

Implementing Safe Routes to School in Low-Income and Diverse Communities

Limited Professional Resources

East Moline, Illinois



A little background...



- East Moline – one of 5 “Quad Cities” of Iowa & Illinois
- Population of 20,000+
- East Moline School District – K-8, serves 2,500+ students in 5 schools
- Ridgewood Elementary – 400+students, K-4. Diverse population with 60+% free / reduced lunch
- November 2009 – 20% walked, 30% bus, 50% private car

“Planting Seeds”

- Participated in 2008 International Walk to School Day
- District Transportation Director, School Nurse, and Asst. City Engineer attended locally sponsored Mark Fenton SRTS training – October 2008
- Illinois state SRTS training – summer 2008



Moving Forward



- Awarded grant from Active Transportation Alliance (ATA) (Chicago) for development of travel plan
- ATA staff interviewed city & school staff, elected officials, parents and other stakeholders. Walkability assessment completed - May 2009
- Travel Plan completed and approved for Ridgewood School – September 2009

Moving Forward



- International Walk to School Day 2009
- “Pedestrian Priorities Project” formed for City of East Moline – includes Ridgewood Principal, city staff, elected officials, community partners and citizens – January 2010
- “Walk to School Wednesdays” initiated – spring 2010

Next Steps

- Continue International Walk to School Day & Walk to School Wednesdays
- Apply for infrastructure and non-infrastructure grants from Illinois DOT – fall 2010
- Begin looking at “Safe Routes to Bus Stops”
- Spread SRTS to additional elementary school



Key Points to Success



- Started small – “Walk to School Day”
- Moved outside walls for support – community organizations, city staff, elected officials, parents – this is key when district doesn’t have the capacity
- Involved the media
- Timely grant – Active Transportation Alliance





Contact Information

Christy Filby
Community Wellness Executive
Quad Cities YMCA

cfilby@quadcitiesymca.org

