

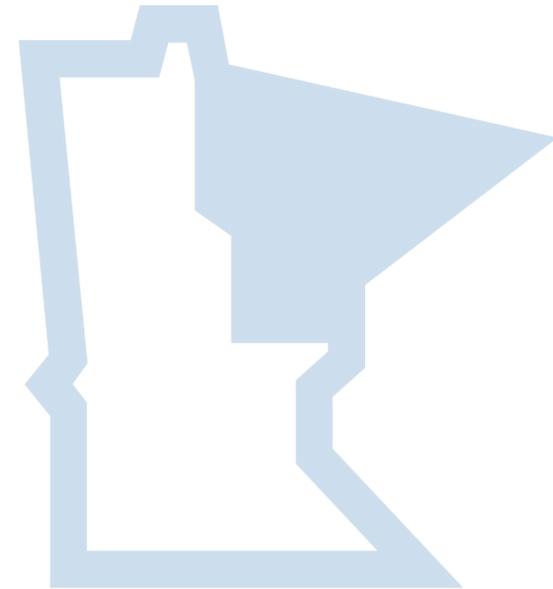


**Arrowhead Regional
Development Commission**

*Floodwood Safe Routes to
Schools (SRTS) Project
Update 2026*

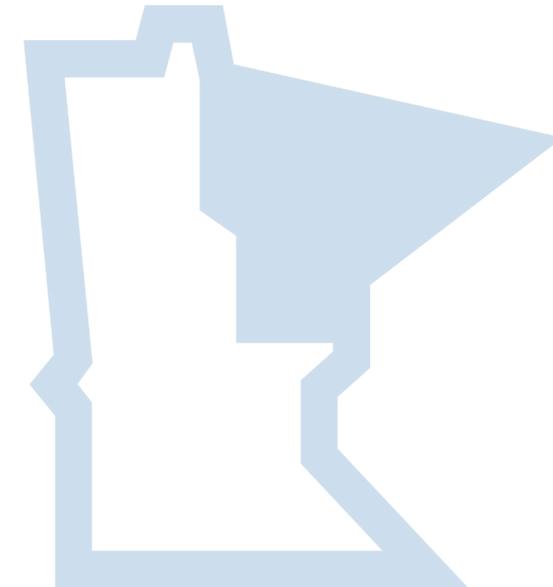
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- 1) Project Overview
- 2) Summary of Work Completed to Date
- 3) Draft Recommendations
 - 1) Infrastructure
 - 2) Programming
- 4) General Discussion/Comments



Safe Routes to Schools Overview

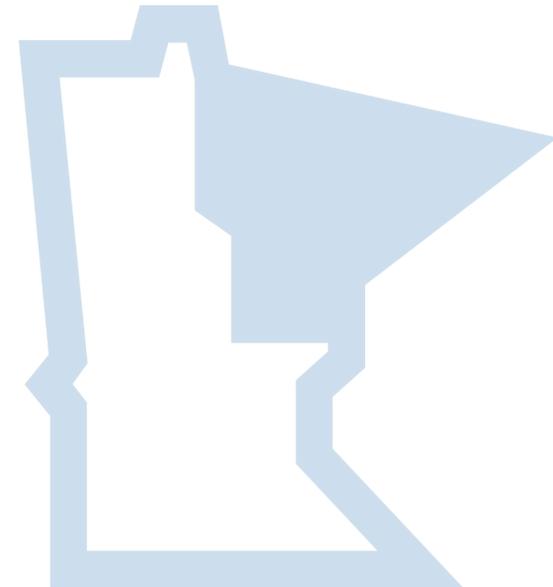
The MnDOT Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program aims to improve walking, bicycling, and other transportation options and conditions for students, encouraging more active lifestyles. It does this by providing planning assistance, funding for infrastructure projects, and support for non-infrastructure initiatives.

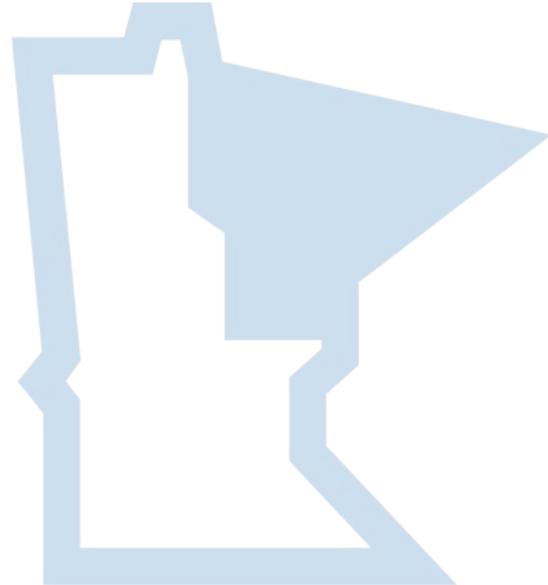


Starting in the year 2025, ARDC Planning received a contract from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to update Floodwood's 2015 Safe Routes to Schools Document. This planning process/contract ends June 2026.

Work conducted since then include:

- Kick off Meeting with a broad group of stakeholders including School and Local Staff, St. Louis County Public Health, MnDOT, and St. Louis County Highways
- GIS staff developed a student density map, to help planning understand potential desired walking routes
- Data collection activities such as Hazard Zone Observations and Walk Audits were conducted in the fall.
- Review Meetings, other meetings as necessary for final plan development

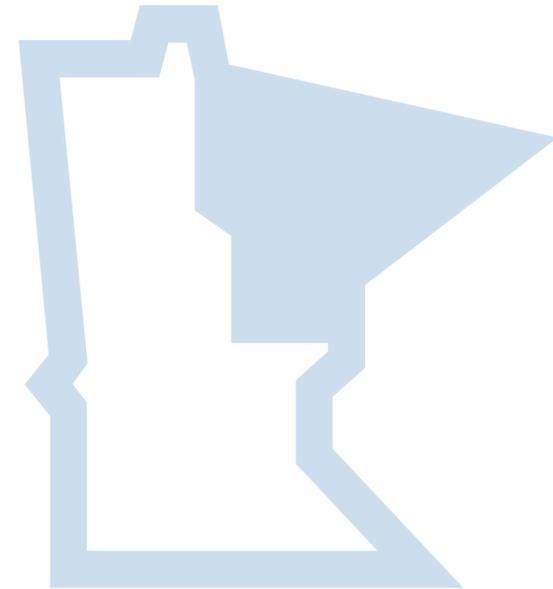




Draft Infrastructure Recommendations

- **Add pedestrian accommodations along MN Highway 8 from the St. Louis River bridge to Highway 73.**
 - The St. Louis River bridge is scheduled for a rehabilitation project in 2029 under the St. Louis County Capital Improvement Program.
- **Improve pedestrian-oriented lighting along Highway 73.**
 - Evening observations indicated that existing lighting primarily serves vehicles and leaves sidewalks and pedestrian areas dark.
 - Students also noted that residential areas of Floodwood are very dark in the evening.
- **Identify and improve additional neighborhood routes that would benefit from pedestrian accommodations, including:**
 - 10th Avenue East beginning at Highway 73 and connecting to the residential area around 11th Avenue East.
 - 4th Avenue East, connecting the school to the fishing pier and playground.
 - West 9th Avenue / County Road 832, where the City of Floodwood is annexing land for future development.
- **Improve traffic calming features along US Highway 2.**

Install pedestrian lighting along the forest trail behind the school and along the connection to downtown to improve safety and year-round usability.

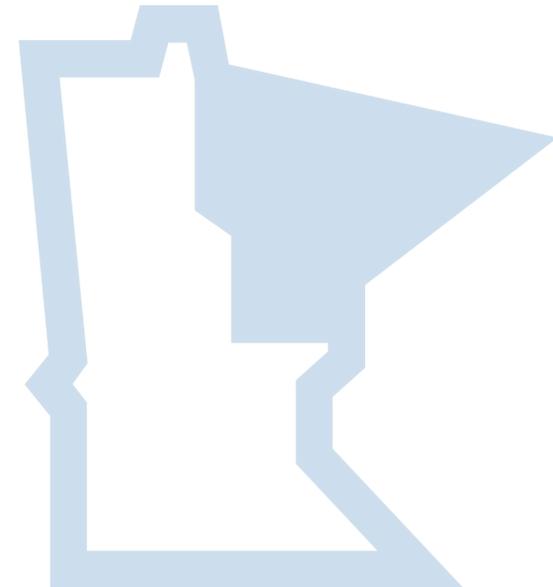


School Zone Safety Improvements

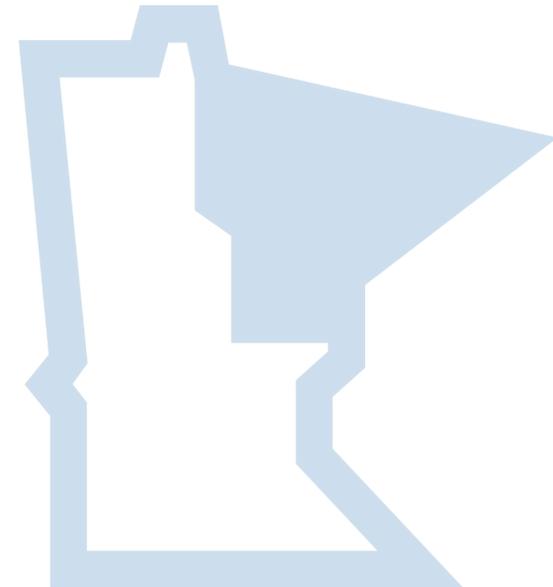
- Install school zone speed limit signs with clearly defined active hours.
- Install flashing school zone lights or beacon systems to alert drivers entering the school zone.
 - Larger signage alone may not effectively change driver behavior.
 - Evaluate alternatives such as feedback speed signs or flashing beacon signs.

Gateway / Driver Awareness Improvements

- Improve advance warning signage on Highway 73 entering Floodwood to encourage motorists to slow down before entering the school area and downtown.

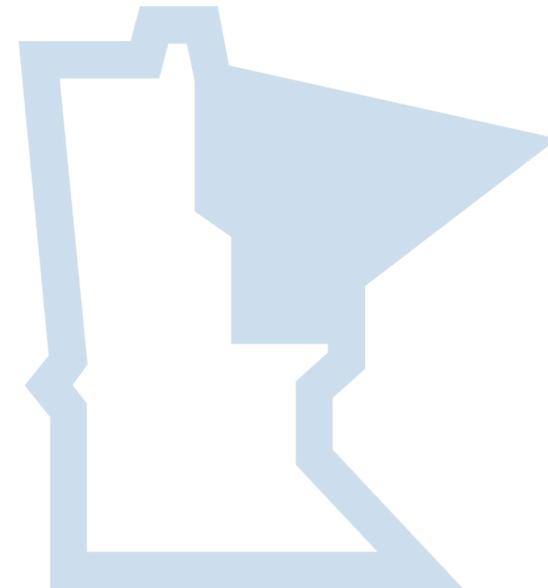


- **Develop a coordinated school zone signing plan along Highway 73**
 - Defining the limits of the school zone
 - Establishing consistent sign placement and layout
 - Determining ownership and maintenance responsibilities for signage and electrical infrastructure.
- **Additional considerations:**
 - Installation may occur under a MnDOT permit but could be owned and maintained by the city or school.
 - Explore potential funding opportunities for school zone safety improvements.
 - Documentation may also support reporting to the school's insurance provider.

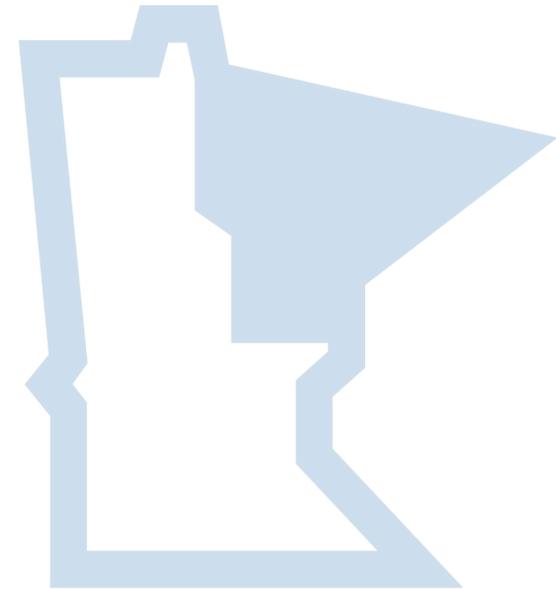


Draft Programming Recommendations

- Provide student safety education
 - Continue to implement MnDOT bicycle and pedestrian safety curriculum
- Encourage walking and biking to school
- Promote safe travel behaviors
 - Conduct outreach to increase driver awareness of pedestrians and bicyclists
- Support student leadership and supervision
 - Engage student leadership groups in promoting safe travel behaviors
- Monitor and evaluate program success
 - Perform routine program evaluation
- Prepare for seasonal implementation
 - Ensure school staff have all materials and resources ready prior to warmer months
- Continue to advocate to State and County Departments for improvements to the City of Floodwood's bicycle and pedestrian safety



Questions/General Discussion?



Questions?

