

MINUTES
Safe Routes to School Committee Meeting
August 19, 2010 - 1:50 P.M.

The Safe Routes to School Committee met during a regular meeting on August 19, 2010 at 1:50 P.M., at Ladera Elementary, 308 E 35th St, Farmington, New Mexico.

Present:	Champion:	Theresa Lawing
	Members:	Joe Delmagori Martin Lucero Sergeant Tracy
Absent:	Members:	Candace Young Diana Lang Lieutenant Hardy Marilee Herman Officer Tyson Steve Krest Shawn Lyle William Young

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:54 p.m. by Theresa Lawing and the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Delmagori motioned to approve the July 21, 2010 minutes. Sergeant Tracy seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Mrs. Lawing indicated that she spoke with Mrs. Herman and that Mrs. Herman will be able to help with the International Walk to School Day on October 6, 2010. However, after that date she cannot continue on as the parent representative for Apache Elementary. Mrs. Lawing is planning on meeting with the school principal and PTO to see if additional parent representatives for the school can be assigned or identified. If a parent volunteer cannot be identified, Mrs. Lawing will try to coordinate the program functions through either the PE teacher or another teacher volunteer.

Mrs. Lawing continued by indicating that she had met with the Mesa Verde Elementary School's principal, a first grade teacher and the PE teacher. Mrs. Lawing is planning on attending the School's open house on August 24, 2010. Mrs. Lawing then described her experience at the McKinley's Elementary Meet and Greet Night. She was well received by the school principal and the teachers and received a warm reception from all the parents. She indicated the new PTO president was receptive to the program. The parents remembered the program that was coordinated last year by Mrs. Lucero and were happy to see some progress being made with the relocation of the crosswalk. Mr. Lucero indicated that the number of students walking at the beginning of the school year seemed to be up this year and that the new crosswalk seems to be working. The report received by the crossing guards was that parents are walking with their children and are commenting that the City and the school are making strides in making the walking environment safer for children. Mrs. Lawing added that she thinks that she was able to

find a new parent volunteer for the school while at the open house. She is a new parent from Arizona and is excited to help. Mrs. Lawing was not able to attend the Apache open house as it was on the same day as the Ladera open house.

Mrs. Lawing reported that she had registered all four schools for the October 6th International Walk to School Day and also registered them with the NMDOT SRTS program for the free incentives. Mr. Lucero asked how many students Mrs. Lawing thought would be participating. Mrs. Lawing stated that she registered 175 students per school. A discussion ensued about the number of students that participated last year and it was decided that Mrs. Lawing would contact the state to increase the number of participating students as the three schools from last year were all higher than the number of incentives requested. Mrs. Lawing is looking into sending out flyers for the walk to school day in the middle of next month. She just needs to have them printed down.

The Action Plan Narrative is still being developed to meet all the stipulations outlined in the NM SRTS Handbook. Ms. Lawing intends to finish adding graphs and tables to the narrative to help depict the current situation by the end of the month. Once the plan is revised she will have the committee review the plan.

Mr. Lucero asked if new walking maps for the Walk Across America were needed. Mrs. Lawing asked for clarification of the program and what was needed for each school. Mr. Lucero explained the maps that the MPO created for the Walk Across America campaign. He indicated that originally four options were created. The options all go from the West Coast to the East Coast by various routes. The committee last year decided that all schools should take the same option, which went from Disneyland to New York City by way of a southern route. The Walk Across America Campaign ended the first week of May.

Mrs. Lawing asked about how the mileage was accounted for and whether they were actual miles or relative miles. Mr. Delmagori explained that each student that walked to school or home earned one mile on the walking chart. The walking miles were then tallied and grouped together by school. Mrs. Lucero kept track of the kids so the students that reached mile stones could be recognized. Some rewards included water bottles, pencils and certificates, with t-shirts being handed out to all the students that reached 100 miles walking within the school year. A discussion was had on the importance of having the kids walk to and from school and not making a walking program within the school day. The focus needs to be kept on teaching students and parents how to walk safely to and from school in hopes of reducing traffic and congestion. Mrs. Lawing is going to stop by the MPO office to review the Walk Across America maps and to discuss the program.

Mrs. Lawing indicated that she still needed the walking maps for each school. Mr. Lucero indicated that the maps were developed by the City of Farmington Traffic Engineering department and that Mr. Krest would have to create a new map for the schools that had the improvements over the summer like Esperanza and McKinley. Sergeant Tracy indicated that he had developed a letter for the schools that discussed the rules of the road and safety in walking. However, he has not sent it to the schools as he thought it would be cost prohibitive with the short fall in school budgets. Mr. Krest has seen the letter and has made a few minor changes. Mr. Lucero suggested that it could be placed on the back of the walking maps that will be given to all the elementary students in the Farmington School District.

Mrs. Lawing stated she will begin the walking program in September with PSAs and flyers going out to the parents to encourage the students to participate in the October 6th International Walk to School Day. Mr. Lucero added that Mrs. Lawing may want to ask for the Mayor to give a proclamation in support of the program and the International Walk to School Day as has been done in the past. It will help to show support for the program and the efforts of the committee. In correlation, the Farmington PD has been out enforcing the school zones. The first week of the effort will be to give warnings and to inform the public. The second week they will be giving warnings and the third week they will be citing individuals who fail to abide by the regulations. The areas that have had the largest offenses in the past have been along 30th and 20th streets and near McCormick Elementary.

Mrs. Lawing indicated that she has spoken with Mr. Krest concerning the proposed sidewalk ordinance revision. Mr. Krest informed her that the revision has been reviewed by the City Attorney and the Mayor. All of the SRTS committee members have also had a chance to review it. The revision is now currently on the Mayors desk and is waiting for him to bring to the council for consideration. No time frame was given on when it will be taken to council.

Student arrival counts for McKinley, Apache, Mesa Verde, and Ladera Elementary will be conducted during the second and third weeks of September. Both Ladera and Mesa Verde will be done on September 14 – 16th and McKinley and Apache Elementary will be counted on September 21 - 23rd. The committee discussed the number of parent volunteers and staff needed to complete the counts. It was agreed that Ladera would need approximately 4-5 individuals to take the counts and Mesa Verde would need at least three. Apache would need 3 volunteers and McKinley would need 4-5 volunteers due to the new arrangements with the bus bay and new parking lots.

The next SRTS meeting will take place at Ladera Elementary on Thursday, September 16 at 1:50 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.