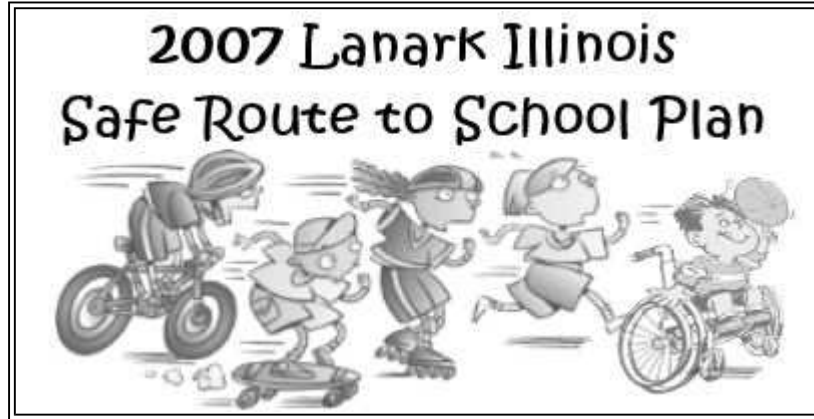


Illinois School Travel Plan

2007 Lanark Illinois Safe Route to School Plan

6/5/2007



1. Introduction

Our school is committed to ensuring that all our students can utilize *physically active transportation*, such as walking and bicycling, for a safe and enjoyable trip to school. This School Travel Plan aims to address the issues that impede active transportation and seeks to strategically solve these problems by implementing a Safe Routes to School program.

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

- We highly value student physical activity and health.
- We want to improve the air quality and environment around our school(s).
- We wish to improve unsafe or insufficient walkways, bikeways and crossings.
- We are committed to reducing speeding and reckless driving near school(s).
- Our students are threatened by illegal behaviors near school(s).
- We have a history of pedestrian or bicycle crashes around school(s).
- Other

We want to keep our kids safe, secure and healthy with a variety of options for getting to and from school.

2. The Safe Routes To School Team

We believe that a diverse Safe Routes to School Team develops the most successful School Travel Plans. Our Team is comprised of a variety of stakeholders, each lending their own unique perspective and expertise in order to make walking and bicycling to school more safe, accessible and fun for our students.

The members of our team include:

- John Huggins, Local official
- Mark Hansen, School or staff official
- Ron Page, Police/sheriff's department
- Les Guenzler, City Maintenance Manager
- Stephanie Higley, PTA/PTO or Local School Council member

The primary contact person for our School Travel Plan is:

Name: John Huggins

Address: 640 E. Locust St.

City: Lanark

State: IL

Zip: 61046

Phone: 815-493-1038

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Email: jhuggins@lanarkil.com

Organization: City of Lanark

3. The Public Input Process

Our Team worked to include the entire community in developing our School Travel Plan. To accomplish this, we:

- Administered [parent surveys](#)

51 of the 175 surveys sent were returned. Most parents were concerned with distance, speed and amount of traffic along route, sidewalks, safety of crossing a state highway and railroad and absence of crossing guards. Nearly all agreed that walking and bicycling is fun and healthy for the students.

- Hosted public meetings

- [Interviewed](#) key stakeholders

The superintendent noted a few hazards in the vicinity of the elementary school. First is the traffic congestion. The elementary school is also the shuttle pick-up/drop-off for students from Lanark to take them to the middle school in Shannon. He stated lane constrictions are need to provide a single file line of cars dropping off students. More parking is need to eliminate on-street parking at the drop-off zone. He also raised a concern regarding missing sidewalks and those in need of repair. Some residents do not keep their sidewalks clear of snow and ice during the winter.

- Solicited student opinions

- Publicized a public comment period

Solicited public input with a link on the City web site home page. No responds were received.

- Conducted [engineering studies](#)

- Conducted a community 'Walkabout' or 'Bikeabout'

City Aldermen walked their entire wards to check sidewalk conditions and accessibility, crossing safety, and other barriers. Each marked a map with their findings.

- Incorporated our town's existing bike or pedestrian plan recommendations

- Incorporated our [School Wellness Policy](#) objectives

The Schools Wellness Policies includes working with the city to improve a safe and supportive environment for students to walk or bike to school.

- We have no public input process at this time

- Other

4. School Description

Our School Travel Plan addresses the needs of :

- an individual school
- multiple schools in close proximity (2 miles or less)
- a school district
- a city/municipality
- a county
- a region
- statewide
- other

The school(s) and district(s) included in our School Travel Plan are:

- EASTLAND ELEM SCHOOL - LANARK in district 3080

The school(s) are located in:

- LANARK

5. School Demographics

EASTLAND ELEM SCHOOL - LANARK

Our student demographic information includes:

94.1% White 0% Black 0.5% Hispanic 0.5% Asian 5.0% Other
38.6% Low income students 0% Limited English proficient students
14.0% Special education students

6. Travel Environment

EASTLAND ELEM SCHOOL - LANARK

This is how our students travel to and from school, by percentage.

Travel Mode	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Public Transit	Other
Percentage of Students	28.5 %	3.3 %	48.8 %	15.4 %	3.3 %	0 %	0 %

These are the distances our students live from school, by percentage.

Distance lived from school	0 miles to 1/2 mile	1/2 mile to 1 mile	1 mile to 1 1/2 miles	1 1/2 miles to 2 miles	Over 2 miles
Percentage of Students	22.8 %	1.6 %	26.0 %	20.3 %	28.5 %

We have the following supports or activities in place during student travel times:

- crossing guards
- student patrol
- parent patrol
- staff presence during drop-off/pick-up
- police department support
- Neighborhood Watch program
- Walking School Bus
- Bike Train
- School traffic safety plan
- other

Our school arrival and dismissal procedures include:

FOR PEDESTRIANS AND BICYCLISTS: None

FOR SCHOOL BUSES: None

FOR CARPOOLS: None

FOR PRIVATE VEHICLE DROP-OFF/PICK-UP: None

FOR TEACHERS AND STAFF: None

Other school travel policies include:

Our school does does not provide School Safety Busing to students.

The number of students provided this service is: 30

Our school is already engaged in activities that enhance safe and active student travel, including:

7. Barriers to Active Transportation

EASTLAND ELEM SCHOOL - LANARK

We have identified and prioritized the following barriers to walking and bicycling to school:

- Significant traffic crashes within 2 miles of school over the last 3 years

Between 1-1-04 to 5-25-07 there were a total of 79 accidents investigated. 31 of these accidents occurred between 7:00 am and 4:00 pm. A majority of these were improper backing.

- Missing or insufficient walkways (sidewalks and paths)

On the Aldermen walkabouts there were of areas that did not have sidewalks along busy streets. There are also a number of sidewalks that are in need of repair.

- No safe place to ride a bike to school

- Crossing streets and intersections is difficult or dangerous

A state highway divides the town. The crosswalk is poorly marked. There is no traffic signals or crossing guards. There are also railroad tracks that run through the town that can be dangerous to cross.

- A major roadway or expressway divides the school from residential areas

- Walkways are not accessible to students with disabilities

There are a few curb ramps throughout the town. However, there are not enough to provide sufficient routes for wheelchairs.

- Distance to school is too far

A large number of students live outside the city limits. There are no walking or bicycling paths leading from any direct into the town.

- Bike parking at school is missing, insufficient or not secure

There is only one bike rack and it is in disrepair.

- Dangerous driving and speeding on streets

- Drop-off and pick-up process creates congestion and unsafe behaviors

The drop off for the elementary school is also the drop off for the shuttle to the middle school. This causes traffic congestion. Some of the parents drive aggressively which make it unsafe for walkers and bicycler to cross the street.

- Public safety concerns (crime, violence)

- School policies ban or prohibit bicycling

- Local ordinances negatively impact pedestrians and bicyclists

- Other

There is inadequate parking in the vicinity of the school. This leads to problems with illegal parking and blind spots for the drivers to pull out without being able to see if students are in the way.

8. *Creating Solutions*

Goals

Our primary goal(s) for active school transportation are :

- increase the number of students walking and bicycling to school
- improve the safety of students walking and bicycling to school
- Other

8a. Education Strategies

- Teach pedestrian and bicycle safety skills to students and parents

The police department will give presentations to students and parents regarding pedestrian and bicycle safety.

- Organize a Bicycle Rodeo or training course to teach on-bike skills

The police department will organize and conduct a bicycle rodeo to teach bicycle safety.

- Teach personal safety skills to students and parents

The police department will conduct a personal safety seminar for students and parents regarding personal safety.

- Teach the health, environmental and sustainable transportation benefits of walking and bicycling to students and parents

Information packets will be produced to teach students and parents about health, environmental and sustainable transportation benefits of walking and bicycling

- Educate parents and caregivers about safe driving procedures at the school

- Create educational materials

Printed and website educational material will be created and available to students, parents and the community on all aspects of the Travel Plan.

- Train school and community audiences about Safe Routes to School

The school and the City will host a public meeting to inform school staff and the community about our Safe Route Travel Plan.

- Other

8b. Encouragement Strategies

- Start a [Walking School Bus](#) program

We will start a Walking School Bus program by approaching some of the daycare providers and parents that already walk the children they watch before and after school to see if they would be willing to pick up some of the neighbor children on their way.

- Start a [Bike Train](#) program

- Host [International Walk to School Day](#) or other special event

Host an International Walk to School Day and at least one or two other special events to encourage walking and biking.

- Initiate a [walking/biking mileage club](#) or other contest

- Create a park-and-walk program

- Promote Safe Routes to School in the community

Conduct a public meeting, have information available at the school, and mail information to the community to promote the program.

- Initiate a reward program for safe travel behaviors among students

- Start a [Safe Passage or Neighborhood Watch](#) program

- Conduct a [community safe driving awareness and education campaign](#)

- Other

8c. Enforcement Strategies

- Create a [crossing guard training program](#)

The police department will start a crossing guard training program. We will have at least 3 crossing guards, 1 for the railroad tracks and 2 for crossing the state highway.

- Create a [parent or student patrol program](#)

- Lower speed limits in school vicinity

- Utilize [speed feedback trailers](#) or signs (portable)

We will randomly place speed feedback trailers on the state highway through town and other areas along the travel routes to encourage safe speeds.

- Other

8d. Evaluation Strategies

- Count the number of students who walk and bicycle to and from school

Both a classroom survey and a parent survey were conducted to get a count of number of students who walk or bike. A follow up survey will be conducted on a yearly basis to evaluate progress.

- Track the number of crashes within 2 miles of school

The police department has provided a list of crashes since 2004. we will evaluate the number of crashes on a yearly basis.

- Measure parent/guardian perceptions of safety

A survey was completed for parent perceptions for this plan. Surveys will be conducted on a yearly basis to evaluate progress.

- We have developed additional safety measures that include:
- Obtain planning services for expanding or improving an existing Safe Routes to School plan

We will record our measurements in the following table:

EVALUATION METHOD	"BEFORE" MEASURE AND DATE COLLECTED
Count number of walking/bicycling students	DATE: 4/13/2007 % WALKING:29 % BIKING: 3
Track number of crashes	TIME PERIOD:01-01-2004 to 12-31-2006 # OF CRASHES:0
Measure parent perceptions of safety	DATE: 4/16/2007 % WHO BELIEVE WALK/BIKE ENVIRONMENT IS SAFE: 20
Your own method:	DATE:

8e. Engineering Strategies

We have identified strategies involving the 5 "Es" of Safe Routes to School to address the barriers to walking and bicycling in our school community and to achieve our stated goals.

We have selected at least one strategy from each of the categories of Education, Encouragement, Enforcement and Evaluation, in addition to any Engineering strategies that are indicated.

The strategies we will use include:

Engineering Strategies within 2 miles of schools.

- Construct, replace or repair sidewalks

The City will construct new sidewalks where needed and repair existing sidewalks that need it.

- Create on-road bicycle lanes

- Build off-road walking/bicycling paths

- Install, enhance or repair crosswalks

Create crosswalks for the state highway through town.

- Install curb extensions to reduce the crossing distance on streets

- Install new or improved street lighting

- Install new or improved signage (school zone, speed limits, crosswalk, speed feedback signs (fixed), etc.)

Install new crosswalk signs at crossings of the state highway. Install automatic pedestrian gates at the railroad crossings. New lane restriction signs at the drop off location.

- Install new or improved pavement markings or legends

Install new pavement markings for crosswalks on the state highway and at the pedestrian railroad crossings. Improve markings for lanes at the drop off zones.

- Make existing walkways accessible to disabled students

Install more curb ramps for new and existing sidewalks.

- Install bicycle parking near schools

Replace and add new bike racks at the elementary school and the shuttle bus drop off zone.

- Install traffic calming measures (curb extensions, speed bumps, traffic circles, raised crosswalks, narrowing lanes, etc.)

Purchase mobile barricades and chains that will be placed during drop off and pick up times to narrow lanes at the drop off zone to ensure single file traffic. Install a gate at one end of the parking lot to eliminate through traffic problems near the drop-off zone.

- Install raised pedestrian islands for street crossings

- Create traffic controls using traffic lights or signs

- Redesign pick-up and drop-off procedures to increase safety and access

The drop-off zone for the shuttle buses to the middle school will be moved to the high school. There is a larger parking lot there, and will decrease traffic congestion at the elementary school. Establish a car drop off zone at the other side of the school property. The school will need to add to their parking lot.

- Other

10. The Action Plan

The Safe Routes to School team is committed to realizing our vision for a safe, enjoyable and accessible walking and bicycling environment for our students. We will utilize the following Action Plan to keep our efforts focused and on track:

Strategy	Strategy Type	Strategy Detail	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Status	Funding Source
Track the number of crashes within 2 miles of school	Evaluation	The police department has provided a list of crashes since 2004. we will evaluate the number of crashes on a yearly basis.	12-24 months	Chief of Police Ron Page	under development	none needed
Train school and community audiences about Safe Routes to School	Education	The school and the City will host a public meeting to inform school staff and the community about our Safe Route Travel Plan.	3-6 months	Alderman John Huggins	under development	in-kind participation
Measure parent/guardian perceptions of safety	Evaluation	A survey was completed for parent perceptions for this plan. Surveys will be conducted on a yearly basis to evaluate progress.	12-24 months	Alderman John Huggins	under development	other funding
Create educational materials	Education	Printed and website educational material will be created and available to students, parents and the community on all aspects of the Travel Plan.	3-6 months	Alderman John Huggins, Superintendent Mark Hansen	under development	IL SRTS Program, current cycle
Install traffic calming measures (curb extensions, speed bumps, traffic circles, raised crosswalks, narrowing lanes, etc.)	Engineering	Purchase mobile barricades and chains that will be placed during drop off and pick up times to narrow lanes at the drop off zone to ensure single file traffic. Install a gate at one end of the parking lot to eliminate through traffic problems near the drop-off zone.	3-6 months	Superintendent Mark Hansen	not yet begun	IL SRTS Program, current cycle
Construct, replace or repair sidewalks	Engineering	The City will construct new sidewalks where needed and repair existing sidewalks that need it.	3-6 months	Alderman John Huggins, Alderman Ron Strohecker, City Maintenance Department	not yet begun	IL SRTS Program, current cycle
Host International Walk to School Day or other special event	Encouragement	Host an International Walk to School Day and at least one or two other special events to encourage walking and biking.	6-12 months	PTO	not yet begun	in-kind participation

Redesign pick-up and drop-off procedures to increase safety and access	Engineering	The drop-off zone for the shuttle buses to the middle school will be moved to the high school. There is a larger parking lot there, and will decrease traffic congestion at the elementary school. Establish a car drop off zone at the other side of the school property. The parking lot at the elementary school will be expanded.	6-12 months	Superintendent Mark Hansen	not yet begun	IL SRTS Program, current cycle
Install, enhance or repair crosswalks	Engineering	Create crosswalks for the state highway through town.	3-6 months	Alderman John Huggins, Alderman Ron Strohecker, City Maintenance Department	not yet begun	other funding
Start a Walking School Bus program	Encouragement	We will start a Walking School Bus program by approaching some of the daycare providers and parents that already walk the children they watch before and after school to see if they would be willing to pick up some of the neighbor children on their way.	6-12 months	Alderman John Huggins, PTO	not yet begun	in-kind participation
Install new or improved signage (school zone, speed limits, crosswalk, speed feedback signs (fixed), etc.)	Engineering	Install new crosswalk signs at crossings of the state highway. Install automatic pedestrian gates at the railroad crossings. New lane restriction signs at the drop off location.	3-6 months	Alderman John Huggins, Alderman Ron Strohecker, City Maintenance Department	not yet begun	IL SRTS Program, current cycle
Promote Safe Routes to School in the community	Encouragement	Conduct a public meeting, have information available at the school, and mail information to the community to promote the program.	3-6 months	Alderman John Huggins	not yet begun	in-kind participation
Organize a Bicycle Rodeo or training course to teach on-bike skills	Education	The police department will organize and conduct a bicycle rodeo to teach bicycle safety.	3-6 months	Chief of Police Ron Page	not yet begun	other funding
Install new or improved pavement markings or legends	Engineering	Install new pavement markings for crosswalks on the state highway and at the pedestrian railroad crossings. Improve markings for lanes at the drop off zones.	3-6 months	Alderman John Huggins, Alderman Ron Strohecker, City Maintenance Department	not yet begun	other funding
		The police department will start a crossing				

Create a crossing guard training program	Enforcement	guard training program. We will have at least 3 crossing guards, 1 for the railroad tracks and 2 for crossing the state highway.	3-6 months	Chief of Police Ron Page	not yet begun	IL SRTS Program, current cycle
Teach pedestrian and bicycle safety skills to students and parents	Education	The police department will give presentations to students and parents regarding pedestrian and bicycle safety.	6-12 months	Chief of Police Ron Page	not yet begun	in-kind participation
Make existing walkways accessible to disabled students	Engineering	Install more curb ramps for new and existing sidewalks.	3-6 months	Alderman John Huggins, Alderman Ron Strohecker, City Maintenance Department	not yet begun	IL SRTS Program, current cycle
Utilize speed feedback trailers or signs (portable)	Enforcement	We will randomly place speed feedback trailers on the state highway through town and other areas along the travel routes to encourage safe speeds.	6-12 months	Chief of Police Ron Page	not yet begun	IL SRTS Program, current cycle
Teach the health, environmental and sustainable transportation benefits of walking and bicycling to students and parents	Education	Information packets will be produced to teach students and parents about health, environmental and sustainable transportation benefits of walking and bicycling	12-24 months	Alderman John Huggins	not yet begun	IL SRTS Program, future cycle
Install bicycle parking near schools	Engineering	Replace and add new bike racks at the elementary school and the shuttle bus drop off zone.	3-6 months	Superintendent Mark Hansen	not yet begun	IL SRTS Program, current cycle
Count the number of students who walk and bicycle to and from school	Evaluation	Both a classroom survey and a parent survey were conducted to get a count of number of students who walk or bike. A follow up survey will be conducted on a yearly basis to evaluate progress.	12-24 months	Alderman John Huggins, Superintendent Mark Hansen	under development	IL SRTS Program, current cycle
Teach personal safety skills to students and parents	Education	The police department will conduct a personal safety seminar for students and parents regarding personal safety.	6-12 months	Chief of Police Ron Page	not yet begun	in-kind participation

11. Plan Approval

We believe that building a strong partnership between schools and local government is fundamental to the success of a School Travel Plan.

Our School Travel Plan has been endorsed by the following representatives:

REQUIRED: SCHOOL OFFICIAL

Name: Mark Hansen
Title: Superintendent
Representing: Eastland Elementary School
Phone: 815-493-6301
Email: mhansen@eastland308.com

REQUIRED: SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIAL

Name: Mark Hansen
Title: Superintendent
Representing: Eastland School District 308
Phone: 815-493-6301
Email: mhansen@eastland308.com

REQUIRED: LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

Name: Kevin Barnes
Title: Mayor
Representing: City of Lanark
Phone: 815-493-2431
Email: kbarnes@lanarkil.com

OPTIONAL: OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION (Township, County, Regional Planning Council, etc.)

Name:
Title:
Representing:
Phone:
Email:

OPTIONAL: PARENT ORGANIZATION(PTA, PTO or Local School Council)

Name:
Title:
Representing:
Phone:
Email:

OPTIONAL: HEALTH ORGANIZATION (local public health agency, hospital, non-profit)

Name:
Title:
Representing:
Phone:
Email:

12. File / Image Upload

The following support files have been uploaded for this School Travel Plan:

- C:\Documents and Settings\John\My Documents\Business\City of Lanark\SRTS\2007LanarkSRTSlogo.jpg