

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Grand Chute Safe Routes to School Task Force
Town of Grand Chute Fire Station #1
Wednesday, January 7, 2009

Committee Members Present

Allen Davis, Chair Town of Grand Chute Community Development Director
Doris Kalbus..... Parent, Houdini Elementary School
Lisa Desens Parent, Houdini Elementary School
Brian Desens..... Parent, Houdini Elementary School
Gloria Sevilla Parent, Badger Elementary School
Ursula Noelte..... Parent, Houdini Elementary School
Jan Haven..... Houdini Elementary School, Principal
Bill McClone..... Badger Elementary School, Principal
Aaron Schellinger Grand Chute Police Department
Tom Walsh Fox Cities Greenways
Melissa Kraemer Badtke..... East Central WI Regional Planning Commission

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Davis welcomed the committee and began introductions.

2. Comments on the summary of proceedings from November 5, 2008 meeting

Ms. Kraemer Badtke stated that at the November meeting, the committee had not decided on the number of miles away from the school that pedestrian/bicycle facilities should be provided (Goal 4). The committee asked Ms. Kraemer Badtke to create a map with 0.25 mile, 0.50 mile, and 1 mile buffers around each of the participating schools and to bring that to the next committee meeting. The committee had no additional comments on the summary of proceedings from the November 5th meeting at this time.

3. Discussion on draft Chapters - 1: Introduction and 2: Present Conditions

Ms. Kraemer Badtke stated that copies of Chapter 1: Introduction and Chapter 2: Present Conditions were emailed to all of the committee members. Ms. Kraemer Badtke asked the committee to read over the chapters and let her know of any changes or corrections that should be made.

4. Discussion on Bike and Walk Audit Results

Ms. Kraemer Badtke stated the bike and walk audits were conducted at Houdini Elementary School and Badger Elementary School. At Houdini Elementary School, two bike and walk audits were conducted. The first bike and walk audit was conducted in November and volunteers were

given a bike and walk audit checklist, a map, and a comment sheet. Volunteers were asked to write down bicyclist and pedestrian safety concerns at and around the school. A few concerns that were brought up by the volunteers included parking issues on Capital Drive, parents dropping off students on Chappell Drive, and the speed of traffic on Capital Drive. It was noted that there has been a drastic improvement regarding the traffic situation in the front of the school due to the loading and unloading zone that was developed on the south side of the school. The drop off and pick up area is located on Spring Hollow Drive and students can use the walkway on the school grounds to walk to and from school. Volunteers also noted that parents used the church parking lot to drop off and pick up students. A bike and walk audit was also conducted at Houdini Elementary School in December to see if there were additional safety concerns at and around the school. One concern was the high snow piles along Capital Drive. It was noted that several students would climb on the snow piles between Capital Drive and the sidewalk. It was also very hard to see where the elementary students were walking on the sidewalks with the large snow piles.

A bike and walk audit was also conducted at Badger Elementary School. There is a separate bus load and unloading area at Badger Elementary School south of the school and a parent pick up and drop off area on the north side of the school. All students who attend this school are bused due to the lack of sidewalks along Spencer Street and Bluemound Drive. There were a few students that did walk from the apartment buildings on Spencer Street. It was noted that there is a foot path along Spencer Street near the gas station and there were concerns regarding the high speed at which vehicles were traveling along Spencer Street and Bluemound Drive.

5. Discussion on Recommendations

Ms. Kraemer Badtke stated another requirement of the WisDOT Safe Routes to School Planning process is to develop recommendations for each of the 5 E's: Engineering, Education, Enforcement, Encouragement, and Evaluation. Ms. Kraemer Badtke stated that she had developed some draft recommendations for each of the 5 E's for the Town of Grand Chute Safe Routes to School Plan. The committee proceeded to go through an exercise where they ranked each of the recommendations for 5 E's as to what they felt was of highest priority. Afterwards, the committee reconvened and discussed the results.

6. Neighborhood/Community Meeting

Ms. Kraemer Badtke stated that one of the requirements for the WisDOT Safe Routes to School Plans are to do a neighborhood/community meeting. This meeting would inform the community as well as parents about the safe routes to school program and allow them to address any concerns that they may have. Ms. Kraemer Badtke explained that East Central has

7. Adjourn

The committee adjourned at 7:30 p.m. and the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4th, at 5:30 p.m. at the Town of Grand Chute Fire Station #1.