



## Safe Routes to School in Action

*Burlington, WY*

### Background

Burlington is a small Wyoming town located southeast of Cody. With a population of only 250, Burlington has one school, kindergarten through grade 12, for approximately 160 students. In such a small town, many kids walk or bike to school. But, the roads in Burlington are unpaved gravel, there are no sidewalks, with the exception of a state highway that runs through town, and there are few street lights. Recognizing that sidewalks and streetlights on roads other than the state highway would create safer routes for kids to walk and bike to school, Burlington applied for a SRTS grant and WY DOT awarded \$197,000 in 2007 for infrastructure improvement projects.

### Details

A significant goal of infrastructure improvement projects in Burlington was provide safe streets with sidewalks for the kids to walk to school, instead of using the sidewalks along the highway. With grant funding, 11 blocks of sidewalk were constructed in two different sections of town, approximately 10 street lights were put on already existing poles, and school crossing signage was posted. Construction was completed in May 2008.



Completed Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Projects: Sidewalk improvement projects at Main St. and Green St. (left), Main St. and Elm St. (right) and crossing signage at crosswalk (center).

The township supported the Safe Routes to School movement by donating a bag of balls to the grade (K-8) that had the highest percentage of bikers and walkers during Bike and Walk to School Week. Theme days for Bike and Walk to School Week included Mom and Dad Monday, Two Wheel Tuesday, Walk with a Friend Wednesday, Three Color Thursday (students wore colors of a stop light), and Fancy Feet Friday (students decorated their feet).

Surveys were conducted at the end of Bike and Walk to School Week with a return rate of 84%. Results reported an increase in children biking to school. Parent comments on the surveys expressed excitement about the new sidewalks in town, "I believe the sidewalks leading to school have been a great benefit to those who use them, especially

those who bike, rollerblade, skateboard, or ride scooter." Many adults noticed that the sidewalks have not only given the children a safe place to bike and walk to school, but they have also provided safe places for the elderly and mothers with strollers to walk to town.

### **What's Next**

Burlington received \$168,900 from WY DOT in 2008 for continued sidewalk improvement projects, increased signage, and more lighting. Additionally, part of this funding will be used to buy a bike for the winner of each grade during Bike and Walk to School Week and continue to increase the number of children bicycling safely.

### **Contact Information**

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