

SafeRoutes

National Center for Safe Routes to School



Case Studies: Stories from around the U.S.

Austin Brown
February 26, 2008



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
**HIGHWAY SAFETY
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Stories from around the country



SRTS CASE STUDY: New London, Iowa New London Starts New SRTS Program



CASE STUDY

Background

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) committee in the City of New London, Iowa, is in the beginning phases of implementing its SRTS activities within the community. In New London, Clark Elementary School, a kindergarten through fifth grade school, is on the same block as the local community childcare center and the New London Junior-Senior High School, which houses the sixth through twelfth grade. The combination of the schools and childcare center creates significant traffic congestion, leading to unsafe conditions for students walking or bicycling to school. With its future infrastructure improvements and SRTS activity support, New London will further increase its level of safety for students walking and bicycling to school.

Details

The members of the SRTS committee come from a variety of disciplines — the police department, city council, the school board, elementary and middle school principals, parents, the school superintendent and the director of the local community childcare center. One transportation engineer temporarily joined the committee to estimate the cost of the sidewalk construction and repairs to begin in spring 2008 for the ten blocks of sidewalk in front of the schools. Although he is not a permanent member of the SRTS committee, the engineer frequently works on projects involving the City of New London.

The committee received \$145,500 in federal SRTS funding from the Iowa Department of Transportation, the bulk of which is for infrastructure improvements. With the funding, city employees had the means to install a flashing yellow light at a critical intersection, and they plan to install parking curbs at the elementary school and paint the crosswalk lines. The remainder of the infrastructure money will go toward the sidewalk repairs.

Although the bulk of the grant money is for infrastructure projects, \$10,000 is earmarked for non-infrastructure-related planning. The committee also received \$8,500 from the HNI Charitable Foundation for non-infrastructure operational elements and new bicycle racks at both Clark Elementary and the junior-senior high school. To record their progress, the committee members are creating a CD toolkit of the documents they have created, and the steps they have made in implementing SRTS activities.

One of Clark Elementary's first SRTS events was a Bike Rodeo run by the police department in Oct. 2007, which exceeded expectations in terms of student attendance. The SRTS committee expected 25 students to attend the rodeo, but almost 70 children participated. At the rodeo, children received either a free bicycle helmet or bicycle lock donated by three local businesses. The police officers set up practice courses for the student bicyclists and an instructional course dedicated to teaching hand signals and other bicycle safety elements. There also was a bicycle raffle and a bicycle maintenance area staffed by a local bicycle shop's two mechanics, who inspected the students' bicycles for tune-ups.



Student receiving bicycle safety tips during the Bike Rodeo.

New London Starts New SRTS Program

The SRTS committee also published its first quarterly newsletter, which aims to inform students and parents about SRTS news and upcoming SRTS activities. The committee plans to apply for \$16,000 in funding from the HNI Charitable Foundation for creating a logo, purchasing a laptop computer for the SRTS coordinator and for hosting a SRTS training session on how the committee can become a self-sustaining organization.

The technical education teacher at the neighboring junior-senior high school is working with the sixth, seventh and eighth grade students to design New London's SRTS Web site. The Web site should be ready in spring 2008 and coincide with the start of sidewalk improvements around the school. Plans also are underway for a SRTS fundraiser and competition in the spring for the different classrooms at Clark Elementary. This fundraiser will require each class to have at least one student or parent walking on the school track for 12 continuous hours. While one student is walking, the rest of the classmates will participate in pedestrian safety educational activities until it is their turn to walk.

Results

Currently, almost 30 percent of the students in kindergarten through eighth grade walk or bicycle to school, and the committee members want to see this increase to 50 percent. The committee members also will continue to ensure a low traffic volume around the schools and to increase the number of students participating in physical activity. Through their SRTS efforts, committee members hope to resolve safety issues while promoting healthy lifestyles and better air quality.

Contact

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New London Safe Routes to School
Email: saferoutes2school@new-london.k12.ia.us
Phone: 319-931-2829



For more resources and information on Safe Routes to School, please visit the National Center for Safe Routes to School Web site at www.saferoutesinfo.org.



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Community leaders, parents and schools across the U.S. are using Safe Routes to School programs to encourage and enable more children to safely walk and bike to school. The National Center for Safe Routes to School aims to assist these communities in developing successful Safe Routes programs and strategies. The Center offers a centralized resource of information on how to start and sustain a Safe Routes to School program, case studies of successful programs as well as many other resources for training and technical assistance.

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The National SRTS program continued its steady expansion and growth again during the fourth quarter of 2007, with total committed spending jumping to \$183.7 million at the end of December.

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Chillicothe Gazette
01/23/2008

 visit the Federal SRTS Program site

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State SRTS Contacts

The national SRTS program is federally funded, but managed and administered by each State Department of Transportation. Each State is responsible for hiring a full-time Safe Routes to School coordinator to implement a SRTS statewide program. Click on a state below to view the State Coordinator's information.



Or, choose a state from the drop down list below.

--- Select a State ---

You may also view a [complete list of State SRTS Coordinators](#).

Coordinator Update

- Full-time Coordinators: 46
- Interim Coordinators: 5

Vermont

Posted 2/4/2008

District Of Columbia

Posted 1/25/2008

Kentucky

Posted 1/15/2008

Kansas

Posted 1/13/2008

Michigan

Posted 1/1/2008

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Virginia

Sarah Weisiger, AICP

Safe Routes to School Coordinator

Address:

Virginia Department of Transportation
1401 East Broad Street, 1st Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Contact:

Phone: 804-371-4868
Fax: 804-225-4785
Email: sarah.weisiger@vdot.virginia.gov

Resources:

[Virginia Safe Routes to School Program Web Site](#)

SRTS News:

[Setting a Course For a Healthier Way of Living](#)

Washington Post — 7/26/2007

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[Safe Routes to School Activities in Alexandria](#) (PDF)

Alexandria, VA

View Walk to School Day Events
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Virginia Federal SRTS Funding:

Actual 2005:	\$1,000,000
Actual 2006:	\$2,024,830
Actual 2007:	\$2,717,436
Actual 2008:	\$3,370,807
Projected 2009:	\$4,216,038
Total:	\$13,329,111

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We invite you to share your Safe Routes to School program's activities with us. Please follow the link below to learn more about our case study process and to submit your own case study to us.

[Submit a case study](#)

Case Studies Compendium

This compendium is a dynamic document that is updated regularly. The case study collection will grow as more local programs get under way and begin to show success.



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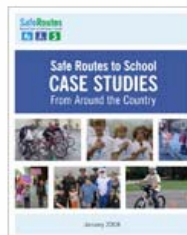
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Thank you.