

**LOW COST
ENGINEERING
STRATEGIES AND
EXAMPLES FROM
RURAL WESTERN
NORTH CAROLINA**

**Safe Routes
To School:
Clay County
Case Study**

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HOW IT ALL STARTED



BEGINNING INVOLVEMENT



- In 2015, our pilot program Walk Wednesday began at Hayesville Elementary.
- In 2016, Hayesville Middle School joined

STUDENT CHECK IN



- Once students safely exited the vehicle they checked in with a teacher before entering the gazebo

WALK WEDNESDAY



Pilot route that students took from the town square to their respective schools

TOWN OF HAYESVILLE WALK AUDIT



REROUTE WALKING WEDNESDAY



On the left was the original route that took students down a set of stairs. On the right, the new route eliminated the stairs and instead took students behind the gazebo.

REMOVED PARKING SPACES



NEW CROSSWALKS



REMOVED OBSTRUCTION



REMOVED OBSTRUCTION



- Storefront items were removed
- Reduced safety hazards
- Increased sidewalk space

WALKING WEDNESDAY



We averaged 80-100 students who participated in the walk to school program.



WALK WEDNESDAY WITH HAYESVILLE ELEMENTARY & HAYESVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL



The gazebo became a safe space to corral students away from traffic

WALK WEDNESDAY



COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- More walkable community
- Increased pedestrian safety
- Created aesthetically pleasing spaces
- Decrease in traffic congestion to elementary, middle and high school
- Increased accessibility for students with disabilities after the re-route

COMMUNITY CONSENSUS

- Students love the excitement of being physically and socially active with peers
- Teachers appreciate the wellness focus that SRTS provides
- School administration feels this program has reduced school tardiness-students don't want to miss it and have to be on time for the walk.
- After the walk students arrive at the school cafeteria where each student receives breakfast, is alert, hungry and gets fueled for the day.



STUDENT INVOLVEMENT



TAKE AWAYS

