



Michigan Safe Routes to School in Action... Horizon Elementary, Holt Public School

Infrastructure Improvements:



Horizon Elementary School in Holt and its 360 students are benefitting from the collaboration of some unusual partners. The school district along with Delhi Township, the Delhi Downtown Development Authority (DDA), and the City of Lansing worked closely to assess the walking routes around the elementary nestled at the back edge of a three-school campus. Through surveying parents and students, and conducting a walking audit they realized that an entire neighborhood of students had no option but to walk along the shoulder of a busy and fast-moving roadway to get to school. Survey results indicated that the students wanted to

walk to school, but the barrier kept them from doing so. By installing a total of .8 mile of sidewalk on three roads, high-visibility crosswalks, and ADA improvements at accompanying intersections, the school has been able to complete access to the school for all of its students living within the walk zone.



Mini-grants:

In addition to the infrastructure, Horizon Elementary was also awarded two mini grants to help develop and launch their Walking School Bus (WSB) program. When first started, the program had five part-time WSB routes. By 2013 they had grown the program to include 15 WSB routes, serving over 125 students. In the process, the district was able to realize tremendous savings by eliminating one bus route, and improved safety by significantly reducing the amount of traffic around the school by encouraging children to walk rather than being driven by parents. Additionally, the principal notes that the students have far fewer behavioral referrals than when they join the WSB, and are better focused thus perform better academically. This project is a win-win situation for all stakeholders, and with a very small total investment.



- Federal SAFETEA-LU SRTS infrastructure investment: \$213,965
- Mini-grant #1: June 2011 - \$4,500
- Mini-grant #2: February 2013 - \$1,691
- The Horizon Elementary SRTS project has been made possible due to the collaboration of numerous agencies, including the Michigan Department of Community Health, Ingham County Health Department, Delhi Township, Delhi DDA, City of Lansing, and Holt Public Schools.

Project Impact:

- 125 students now walk to school (previously, only 23 walked)
- 1 bus route has been eliminated

