



Washington SRTS FAQ

December 6, 2018

What is a SRTS?

The Safe Routes to School program (SRTS) is an approach that promotes walking and bicycling to school through infrastructure improvements, enforcement, tools, safety education, and incentives to encourage walking and bicycling to school. Nationally, 10% – 14% of car trips during morning rush hour are for school travel. SRTS initiatives improve safety and levels of physical activity for students (<https://www.transportation.gov/mission/health/Safe-Routes-to-School-Programs>).

What is this project?

This project is another step in the implementation of the Washington Technology Magnet School Safe Routes to School Plan (<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/walking-saint-paul/safe-routes-school>). This project will improve and add sidewalk, providing connections for students and residents walking in the area to important destinations such as West Wheelock Parkway (part of the Grand Rounds park route), Washington Technology Magnet School and the newly finished Community School of Excellence, Rice and Arlington Field, and the many residences and businesses in the area. Pedestrian curb cuts (a.k.a. ramps) will be updated to current standards and added at identified intersections. Pedestrian countdown timers will be added to the signal systems at Nebraska Avenue West and Rice Street, and Arlington Avenue West and Rice Street. Pedestrian improvements, including bump outs, will be constructed at the Arlington Avenue West and West Hoyt Avenue /Matilda Street intersection.

What will the assessment be?

As this is a sidewalk project separate from a reconstruction project and part of a separately funded SRTS project, there are no planned assessments.

When will this project start?

The project is expected to begin in September 2019 with additional work planned in the 2020 construction season.

Will there be impacts to trees?

Where there is not enough space to place sidewalk between the edge of city right-of-way and a tree, tree removal will be necessary. The project will work with the Parks and Recreation forester to limit impact to existing trees.