



## Michigan Safe Routes to School in Action... Dexter Schools, Dexter, Michigan Wylie Elementary & Creekside Intermediate Schools

At the heart of a good Safe Routes to School project is the planning process that brings together the schools, the community, parents, students, and municipal officials. The planning process requires much coordination and ensuring that all the stakeholders are included at the table; this can be quite an undertaking for smaller towns that may be lacking in the resources that larger cities have.



Enter a community partner like 5 Healthy Towns Foundation (5HF), a foundation whose mission is to create a culture of wellness and foster sustainable improvements in community health. 5HF was the backbone of this project, ensuring that the SRTS planning process fit into the community's larger goal of supporting the village's complete streets ordinance and strengthening their ongoing effort to create a safe network of access for pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages. This project's first priority added sidewalk on the east side of Baker Road

from the School Access Road south to Dan Hoey Road, and a pedestrian refuge island to the north of the school. Their second priority added a sidewalk on the school campus property from Bates Elementary south to connect to an established path that rings the local cemetery, allowing students from the east to



travel up Dan Hoey and then follow the new path without the need to go all the way down to the high-volume Baker Road. Dexter's final priority installed a new crosswalk at the driveway to the east side of the school campus coupled with new sidewalk on the south side of Dan Hoey from that crosswalk to Lexington Road. The project narrowed the wide driveway apron, calming traffic exiting the business adjacent to the new crosswalk and sidewalk.

In addition to the infrastructure improvements, Dexter Schools were awarded a noninfrastructure grant to implement a bike train, bike rodeo, and adult crossing guard recruitment and training.

While there were only two schools joined on this application, the project has an impact on the students at all five of Dexter's schools on its main campus, and for a very small investment. The Dexter Safe Routes to School project is a success story of a community organization doing the heavy lifting to help a school district and municipality achieve their goals.

- Total Project Amount: \$224,895
  - Infrastructure investment: \$216,000
  - Noninfrastructure investment: \$8,895
- Project Impact:
  - Students at five of Dexter's schools now have several safer routes to school

