

MINUTES
Safe Routes to School Committee Meeting
February 12, 2015 3:30 P.M.

The Safe Routes to School Committee met during a regular meeting on February 12, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. at Mesa Verde Elementary, 3801 College Boulevard, Farmington, New Mexico.

Present:	Coordinator:	Anngela Wakan
	MPO & City of Farmington Staff	June Markle SRO Officer Ron Paquin Duane Wakan
	Participants	Anne Johnson, Animas Deanne Maurer, Mesa Verde Jeff Treat, Mesa Verde

Mrs. Wakan called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Mr. Wakan moved to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2014 meeting; Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

EDUCATION & ENCOURAGEMENT
SCHOOL REPORTS

Animas

Ms. Johnson said Animas Elementary needed to revisit beginning this program. She will bring this up with Principal Foose.

Ms. Johnson reported that the walking school bus leader at Animas has moved from the area. Mrs. Wakan will see about putting an announcement in the school newsletter to see if there might be another parent volunteer.

Apache – No update.

Ladera -No update.

McKinley

Mrs. Wakan said that Ms. Nord had reported that the punch card program at McKinley has started off very well.

Mesa Verde

Mrs. Wakan reported that the punch card program at Mesa Verde Elementary is still going very well. Mrs. Maurer agreed that there was a group of children very dedicated to the program. She said she had enough of the charms, but would like to have some jump ropes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Safety Days

Safety Days are scheduled for March 9-13, 2015. SRO Officer Paquin reported that the Police Department is working on the agenda for this year's program and scheduling the buses required to transport the children. They are considering focusing on one school only each day to make transportation easier. Officer Paquin also stated that during this year's Safety Days, they will be looking at what changes can be made in future years to make the programs more fun and interesting, and applicable to first graders.

Mrs. Wakan said she will again teach pedestrian and bicycle safety for this event along with assistance from the UMattR high school students.

Bike to School Day – Bike Trains

The group talked out organizing bike trains and having mascots at each school for Bike to School Day on May 6.

- Ladera – Del Norte Park – led by adult and UMattR teens; Juan Heart
- Mesa Verde – Beckland Hills Park and Rocinante – led by Sandi Perkins, Rick Bennett, Jeff Treat, Mike Barnhardt and Officer Paquin; Piedra Vista Panther
- McKinley – Jaycee Park – led by first grade teacher who bikes (Mrs. Wakan to get her name)
- Animas – Clubhouse – who to lead?; Eddie Eagle (Officer Paquin will check to see if this can be scheduled)

The group discussed safety concerns for a bike train along Hutton Avenue for Animas. Officer Paquin said that the police and fire departments could block off parts of the roadway to help with the safety issues. Officer Paquin added that any children riding their bikes in a bike train would need to wear a helmet. Not wearing a helmet while bike riding was against the law.

Mrs. Wakan asked if there were other local biking enthusiasts that might be willing to lead a bike train (possibly Mayor Roberts?).

Those who participate in the Bike to School Day will receive a pedometer. Mrs. Wakan said there are 1,000 pedometers and if those run out, there will be bike reflectors to hand out to the students.

Bike Rodeos

There were no planned bike rodeos discussed. Ms. Johnson said Animas might be interested in having a bike rodeo. Mrs. Wakan said SRTS could help along with ten parent or teacher volunteers. She recommended limited the rodeo to the first 25 children who sign up. Mr. Treat offered the use of their helmets for this bike rodeo.

ENGINEERING

Mrs. Wakan reported that the installation of the HaWK traffic signal on College Boulevard had been rescheduled for this spring. It was recommended that education needed to be provided to the schools, parents, and drivers so everyone is made aware of the how the signal operates. Mr. Wakan recommended that the City of Farmington's traffic engineer be asked to provide this information.

Officer Paquin also recommended that the city address changes to crosswalks and school zones so that a school zone covered the entire length of the school property.

ENFORCEMENT

Officer Paquin said he was the new SRTS contact for the Police Department and that Officer DeLese had been reassigned to San Juan College to develop their security strategies.

EVALUATION

Mr. Wakan said that the MPO and the Complete Streets Advisory Group (CSAG) has been working to incorporate a health component to the development of complete streets design guidelines. With the assistance of the local public works departments, the CSAG is working to develop a set of minimum standards for sidewalks, bike lanes, travel lanes, medians, and more that will allow a roadway to function for all users. Mr. Wakan commented on how the public health sector involvement in planning has waned over the years and, as a result, a rise of chronic diseases has been seen nationwide over the last several decades. Part of the CSAG initiative is to drive home a focus of health and safety with complete streets.

Mr. Wakan encouraged making a presentation on Complete Streets to the school board to help explain the importance of work being done by the CSAG and the impact good roadway designs would have on local schools and students. He thought such a presentation before the Bike to School Day would encourage participation by school board members in the event and possibly future funding of the SRTS program.

The next meetings will be held on the following Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. at the locations noted:

- March 19 at Animas Elementary
- April 9 at McKinley Elementary
- May 14 at Mesa Verde Elementary

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.