

Mississippi Creative Arts School
Saint Paul, MN

SAFE ROUTES
TO SCHOOL

Executive Summary



The Vision

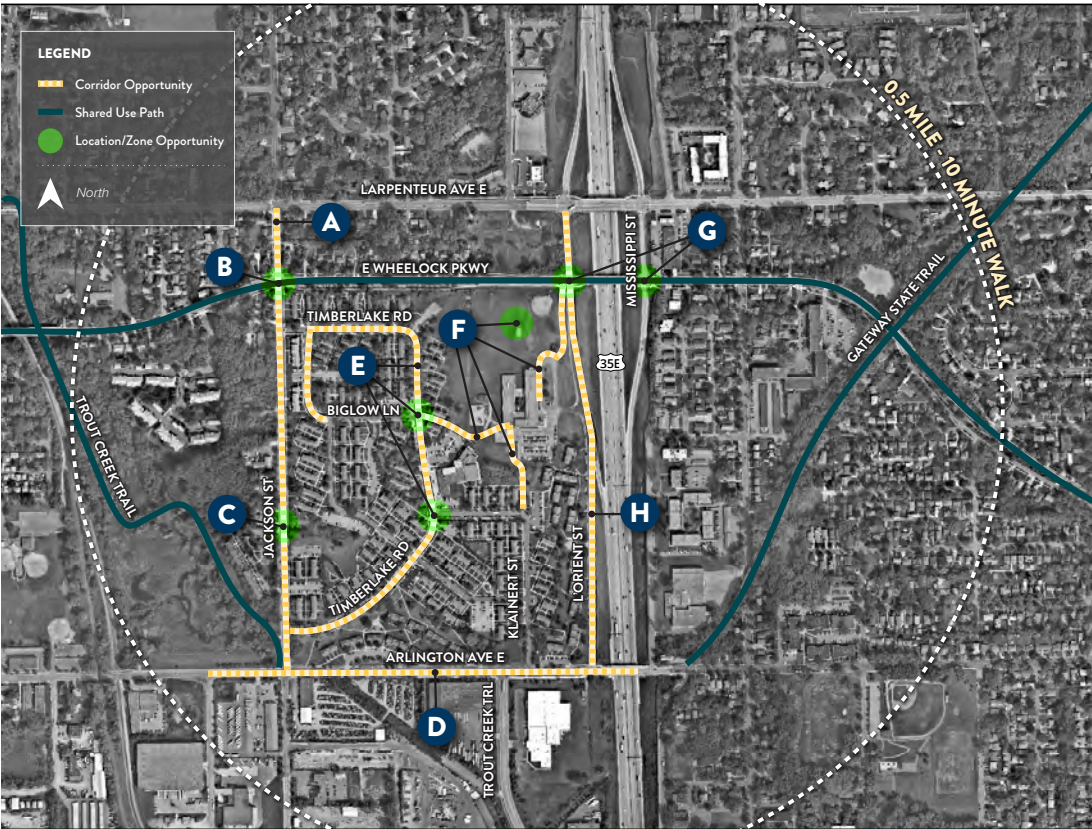
A community-centered plan to improve the safety and accessibility of walking and biking to school and community destinations, while improving students’ physical and mental well-being

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 infrastructure and program recommendations** from the SRTS plan.

Infrastructure

Engineering projects that improve streets and routes



- C** Evaluate feasibility of a midblock crossing near the Metro Transit bus stops at Hoyt Ave E or a nearby location. If a shared-use path is included in a future reconstruction project, consider including curb extensions as a part of a mid-block crossing.
- E** Improve crossings adjacent to the school/park property along Timberlake Rd, including at Biglow Ln where the path to the school meets the bus stop, the crossing near McDonough Recreation Center, and at Klainert St N. Evaluate locations and types of signage and upgrade curb ramps to current design standards. As a short-term option, consider installing a demonstration project and/or paint-the-pavement.
- F** Evaluate condition, accessibility, and winter maintenance of existing paths and walking routes. In the school parking lot, add an artistic element to indicate the safe walking route and striping to prevent cut-through traffic.
- I** Ensure streets near the school(s) 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.

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

Programs

Education, encouragement, engagement



Bike Rodeo

When, where, and how will this be implemented? Hold a bike rodeo in conjunction with an existing family event. Have the Saint Paul Police Department bike truck available to offer helmets and bike maintenance.

Why is this relevant and recommended? Although many students own bikes, a number of students mentioned that their bikes were broken and not rideable.

How will this address transportation inequities? Coordinated events can make learning walking/biking safety and bike maintenance accessible to students at a time when families will already be visiting the school. A bike rodeo can increase access to bikes, maintenance, helmets, and locks.

How will this be evaluated? Participation counts.

Who needs to be involved to make this happen? Students, PTO, staff, SPPD, community partners.

What is the timeline for implementation? Short term.



Walking School Bus and Bike Train

When, where, and how will this be implemented? The school and SRTS team could help recruit adult leaders to establish walking school buses and bike trains.

Why is this relevant and recommended? These events build enthusiasm for walking and biking, and help families try out new transportation options/routines. Walking/biking in a group also helps parents and caregivers feel more confident in their child’s safety.

How will this address transportation inequities? The school could prioritize recruitment in areas where there are transportation inequities.

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

Who needs to be involved to make this happen? School staff, students, parents.

What is the timeline for implementation? Short term.