



Michigan Safe Routes to School in Action...

Clague Middle School, Ann Arbor

In January of 2010 Ann Arbor's Clague Middle School was the recipient of a mini grant from the Michigan Fitness Foundation via the Michigan Department of Community Health to work through the Safe Routes to School action planning process. With almost half of Clague's 784 students living in a walkable distance, this Safe Routes to School project's goal was to use pedestrian safety measures to connect the school to the neighborhoods to the north and west. They started by convening a team that included several different stakeholders, and their first walking audit was that April. Over the next two years they held ten planning meetings to complete the school site assessment, bike audits, and complete their action plan, mapping out their list of concerns and priorities. Along the way, the committee consulted with the PTSO and principal for additional input, and conducted community outreach to notify area residents of the project. During that time they also went to work securing the funding that would be needed for the preliminary engineering and construction engineering (PE/CE) once they applied for the Safe Routes to School grant.

When looking at the issues and needs, which were many, the committee prioritized the engineering elements based on the number of students impacted by each element, the safety concern addressed, along with the cost. For the noninfrastructure elements of education and encouragement, prioritization was accomplished by considering student reach, feasibility, and sustainability of each priority.

Clague's infrastructure improvements include:

- Installation of an RRFB on Green Road just west of Kilburn Circle
- Sidewalk along Nixon Road from Clague Street north to Haverhill Court
- Continental crosswalk at intersection of Green Road and Nixon Road
- Improved crosswalk on Nixon Road at Clague Street including accompanying facilities upgraded to ADA standards on both sides of the crosswalk

Noninfrastructure elements awarded included a Bike Rodeo along with pedestrian, bicycle, and personal safety education for students, and monthly walk/bike to school days.

This project was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the teachers, parents, and students of Clague Elementary, Washtenaw County Health Department, City of Ann Arbor, Clean Energy Coalition, Arbor hills Neighborhood Association, and the U of M Project Healthy Schools.

- Federal SAFETEA-LU SRTS: \$180,065
 - Infrastructure investment: \$172,067
 - Noninfrastructure investment: \$7,998
- Project Impact:
 - 300 of Clague's nearly 750 students now have a safer route to school

