GIDEON POND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Safe Routes to School

Executive Summary

The Vision

Walking and biking to school is safe, comfortable, and fun for all students at Gideon Pond Elementary.

In June 2020, Gideon Pond Elementary completed a year-long planning process that culminated in a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Plan. The SRTS Plan identifies program strategies to create a culture of walking and biking as well as infrastructure recommendations to support a safe and comfortable environment for active transportation near school. It was made possible with funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and was developed in collaboration with the Gideon Pond community. The Plan includes a variety of strategies that are often called the "Six Es" of SRTS: equity, engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation.

This executive summary highlights near-term, high-priority recommendations from the SRTS Plan.

Infrastructure

Engineering projects that improve streets and routes



Map above shows high priority infrastructure recommendations only.



Programs

Education, encouragement, evaluation, and enforcement



WALK/BIKE TO SCHOOL DAYS

Minnesota celebrates Walk/Bike to School Days every October, February, and May. These events build awareness and excitement for walking and biking to school, and encourage families to try something new.

Who: School staff and administrators, PTO, students



BIKE SWAP

A bike swap is an opportunity for students and families to purchase, sell, or trade used bikes and gear. Pair it with a bike drive to connect more students with bikes.

Who: PTO, Burnsville Police and Fire Departments, Nicollet Middle School, local bike shops

Problem/issue: Long crossing distance, poor driver yielding and passing behavior.

Potential solution/recommendation: Consider installing curb extensions onto E 130th Street. Use a demonstration project to test, evaluate, and refine potential design solutions before investing in more long-term changes.



Problem/issue: Concerns about driver speeding and school zone compliance.

Potential solution/recommendation: Upgrade existing school zone signage to enhanced school zone assembly including flashing light and "WHEN FLASHING" speed zone signage.



GET INVOLVED

Plan a walking or biking route with your child, practice safe driving, and show your support by volunteering! Contact your school principal or local SRTS team lead to check out the full SRTS plan and learn how you can get involved.

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Learn more about SRTS in Minnesota at www.dot.state.mn.us/saferoutes/



SRTS COMMUNICATION

Communication may include newsletters, social media, workshops, and other strategies to educate families about school transportation practices and promote walking and biking as an option.

Who: School staff and administrators, PTO, school liasons