

Como Park Elementary
Saint Paul, MN

SAFE ROUTES
TO SCHOOL

Executive Summary



The Vision

A holistic plan to improve the safety and accessibility of walking and biking to school, while empowering students to walk and bike independently at school and in their own neighborhoods.

In June 2023, the Saint Paul Public Schools and the City of Saint Paul completed a year-long planning process that culminated in a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plan. The SRTS plan identifies policy changes, infrastructure improvements, and program strategies to create a safe, comfortable, and fun active transportation system and culture of walking and biking to school, with a focus on addressing equity in transportation and meeting the needs of under-resourced groups.

This summary highlights **selected high-priority infrastructure recommendations and selected program recommendations** from the SRTS plan.

Infrastructure

Engineering projects that improve streets and routes



- A

Make trail connections between the shared use path through Como Park, and the Como Lake bike trail. Consider making the Como Lake bike trail two-way or providing a bicycle facility that can be taken clockwise around the south side of the lake.
- B

Upgrade crossings to include accessibility improvements, such as a curb ramps that meet current ADA standards. Other elements to consider include modifying the free right condition and creating a protected intersection.
- H

Add “Staff Parking Only” signage to Grotto St N parking lot entrance and move visitor parking to the main parking lot. Consider closing the Grotto St N entrance in a future reconstruction project.
- I

Ensure streets near the schools have sidewalks in good condition by filling sidewalk gaps, repairing or replacing sidewalks in poor condition, and installing ADA-compliant curb ramps where needed.

GET INVOLVED

Want to help make it safer, easier, and more comfortable to walk and bike to school in Saint Paul? Contact your school principal or SRTS lead to learn how to get involved.

Sarah Stewart | Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Saint Paul Public Schools | sarah.stewart@spps.org

Learn more about SRTS in Minnesota at www.dot.state.mn.us/saferoutes



Programs

Education, encouragement, engagement



Drop and Walk

When, where, and how will this be implemented?

Coordinated drop-off points along the Como Lake Trail and/ or Wheelock Parkway.

Why is this relevant and recommended? Strategic drop-off locations can remove major crossing barriers (e.g., Dale Street).

How will this address transportation inequities? Coordinated events can make walking/biking accessible to students disproportionately impacted by unsafe crossings.

How will this be evaluated? Annual caregiver survey about transportation patterns.

Who needs to be involved to make this happen? Students, PTO, school staff.

What is the timeline for implementation? Short term.



Bike Rodeo

When, where, and how will this be implemented? A bike rodeo could take place as a stand-alone event or incorporated into existing community or school events. High school students could volunteer to help teach bike skills to elementary school students.

Why is this relevant and recommended? Events such as bike rodeos can teach bike handling skills, as well as knowledge about the rules of the road and safe cycling practices.

How will this address transportation inequities? The event could target priority populations with a focus on transportation equity. Local bike shops or SPPD could provide giveaways and/or demonstrations for students who do not have access to bicycles, quality bike locks, or helmets.

How will this be evaluated? Participation rates, before and after participant survey, annual caregiver survey.

Who needs to be involved to make this happen? Students, school staff, PTO, BikeMN, local bicycle shops, SPPD.

What is the timeline for implementation? Short term.

Como Park Senior High
Saint Paul, MN

SAFE ROUTES
TO SCHOOL

Executive Summary



The Vision

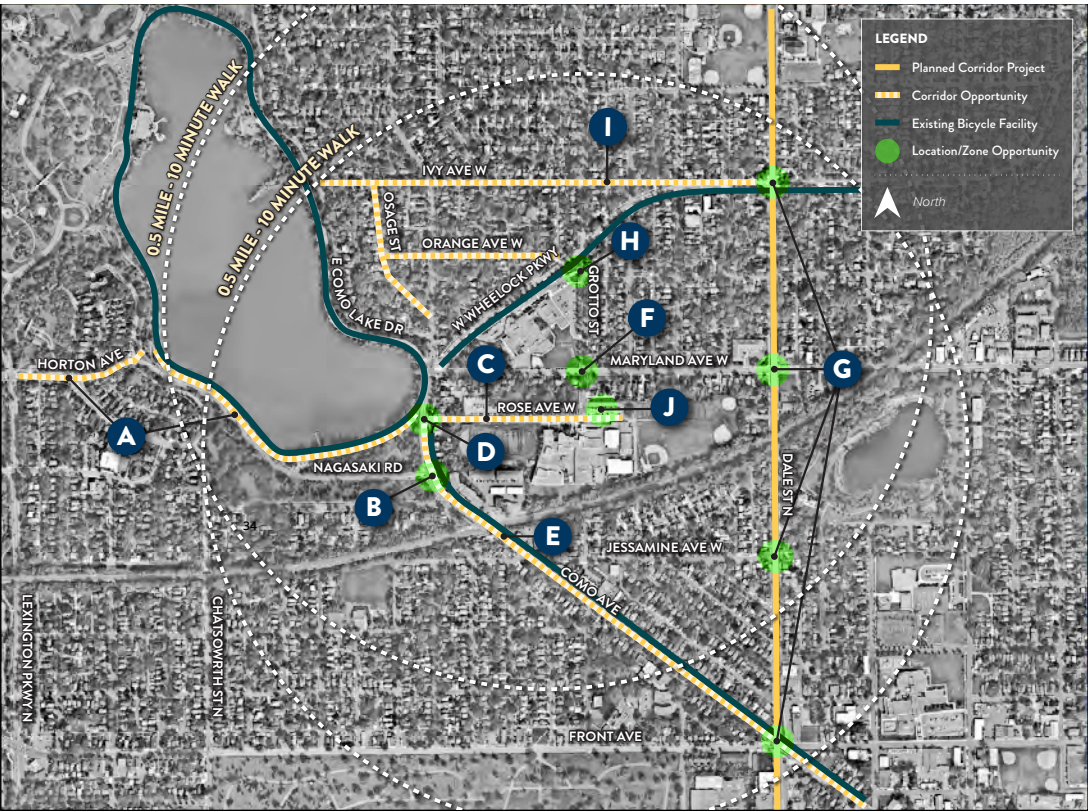
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Infrastructure

Engineering projects that improve streets and routes



- C

Pursue funding to add a sidewalk connection to accommodate students walking along the segment west of the school campus.
- D

Add a pedestrian crossing on the south side of the intersection, including high-visibility crosswalk, median refuge island, and school crossing signs, as well as a connection to the Como Lake trail.
- F

Install a demonstration project to evaluate placement of curb extensions on Maryland on the southwest and northeast corners to improve visibility and shorten crossings. Remove “No Parking” signs along Maryland Ave. Add high-visibility crosswalks where appropriate. Consult the St. Paul Department of Public Works policy on crosswalk markings when considering marked crosswalks.
- J

Install signs and road markings to indicate where caregiver drop-off and pick-up should happen; when possible, provide staffing to help direct and manage traffic.

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Programs

Education, encouragement, engagement



Earn-a-Bike Program

When, where, and how will this be implemented? High school students could repair bikes donated through Free Bikes 4 Kidz or through SPPD, and take classes through an after-school outdoor club or as part of shop class. Bike classes could be taught by local advocacy group volunteers. Helmets could be provided by SPPD and bike locks could be offered as well.

Why is this relevant and recommended? Students may lack access to bicycles, helmets and locks. Learning to maintain and repair a bicycle that they earn builds confidence and ownership.

How will this address transportation inequities? This program could provide access to bikes for students who do not currently have them.

How will this be evaluated? Participation counts; student travel tallies.

Who needs to be involved to make this happen? Staff, students, local advocacy groups, local bike shops.

What is the timeline for implementation? Medium term.



Transit Curriculum

When, where, and how will this be implemented? Volunteers from partner organizations could visit advisory periods and/or be available to answer questions at all-school events. Students could track their trips as part of a Green Transportation Challenge, with prizes or incentives.

Why is this relevant and recommended? Busing for high school students is provided by Metro Transit. In MoveMN focus groups, students expressed concerns about personal safety on transit. Increasing confidence in transit use will help build a culture of sustainable and active transportation.

How will this address transportation inequities? This will support student knowledge of and comfort with transit.

How will this be evaluated? Participation rates, before and after participant survey, annual caregiver survey.

Who needs to be involved to make this happen? Students, staff, Metro Transit, MoveMN, and SPPD staff.

What is the timeline for implementation? Short-term.