

For Immediate Release

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Gideon Pond Elementary School to Launch Safe Routes to School Demonstration Project

Gideon Pond Elementary is set to launch a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) demonstration project on E 130th Street in front of the school. Demonstration projects are short-term, low-cost, temporary roadway projects that are used to test potential design solutions to improve walking and biking. The project is funded by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Transportation and is being completed in partnership with the City of Burnsville.

The project offers an opportunity for students, families, and members of the public to try potential changes to the street that are designed to improve safety and comfort for children walking and biking to school along and across 130th Street. Community members are invited to walk, bike, and drive through the project site while it is installed and share feedback through an online survey. The pilot will begin in late August and will be installed through fall 2021. The project will include temporary curb extensions, centerline hardening, and school gateway treatments.

Please contact Gideon Pond PTO Vice President Shannon Wohlman at Shannon.Wohlman@gmail.com or City of Burnsville Engineer Walter Ehresmann at Walter.Ehresmann@burnsvillemn.gov for more information.

Talking Points

What is a demonstration project?

A demonstration project is an inexpensive way to try out street improvements using temporary materials.

Demonstration projects provide flexibility to observe, learn, and make adjustments before investing in more permanent solutions.

The goal of the demonstration project is to test potential changes to make walking and biking to school easier, safer, and more enjoyable for children and families.

Project process

Gideon Pond and the City of Burnsville were awarded a grant from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to plan, design, install, and evaluate a demonstration project to improve walking and biking to school.

A workshop took place in spring 2021 to select project sites and start the design process. Gideon Pond Elementary, the City of Burnsville, and Minnesota Department of Transportation worked closely to plan and design the project.

Similar projects have been installed in other communities throughout Minnesota and in other states.

The Gideon Pond SRTS demonstration project includes:

- Curb extensions to reduce pedestrian crossing distances, increase visibility between people walking and driving, and encourage appropriate driver yielding behavior
- Centerline hardening to reduce turning speeds and increase pedestrian safety
- Pedestrian gateway treatment to increase driver awareness of the school zone and reduce vehicle travel speeds

Facebook Posts

Message A

A walking and biking demonstration project is coming to E 130th Street!

Gideon Pond Elementary and the City of Burnsville will host an active transportation demonstration project at E 130th Street and Oakland Drive from late August through fall 2021. The project will test potential solutions to make walking and biking to school easier, safer, and more enjoyable for students and families.

Come check out the project and let us know what you think!

Message B

How can we make lasting improvements to our community?

Short-term demonstration projects are one way to test changes to our streets to make walking and biking to school easier, safer, and more enjoyable for children and families.

Gideon Pond Elementary and the City of Burnsville are hosting an active transportation demonstration project from late August through fall of 2021. For more information, please contact Gideon Pond PTO Vice President Shannon Wohlman at Shannon.Wohlman@gmail.com or City of Burnsville Engineer Walter Ehresmann at Walter.Ehresmann@burnsvillemn.gov.

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