



Safe Routes to School Plan



DRAFT

A Publication in Progress

The City Milton Safe Routes to School Plan

In conjunction with: Crabapple Crossing Elementary School, Summit Hill Elementary School, and Northwestern Middle School (Fulton County, GA Schools)

Draft

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Milton Facts:

City Incorporated - 2006

City Population:

School Enrollment:

Crabapple Crossing: 869

Summit Hills Elementary: 1039

Northwestern Middle: 1233

Section 1: History

Follow our Steps in Creating our Safe Routes to School Plan (SRTS)

Developing Community Interest

Milton is a new city in the State of Georgia just 28 miles from the heart of downtown Atlanta. The Georgia General Assembly approved the inception and budget for this new city to begin in December 2006. Milton has an interesting dynamic of land use areas. The city's southern end encompasses small commercial nodes off the very congested Georgia Highway 400 corridor that leads into downtown Atlanta. The city's larger more urban area is along the Georgia Highway 400 corridor, as well as the new city hall, and most all of the commercial and retail outlets. The land coverage of this area in acreage is estimated at 593 which are around 3% of the land use in the community. The northern portion of Milton has 19,616 acres of agricultural, wild land, open space and undeveloped land to make up 82% of the land use.

In January 2007 the City of Milton Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Committee (Citizens' Advisory Committee) was formed and the first meeting was held on February 13, 2007. The Committee, comprised of community members representing each district in the City of Milton along with planning experts, began to identify and assess the wants and needs of citizens for pedestrian use and cycling within Milton. They arrived at a single goal: to preserve the rural quality of life in the City of Milton by creating an easily accessible shared use trail system connecting the City's *schools*, parks, neighborhoods, and other points of interest. The committee literally spent hours studying printed maps of the City, potential trails and new recreational opportunities. The result of the first year's work is the Milton Trail Plan, which has been reviewed and was unanimously approved by the Milton City Council. The citizen members of the committee have been vital to planning and adoption of the Milton Trail Plan.

The City of Milton has worked diligently with the Milton Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Committee (Citizens' Advisory Committee) and the general public to create a plan for recreational opportunities and walking connectivity within the city limits. The Committee had a vital role in creating this plan for three schools identified within our walking master plan.

(Insert a section on Demographics of all 3 schools and the City)

Developing a Criteria for School Selection

The City of Milton has identified three schools within City limits that are a part of the Fulton County School System to partner with for a Safe Routes to School Plan. Fortunately, the schools and their respective leadership were already in pursuit of Safe Routes and were very

amenable in partnering with the City. The schools identified for this project are: Crabapple Crossing Elementary School (CCES), Summit Hill Elementary School (SHES) and Northwestern Middle School (NWMS).

In a localized area of Milton, two of these Fulton County Schools (CCES & NWMS) are within walking distance of each other. The third school is in a more rural area within the same feeder system. While in a semi-urban setting, the neighborhoods and community of Milton has a distinct rural feel with large open space acreage throughout the city. The rural spirit surrounding these schools we hope will encourage walking to school for students. Most urban areas are not as conducive to walking and traffic reduction around school zones.

Determining School Interest

City officials met with leadership representation from all three schools. All three were interested in the SRTS program. The schools identified that the Quality Core Curriculum used by the Fulton County School System contained educational tracks that fit into the SRTS Plan. Once the city made contact with the schools, a meeting was set for school leadership as well as city staff.

Forming an Organizing Group

The organizing group contained teachers, parents, school administrators and City Staff. The City of Milton Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Committee (Citizens' Advisory Committee) was advised of the program and gave their input as well.

The organizing group opted to work as a large group together in adopting a joint SRTS Plan with the assistance of the City of Milton. Each school will have their own leadership team to carry out the aspects of the SRTS Plan. However, the plan coordination would stay centralized at the City.

Leadership

Each school determined leadership for the plan. Leadership came from the original organizing group. As the leadership emerged for the plan, stakeholders were moved into SRTS team members

Kick off

City officials and key leaders at the schools met to discuss SRTS Plan requirements. Because of proximity, the schools leadership worked together to create a cohesive SRTS plan to use together since some of their proposed SRTS projects would connect. Safety issues at each school were identified first.

Section 2 Teams

Safe Routes to School Teams

The goals and Objectives of the SRTS plan will be the same for all three schools. However, the implementation of the goals and tasks for each school will be carried out by the SRTS team for each campus. Team members are identified below:

CCES:

Safe Routes to School Project Coordinator or committee chair: George Freiburger

School Principal: Sonia Terry

Parents: Paula Makrides, Katie Bondi

Representative from the Parent Teacher Association: Kathleen Hughes

One to two members of the school staff: Gary Abel, John Christiansen, Susan Lubatkin

School transportation coordinator: Crystal Brooks

Local transportation or traffic engineer: Sara Leaders

Representative from local police department: Debbie Coco (School Crossing Guard)

SHES:

Safe Routes to School Project Coordinator or committee chair: Don Webb

School Principal: Nancy Murphy

Parents: Daphne Dickens-King, Rob Ballard, Crissi Calhoun, Melissa Thomas-Dubois, Mandell Jackson

Representative from the Parent Teacher Association: Daphne Dickens-King

One to two members of the school staff: Linda Carrier, Robin Dunn, Rick Johnson

School transportation coordinator: Crystal Brooks

Local transportation or traffic engineer: Sara Leaders

Representative from local police department

NWMS:

Safe Routes to School Project Coordinator or committee chair: Deana Skimel

School Principal: Bruce Fraser

School staff: Patti Harden, Beth Rimedio, Cara Epstein

School transportation coordinator: Crystal Brooks

Section 3 - Existing Conditions Summary

In beginning our SRTS Plan in fall of 2008, we found that our schools were already participating in some form of Education, Encouragement, Engineering and Evaluation. Participation by all schools have been integrated and enhanced into the SRTS Plan.

We have identified the following activities from participating schools in key areas:

Education:

Videos are already slated to address walking safety. We will be showing *Step to Safety* in the elementary schools as well as *Carpool Safety* (by NWMS). Physical Education's Quality Core Curriculum objectives in K-5 will be used in this school year that pertain specifically to pedestrian and bicycle safety. Currently, K-8 Health/Wellness curriculum is used to reinforce good eating habits and exercising consistently.

Encouragement:

We will be promoting walk to school campaigns. This will take place in the spring of the '08-'09 school year. Committees are being set up in neighborhoods promoting walking to school. Each school has formed a Safe Routes to School/Wellness Team. Safety and Wellness Communications will be sent via e-mail through constant contact to the entire parent body of the school.

Engineering:

The City of Milton has provided preliminary engineering for our program and projects. Representatives from each school's SRTS team have met with City officials to determine ways to improve safety, reduce traffic volume, and decrease speed. The results of this preliminary engineering are within this application in our project locations.

Evaluation:

Evaluation thus far has been by using walker/biker counts provided by the SRTS team members. In January of 2009, we plan to begin a school transportation assessment survey to all parents.

Each school has an SRTS Team member that is a designated staff member. However, team member designation is not a full or part time coordinator for the position. The team member designation is within the employee's current job scope. Each school's SRTS Team as a whole will manage these activities. The grant activities will be managed by the City of Milton. Potentially, there are 1600 students that could become involved in the SRTS plan if they begin walking.

Initial Data Review:

After reviewing our data we have compiled a short summary of our findings to illustrate the potential effectiveness of our goals and objectives. Our research data is summarized in the paragraph below:

Crabapple Crossing Elementary School (CCES):

Crabapple Crossing Elementary School is located off Birmingham Highway (State Route 372), a high volume and high speed major collector through the City of Milton. The posted speed limit is 45 mph and there is an average daily traffic (ADT) volume of 8981 and a peak hour volume of 883. The school has two un-signalized driveways on Birmingham Hwy. The southern driveway is used for buses and teachers and the northern driveway is used for car rider drop off. At the northern driveway there is an obscured mid-block crosswalk crossing Birmingham Hwy and there is a crossing guard at this location that assists students to cross Birmingham Hwy. The school does not have a direct sidewalk connection from Birmingham Hwy to main school building. The school has several bicycle parking racks along the entrance to the main building but the sidewalk does not connect from Birmingham Hwy to these locations. The school zone signage for vehicles traveling northbound on Birmingham Hwy is located just before the school property line begins. The school zone signage for vehicles traveling southbound on Birmingham Hwy is located just before the traffic light at School Rd at the high school. There is very little signage to remind drivers that they are still in the school zone once they pass the high school and middle school heading southbound. The school campus is surrounded by several subdivisions and new mixed use developments. A majority of these subdivisions and new developments are on the opposite side of Birmingham Hwy than the school which requires students to cross Birmingham Hwy at either the signal at Crabapple Rd, the signal School Rd/Kensington Farms Dr, or at the mid block crosswalk at CCES. There are some available sidewalks routes that are used by current bikers and walkers. There are 22 CCES students that live in Kensington Farms Subdivision that are less than one mile from CCES. There is currently no sidewalk within the neighborhood for students to access the sidewalk on Birmingham Hwy. There are 145 CCES students that live in Waterside Subdivision off of Green Rd that are less than 1.5 miles from CCES. There are currently 2 sidewalk gaps on Crabapple Rd (State Route 372) from Green Rd to Birmingham Hwy. It is estimated currently that CCES has 4 bikers and 49 walkers. There are 640 students (73%) within a 2 mile radius of the campus. The school enrollment is 869. Potentially, CCES could add many more biker and walkers with the addition of critical sidewalk connections. This yields the potential for over 600 children walking or biking to and from school each day.

Summit Hill Elementary School (SHES):

Summit Hill Elementary School is located off Providence Rd and just west of Cowart Rd in a rural/residential area of the City of Milton. Providence Rd, posted at 45 mph, is part of Milton's east-west connection with an ADT over 8000 and an 85th percentile speed of 53 mph. There is a signal at the school driveway and Providence Rd. The school zone is not highly visible and is located just before the signal on approaches from both directions. There is very little pedestrian activity currently at the signalized intersection. The available pedestrian movement is to cross the school drive and there is not a crosswalk for this movement. There is no existing sidewalk

available on the opposite side of Providence Rd. There are available sidewalks on the north side of Providence Rd from the school to Freemanville Rd and there are some available sidewalks along the south side of Providence Rd. There are several neighborhoods that have access to these existing sidewalks. The school backs up to low volume gravel roads that create a loop from Freemanville Rd to Redd Rd to Providence Rd and to Hagood Rd. There are several students that live on these gravel roads. There is also great potential to provide new trail connections from existing sidewalk and neighborhoods on the busy roads of Freemanville Rd, Redd Rd, Providence Rd, and Hagood Rd to the low volume gravel road loop as a safe route to SHES.

Currently there are no (0) known bikers at the school and 9 walkers. The school has a bicycle parking rack at the northeast end of the school and can be easily accessed by students riding to school from the gravel road loop. A majority of the current walkers come from the gravel roads to the northeast entrance of the school. There is a permanent barricade located just north of the school property across Cowart Rd to prevent cut through traffic and to maintain low volumes on the gravel roads. The existing sidewalk ends just before the barricade and does not provide a continuous pathway from the road to the sidewalk. There are 396 (38%) students within a 2 mile radius. The campus enrollment is 1039. There is also a large potential for walkers and bikers with sidewalk/trail connectivity provided by the Safe Routes to School Program. This yields the potential for nearly 400 students to walk to school.

Northwestern Middle School (NWMS)

Northwestern Middle School is located off School Rd that runs between two major north-south roadways, Birmingham Hwy and Freemanville Rd. For Birmingham Hwy, the posted speed limit is 45 mph with an ADT of 8981 and a peak hour volume of 883. For Freemanville Rd, the posted speed limit is 45 mph and with an ADT around 5000 and an 85th percentile speed of 51 mph. There are signals at the intersections of School Rd/ Kensington Farms Dr at Birmingham Hwy and School Rd at Freemanville Rd. There are many conflicts with vehicles and pedestrians at these signals and especially with vehicles making right turns in and out of School Rd. Often the school access road is used as a cut through between the major north-south roads and to avoid traffic lights at Freemanville Rd and Mayfield Rd and at Birmingham Hwy and Crabapple Rd/Broadwell Rd. This cut through causes more traffic and in the mornings, more speed, and less awareness of pedestrian safety. There are 24 NWMS students and 23 Milton High School students that live in Kensington Farms Subdivision that are less than one mile from the middle and high schools. There is currently no sidewalk within the neighborhood for students to access the sidewalk on Birmingham Hwy. There is also a critical sidewalk gap on Birmingham Hwy between Six Hills Subdivision and Kensington Farms Subdivision. Currently, there are 3 bikers and 30 walkers with an enrollment of 1233. NWMS has 48% of students living within two miles of the school and yields the potential for over 600 children to walk to school.

Insert Here:

Future Survey Data

PDF of Existing Conditions and future project map

PDF of Conditions Photos

** Please note this portion of our SRTS plan is under construction. Please refer to this web site frequently for updates.*

Section 4- GOALS & ACTIVITIES:

Collectively the organizational team members devised a set of goals and objectives to achieve together in this feeder school system. Collaboration with each other will have a ripple effect in the community.

Goals:

- **To reduce traffic congestion by 15%**
 - Implement 75% of high-priority infrastructure projects within two years
 - To reduce the average speed in the school zone by 50%
 - Additional signage will make for a smoother traffic flow during start and end times for schools.
 - Utilization of traffic officers and crossing guards will assist in the proper and safe flow of traffic on Birmingham Hwy. Proper and effective training will be given to these people to make them more knowledgeable in the area of bicycle and pedestrian safety.

- **To increase number of walkers and bike-riders by 50%.**
 - Increase the number of bike racks.
 - Host walk to school days both community and school sponsored.
 - Emphasize bicycle and pedestrian safety through PE classes and videos.

- **Build community awareness of/and participation in the Safe Routes to School Program**
 - Monthly blast e-mails through constant contact
 - Business, Community, and Administration members support the seasonal walk to school campaign.
 - Work with various neighborhoods to promote walking to school/biking to school by working with neighborhood associations to discuss safety, walk to school routes and parent participation.

- **Build student awareness for bicycle and pedestrian safety**
 - To provide bicycle and pedestrian safety information to all members of the school community on a yearly basis.
 - To promote physical activity among 3rd through 5th graders by providing monthly walking and bicycling events.
 - Show *Step to Safety* in the elementary school.
 - Show *Carpool Safety* in the middle school.
 - Committees are being set up in neighborhoods promoting walking to school.
 - Each school has formed a Safe Routes to School/Wellness Team.
 - K-8 Health/Wellness curriculum is used to reinforce good eating habits and exercising consistently.

- PE's Quality Core Curriculum objectives in K-5 will be taught that pertain specifically to pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Activities to meet objectives

Encouragement

Activity	Timeline	Tasks	Who	Status
1) School Transportation Assessment Parent Survey	January 2009	1.) Create survey 2.) Tally 3.) Create on-line Survey	SRTS Coordinator	<i>Under Development</i>
2) Utilize Principal and PTA Newsletters	Spring 2009	1.) Develop Articles 2.) Post on website 3.) Bike/ Pedestrian Safety Posters 4.) Post survey results	SRTS Wellness Committee	<i>Under Development</i>
3.) Hold Walk and Roll to School poster contest.	April 2009	1.) Prepare <i>Walk & Roll to School</i> poster contest flier. 2.) Encourage Participation through daily announcements. 3.) Collect posters on due date.	SRTS Coordinator	<i>Under Development</i>
4.) Conduct monthly Walk and Roll to School Day events with different themes	Fall 2009	1) Develop and distribute flyers 2) Make posters 3) Recruit volunteers 4) Blast e-mail and constant contact.	1.) SRTS Team. 2.) Art Classes 3.) PTA Health Chair .	<i>Under Development.</i>

Enforcement

Activity	Timeline	Tasks	Who	Status
1.) Install speed checking devices	Fall 2009	1) Request speed trailer 2) Request increased surveillance 3.) Speed Trailer needed. 4) Obtain speed data from county	1.) SRTS Wellness Team 2.) Milton Police Department	<i>Under Development</i>
2) Hold Traffic Safety Education Day	September 2009	1.) Create PE Program. 2.) Back to School Night Presentation.	PTA	<i>Under Development</i>
3.) School Walker/Rider Guidelines	Fall 2008	1.) Create walker/rider guidelines will SRTS/Wellness team support. 2.) Insert information into '09-'10 Student Handbook. 3.) Notifying all families of new walker biker guidelines. 4.) Obtaining parent signed release forms.	SRTS Coordinator	Used at <i>CCES</i> Under development for <i>SHES & NWMS</i>

Education

Activity	Timeline	Tasks	Who	Status
1.) Pedestrian Safety Videos	Fall 2009	Show videos in school	Staff	<i>Under Development</i>
2.) Health and PE lessons that focus on bicycle and pedestrian safety.	Fall 2009	Teach the state curriculum.	Teachers	<i>Under Development</i>
3.) Safety Street Georgia in-house field trip	October 2009	Set-up time and space for activity.	SRTS Coordinator	<i>Under Development</i>
3.) Publish monthly bicycle and pedestrian education articles in school/PTA newsletters	2009-2010 School Year	Write articles and submit to editor by deadline.	SRTS/Wellness Committee.	<i>Under Development</i>

Surveys

Website- Survey Monkey

Back Packs

Front Office

Engineering:

Please see attached PDF documents of proposed engineering improvements for the 3 schools as designed by the City of Milton staff.

Section 5 – Implementation Strategies