



Sergeant Bluff-Luton Schools Safe Routes to School Plan Final

Prepared by Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council

October 2011



Acknowledgements

Safe Routes to School Taskforce Members

Kelly Adams..... Sergeant Bluff – Luton Primary School
Rod Earleywine Sergeant Bluff – Luton Community School District
Jim Ferneau..... City of Sergeant Bluff
Cindy Houlihan City of Sergeant Bluff
Jenni McCrory Sergeant Bluff – Luton Elementary School
Chief McFarland City of Sergeant Bluff Police Department
Bill McKelvey Sergeant Bluff – Luton Middle School
Amy Scarmon Mercy Medical Center
Dakin Schultz..... Iowa Department of Transportation
Karin Ward Mercy Medical Center
Jennifer Wendel Sergeant Bluff – Luton Community School PTO

Participating Schools

Sergeant Bluff – Luton Primary School
Sergeant Bluff – Luton Elementary School
Sergeant Bluff – Luton Middle School

Other Acknowledgements

Kristan Geary..... Opportunities Unlimited
Kelly Irwin..... Albrechts Cycle Shop
Aaron Lincoln Veenstra & Kimm, Inc.
Paula Moriarty City of Sergeant Bluff
Kathy Ridnour Iowa Department of Transportation
Kevin West Woodbury County Sheriff’s Department
Mark Wyatt..... Iowa Bicycle Coalition

Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council Staff

Michelle Bostinelos..... Transportation Planning Director
Kellee Van Bruggen Transportation Planner II
Eric Sanders..... Transportation Planner II/GIS Analyst
Eric Wilke Summer 2011 Transportation Planning Intern
Sharon Burton Administrative Assistant
Dwight Lang Co-Executive Director
Jane Gilbert Co-Executive Director

Table of Contents

Chapter One-Introduction

I.	What is Safe Routes to School?	1-1
II.	Purpose of the Sergeant Bluff – Luton Community School District Safe Routes to School Plan	1-2
III.	National Trends.....	1-4
	A. Health	1-4
	B. Safety.....	1-5
	C. Environment.....	1-6
IV.	Vision for the Sergeant Bluff-Luton Safe Routes to School Plan.....	1-7

Chapter Two-Present Conditions

I.	Community Profile	2-1
	A. Census Data.....	2-1
	B. Bicycle, Pedestrian and Recreational Facilities	2-2
	C. Transit	2-3
	D. Rail	2-3
	E. Traffic Counts	2-5
	F. Crash Data	2-5
	G. Sidewalk Ordinances.....	2-8
	H. Iowa Laws Pertaining to School Zones	2-9
II.	School Profile	2-9
	A. School District Boundary	2-9
	B. Enrollment Data	2-11
	C. Crossing Guards.....	2-11
	D. School Policies	2-11
	E. Transportation Policies.....	2-11
	F. Arrival/Dismissal Procedures	2-11
	G. Parent Survey	2-12
	H. School Site Observations.....	2-16
	I. Present Conditions Guidance	2-16

Chapter Three-Education

I.	Introduction	3-1
II.	Current Education Activities	3-1
	A. Pamphlets Available at Parent-Teacher Conferences	3-1
	B. Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Presentations	3-1
	C. “Stranger Danger” Presentations.....	3-1
	D. Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Program.....	3-1

Chapter Three-Education (continued)

E.	Walk to School Day.....	3-2
F.	Annual Kids Safety Fair.....	3-2
G.	News Articles.....	3-2
H.	Albrecht’s Cycle Shop.....	3-2
III.	Obstacles and Deficiencies.....	3-2
A.	Educating the Community.....	3-2
B.	Classroom Time.....	3-3
C.	Funding.....	3-3
D.	Crossing Guard Education.....	3-3
IV.	Recommended Education Projects.....	3-3
A.	Bicycle and Pedestrian Education Event (Spring).....	3-3
B.	Bicycle Rodeo.....	3-3
C.	District-wide Crossing Guard Education Program.....	3-3
D.	Regular News Articles and Other PSAs.....	3-4
E.	Development of Safe Routes Maps.....	3-4
F.	Safe Routes to School Link on Sergeant Bluff – Luton Community School District Webpage.....	3-4
G.	Safe Routes to School Assembly.....	3-4
H.	Driver’s Education.....	3-4
I.	Got a Brain? Get a Helmet!.....	3-5

Chapter Four-Encouragement

I.	Introduction.....	4-1
II.	Current Encouragement Activities.....	4-1
A.	Bicycle Rodeo.....	4-1
B.	Safe Routes to School Taskforce.....	4-1
C.	Walk to School Day.....	4-1
III.	Obstacles and Deficiencies.....	4-2
A.	Parents’ Perception of School Encouragement.....	4-2
B.	Parents’ Encouragement.....	4-2
IV.	Recommended Encouragement Activities.....	4-3
A.	Walking School Bus.....	4-3
B.	Boltage Program.....	4-3
C.	Safe Routes Maps.....	4-4
D.	Park and Walk.....	4-4
E.	The Golden Sneaker Award.....	4-5
F.	The Golden Shovel Award.....	4-5
G.	Walking Wednesdays/Fitness Fridays.....	4-5
H.	Fitness Calendars.....	4-6

Chapter Five-Enforcement

I.	Introduction	5-1
II.	Current Enforcement Activities	5-1
	A. Sergeant Bluff Police Department.....	5-1
	B. Woodbury County Sheriff’s Department	5-1
III.	Obstacles and Deficiencies	5-1
	A. Crossing Guard Education	5-1
	B. Speed of Traffic along Routes and Safety of Intersections and Crossings.....	5-1
	C. Three Feet Legislation for Passing Bicyclists	5-2
	D. Locations Identified in Parent Surveys	5-2
IV.	Recommended Enforcement Activities	5-3
	E. Crossing Guard Training Program	5-3
	F. Mayor’s Honor Guard.....	5-3
	G. Three Feet Legislation for Passing Bicyclists	5-5
	H. Speed Enforcement Campaigns	5-5
	I. Flashing Lights on Speed Signs near Schools.....	5-6
	J. No Idling Zones.....	5-6
	K. Neighborhood Enforcement Activities.....	5-6

Chapter Six-Engineering

I.	Introduction	6-1
II.	Current Enforcement Activities	6-1
	A. Sidewalk Construction.....	6-1
	B. Annual Budget.....	6-1
	C. Connectivity Planning.....	6-1
	D. Bicycle Facilities.....	6-1
	E. Infrastructure Inventory.....	6-2
	F. Sidewalk Obstructions Inventory	6-2
	G. Curb Cuts	6-2
III.	Obstacles and Deficiencies	6-4
	A. Uncertainty of Safe Routes to School Program.....	6-4
	B. Limited Funds for Engineering Projects	6-4
	C. Lack of Connectivity in Metropolitan Transportation Network	6-4
	D. Modern Land Use Patterns.....	6-7
	E. Rail	6-7
IV.	Recommended Engineering Activities	6-7
	A. High Priority Projects.....	6-7
	B. Moderate Priority Projects.....	6-11
	C. Other Projects	6-12

Chapter Six-Engineering (continued)

V.	Summary	6-14
----	---------------	------

Chapter Seven-Evaluation

I.	Introduction	7-1
II.	Current Evaluation Activities	7-1
	A. Parent Survey and Student Travel Tally	7-1
	B. Safe Routes to School Taskforce	7-1
III.	Recommended Evaluation Activities	7-2
	A. Continuation of the Parent Surveys and Student Travel Tallies.....	7-2
	B. Continuation of the Safe Routes to School Taskforce	7-2
	C. Program Evaluation/Data Reevaluation.....	7-2
	D. Walkability/Bikeability Checklists.....	7-2

Chapter Eight-Final Summary of Recommendations

I.	Final Summary of Recommendations.....	8-1
----	---------------------------------------	-----

Appendices

Appendix A: Maps
Appendix B: Parent Survey and Student Travel Tally Reports
Appendix C: Resources
Appendix D: Acronyms
Appendix E: Definitions

List of Maps

Map 1.1: Study Area.....	1-3
Map 2.1: Railroad Location in Sergeant Bluff	2-4
Map 2.2: Traffic Counts (2007)	2-6
Map 2.3: Crashes One Block Radius from Schools.....	2-7
Map 2.4: Sergeant Bluff-Luton Community School District Boundary	2-10
Map 5.1: Crossing Guards	5-4
Map 6.1: Sidewalk Obstructions	6-3
Map 6.2: Trails	6-5
Map 6.3: Crosswalks	6-6
Map A.1: Reported Bicycle and Pedestrian Crashes.....	A-1
Map A.2: Missing Sidewalks and Crashes	A-2
Map A.3: Parent Surveys – Nearest Intersection.....	A-3
Map A.4: Sergeant Bluff Signs.....	A-4

List of Figures

Figure 1.1: Obesity Prevalence.....	1-4
Figure 2.1: Population Pyramid by Age and Sex.....	2-2
Figure 2.2: Child climbing on train while walking/biking to school.....	2-3
Figure 2.3: Typical Mode of Arrival to and Departure from School – All Study Area	2-13
Figure 2.4: Study Area of All Mode Totals Combined for both Arrival and Dismissal by School.....	2-13
Figure 2.5: Issues Reported to Affect Parent’s Decisions to Not Allow their Child(ren) to Walk or Bike to/from School – All Study Area.....	2-14
Figure 4.1: Parents’ Opinions about How Much their Child’s School Encourages or Discourages Walking.....	4-2
Figure 4.2: Issues Reported to Affect Parent’s Decisions to Not Allow their Child(ren) to Walk or Bike to/from School – All Study Area.....	4-3
Figure 6.1: Crosswalk on D Street and 4 th Street before Alterations.....	6-12
Figure 6.2: Altered Crosswalk and Pedestrian Island.....	6-13
Figure 6.3: Port Neal Road before Construction of a Sidewalk/trail	6-14
Figure 6.4: Port Neal Road after Construction of a Sidewalk/trail	6-14

List of Tables

Table 1.1: Obesity Prevalence.....	1-4
Table 2.1: Population and Race 2010 Census.....	2-1
Table 2.2: Sergeant Bluff Bicycle and Pedestrian Crashes.....	2-5
Table 2.3: Five Year Enrollment Data.....	2-11
Table 2.4: Parent Estimate of Distance from Child’s Home to School – All Study Area.....	2-12
Table 2.5: Study Area of All Mode Totals Combined for both Arrival and Dismissal by School.....	2-14
Table 4.1: Boltage Program Costs.....	4-4
Table 6.1: Port Neal Road – Warrior Road South to Drainage Ditch	6-8
Table 6.2: Pedestrian Bridge Connecting Future Development to Charles Floyd Trail.....	6-8
Table 6.3: First Street Crosswalk and Infrastructure (Three Locations)	6-9
Table 6.4: Trail Connector – 1 st and Lewis to Charles Floyd Trail	6-10
Table 6.5: Trail Connector – 1 st Street from Port Neal Road to Sgt. Square Drive	6-10
Table 6.6: Trail along 1 st Street – Lewis to Lakeport	6-11
Table 6.7: Baker Road Trail.....	6-12
Table 8.1: Project Action Plan.....	8-2