

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Spring Planning Meeting

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

La Crescent Elementary School

1. Introductions: Attending –

Jason Ludwigson, City of La Crescent SRTS Coordinator

Jeff Copp, La Crescent Elementary School Building Administrator

Brian Pogodzinski, Houston County Engineer

Bill Waller, City of La Crescent Administrator

Melinda Crowley, Superintendent, ISD 300 Schools

Lauren Dodson, RN, School Nurse

Emma Bray, Student, Viterbo Nursing Program

Tammy Stremcha, Director of Operations, La Crescent Montessori & STEM School

2. Combining Bike Ped Advisory Committee with the SRTS Planning Committee

Jason presented the idea since both groups share the same interest and work off the same plans. No one wanted more meetings, but if both groups could meet bi-annually, and share the work, it might be a possibility.

3. SRTS Plan Overview (Jason)

A brief overview of the plan completed in 2020. Both infrastructure and programming continue to be developed. More details as this meeting continues.

4. Bike Friendly Business Designation

Five local businesses completed applications in November 2022. Four received Bronze: ISD 300 Public Schools, La Crescent Montessori & STEM School, The Community Bike Shoppe, a partner program of La Crescent Area Healthy Community Partnership and the La Crescent Chamber of Commerce. The SportsHub received an Honorable Mention.

5. Bike Friendly City Application

The 93-page application was completed in February 2023. Thank you Jason. Designation will be given in May. The City of La Crescent's first application in 2017 received an Honorable Mention.

6. SRTS Boost Grant

Jason completed and received this grant for \$33,000. A fleet of balance bikes for the schools and community will be purchased with a trailer to be used for transport and storage. Along with operational procedures, educational and reading materials about bike safety will be provided as well as a possible Traffic Garden to tie it all together. A celebratory event like a Bike Rodeo is being considered.

7. Transportation Alternatives Funding Awarded

As part of the SRTS Implementation Plan, funding was approved for the City of La Crescent to continue to build infrastructure for a safe walk and ped community. 8-9 projects will be completed in 2026-27 with the \$223,280 awarded. Houston County was also awarded \$808,216 to add a 5 ft paved shoulder on CTH 21. This will provide a bike friendly link to Houston and the Root River Trail beyond.

8. Bike to School Day

May 4th is the day. Jason will work with PTO to get volunteers to assist. There are some nice incentives for the kids. Let's all help if you can.

9. National Bike to Work Day and Month

May 19 is Bike to Work Day. The month is Bike to Work Month for businesses. Always a good time to promote the idea to employees, friends, and family. There was a mention of getting La Crescent Mayor and La Crosse's Mayor to do a ride across borders. Always fun to promote biking.

10. Bike Rodeo

There are a couple of opportunities to hold a Bike Rodeo this spring. We have a tentative date of Saturday, May 13 at the Elementary School on hold. We mentioned doing an event to celebrate the new balance bike fleet once it is acquired and/or doing something after school on Bike to School Day, May 4th. Linda will send out an email to Jeff and Lauren to discuss.

11. Jason mentioned Officer Ernster and Carl Ekern wanting to do an updated bike safety video. Jason would be the videographer. Looking forward to seeing that!

12. Next SRTS meeting will be this fall on Wednesday, Sept 27 at 8:30 at the La Crescent Elementary School. Jason will send an email.