 0580
- HENRY PUFFER SCHOOL in district 0580
- KINGSLEY ELEM SCHOOL in district 0580
- LESTER ELEM SCHOOL in district 0580
- PIERCE DOWNER ELEM SCHOOL in district 0580
- WHITTIER ELEM SCHOOL in district 0580

The school(s) are located in:

- DOWNERS GROVE

5. School Demographics

Summary of all Schools

Our student demographic information includes:

81.60% White 4.40% Black 5.70% Hispanic 5.20% Asian 0.10% Native American 3.00% Multiracial/Ethnic
 6.50% Low income students 2.70% Limited English proficient students
 14.00% Special education students

6. Travel Environment

Summary of all Schools

This is how our students travel to and from school.

Travel Mode	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Public Transit	Other
Number of Students	934	50	1869	2129	0	0	0
Percent	18.75%	1.00%	37.52%	42.73%	0%	0%	0%

These are the distances our students live from school.

Distance lived from school	Less Than 1 mile	1 to 1.5 miles	More Than 1.5 miles
Number of Students	2123	2124	735
Percent	42.61%	42.63%	14.75%

We have the following supports or activities in place during student travel times:

- Crossing guards
- Student patrol
- Staff presence during drop-off/pick-up
- Police department support
- School traffic safety plan

Our school arrival and dismissal procedures include:

For Pedestrians and Bicyclists: Walking route map was produced by the Village with input from the School District that details the safest most direct route to school.

For School Buses: Designated drop-off/pick-up locations.

For Private Vehicle Drop-off/Pick-up: Specific Parking/No Parking areas, designated drop-off/pick-up areas, parking lots blocked off.

Other school travel policies include:

None

Our school **does** provide School Safety (Hazardous Route) Busing to students.

The number of students provided this service is: 1134

7. Barriers to Active Transportation

Summary of all Schools

We have identified and prioritized the following barriers to walking and bicycling to school:

■ **Missing or insufficient walkways (sidewalks and paths)**

High Importance. Many streets in the district do not have sidewalks on at least one side of the street particularly in the Indian Trail attendance area which is unincorporated. The streets in this area are narrower than in other sections of town. These narrow streets offer no shoulder for children to walk on and therefore, children are forced to walk in the street.

■ **No safe place to ride a bike to school**

Medium Importance. Very few of the roadways around our schools are designed for bicycle traffic. Riding bikes on the sidewalks is not very safe for either the bicyclist or pedestrian who may be walking on the sidewalk.

■ **Crossing streets and intersections is difficult or dangerous**

High Priority. Several of our schools have at least one busy street students must cross. One street in the Belle Aire attendance area, 35th Street, only has a two-way stop sign, and in the morning this street is very busy with motorist traffic heading to Highland Avenue. This is a common situation in the District.

■ **A major roadway or expressway divides the school from residential areas**

Fairview Avenue west of Lester Elementary school is a major factor in safety and congestion.

■ **Walkways are not accessible to students with disabilities**

El Sierra Elementary school needs a direct walkway between 68th Street and the school entrance.

■ **Distance to school is too far**

High Priority. This was listed as a concern on the Parent Questionnaire

■ **Bike parking at school is missing, insufficient or not secure**

There are no bike racks at Belle Aire and Kingsley elementary schools.

■ **Dangerous driving and speeding on streets**

Belmont road is a high speed arterial roadway that creates a need for parents to drive their kids to school.

■ **Drop-off and pick-up process creates congestion and unsafe behaviors**

High Importance. The traffic around all of our schools during drop-off/pick-up is very dangerous. Each school has a drop-off/pick-up plan but it is very difficult getting parents to adhere to the plan. The District had one student struck by a car including several near misses. Our district is comprised of neighborhood schools that were designed for students to walk to school and they were not designed to accommodate the hundreds of cars that arrive each morning and afternoon. Students are dropped off on the wrong side of the street which further escalates the problem because they then cross the street in between cars.

■ **Public safety concerns (crime, violence)**

Low Priority. This was listed as a low priority on the Parent Questionnaire.

■ Other

Norfolk ave is the main route from the east to Downers Grove South High School which is only two blocks away from Kingsley elementary school.

5. School Demographics

BELLE AIRE ELEM SCHOOL

Our student demographic information includes:

81.00% White 3.40% Black 4.60% Hispanic 8.70% Asian 0% Native American 2.30% Multiracial/Ethnic
0% Low income students 0.40% Limited English proficient students
6.00% Special education students

7. Barriers to Active Transportation

BELLE AIRE ELEM SCHOOL

We have identified and prioritized the following barriers to walking and bicycling to school:

- Missing or insufficient walkways (sidewalks and paths)
Need sidewalk on East side
- No safe place to ride a bike to school
Belle Aire Lane is narrow, too many cars on it.
- Bike parking at school is missing, insufficient or not secure
No current bike racks, which could be utilized by many children arriving from the north.

5. School Demographics

EL SIERRA ELEM SCHOOL

Our student demographic information includes:

68.90% White 9.40% Black 13.70% Hispanic 4.30% Asian 0% Native American 3.70% Multiracial/Ethnic
15.70% Low income students 9.40% Limited English proficient students
9.00% Special education students

7. Barriers to Active Transportation

EL SIERRA ELEM SCHOOL

We have identified and prioritized the following barriers to walking and bicycling to school:

- Walkways are not accessible to students with disabilities
School needs a direct walkway between 68th St and the school entrance. Area is unsafe; Safety would increase by shortening the crossing distance and keeping kids away from intersections.

- Drop-off and pick-up process creates congestion and unsafe behaviors

Speeding vehicles on Fairmount Ave create a safety issue for kids; motorists are in a hurry especially during School drop-off times.

5. School Demographics

HENRY PUFFER SCHOOL

Our student demographic information includes:

78.00% White 4.20% Black 8.20% Hispanic 4.50% Asian 0% Native American 5.10% Multiracial/Ethnic

14.50% Low income students 3.90% Limited English proficient students

7.00% Special education students

7. Barriers to Active Transportation

HENRY PUFFER SCHOOL

We have identified and prioritized the following barriers to walking and bicycling to school:

- Missing or insufficient walkways (sidewalks and paths)

Sidewalk needed along the north side of Haddow Ave to connect Belmont Rd to the school

- Crossing streets and intersections is difficult or dangerous

Belmont Rd is a high speed arterial roadway, and crossing even with a Guard is difficult (motorists refuse to obey traffic controls).

- Dangerous driving and speeding on streets

Belmont Road is a high speed arterial roadway that creates a need for parents to drive their kids to school.

5. School Demographics

KINGSLEY ELEM SCHOOL

Our student demographic information includes:

70.60% White 9.20% Black 7.30% Hispanic 8.50% Asian 0.20% Native American 4.20% Multiracial/Ethnic

5.30% Low income students 6.20% Limited English proficient students

9.50% Special education students

7. Barriers to Active Transportation

KINGSLEY ELEM SCHOOL

We have identified and prioritized the following barriers to walking and bicycling to school:

- Crossing streets and intersections is difficult or dangerous

Dunham Rd is very busy, congested, and difficult to cross especially during the AM period.

- Bike parking at school is missing, insufficient or not secure

There is more opportunity for bike riding here, but no bike parking locations or bike locking hardware exist

- Norfolk Ave is also the main route from the east to South High School, which is only two blocks away

Even though the HS starts 40 minutes earlier than Kingsley Elementary, there is daily vehicular congestion (AM and PM) on Norfolk and Dunham.

5. School Demographics

LESTER ELEM SCHOOL

Our student demographic information includes:

84.40% White 2.10% Black 4.10% Hispanic 2.60% Asian 0% Native American 6.80% Multiracial/Ethnic
4.70% Low income students 0.60% Limited English proficient students
7.50% Special education students

7. Barriers to Active Transportation

LESTER ELEM SCHOOL

We have identified and prioritized the following barriers to walking and bicycling to school:

- Missing or insufficient walkways (sidewalks and paths)

There are sidewalk gaps that need to be filled. Once filled this would encourage more walking.

- A major roadway or expressway divides the school from residential areas

Fairview Avenue west of the school is a major factor in safety and congestion.

- Bike parking at school is missing, insufficient or not secure

There are insufficient number of and deteriorating bike racks at the school. Replacements would encourage additional bike riding.

- Drop-off and pick-up process creates congestion and unsafe behaviors

Lincoln Street is too wide and vehicular U-turn violations are routine. A paved drop-off area is needed with positive median barrier control, and replacement of damaged parkway material as well.

5. School Demographics

PIERCE DOWNER ELEM SCHOOL

Our student demographic information includes:

93.40% White 1.70% Black 0.90% Hispanic 2.00% Asian 0% Native American 2.00% Multiracial/Ethnic
4.00% Low income students 0.30% Limited English proficient students
5.00% Special education students

7. Barriers to Active Transportation

PIERCE DOWNER ELEM SCHOOL

We have identified and prioritized the following barriers to walking and bicycling to school:

- Bike parking at school is missing, insufficient or not secure

There are a few deteriorated bike racks that should be replaced, and new ones installed to encourage more bike riding to school.

- Drop-off and pick-up process creates congestion and unsafe behaviors

Not enough space for two-way travel plus drop-off maneuvers on the street. Need to re-design the drop-off areas to be offset to better serve all the vehicular needs, including EMS vehicles

5. School Demographics**WHITTIER ELEM SCHOOL**

Our student demographic information includes:

86.10% White 2.50% Black 7.10% Hispanic 3.20% Asian 0% Native American 1.10% Multiracial/Ethnic
5.00% Low income students 2.50% Limited English proficient students
5.50% Special education students

7. Barriers to Active Transportation**WHITTIER ELEM SCHOOL**

We have identified and prioritized the following barriers to walking and bicycling to school:

- Crossing streets and intersections is difficult or dangerous

Intersection of Fairview/Hill is very congested and difficult to cross, even with a Guard on duty. Blodgett/Hill intersection is also difficult because vehicles are speeding on Blodgett.

- Bike parking at school is missing, insufficient or not secure

More bike racks would encourage additional kids to bike.

8. Creating Solutions**Goals**

Our primary goal(s) for active school transportation are:

- Increase the number of students walking and bicycling to school
- Improve the safety of students walking and bicycling to school

8a. Education Strategies

- Teach pedestrian and bicycle safety skills to students and parents

Most parents are not aware of kids' perceptions and reaction times to vehicular traffic. Show "AAA Kids in Traffic" video in classrooms. Conduct "Parent Bike Safety Training" on-site through LIB. Conduct in-school safety training for kids by Village Police and Public Works.

- Teach personal safety skills to students and parents

Crossing safety needs to be improved; both kids and parents need to be better educated on where the best locations are for crossing. The Police Department will train on-site safe crossing techniques.

- Educate parents and caregivers about safe driving procedures at the school

Parents are the biggest violators. The responses from our questionnaire show that caring parents want and need training for themselves and especially those not obeying the safe laws. The school PTA's will conduct safety behavior to all parents through school drop off maps and directives.

8b. Encouragement Strategies

- Start a Walking School Bus program

This program was listed as a top priority in the completed questionnaire. The PTA will solicit and organize parent groups to operate walking bus. Public Works staff will obtain and share training modules, DVD's, check-lists and other information with PTA from SRTS school bus program.

- Start a Safe Passage or Neighborhood Watch program

This program was listed as a top priority in the completed questionnaire. The Police Department will provide staff to educate and coordinate the PTA staff, teachers, parents regarding a neighborhood watch program. There are two dedicated police officers already assigned to this task.

- Conduct a community safe driving awareness and education campaign

Utilize the Village's cable Channel 6, Downers Grove Reporter, Neighborhood fliers, and Village Council communications to educate and inform the community about safe driving practices.

8c. Enforcement Strategies

- Create a crossing guard training program

The Police Dept. will hire and train the necessary crossing guards to promote safety at all the school crossing locations, furnishing them with LED STOP paddles. Public Works staff will conduct WARRANTS for additional crossing guards at other school crossing locations. Public Works staff will also install school crossing signs, pavement markings, and other warning devices at crossing locations as needed.

- Lower speed limits in school vicinity

This item was listed as a top priority in the completed questionnaire. Public Works staff has initiated and installed lower speed limits on streets adjacent to all village schools, utilizing MUTCD standards for school signs and sign retroreflectivity.

- Utilize speed feedback trailers or signs (portable)

This program was listed as a top priority in the completed questionnaire. The Village was previously awarded a Safe Routes to School grant that will be used to purchase three speed feedback signs. The Village's Public Works Department will install these devices on the highest speed violation streets. The Village seeks to purchase a fourth trailer to maximize enforcement.

8d. Evaluation Strategies

- Count the number of students who walk and bicycle to and from school
There are 984 students who walk or bike in 2007. We strive to increase this number by 20% by 2008.
- Track the number of crashes within 2 miles of school
The Village uses the criteria of within 1 mile of the school because 2 miles exceeds the Village's jurisdiction.
- Measure parent/guardian perceptions of safety
Re-issue Parent Questionnaire to obtain their perception of how well the strategies are working

There were 26 bicycle/pedestrian crashes between 08-27-2007 and 06-06-2008.

There were 1837 vehicle crashes between 08-27-2007 and 06-06-2008.

8e. Engineering Strategies

We have identified strategies involving the 5 "Es" of Safe Routes to School to address the barriers to walking and bicycling in our school community and to achieve our stated goals.

We have selected at least one strategy from each of the categories of Education, Encouragement, Enforcement and Evaluation, in addition to any Engineering strategies that are indicated.

The strategies we will use include:

Engineering Strategies within 2 miles of schools.

- Construct, replace or repair sidewalks
Many schools do not have continuous sidewalks; while other schools have deteriorated sidewalks or sidewalks only on one side. We plan to upgrade these sidewalks. El Sierra - construct new 550' sidewalk from 68th St to north side of school.
- Install curb extensions to reduce the crossing distance on streets
This method would greatly increase safety, as vehicles ignore traffic laws and jeopardize kids' safety. This is especially true on Dunham Rd and on Norfolk St. Kingsley School - construct 200' long each bulb-outs on Norfolk at Barrett and also at Powell. Norfolk St. carries 1900 vpd and had 3 crashes in 2007. Norfolk St. also serves South High School which is one block west. South High has about 4,000 students and is very congested during AM and PM school periods. Kingsley School buses drop off students on Norfolk St, and not internally. Whittier School - install 200' of bulb-outs at Grand Ave and Hill St.
- Install new or improved signage (school zone, speed limits, crosswalk, speed feedback signs (fixed), etc.)
We believe speed feedback traffic calming signs will clearly remind motorists of where they are, and that they need to slow down in school areas. Kingsley School - install 2 driver feedback signs on Norfolk St. Lester School - install LED flashing school cross walk signs on Lincoln Ave. Kingsley School - install LED flashing school cross walk signs on Norfolk at Barrett and Powell. El Sierra School - install LED flashing school cross walk signs on Fairmount Ave which is main entrance to school. Fairmount Ave is heavily traveled and carries 1500 vpd.
- Install bicycle parking near schools
Parents voiced interest in installing storage bike racks and bike storage devices for their kids' use. If facilities were available more kids could bike to school. Belle Aire School - install bike racks and covered shelters on Belle Aire Ln. Kingsley School - install bike racks and covered shelters on the east side of Powell south of Norfolk. Lester School - install bike racks with covered shelters on Lincoln Ave both west and east of school building. Pierce Downer - install bike racks with covered shelters on Grant St near Seeley Ave, and also on Oakwood Ave at the north end of school building. Whittier School - install bike racks with shelters on Grand at north end of school property.
- Install traffic calming measures (curb extensions, speed bumps, traffic circles, raised crosswalks, narrowing lanes, etc.)

These devices are of high priority to control errant vehicles, speeding vehicles, and highlighting areas close to the school. Most parents do not pay attention to signage and need specific structural changes to the roadway system to positively force them to adhere.

- Redesign pick-up and drop-off procedures to increase safety and access

Most schools are neighborhood schools designed for only a few daily vehicles. Belle Aire - widen Belle Aire Ln from Venard to school grounds, 800' of 5' new pavement to accomodate on-street vehicles. Belle Aire Ln carries 700 vpd and is only 22' wide. Puffer School - construct 400' of new 5' pavement to increase on-street parking. Haddow Rd is 22' wide and carries 1,000 vpd, with 3 crashes in 2007. Belmont Rd, adjacent to the school, carries over 20,000 vpd with no traffic signal. Lester School - widen both Lincoln & Indianapolis. School is largest with 500 students and no busing provided. Both Lincoln & Indianapolis are 22' wide with lack of on-street parking, one crash in 2007.

9. Improvements Mapping

To View or Print the Map in each school in your plan, please click the link below.

[Click to View Map of BELLE AIRE ELEM SCHOOL](#)

[Click to View Map of EL SIERRA ELEM SCHOOL](#)

[Click to View Map of HENRY PUFFER SCHOOL](#)

[Click to View Map of KINGSLEY ELEM SCHOOL](#)

[Click to View Map of LESTER ELEM SCHOOL](#)

[Click to View Map of PIERCE DOWNER ELEM SCHOOL](#)

[Click to View Map of WHITTIER ELEM SCHOOL](#)

10. The Action Plan

The Safe Routes to School team is committed to realizing our vision for a safe, enjoyable and accessible walking and bicycling environment for our students. We will utilize the following Action Plan to keep our efforts focused and on track:

PLEASE NOTE: ONLY projects with funding source IL SRTS Program, current cycle will be eligible for funding this cycle. Only those strategies identified for funding in the IL SRTS Program, current cycle will transfer to your Application.)

Strategy	Strategy Type	Strategy Detail	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Status	Funding Source
Educate parents and caregivers about safe driving procedures at the school	Education	Parents are the biggest violators. The responses from our questionnaire show that caring parents want and need training for themselves and especially those not obeying the safe laws.	6-12 months	District 58	being implemented	none needed
Teach pedestrian and bicycle safety skills to students and parents	Education	Most parents are not aware of kids' perceptions and reaction times to vehicular traffic. Kids need bike safety training by Village Police Dept.	6-12 months	District 58	being implemented	none needed
Teach personal safety skills to students and parents	Education	Crossing safety needs to be improved; both kids and parents need to be better educated on where the best locations are for crossing.	6-12 months	District 58	being implemented	none needed
		Utilize the Village's cable Channel 6, Downers Grove Reporter,				

Conduct a <u>community safe driving awareness and education campaign</u>	Encouragement	Neighborhood fliers, and Village Council communications to educate and inform the community about safe driving practices.	6-12 months	Village of Downers Grove	under development	none needed
Start a <u>Safe Passage or Neighborhood Watch program</u>	Encouragement	This program was listed as a top priority in the completed questionnaire.	12-24 months	Village of Downers Grove	being implemented	none needed
Start a <u>Walking School Bus program</u>	Encouragement	This program was listed as a top priority in the completed questionnaire.	6-12 months	District 58	being implemented	none needed
Create a <u>crossing guard training program</u>	Enforcement	The Police Dept. is requesting this type of training.	12-24 months	Village of Downers Grove	being implemented	other funding
Lower speed limits in school vicinity	Enforcement	This item was listed as a top priority in the completed questionnaire.	6-12 months	Village of Downers Grove	being implemented	IL SRTS Program, current cycle
Utilize <u>speed feedback trailers or signs (portable)</u>	Enforcement	This program was listed as a top priority in the completed questionnaire. The Village was awarded a Safe Routes to School grant that will be used to purchase three speed feedback signs.	6-12 months	Village of Downers Grove	not yet begun	IL SRTS Program, current cycle
Construct, replace or repair sidewalks	Engineering	Many schools do not have continuous sidewalks; while other schools have deteriorated sidewalks or sidewalks only on one side. We plan to upgrade these sidewalks.	12-24 months	Village of Downers Grove	not yet begun	IL SRTS Program, current cycle
Install bicycle parking near schools	Engineering	Parents voiced interest in installing storage bike racks and bike storage devices for their kids' use. If facilities were available more kids could bike to school.	12-24 months	Village of Downers Grove	not yet begun	IL SRTS Program, current cycle
Install curb extensions to reduce the crossing distance on streets	Engineering	This method would greatly increase safety, as vehicles ignore traffic laws and jeopardize kids' safety. We believe reducing open areas to single lanes would be very effective.	12-24 months	Village of Downers Grove	not yet begun	IL SRTS Program, current cycle
Install new or improved signage (school zone, speed limits, crosswalk, speed feedback signs (fixed), etc.)	Engineering	We believe speed feedback traffic calming signs will clearly remind motorists of where they are, and that they need to slow down in school areas.	12-24 months	Village of Downers Grove	not yet begun	IL SRTS Program, current cycle
Install traffic calming measures (curb extensions, speed bumps, traffic circles, raised crosswalks, narrowing lanes, etc.)	Engineering	These devices are of high priority to control errant vehicles, speeding vehicles, and highlighting areas close to the school. Most parents do not pay attention to signage and need specific structural changes to the roadway system to positively force them to adhere.	12-24 months	Village of Downers Grove	not yet begun	IL SRTS Program, current cycle
Redesign pick-up and drop-off procedures to increase safety and access	Engineering	Most of our schools are neighborhood schools that were not designed for several hundred daily vehicles to converge. Most schools need a re-design of the	12-24 months	Village of Downers Grove	not yet begun	IL SRTS Program, current

		drop-off-pick-up locations to better separate buses, vehicles and kids.				cycle
Count the number of students who walk and bicycle to and from school	Evaluation	984	6-12 months	District 58	not yet begun	none needed
Measure parent/guardian perceptions of safety	Evaluation	Re-issue Parent Questionnaire to obtain their perception of how well the strategies are working	6-12 months	District 58	not yet begun	none needed
Track the number of crashes within 2 miles of school	Evaluation	X	6-12 months	Village of Downers Grove	being implemented	none needed

11. Plan Approval

REQUIRED: SCHOOL OFFICIAL

Name: Lorie Pilster
 Title: Director of Business Services
 Representing: District 58
 Phone: 630-719-5800
 Email: lpilster@dg58.org

REQUIRED: SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIAL

Name: Paul Zaander
 Title: Deputy Superintendent
 Representing: Downers Grove District 58
 Phone: 630-719-5880
 Email: pzaander@dg58.org

REQUIRED: LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

Name: David Fieldman
 Title: Acting Village Manager
 Representing: Village of Downers Grove
 Phone: 630-434-5500
 Email: dfieldman@downer.us

Safe Routes to School Funding Application Print.

Application Name: Village of Downers Grove Safe Routes to School Project

Executive Summary

Conditions for bicycling and walking need to be improved for students in the Village of Downers Grove. The village is committed to doing all it can to improve conditions for bicycling and walking that will ultimately lead to safer ways for students to travel to and from school. The village's "Safety Plan" identified barriers and we will use a combination of strategies to rectify cited problems in the form of engineering, education and encouragement models. Our survey indicated the importance of better connectivity of sidewalks and parking, enforcement of traffic laws, stronger educational programs for both parents and children, and projects to help slow down the speed of resident traffic. The desire to increase child mobility and reduce automobile traffic near schools has inspired the village's "Safe Routes to School Plan". The goal of this program is to create safe walking and cycling routes on primary travel corridors to and from schools so as to measurably increase the number of children walking and cycling to school. The following prioritized projects are anticipated based on funding availability: 1) Redesign pick-up and drop-off procedures to increase safety and access. 2) Construct, replace or repair sidewalks. 3) Install curb extensions to reduce the crossing distance on streets.

Application Sponsor

Project Manager Name: Michael Millette
Title: Assistant Director of Public Works
Mailing Address: 5101 Walnut Ave.
City: Downers Grove
State: IL
Zip: 60515
Phone: 630-434-5494
Fax: 630-434-5495
Email: mmillette@downers.us

Application Strategies Not Allocated to Projects

Teach pedestrian and bicycle safety skills to students and parents
Teach personal safety skills to students and parents
Educate parents and caregivers about safe driving procedures at the school
Start a Walking School Bus program
Start a Safe Passage or Neighborhood Watch program
Conduct a community safe driving awareness and education campaign
Create a crossing guard training program
Lower speed limits in school vicinity
Utilize speed feedback trailers or signs (portable)
Count the number of students who walk and bicycle to and from school
Track the number of crashes within 2 miles of school
Measure parent/guardian perceptions of safety

Projects in this Funding Application

Redesign pick-up and drop-off procedures to increase safety and access
Construct, replace or repair sidewalks
Install curb extensions to reduce the crossing distance on streets

Illinois State Representatives

State Districts represented: 47

U. S. Representatives

U.S. Districts represented: 13

Park Proximity

There **is** a park located within 2 miles of the project(s) in this application.

Contingencies

There are **no** projects that are contingent upon each other in this application.

Project Name: Redesign pick-up and drop-off procedures to increase safety and access

Project Type: Infrastructure

3a. Demonstration of Need

- We wish to improve unsafe or insufficient walkways, bikeways and crossings.

Most schools are neighborhood schools are not designed for a multitude of vehicles. Belle Aire- widen Belle Aire Ln from Venard to school grounds, 800' of 5' new pavement to accomodate on-street vehicles. Belle Aire Ln carries 700 vpd and is only 22' wide. Puffer School - construct 400' of new 5' pavement to increase on-street parking. Haddow Rd is 22' wide and carries 1,000 vpd, with 3 crashes in 2007. Belmont Rd, adjacent to the school, carries over 20,000 vpd with no traffic signal. Lester School - widen both Lincoln & Indianapolis. School is largest with 500 students and no busing provided. Both Lincoln & Indianapolis are 22' wide with lack of on-street parking, one crash in 2007.

- Construct, replace or repair sidewalks

Several school locations need new sidewalk connections to improve the safety of the walking path. El Sierra School - Install 550' long off-street sidewalk from 68th Street to the school on school property. Belle Aire School - Install 1350' of new sidewalk on Belle Aire Lane, and also off-street from Venard Ave. to the school. Pierce Downer School - Install 2750' long sidewalk on Cornell Ave. and also Chicago Ave.

- Install bicycle parking near schools

Additional bicycle parking at various schools will help promote physical activity by more kids riding their bikes to school. Lester School - Install bike racks with shelters at two locations. Belle Aire School - Install bike rack with shelter at one location. Pierce Downer School - Install bike rack with shelter at one location. Kingsley School - Install bike racks with shelter at two locations. Whittier School - Install bike racks with shelters at two locations.

- Install curb extensions to reduce the crossing distance on streets

The village believes curb extensions installed at key locations will definitely improve the safety of crossing children, and also positively direct motorists toward the center of the roadway, and away from drop off points. Kingsley School - Install 200' long bulb-outs at both Barrett & Powell, along Norfolk St. Whittier School - Install 200' long bulb-out at Grand & Hill.

3b. Infrastructure Detail and Cost Estimate:

The purpose is to improve access, drop-off designs at Lester, El Sierra, Puffer, Pierce Downer, Whittier and Kingsley Schools and encourage more bicycling to school.

Right of Way Acquired: **Not Applicable**
 Right of Way Agreement Acquired: **Not Applicable**

Cost Data

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING 1 / ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION: **\$7000**
 PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING 2: **\$9000**
 RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION: **\$0**
 CONSTRUCTION: **\$165000**
 CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING: **\$0**

Total Cost: \$181000

3c. Project Schools:

LESTER ELEM SCHOOL receives the primary benefit from this Project.

Also receiving benefit from this Project:

BELLE AIRE ELEM SCHOOL
 EL SIERRA ELEM SCHOOL
 HENRY PUFFER SCHOOL
 KINGSLEY ELEM SCHOOL
 PIERCE DOWNER ELEM SCHOOL
 WHITTIER ELEM SCHOOL

3d. Project Travel Information:

This is how our students travel to and from school.

Travel Mode	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Public Transit	Other
Number of Students	934	50	1869	2129	0	0	0
Percentage	18.75%	1.00%	37.52%	42.73%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

These are the distances our students live from school.

Distance lived from school	Less Than 1 mile	1 to 1.5 miles	More Than 1.5 miles
Number of Students	2123	2124	735
Percentage	42.61%	42.63%	14.75%

3e. Hazards and Barriers

■ The proposed projects at Lester, Belle Aire, and Puffer Schools are targeted to physically reduce the children's crossing distance, and also create a safe parking space for motorists. The redesign of crossing locations will also eliminate unsafe motorist behaviors.

3f. Potential for Improving Walking and Bicycling

This project will increase the number of students walking and bicycling to and from school by:

a. N/A

And improve the safety of students who walk and bicycle to and from school by:

b. Slightly over 50% of the students of Pierce Downers School walk or bicycle to school, while 42% of Lester Elementary School students either walk or bicycle to school. Separating parking and drop-off locations from

through traffic will reduce motorists/pedestrian conflicts. These features can only improve the safety of students by further segregating students at a safer distance from the direct flow of traffic.

3g. Consultation and Support

■ The Village of Downers Grove has received the resolution and endorsement of Downers Grove School District 58 in 2007 and 2008. The Village of Downers Grove is aggressively pursuing these projects in an effort to enhance the safety and operations for school children and the motoring public at Lester, Belle Aire, and Puffer Schools.

Jurisdictional Authority

Agency Name: Village of Downers Grove
 Agency Contact: David Fieldman
 Agency Address: 801 Burlington Ave.
 Agency City: Downers Grove
 Agency State: IL
 Agency Phone: 630-434-5500
 Agency Email: dfieldman@downers.us

School District

Agency Name: District 58
 Agency Contact: Lorie Pilster
 Agency Address: 1860 63rd Street
 Agency City: Downers Grove
 Agency State: IL
 Agency Phone: 630-719-5800
 Agency Email: lpilster@dg58.org

Project Name: Construct, replace or repair sidewalks

Project Type: Infrastructure

3a. Demonstration of Need

■ We wish to improve unsafe or insufficient walkways, bikeways and crossings.

Many schools do not have continuous sidewalks while other schools, have deteriorated sidewalks or sidewalks only on one side. The village plans to upgrade these sidewalks. El Sierra - Construct new 550' sidewalk from 68th St to north side of school. Belle Aire - Construct 1350' of new sidewalk, of which 700' will be off-street. Pierce Downer - Construct 2750' of new sidewalk on Cornell Ave. and also on Chicago Ave.

3b. Infrastructure Detail and Cost Estimate:

The purpose of this project is to provide connectivity of missing, or deteriorated sidewalks for El Sierra and Belle Aire Schools.

Right of Way Acquired: **Not Applicable**

Right of Way Agreement Acquired: **Not Applicable**

Cost Data

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING 1 / ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION: **\$3000**

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING 2: **\$4000**

RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION: **\$0**

CONSTRUCTION: **\$43000**

CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING: **\$0**

Total Cost: \$50000

3c. Project Schools:

BELLE AIRE ELEM SCHOOL receives the primary benefit from this Project.

Also receiving benefit from this Project:

EL SIERRA ELEM SCHOOL

3d. Project Travel Information:

This is how our students travel to and from school.

Travel Mode	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Public Transit	Other
Number of Students	934	50	1869	2129	0	0	0
Percentage	18.75%	1.00%	37.52%	42.73%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

These are the distances our students live from school.

Distance lived from school	Less Than 1 mile	1 to 1.5 miles	More Than 1.5 miles
Number of Students	2123	2124	735
Percentage	42.61%	42.63%	14.75%

3e. Hazards and Barriers

■ The existence of insufficient, deteriorating, or otherwise missing sidewalks create an unsafe condition for all children currently walking to school. To attract more children to walk and or bike in the future requires completing the walkway gaps, and reconstructing all deteriorating sidewalk sections to make it safer to use. Parents have cited that missing and deteriorating walkways are a detriment to their children's ability to use these facilities.

3f. Potential for Improving Walking and Bicycling

This project will increase the number of students walking and bicycling to and from school by:

a. By the village providing a congenial and conducive pathway for walking, it will encourage more students to walk to school. Currently, 11% of the students walk to Belle Aire School and we believe constructing sidewalks on the east side of the school will increase the number of students walking to and from school.

And improve the safety of students who walk and bicycle to and from school by:

b. N/A

3g. Consultation and Support

■ School District 58 has stated that the questionnaire conducted in 2007 was very beneficial to ascertain the concerns and wishes of the parents in the district. The response rate from the parents was substantial for this type of survey. In the past, parents' attitudes, opinions, and safety concerns were not available. The village believes that with this comprehensive response from the parents, we are better able to specifically address the types of concerns by location and severity.

Jurisdictional Authority

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Agency Contact: David Fieldman

Agency Address: 801 Burlington Ave.

Agency City: Downers Grove

Agency State: IL

Agency Phone: 630-434-5500

Agency Email: dfieldman@downers.us

School District

Agency Name: District 58
 Agency Contact: Lorie Pilster
 Agency Address: 1860 63rd Street
 Agency City: Downers Grove
 Agency State: IL
 Agency Phone: 630-719-5800
 Agency Email: lpilster@dg58.org

Project Name: Install curb extensions to reduce the crossing distance on streets
Project Type: Infrastructure

3a. Demonstration of Need

■ We wish to improve unsafe or insufficient walkways, bikeways and crossings.

The village believes that bulb-outs are needed for Kingsley School on Norfolk at both Barrett and Powell Streets, plus Whittier School at Grand and Hill. Bulb-outs will assist in reducing the crossing distance of these key arterial streets. Currently, many motorists ignore traffic laws and jeopardize kids' safety. Reducing the crossing distance will be an effective means of increasing pedestrian safety.

3b. Infrastructure Detail and Cost Estimate:

The purpose of this project will be to reduce the crossing distance at Kingsley and Whittier Schools, thereby improving pedestrian safety.

Right of Way Acquired: **Not Applicable**
 Right of Way Agreement Acquired: **Not Applicable**

Cost Data

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING 1 / ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION: **\$2000**
 PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING 2: **\$5000**
 RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION: **\$0**
 CONSTRUCTION: **\$12000**
 CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING: **\$0**

Total Cost: \$19000

3c. Project Schools:

KINGSLEY ELEM SCHOOL receives the primary benefit from this Project.

Also receiving benefit from this Project:
 WHITTIER ELEM SCHOOL

3d. Project Travel Information:

This is how our students travel to and from school.

Travel Mode	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Public Transit	Other
Number of Students	934	50	1869	2129	0	0	0
Percentage	18.75%	1.00%	37.52%	42.73%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

These are the distances our students live from school.

Distance lived from school	Less Than 1 mile	1 to 1.5 miles	More Than 1.5 miles
Number of Students	2123	2124	735
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3e. Hazards and Barriers

■ Based on District 58 questionnaire, "crossing streets and intersections is difficult or dangerous" was a high priority and cited as a serious hazard. For example, many students at Kingsley School need to cross Dunham Road and Norfolk Street, which are very congested, especially during the AM hours. Bulb-outs on Norfolk at Barrett and Powell will significantly improve crossing safety. Whittier School - The bulb-outs at Hill and Grand will significantly reduce the crossing distance; moreover, it will positively direct the motoring public.

3f. Potential for Improving Walking and Bicycling

This project will increase the number of students walking and bicycling to and from school by:

a. N/A

And improve the safety of students who walk and bicycle to and from school by:

b. Bulb-outs at Kingsley and Whittier Schools will significantly improve the safety of students who walk to and from school. With a shorter crossing distance, the risks of a student being struck by a vehicle will be greatly diminished. The Village believes that bulb-outs are very effective infrastructure tools in traffic calming programs.

3g. Consultation and Support

■ The Village of Downers Grove has received the resolution and endorsement of Downers Grove School District 58 in 2007 and 2008. The Village of Downers Grove is aggressively pursuing these projects in an effort to enhance the safety and operations for school children and the motoring public at Kingsley and Whittier Schools.

Jurisdictional Authority

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