

MINUTES
Safe Routes to School Committee Meeting
September 7, 2011 - 3:00 P.M.

The Safe Routes to School Committee met during a regular meeting on September 7, 2011 at 3:00 p.m., in the Civic Center, 200 W. Arrington St., Farmington, New Mexico.

Present: Champion: Debra Mayeux

Members: Steve Krest
Joe Delmagori
Martin Lucero
June Markle
Pat Cordell
Sergeant Dave Monfils
Jeff Treat

Absent: Members: Shawn Lyle
Candace Young
William Young

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m. by Debra Mayeux and the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Mayeux opened the meeting and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 3, 2011 meeting. Mr. Krest moved to approve the minutes and Mr. Cordell seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

Apache Elementary – Mrs. Debbie Braff: Mrs. Mayeux has not yet spoken with Mrs. Braff this year, but is planning to stop in and meet with her during the next few weeks.

McKinley Elementary- Mrs. Marilee Dexel: McKinley Elementary is still planning to host the Walking School Bus training which is scheduled for November 3rd. UNM has volunteered to provide the snacks and lunch for those participating. SRTS Committee Member Amanda DeWees attended McKinley’s Back to School open house.

Mesa Verde Elementary - Mrs. Cynthia Sosaya: Mrs. Mayeux stated that she had spoken with Mr. Matt Lamoreux with Allstate Insurance. Mr. Lamoreux offered to see if his company would become a corporate sponsor for the bike curriculum program at Mesa Verde.

Mrs. Mayeux learned through a contact at Conoco Phillips that they award annual grants for physical education programs. She has obtained the application form and will write a grant request for the Mesa Verde bike curriculum to be considered by Conoco Phillips next year.

Mr. Krest reported that he attended the Back to School night and distributed SRTS information.

Ladera Del Norte Elementary- Mr. Gary Jackson: Mrs. Ashworth and the 5th grade gifted students are expected to begin work on the “no cell phone zone” pledge in the following weeks. Once the pledge is finalized, it will be presented to the school. The school will then have a student art contest for the “No Cell Phone” logo. Once the artwork entries have been narrowed down to a dozen or so finalists, SRTS Committee Members will select the winner(s). The pledge and the artwork will then be presented to the School Board and the Farmington City Council for their review and approval.

Mrs. Mayeux attended the Ladera Back to School night and the subsequent PTO meeting. She spoke about SRTS and, although educators are interested, parents seemed disinterested and had numerous misconceptions about the SRTS program (its purpose and how it is funded).

Champion Efforts: Mrs. Mayeux reported on the National SRTS Conference she attended in August and the great contacts, both local and national, she made. Main issues for SRTS programs are access, traffic, and weather with little effort needed to be expended on perceived criminal concerns. Mrs. Mayeux attended a session on working with tribal governments and learned that Navajo DOT is supportive of SRTS. This support will help with SRTS efforts in Shiprock.

Mrs. Mayeux said SRTS had received a letter from FHWA Administrator, Victor Mendez, congratulating the program for the grant to develop a “No Cell Phone” zone at Ladera and the efforts toward addressing the issue of distracted driving.

Reports were given for each “E”.

Education: Mrs. Mayeux will be publicizing the International Walk to School Day. Additionally, she applied for rewards for the International walk to School Day Event for all for schools. She hopes to be receiving prizes from the National SRTS.

Melanie Majors with The Majors Company has asked for assistance from SRTS in helping a group conduct pedestrian observations at several intersections during October. The group needs 8-10 people to observe pedestrian travel at crosswalks at four different city intersections on a Friday and Saturday in October. There will be a training session on September 29th to explain what data the volunteers will be tracking. If SRTS can supply the needed volunteers, the company will give back \$500-\$750 to the program.

Mrs. Mayeux plans to speak with the School Board this year to clarify the purpose of SRTS and to encourage their support. She believes that they, along with the PTOs and parents, think SRTS is taking money away from the school district rather than working independently to support the schools and promote the students’ safety.

Mrs. Mayeux said that Mr. Ed Horvath with the River Reach Foundation would like to speak to the SRTS Committee to present some trail ideas and encourage efforts to make Farmington more “walkable”.

Mrs. Mayeux has also spoken with Gary Torres who is the new field manager for the Farmington BLM office. He plans to encourage the development of trails within the City

that connect to public lands. He worked extensively in California and more recently in Moab, Utah to develop these same types of trails.

Encouragement: Mr. Lucero commented that the bike racks at both Ladera and McKinley have been completely filled these first few weeks of the new school year. Mrs. Mayeux said she would get some pictures of the racks taken for publication.

Ms. Tracy Lawing in Shiprock has asked for assistance in establishing a SRTS program. Mr. Lucero said this needed to be coordinated with Mr. Larry Joe with Navajo DOT, but that the SRTS Committee could facilitate as needed. Mr. Delmagori stated that MPO Staff could help assess conflict points and provide recommendations for improvements. A SRTS representative from Alaska who attended the National SRTS Conference spoke about a recycled material in use in Alaska to combat muddy, rutted dirt roads that, once applied, driven over and compacted, provides a smoother driving surface. Mrs. Mayeux will provide this information to Ms. Lawing for possible use in Shiprock.

Enforcement: Sergeant Monfils reported that fire and police department employees were out in force in school zones during the first week of school.

Engineering: Mr. Krest reported that the bike map has been completed. 2,000 copies are being printed and will soon be available in all City offices. Mr. Krest said to let him know what other locations should have maps.

Mr. Krest has revised and updated the SRTS maps. The maps should be ready around October 1st and will be distributed to all the elementary schools along with a letter detailing the SRTS program.

Mr. Krest stated that his department has completed re-marking 90-95% of the school cross-walks.

Evaluation:

Mr. Delmagori stated that student arrival counts will be conducted at McKinley and Apache the week of September 12th and at Ladera and Mesa Verde the week of September 19th. MPO Staff will need assistance in taking these counts and Mrs. Mayeux said she would try to recruit some parents to assist.

The next SRTS meeting will be October 5, 2011 at 3:00 pm at the Civic Center.

Mrs. Mayeux adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.