Creating a Safe Routes to School Plan

Experiences from
Wilcoxson Elementary School
Stratford, Connecticut

WTS Presentation October 2011

Sam Goater – University of Connecticut
Ultimate form of transportation

Health

Environment

Livability

We need to get kids on bikes
Why Wilcoxson?

- Interested Principal
- Walkable Neighborhood
- Most students live within 1/2 mile
Current conditions

Existing Conditions sketch from Fitzgerald & Halliday memo
Wilcoxson Ave.
Previous Study – Milone & MacBroom

Wilcoxson Avenue Traffic Calming
Stratford, CT

MILONE & MACBROOM®
Action Plan

1. Bring together the right people.
2. Hold a kick-off meeting
3. Identify Issues
4. Create a Plan
Parent Survey

• Traffic speed (82% of non-walkers)

• Traffic volume

• Intersection safety

• Stranger Danger

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!

After a detailed proposal process, we are proud and excited to announce that Wilcoxon School was chosen to be Stratford’s pilot school for the Safe Routes to School program.

Safe Routes to School programs enable community leaders, schools and parents across the United States to improve safety and encourage more children to safely walk and bicycle to school. In the process, programs are working to reduce traffic congestion and improve health and the environment, making communities more livable for everyone.

To begin the project, we need some information from our families regarding how your child(ren) travel to and from school. We are also looking for feedback as to why you have made these decisions. The information we collect will help guide the program we implement for the 2010-2011 school year.

Please take 5-10 minutes of your time to complete the survey by Tuesday, April 27th. All the data is anonymous. The link for the survey is below:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/wilcoxon_parent_survey

Thank you in advance for your time!!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ms. Dayo or Mrs. Guerini at 385-4196.
Crossing State Roads

• 110 (East Main)
• 113 (Main St)
Wilcoxon SRTS Dream Team

The locals are the experts

Crossing guard (The Don)

The Principal

The PE teacher
SRTS Plans

• Encouragement
• Education
• Enforcement
• Evaluation
Encouragement

• Walking School buses

• Walking Wednesdays
Encouragement

• ‘Beads’ reward scheme!

• Golden shoe award
Bike Rodeo
Engineering

- Raised intersection
- Bus relocation

Recommendations from Fitzgerald & Halliday memo
• $379,627 Engineering Improvements application – we’ll find out in May

• Walking Wednesdays, and Fresh Air Fridays

• Bike Rodeos in the spring
Thank-you

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Extra Slides
FIGURE 2. Percentage of respondents* reporting barriers to their children walking and biking to school, by selected barriers — United States, HealthStyles Survey, 1999

CDC report - Barriers to Children Walking and Biking to School 199
Old-School Location

We used to build neighborhood schools

Image from Kaid Benfield's blog on the NRDC website
New-School Locations

Image from Kaid Benfield's blog on the NRDC website
Reason 2. Traffic

25 percent of morning rush hour traffic is attributable to parents driving their children to school.

(National Highway Transportation Administration)

"When parents start driving their kids to school, it causes the next wave of parents to do the same because it becomes dangerous for children to cycle or walk to school. It's a vicious circle that needs to be broken."

(Danish politician Pia Olsen Dyhr)
Parents often site vehicle speed as a major reason not to let their child walk to school (82% of Wilcoxson parents)

(20kph = 12mph)
Problem 1. Obesity

1991 no State above 20%
2001 No State below 20%
Obesity

- $150 billion dollars/year
SRTS - part of the solution

• Developing bike skills
• Encouraging and enabling daily physical activity
• Reducing congestion
• Increasing safety
Don't be scared to

• Paint an intersection
Don't be scared to

• Build a pump track

Clayton Church, 10 of Salida, picks up speed around a berm at the Home run Pump Track Saturday. Church said, “I try to ride the track two times a week when I can, but sometimes my little brother hogs the bike.” Photo by Kevin Hoffman