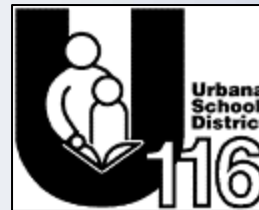


Champaign-Urbana Public Schools School Travel Plan Update 2010

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program

Gabe Lewis
Transportation Planner
Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)

19 October 2010



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IDOT SRTS Program

- About **\$7 million** will be available statewide in this 2010 funding cycle
 - By 2011, it's possible that **\$15 million** total will available
- School Travel Plan (STP) must be completed, reviewed, and approved by IDOT before agencies can submit applications
- STP is edited on IL SRTS Website
 - Format: Checklist w/ text boxes, tables, maps
 - Content:
 - 10 Sections
 - Endorsements
 - Supporting documents
- This presentation will highlight the changes made from the 2008 STP



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Section 1 - Introduction

The following information was added:

Our community is motivated to pursue Safe Routes to School because:

- We want to address the issue of **childhood obesity** in our community
 - We want to **increase daily activity** through walking & biking to school and Safe Routes to School programs to help reduce childhood obesity.
 - **Obesity**: 1 of 4 top priorities in Champaign County IPLAN (CUPHD)



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Section 2 – The SRTS Team

- STP Update Meeting held in September 2010
- Representatives from:
 - CCRPC (primary STP contact)
 - City of Champaign
 - City of Urbana
 - Champaign Community Unit School District #4
 - Urbana School District #116
 - CUMTD
 - C-U SRTS Project
 - ChampaignCountyBikes.org
 - Champaign Park District (reviewed plan)



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Section 3 – Public Input Process

The following information was added, edited, &/or updated:

- Administered parent surveys
 - We are still collecting data for 2010 (won't be included in STP 2010)
- Hosted public meetings
 - C-U SRTS Report presentations to C-U School Boards (2009)
 - **School Travel Plan 2010 presentations to C-U School Boards**
- Solicited student opinions
 - Wiley School in Urbana administered student tally sheets as part of the SRTS mini-grant it received in 2010
 - Stratton School 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders in Champaign surveyed by CCRPC for its SRTS Plan in October 2010
- Publicized a public comment period
 - Long Range Transportation Plan update (2009)
 - C-U SRTS Report presentations to C-U School Boards (2009)
 - **School Travel Plan 2010 presentations to C-U School Boards**



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Section 3 – Public Input Process

The following information was added, edited, &/or updated: *(cont'd)*

- **Conducted engineering studies**
 - King School: City of Urbana & USD #116 worked to improve walking & biking to school in expansion plans
 - Booker T. Washington School: City of Champaign, CCRPC, and other entities worked to improve walking & biking to school in reconstruction plans
 - Stratton School: City of Champaign will work on engineering changes based on CCRPC SRTS Plan
- Conducted a community 'Walkabout' or 'Bikeabout'
 - Mark Fenton walkabout & SRTS workshop on UI campus in 2009 – included University High School (7-12)
 - Stratton SRTS Plan 2010: City of Champaign, CCRPC, C-U SRTS Project, etc.
- Incorporated our town's existing bike or pedestrian plan recommendations
 - Long Range Transportation Plan update (2009)



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Section 4 – School Description

- All 21 public elementary and middle schools in Champaign-Urbana
 - Champaign
 - **Elementary:** Barkstall, Bottenfield, Carrie Busey, Dr. Howard, Garden Hills, Kenwood, Robeson, South Side, Stratton, Washington, Westview
 - **Middle:** Edison, Franklin, Jefferson
 - Urbana
 - **Elementary:** King, Leal, Prairie, Thomas Paine, Wiley, Yankee Ridge
 - **Middle:** UMS



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Section 5 – School Demographics

- Percentages for these demographics were updated for K-8 students in C-U:
 - By race
 - Low income
 - Limited English proficient students
 - Special Education



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Section 6 – Travel Environment

The following information was updated:

- Travel Mode
 - Used tallies from C-U SRTS Database/Report
- Distances Lived from School
 - 0-1 mile (considered a walkable distance between home & school)
 - 1-1.5 miles (considered a bikeable distance between home & school)
 - >1.5 miles
- Our school arrival and dismissal procedures include:
 - Private Vehicle Drop-off/Pick-up:
 - Goal is to have parents pick up/drop off in a separate location from the bus drop-off zones where available. We have several elementary schools participating in voluntary Park & Walk programs.
- # of students who qualify for School Safety (Hazardous Route) Busing has decreased
- Our schools are already engaged in activities that enhance safe and active student travel, including:
 - Bike rodeos
 - Safety fairs
 - Health fairs
 - Frequent Walker Clubs
 - 1 Champaign & 1 Urbana school received SRTS mini-grants



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Section 7 – Barriers to Active Transportation

The following information was updated:

- A major roadway or expressway divides schools from residential areas
 - I-57 & I-74
 - **Overpasses & underpasses** do not include any bicycle & sometimes pedestrian facilities
- Distance to school is too far
 - 46% of Champaign families live **more than 2 miles from school** (C-U SRTS Report 2009)
- Bike parking at school is missing, insufficient or not secure
 - **Urbana School District:** Upgraded bike parking at some schools in 2008-09
 - **Champaign Unit #4:** Bottenfield received new bike racks; all other schools have outdated &/or unsecure bike racks



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Section 7 – Barriers to Active Transportation

The following information was updated: *(cont'd)*

- Dangerous driving & speeding on streets
 - Drivers do not stop for **children crossing street**, even with **crossing guard present**, or for **school buses with stop arms engaged**
- Drop-off and pick-up process creates congestion and unsafe behaviors
 - We are working to improve walking & biking patterns with the following projects:
 - **Kenwood & Robeson** new traffic patterns (2008): City of Champaign, C-U SRTS Project
 - **Garden Hills** expansion: City of Champaign, architect
 - **Booker T. Washington** expansion: City of Champaign, CCRPC, etc.
 - **Stratton** SRTS Plan: City of Champaign, CCRPC, C-U SRTS Project, etc.
- Local ordinances negatively impact pedestrians & bicyclists
 - No sidewalk **snow** removal requirements in school areas



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Section 8 – Creating Solutions

- New additional goals:
 - Reduce childhood obesity
 - Create SRTS Plans for all Champaign schools
- Many things were added, edited, &/or updated to the 5 sub-sections:
 - Education
 - Encouragement
 - Enforcement
 - Evaluation
 - Engineering



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Section 8a – Education Strategies

The following information was added:

- Teach personal safety skills to students and parents
 - Safety fairs, Light The Night
- Teach the health, environmental and sustainable transportation benefits of walking and bicycling to students and parents
 - Implementing Frequent Walker Programs
- Educate parents and caregivers about safe driving procedures at the school
 - Yard signs, billboards, bus boards, radio advertising, newspaper advertising, movie theater advertising
- Create educational materials
 - C-U SRTS Project website & Facebook page, SRTS video to be developed, Greenways & Trails Map, C-U Area Bike Map, Safe Walking Route Map updates, C-U Sharing The Road video
- Train school and community audiences about Safe Routes to School
 - Bike rodeos, Mark Fenton (SRTS speaker)



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Section 8b – Encouragement Strategies

The following information was added or updated:

- Start a Walking School Bus program
 - Info available on C-U SRTS Project website
- Host International Walk to School Day or other special event
 - Walk & Bike To School Day
 - C-U SRTS Project is meeting with Urbana Middle School to expand event into middle schools
 - Expanding “C-U Bike To Work Day” to “Bike to Work and School Day”
- Initiate a walking/biking mileage club or other contest
 - Frequent Walker Clubs:
 - Champaign: Barkstall, Carrie Busey, Robeson
 - Urbana: Thomas Paine, Wiley
- Create a park-and-walk program
 - Champaign: Robeson, Kenwood, Carrie Busey
 - Urbana: Thomas Paine
 - More interested in starting programs, C-U SRTS Project will continue to work with grade schools



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Section 8b – Encouragement Strategies

The following information was added or updated: *(cont'd)*

- Promote Safe Routes to School in the community
 - C-U SRTS Project, C-U Fit Families, Family Bike Ride (Summer 2010)
- Initiate a reward program for safe travel behaviors among students
 - C-U SRTS Project incentives for Park & Walk families
- Start a Safe Passage or Neighborhood Watch program
 - Garden Hills: City of Champaign & C-U SRTS Project met with Community Matters
- Conduct a community safe driving awareness and education campaign
 - C-U SRTS Project:
 - Implemented: billboards, bus boards, radio ads, print ads, movie theater ads, website, Facebook page
 - Planned: Yard signs stating new laws, TV ads
 - Operation Cool – teen safe driving program
 - C-U Sharing The Road video



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Section 8c – Enforcement Strategies

The following information was updated:

- Create a crossing guard training program
 - City of Champaign & C-U SRTS Project: Volunteer crossing guard program at Barkstall
 - City of Urbana & C-U SRTS Project: Crossing guard visits & retraining
 - C-U SRTS Project: Crossing Guard Appreciation Program
- Utilize [portable] speed feedback trailers or signs
 - City of Urbana IDOT SRTS Grant: permanent speed flashback signs installed at Prairie, Thomas Paine, Wiley & UMS in 2008-09
- Other
 - Champaign Police: publicized & enforced new No Cell Phones in School Zones law
 - Urbana Police: targeted enforcement for speeding in school zones



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Section 8d – Evaluation Strategies

The following information was added or updated:

- Count the number of students who walk or bicycle to & from school
 - CCRPC did in-class travel tallies of Stratton grades 3-5 in Fall 2010
 - C-U SRTS Project talked to League of Illinois Bicyclists (LIB) about distributing bike to school surveys at 2 C-U schools
- Track the number of crashes within 2 miles of each school
 - Bicycle/pedestrian (2005-09)
 - Vehicle (2005-09)
- Measure parent/guardian perceptions of safety
 - C-U SRTS Report 2009
- Additional safety measures:
 - Garden Hills: City of Champaign installed new sidewalk on Paula Drive
- Obtain planning services for expanding or improving an existing SRTS Plan
 - City of Champaign hired CCRPC to do a SRTS Plan for Stratton, with intention to do plans for all Champaign schools



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Section 8e – Engineering Strategies

The following information was added or updated:

- Create on-road bicycle lanes
 - Cities: Bike lanes, shared lane markings, bike routes (future)
- Build off-road walking/bicycling paths
 - Booker T. Washington School: Douglass Park Trail installed in 2007 leading to school
 - King School: exercise path being installed around school connecting to King Park
- Install curb extensions to reduce the crossing distance on streets
 - University High School: City of Urbana installed curb extensions that benefits 7th & 8th graders
- Install new or improved street lighting
 - City of Urbana: street lighting near Yankee Ridge School replaced in 2008
 - Urbana School District: installing sidewalk lighting at King School to King Park
- Install new or improved signage
 - City of Urbana: received IDOT SRTS grant – installed signs, flashing beacons & permanent vehicle speed flashback signs at all Urbana schools in 2008-09
 - University High School: new signs installed benefit 7th & 8th graders
- Install new or improved pavement markings or legends
 - City of Champaign: Bike lanes & shared lane markings installed by Stratton School & Edison Middle School
 - Both cities are planning to install more on-street bike facilities near schools



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Section 8e – Engineering Strategies

The following information was added or updated: *(cont'd)*

- Install bicycle parking near schools
 - Urbana School District: installed upgraded bike parking at some schools in 2008-09
 - Barkstall School: received a SRTS mini-grant to upgrade & increase its bike parking
- Install traffic calming measures
 - Champaign & Urbana have both installed bike lanes
 - Stratton & Edison MS: vehicle lanes narrowed to accommodate bike lanes
 - Carrie Busey: new median refuge island on Kirby Ave.
 - Thomas Paine: new median refuge island on Philo Rd.
- Install raised pedestrian islands for street crossings
 - New median refuge islands near Carrie Busey & Thomas Paine Schools
- Redesign pick-up and drop-off procedures to increase safety and access
 - Separate cars & buses from walkers & bikers
 - Booker T. Washington: new traffic pattern upon reconstruction
 - Garden Hills: new traffic pattern upon expansion
 - Carrie Busey: new traffic pattern upon relocation to Savoy
 - King: new traffic pattern upon expansion



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Section 9 – Improvements Mapping

- CCRPC is adding the following elements to each school map:
 - Safe Walking Routes **2009**
 - Existing Greenways & Trails
 - Planned paths in the Urbana Bike Plan
 - Planned paths in the Champaign Transportation Plan
- Each school has a map with a 2 mile radius
- Infrastructure project applications will be mapped here, too



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Section 10 – The Action Plan

- Details the following elements:
 - **Strategy** (Section 8)
 - **Strategy Type** (Section 8)
 - **Strategy Detail** (Section 8)
 - **Timeframe** (3-6 mos., 6-12 mos., 12-24 mos.)
 - **Responsible Party** (includes agencies on SRTS Team, plus Park Districts, Risk Watch)
 - **Status** (not yet begun, under development, being implemented, complete)
 - **Funding Source** (IL SRTS Program current cycle, IL SRTS Program future cycle, in-kind participation, other funding, none needed)



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Endorsements

- Plan Approval requires 3 endorsements:
 - School Official (**Principal Stephanie Eckels, Stratton**)
 - School District Official (Superintendent Preston Williams, Urbana School District)
 - Local Government Official (Mayor Schweighart, City of Champaign)
- Additional endorsements:
 - CCRPC
 - **Health Organization (C-U Public Health District / C-U Fit Families)**
 - Parent Organization?
- Additional Letters of Support:
 - City of Urbana
 - Mayor
 - Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC)
 - Urbana School District #116
 - School Board
 - Principals?
 - Champaign School District Unit #4
 - School Board
 - Principals?
 - State Representative Naomi Jakobsson?
 - U.S. Representative Tim Johnson?



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Supporting Documents

- New:
 - CCRPC & C-U SRTS Project
 - C-U SRTS Report (2009)
- Updated:
 - CCRPC
 - Safe Walking Route Maps (2009)
- Pre-Existing:
 - City of Champaign
 - Transportation Master Plan (2008)
 - City of Urbana
 - Bicycle Master Plan (2008)



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Public Review

- CUUATS Homepage: ccrpc.org/transportation
- C-U SRTS Report webpage:
ccrpc.org/transportation/safewalkingreport.php
- Now thru Tuesday, October 26



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SRTS Timeline

- 10-26-2010 End of Public Comment Period
- 11-1-2010 School Travel Plan due by 5pm for [review by IDOT SRTS Coordinator](#)
- 11-12-2010 [Final](#) School Travel Plan due by 5pm
- 12-15-2010 SRTS Grant Applications due by 5pm
- Late 2011 Grants awarded



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Questions? Comments?



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