# VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 14, 2014 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:		SUBMITTED BY:
	✓	Resolution	
		Ordinance	
2014 Safe Routes to School		Motion	Nan Newlon, P.E.
Program		Discussion Only	Director of Public Works

### **SYNOPSIS**

A resolution has been prepared to authorize participation in the Illinois Safe Routes to School Program through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

### STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The goals for 2011-2018 include Top Quality Infrastructure..

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

If selected, participation in this program will provide funding for infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects associated with the Village's Safe Routes to School program. The Village will request funding for several projects totaling approximately \$200,000, of which 80% (\$160,000) is grant funded, and 20% (\$40,000) would be Village-funded. This program is processed on a reimbursement basis and staff anticipates that approximately 100% of project expenditures will be incurred in the Capital Projects Fund in FY15 or FY16.

### RECOMMENDATION

Approval on the January 14, 2014 consent agenda.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The purpose of the program is to provide funding to improve the safety of K-8 students who walk or bicycle for their trip to and from school by minimizing street crossings in the vicinity of schools, and providing tools to reduce the speed of vehicles.

The grant application is due before January 31, 2014. If selected for grant funding, the Village will be required to approve a local agency agreement with IDOT supporting infrastructure and non-infrastructure costs for items such as sidewalks, traffic speed radar devices, and pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements.

The Village has coordinated with District 58 to determine their current pedestrian and bicycle safety needs. Potential project locations were selected in collaboration with District 58, and include new sidewalk segments along streets within the walking areas in the Lester, Whittier and Pierce Downer school neighborhoods. It is likely this funding will not be authorized for two years. If higher priority sidewalk segments are identified in the meantime this change will be requested in the grant application.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Resolution Downers Grove Safe Routes to School Application District 58 Letter of Support Maps

### 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 Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove, DuPage County, Illinois, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program was originally established in August 2005 as a Federal-Aid program through the passage of SAFETEA-LU Act and reestablished as part of the TEA-21 program to provide funds to states to substantially improve the ability of primary and middle school students (grades Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup>) to walk and bicycle to school safely;

WHEREAS, the Village of Downers Grove wishes to participate in Safe Routes to School (SRTS) 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 Safe Routes to School (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 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program 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 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following projects are scheduled within the Village of Downers Grove:

- 1) Construct, replace or repair sidewalks.
- 2) Teach personal safety skills to students and parents.

- 3) Install curb extensions to reduce the crossing distance on streets.
- 4) Educate parents and caregivers about safe driving procedures at the school.
- 5) Measure parent/guardian perceptions of safety.
- 6) Install solar driver feedback radar signs (portable).
- 7) Install new or improved signage (school zone, speed limits, crosswalk, speed feedback signs (fixed), etc).

<u>SECTION 1</u>. That all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with the provisions of the Resolution are hereby repealed.

<u>SECTION 2</u>. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage as provided by law.

	Mayor
Passed:	
Attest:	
Village Clerk	

1\mw\res.14\Safe Routes To School



### **Infrastructure Project Application**

Funding for projects under these application criteria may be used to plan, design, and construct infrastructure related projects that will substantially improve the ability of students (grades K – 8) to walk and bike to school.

Application Name: Village of Downers Grove - 2014 Safe Routes to School Program					
Application Sponsor (Primary Contact) Entity*: Local Government ⊠ Regional Transportation Authority □ School District, Local Education Agency, or School □					
	Applicant:	7	Project Manager &/or Sponsor:		
Name:	Kathy DesMarteau		Dorin Fera		
Title:	Grants Coordinator - Village of Downers Grove	<u>.</u>	Traffic Engineering Manager		
Mailing Address:			5101 Walnut Ave		
City:	Downers Grove		Downers Grove		
County:	DuPage		DuPage		
Zip:	60515		60515		
Phone:	630-434-5580		630-434-6863		
Fax:	630-434-5571		630-434-5495		
Email:	kdesmarteau@downers.us		dfera@downers.us		
*Nonprofit organi MAP 21 guideline	zations and Metropolitan Planning Orga es.	ıizat			
	<b>cy within an MPO?</b> $\boxtimes$ Yes $\square$ No (If yes o and include letter of project concurrence.)		MPO: Chicago Metropolitan Area for Planning- DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference		
Name: Mr. Mik	e Albin Pho	ne:	630-571-0480		
Address: 1220 Oa	k Brook Rd Fax		630-571-0484		
City/Zip: Oak Bro	ok , IL 60523 Ema	ál:	malbin@dmmc-cog.org		
Project Cost:					
7	Total: \$200,000.00 Requested An	oun	t: \$200,000.00 (\$200,000.00 maximum)		
80% SRTS Fund	ding: \$160,000.00 (maximum \$160,000.00	)			
20% Local Ma	<b>atch:</b> \$40,000.00 (maximum \$40,000.00)				
Contingencies: Is this project contingent on the completion of another project? ☐ Yes ☒ No					
School Proximity: Is this project located within 2 miles of a primary or middle school (grades K-8)?   ☐ Yes ☐ No					

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## **Infrastructure Project Application**

Public Input Process			
Parent Surveys and Student Tallies	Tallies Yes No (Attach files associated to this project)		
Interview Key Stakeholders (optional)	☐ Yes ☒ No	(Attach written interviews)	
Public Comment Period	☐ Yes ☒ No	Dates to (attach sample comments)	
Engineering Studies	☐ Yes ☒ No	(Attach documentation)	
Conduct Community "Walkabout"	☐ Yes ⊠ No	Date: (Attach photos) Location: Description:	
Conduct Community "Bikeabout"	☐ Yes ⊠ No	Date: (Attach photos) Location: Description:	
Incorporate School Wellness Policy	⊠ Yes □ No	(Attach written policy)	
Project Categories: Infrastructure			
1. Sidewalks*  New Sidewalk  Sidewalk Repair  Sidewalk Gap Closure  Sidewalk Widening  Sidewalk Curb  Sidewalk Curb Ramp		4. Traffic Diversion Separation of Bicycles and pedestrians from traffic adjacent to school facilities Traffic diversion away from school zone or designated route to school New/Revised Pick-up/Drop-off Zone	
2. Traffic Calming/Speed Reduction Bulb-out Speed Bump/Hump/Table Raised Crossing Median Refuge/Center Cross Narrowed Traffic Lane Chicane Choker Lane Reductions Full/Half Street Closure	sing	5. Pedestrian and Bicycle Crossing Improvements Crossing Improvements Crossing Improvements New/Upgraded Signs Improvements Median Refuge Improvements Sight Distance Improvements  6. On Street Bicycle Facilities Improvements New/Upgraded Bike Lane Improvements New/Upgraded Bike Lane Improvements	
3. Traffic Control Devices . New/Upgraded Signs New/Upgraded Traffic Signa New Pavement Markings New Traffic Striping In-Roadway Crossing Light Flashing Beacons		Geometric Improvements Channelization Traffic Signs Pavement Markings  7. Off Street Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities	
Bike Sensitive Signal Actuat Device Pedestrian Activated Signal Pedestrian Countdown Signa Vehicle Speed Feedback Sig	Upgrades 🔲	8. Secure Bicycle Parking Facilities  Bike Racks  Bike Lockers  Designated Area with Safety Lighting  Covered Bike Shelters	



### **Infrastructure Project Application**

\*All sidewalk improvements will be required to meet ADA requirements.

### Improvements Mapping:

(Attach or upload maps for school(s) in the plan and proposed improvement location(s).)

### Infrastructure Project Details

Infrastructure Project Description: (Detailed summary of project)

Description of Project: The Village of Downers Grove is pursuing SRTS funding on behalf of District 58 schools, to ensure that all students can use the physical transportation system to benefit their health and the environment. A secondary goal is to reduce the number of vehicles needing to drive to school. We will involve the Village's Public Works and Police Department staff, District 58 staff, and parents' groups. Through these effots, the Village anticipates increasing the number of children walking and bicycling, improving the sidewalk network, and increasing enforcement. The Village and District 58 have collaborated on many successful pedestrian and safety projects in the past. We are very grateful and excited at the opportunity to submit this application for consideration. We truly hope to continue the bicycle and pedestrian improvements we have begun through the SRTS program.

Project School (school name, city, county & description): Pierce Downer School, Whittier School, Lester School, all located within Downers Grove, in DuPage County. (See attached school boundary maps).

Demonstration of Need: We wish to improve unsafe or insufficient walkways, bikeways and crossings. With the proposed new sidewalk segments, our goal is to enhance the transportation system for pedestrians, walkers, and parents with strollers. If there are gaps in the sidewalk or discontinuous routes, parents are less likely to permit their children to walk or bike. The Village policy is to provide sidewalk at least along one side of of the street. With this project, we popose to follow our policy and provide access and connectivity between neighborhoods. We expect to increase the number of students walking and bicycling, which will decrease the number of vehicles coming to school. These three (3) schools were selected because all are neighborhood schoools that were not designed for excessive vehicular traffic; they were also selected because they do not provide school busing service.

School Demographics*:	Physical Environment: (urban, rural, suburban, etc.)		
	Suburban		
	Total # students:4,990 households: 2,625		
	% students designated as low income: 14.5		
	Total # Disabled students: 650		

Safety Hazards and Barriers to Walking and Bicycling: At Pierce Downer School, the missing sidewalks cause pedestrians, strollers, and bikers to use the various streets, which are often narrow. There is no pedestrian connection at all on Northcott Ave at Chicago Ave. The section along Grant St is desirable to bring students from the south, but there is no sidewalk there currently.

Lester School has the most walkers and bikers in the District, and Cumnor Rd is a vehicular speeding concern. The roadway is also narrow, with minimal or no shoulders. Chicago Ave and Cumnor Rd are vital connections for pedestrians from both directions, but there is no sidewalk along the east side of Cumnor Rd, nor the north side of Chicago Ave.

Whittier School is in need of more connections to the east. There is a crossing guard at Fairview Ave and Hill St that assists students. However, a sidewalk network along Cumnor Rd, Victor St and Williams St is lacking and needs to be constructed.

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### **Infrastructure Project Application**

Potential to Reduce Child Injuries and Fatalities: (document any related traffic crashes or number of citations issued) We have not been able to acquire data for 2011 and 2012 for this submittal. However, during 2013 alone the Village has issued 800 citations in the vicinity of Pierce Downer, Whittier, and Lester Schools. Of this total, approximately 10 % related to speeding, improper lane usage, violating STOP-controls, and wrong-way driving that occurred within the immediate environs to the schools. We believe that with improved walking/bicycling connectivity (including markings and signage) there is a stronger potential to reduce motorist conflicts and thereby pedestrian and bicycling incidents.

Creating Solutions (Strategies including the Encouragement, Engineering, Enforcement, Education and Evaluation – the 5 E's): The Village of Downers Grove is pursuing the 5E's through the various means we have available. Our educational programs and enforcement programs are routinely offered/monitored by the Police Department. Encouragement and evaluation are supported through District 58, their staff and the PTA members, who regularly promote walking/bicycling, safety training, and educational tools for their students.

The Village's Public Works Department provides the professional engineering solutions, through our staff of engineers and planners. We have utilized the Driver Feedback Radar signs, mid-block pedestrian crossing signs, and enhanced roadway striping at various schools to promote improved access and safety. We are experienced with the SRTS process, creating school designs, and utilizing Village engineering resources to provide school accessibility.

Potential for Improving Walking & Bicycling: We believe the potential for increased walking and biking will be increased through the proposed new sidewalks at Pierce Downer, Whittier, and Lester Schools. The parents' surveys have indicated to District 58 that lack of sidewalks or sidewalk connections cause them to choose driving over walking. Students experience severe weather year-around in this geographic region, and having paved sidewalks will greatly enhance their ability to stay safe and reach school.

Motorist/pedestrian conflicts will be reduced as motorists will not be surprised by students walking on the edge of streets. The availability of positive paved paths will encourage young bicyclists to ride and remain safely separated from motorist traffic.

Consultation and Support: The Village and Disrict 58 together have developed a Parent Questionnaire, from which key responses are included. Parents' responses were well-received and very constructive toward offering a variety of Village/District solutions for walking/bicycling in the District. The Village has implemented many solutions and designs already. Providing a paved sidewalk program to enhance connectivity is still on our "to do" list, such that we will have 100% sidewalk connections from neighborhoods to schools.

District 58 and the Village have had dialogues regarding school children safety for many years prior, and have maintained ongoing discussions on a yearly basis regarding the SRTS program since 2005. We will continue to collaborate on school issues and needs in the future to address school children safety and accessibility programs. The District's letter of support is included herewith.

### **Travel Information-Current** (Number of Children)

	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Car-rider	Public Transit	Other
#	950	75	1,825	2,140	0	0
%	19.0	1.5	36.5	43.0	0	0

	Less Than One Mile	One to One Half Mile	More than One Half Mile (car/bus riders)
#	2172	2145	673
%	43.5	43.0	13.5

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## Infrastructure Project Application

### **Travel Information-Proposed** (Number of Children)

	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Car-rider	Public Transit	Other
#	1,085	142	1,850	1,968	0	0
%	21.5	3.0	36.5	39.0	0	0

	Less Than One Mile	One to One Half Mile	More than One Half Mile (car/bus riders)
#	2,192	2,155	698
%	43.4	42.7	13.9

**Community Support:** The Village of Downers Grove and School District 58 are collaborating on this very important school safety and accessibility application. In addition to District 58's staff and Superintendent, the Village's Public Works Department, Police Department, Village Attorney's Office, and Finance Department are already involved in and support this proposed project. In addition the Village Council is in full support of this application, as demonstrated through the adoption of its Resolution, which is attached.

### Infrastructure Project Cost Details

	Construction Project Category Cost (attach detailed estimate)				
•	, , ,				
Cost Type	Amount	Description			
Equipment	\$14,000.00	Driver Feedback Radar signs, Bike Racks, Bike shelters, new school advance signs, upgraded pavement markings, mid-block pedestrian crossing signs			
Material	\$186,000.00	PCC Sidewalk (5' wide) per Village standard			
Consultant Services (maximum 10%)	\$0.00	The Village will provide survey and design engineering services			
Right of Way	0.00	ROW is NOT required for any of the proposed locations			
Total	\$200,000.00				

Summar	y:	

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## **Infrastructure Project Application**

to submit this applicatin for the 201 government. However, we have ma	s associated School District 58 are very pleased 4 Safe Routes To School program. We realize anaged over the years to implement many school as well as SRTS funds when they were available.	funding is limited at all levels of ool safety and accessibility features
program we hope to be selected to Downer Schools. We strongly belie more biking and walking to school. their boundaries are within the 1.5 great strides in past years to keep b	Ilthy walking and biking environment. Through implement the various improvements we have ve these improvements will improve safety and These schools were selected especially becaus mile limit, so there is no busing or transit possilicycling and walking as viable options. With the ct to enhance their continued support for walk	listed at Lester, Whittier, and Pierce d provide connectivity to encourage se of their geographic hardship, as ble. Students and parents have made ese proposed projects and the suppor
Other Supporting/Coordination Partnerships/coordination to Endorsement representative	petween schools and local government	documentation for this application)
·	ew student counts & tallies within 6 months	🛚 Agree 🔲 Disagree
Will conduct and provide page	arent surveys within 6 months of close of p	roject ☑ Agree  □ Disagree
Additional SRTS Team Membe	rs:	
Name: Tom Topor	Email: ttopor@downers.us	Phone: 630-434-5487
Name: Lorie Pilster	Email: lpilster@dg58.org	Phone: 630-719-5839
Name: Kathy DesMarteau	Email: kdesmarteau@downers.us	Phone: 630-434-5580
Name:	Email:	Phone:
Name:	Email:	Phone:
Name:	Email:	Phone:

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### **Infrastructure Project Application**

### Options for submittal:

Mail supporting documentation along with completed application to the following address:

Illinois Department of Transportation

Bureau of Safety Engineering-Safe Routes to School

2300 S. Dirksen Parkway, Room 323

Springfield, IL 62764

Scan and email all documentation along with completed application to the following email address:

DOT.SAFEROUTES@illinois.gov.

Upload all documentation along with completed application.

\*All schools must be registered with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to be eligible for Safe Routes to School funding.

1/10/2014

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December 16, 2013

Village of Downers Grove 801 Burlington Avenue Downers Grove, IL 60515

Please accept this letter of support for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program. Downers Grove Grade School District 58 wishes to participate in this program, with the Village of Downers Grove acting as lead agency, 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.

District 58 supports the SRTS Program as a means of improving childhood physical activity and exercise, reducing childhood obesity, reducing air pollution and traffic congestion near schools, enhancing police department enforcement, and promoting pedestrian safety measures in the vicinity of schools.

The contact person for all SRTS related information is Lorie Pilster, Director of Business Services. Should you have any questions you may contact Lorie at 630-719-5838.

Sincerely,

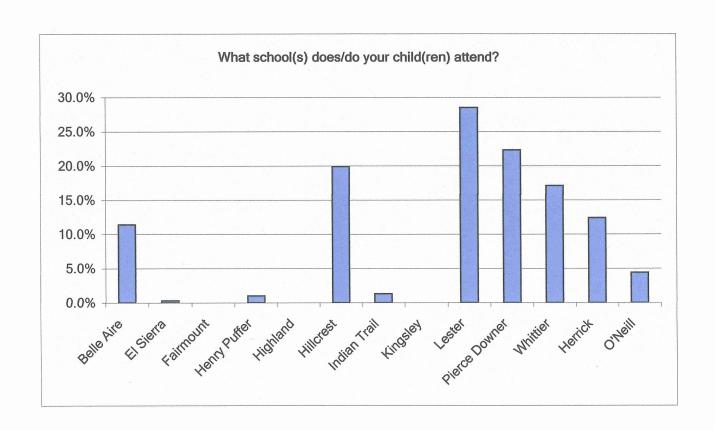
Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D.

Superintendent

Dist 58 Safe Routes to School parent questionnaire

What school(s) does/do your child(ren) attend?

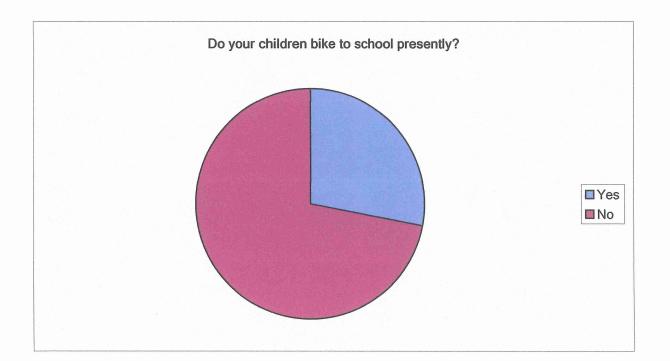
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Belle Aire	11.4%	44
El Sierra	0.3%	1
Fairmount	0.0%	0
Henry Puffer	1.0%	4
Highland	0.0%	0
Hillcrest	19.9%	77
Indian Trail	1.3%	5
Kingsley	0.0%	0
Lester	28.5%	110
Pierce Downer	22.3%	86
Whittier	17.1%	66
Herrick	12.4%	48
O'Neill	4.4%	17
	answered question skipped question	38



Dist 58 Safe Routes to School parent questionnaire

Do your children bike to school presently?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	28.0%	106
No	72.0%	273
	answered question	
skipped question		7

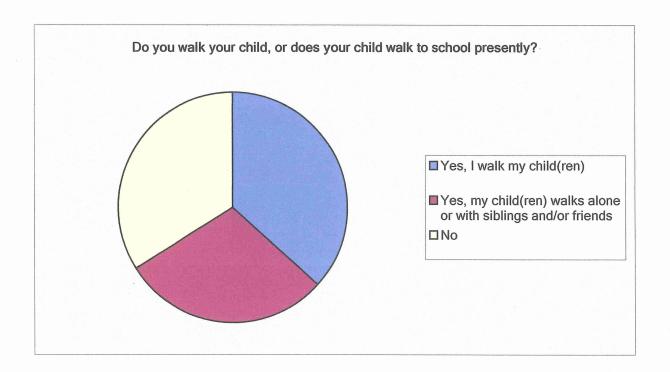


Dist 58 Safe Routes to School parent questionnaire

Do you walk your child, or does your child walk to school presently?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, I walk my child(ren)	36.6%	141
Yes, my child(ren) walks alone or with siblings and/or friends	29.6%	114
No	33.8%	130
	answered auestion	38

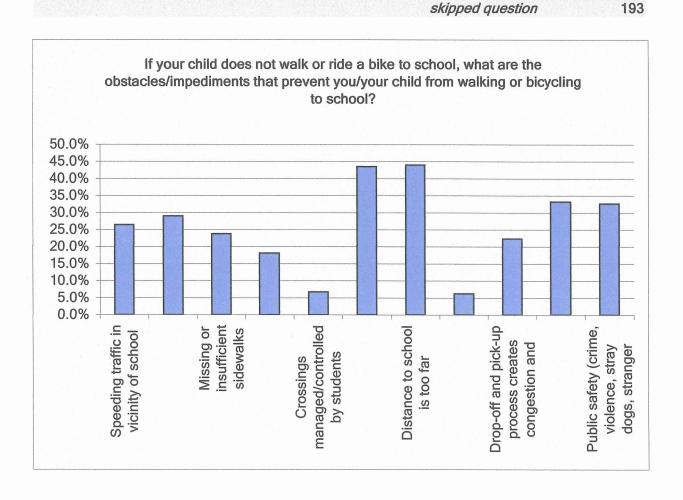
answered question 385 skipped question 1



Dist. 58 Safe Routes to School parent questionnaire

If your child does not walk or ride a bike to school, what are the obstacles/impediments that prevent you/your child from walking or bicycling to school?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Speeding traffic in vicinity of school	26.4%	51
Too many cars on the streets	29.0%	56
Missing or insufficient sidewalks	23.8%	46
No safe place to ride bikes	18.1%	35
Crossings managed/controlled by students	6.7%	13
Crossing major streets is difficult and dangerous	43.5%	84
Distance to school is too far	44.0%	85
Bicycle parking at school is unavailable or non-secure	6.2%	12
Drop-off and pick-up process creates congestion and unsafe behavior	22.3%	43
Lack of adults to support kids along a walking route	33.2%	64
Public safety (crime, violence, stray dogs, stranger abductions, registered sex offenders)	32.6%	63
Other (please specify)		50
ans	swered question	193

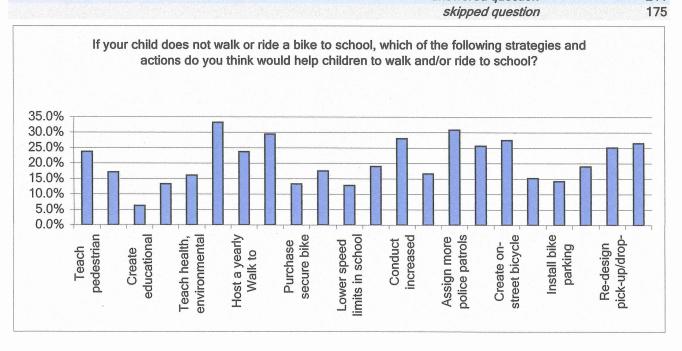


### Dist 58 Safe Routes to School parent questionnaire

If your child does not walk or ride a bike to school, which of the following strategies and actions do you think would

help children to walk and/or ride to school?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Teach pedestrian and bike skills to students and parents	23.7%	50
Educate parents about safe driving procedures at/near schools	17.1%	36
Create educational materials and distribute through PTA	6.2%	13
Create walking/biking games and competitions in classroom	13.3%	28
Teach health, environmental benefits of walking and bicycling	16.1%	34
Start a Walking School Bus program at your school	33.2%	70
Host a yearly Walk to School Day at Dist 58	23.7%	50
Create a Safe House walking program	29.4%	62
Purchase secure bike racks for use at schools	13.3%	28
Create a Park and Walk program	17.5%	37
_ower speed limits in school areas	12.8%	27
Jse Police Dept. Speed Trailers for enforcement	19.0%	40
Conduct increased warning and ticketing efforts	28.0%	59
nstall Solar Flashing Speed Radar Warning signs	16.6%	35
Assign more police patrols at schools when kids arrive/depart school	30.8%	65
Construct, improve, and replace sidewalks	25.6%	54
Create on-street bicycle facilities (wide shoulders, bike lanes, etc.)	27.5%	58
nstall traffic calming or speed reduction measures (curb extensions, raised crosswalks, narrowing lanes, street closures)	15.2%	32
nstall bike parking at/near schools (bike racks, bike lockers, covered shelters)	14.2%	30
nstall traffic control devices (pedestrian signals, flashing beacons)	19.0%	40
Re-design pick-up/drop-off procedures to increase safety and access	25.1%	53
Assign more crossing guards at key crossing locations	26.5%	56
	answered question	





## PROPOSED NEW SIDEWALK LOCATIONS

1. Chicago Ave - Northcott Ave to Downers Dr

2. Grant St - Downers Dr to Seeley Ave

3. Chicago Ave - Montgomery Ave to Oakwood Ave



### **PROPOSED NEW SIDEWALK LOCATION**

1. Cumnor Rd - 55th St to 6th St

YIELD SIGN



### PROPSED NEW SIDEWALK LOCATIONS

- 1. Cumnor Rd Lincoln Ave to Grant St/Traube Ave
- 2. Chicago Ave Florence Ave to Cumnor Rd