



June 20, 2006

**Safe Routes to Schools Program Workshop Report
Ferdinand Herff Elementary School,
Workshop date January 20, 2006**

The San Antonio-Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Safe Routes to Schools (SRS) Program is modeled after the national SRS program which is designed to promote walking and bicycling to school through education and incentives to promote walking and cycling as well as identifying infrastructure improvements. The workshops have been conducted for seven elementary schools within the San Antonio Independent School District. To date the workshops have focused on elementary schools but the program could benefit middle schools and high schools, as well.

Goals of the local SRS program are to:

- 1) Help the community better understand their walking and bicycling environment
- 2) Help the community identify infrastructure improvements that can be made to improve walking and cycling.
- 3) Serve as an educational process for local infrastructure and operational programs that are available through the various public agencies
- 4) Serve as a two-way communication forum between the community and the public agency staffs

The workshops are sponsored by the MPO in cooperation with Alamo Area Council of Governments, Bexar County, City of San Antonio, San Antonio Independent School District, Texas Department of Transportation and VIA Metropolitan Transit. Together we provide parents an avenue to identify problem areas that they are aware of within the school's attendance zone. The issues identified range from transportation issues to code compliance issues to police safety issues. All issues are identified within this report and the report is sent to the appropriate agencies. Four reports were developed and provided in FY 2005. The Fernando Herff Elementary workshop is the second workshop completed in FY 2006.

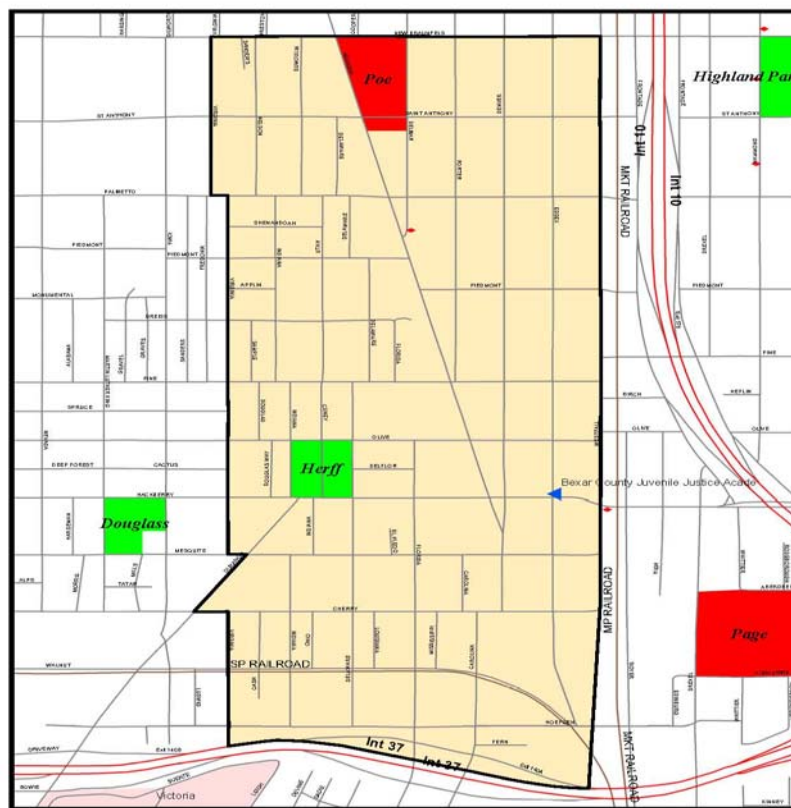
Not all the issues identified in this report may qualify for funding through the Federal SRS program. However, local agencies may utilize this report and the issues that are identified to implement appropriate changes in support of the Safe Routes to School's overall goals. Together we can improve our children's walk or bike route to school.

Study Area Description

Ferdinand Herff Elementary School (Herff) is located at 996 S Hackberry Street in San Antonio, Texas 78210. The Study area identified for the SRS workshop was the attendance zone for the School. The study area is predominantly residential in nature. The school is located in City Council District 2 currently represented by Councilwoman Sheila McNeil and County Commission Precinct 4 currently represented by Commissioner Tommy Adkisson.

Herff Elementary Attendance Boundary

996 S Hackberry St
San Antonio, TX 78210



1 inch equals 0.15 miles

Legend

Facilities	
■	Elementary
■	High
■	Middle
■	Admin
▲	Non-Traditional
■	Charter Schools
♦	Apartments
—	Streets
—	Highways
—	Railroad
—	Creeks & Streams
—	Rivers
—	Attendance Area
—	Federal Developments

Attendance Area

Geographical Statistics

As of May 2003

The number of:	#
Apartment Complexes	1
Federal Developments	0
Charter Schools	0
Single Family Homes	1161

Community Outreach

The principal, Thomasine Chambers actively promoted the workshop and provided all parents with a colorful bright yellow flyer explaining the workshop in both English and Spanish. The workshop was also announced at a parent/child function that happened immediately before the program.

FERDINAND HERFF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

996 S. Hackberry Street
San Antonio, Texas 78210
210-533-7500 (fax) 210-533-9500
Thomasine Chambers, Principal

January 18, 2006

Estimados Padres:

La primaria de Herff se realizará un Taller de Rutas Seguras el viernes, 20 de enero de 2006 de las 3:00pm a 5:00pm. El propósito del Programa de Rutas Seguras será de promover la actividad física utilizando la bicicleta y caminando.

El personal de la agencia del taller es representado por el MPO, trabajos públicos de la Ciudad de San Antonio, VIA Tránsito Metropolitano, Condado de Bexar y el Concilio de Área de Alamo de Gobiernos presentarán información de los beneficios de la salud y el transporte, varios tipos del transporte, las condiciones de la seguridad del tráfico así como métodos actualmente disponibles para caminar y para educar como usar la bicicleta seguramente.

Apreciaríamos la oportunidad de visitar con usted y explicar aún más nuestra Programa de Rutas Seguras y las conclusiones específicas de la Primaria Herff. Esperamos que usted será capaz de asistir. La guardería de niños, premios y refrescos serán disponible.

Sinceramente,


Thomasine Chambers
Directora

FERDINAND HERFF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

996 S. Hackberry Street
San Antonio, Texas 78210
210-533-7500 (fax) 210-533-9500
Thomasine Chambers, Principal

January 18, 2006

Dear Parents:

Herff Elementary will conduct a Safe Routes to School Workshop on Friday, January 20, 2006 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. The purpose of the Safe Routes to School Program is to promote physical activity through bicycling and walking to school.

The workshop agency staff represented by the MPO, City of San Antonio public works, VIA Metropolitan Transit, Bexar County And the Alamo Area Council of Governments will present information on the health and transportation benefits associated with walking and biking to school, various types of transportation, traffic safety conditions as well as currently available methods to walk or bike safely to school.

We would appreciate the opportunity to visit with you and further explain our Safe Routes to School Program and the specific findings for Herff Elementary School. We hope that you will be able to attend. Childcare, door prizes and refreshments will be provided.

Sincerely,


Thomasine Chambers
Principal

SRS Workshop

The Herff Elementary Safe Routes to School Workshop was held immediately after another school program taking place at the end of the school day. Parents were asked to remain for our workshop. The workshop was held on January 20, 2006. Staff members from Alamo Area Council of Governments, Bexar County, City of San Antonio, San Antonio-Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization, Texas Department of Transportation and VIA Metropolitan Transit were in attendance to assist in the facilitation and provide information for participants at the workshop.

Fifteen parents participated in the workshop. The school staff assisted in Spanish translation for the non-English speaking participants. Refreshments and door prizes were also provided by the school as incentives for parents to participate. The MPO provided helmets as part of the door prizes.

Identified Concerns

The issues brought up for discussion during the workshop were not limited in any way. Participants were asked to identify issues that they felt needed attention in the area. Code compliance, law enforcement issues and general public works issues were all identified as well as sidewalks. The following is a summary of the issues identified by topic.

Sidewalk issues were identified as a problem throughout the attendance area but especially on the following streets. It is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain the sidewalks that abut their property; however the City of San Antonio has several funding sources available for the repair and construction of sidewalks.

Location/Limits
Olive Street from Virginia to Denver
Cuney from Olive to Pine
Aransas from Palmetto to Denver
Denver from New Braunfels to Cherry except between Piedmont and Palmetto where there are sidewalks that are in good condition
Hackberry between Virginia and Westfall except between Delaware and Florida where there are sidewalks in that are in good condition
Indiana between Mesquite and Hoefgen

Residents indicated concerns regarding speeding at the following locations: Residents would like options for traffic calming on the following locations. The San Antonio Police Department is responsible for the enforcement of all traffic violations (including speeding); each school is assigned a school safety officer to assist with all enforcement issues. Herff is located in the East substation area, which is currently served by Officer Laura Tate (207-6824). The installation of speed bumps and other traffic calming measures on City streets is handled by the City of San Antonio's Public Works Department, Traffic Engineering Division. Requests regarding traffic related issues can be made by calling 311.

Location/Limits
Hackberry from Virginia to Westfall
Durango from Cherry to Hackberry
Denver from New Braunfels to Cherry

Aransas from New Braunfels to Denver
Indiana from Pine to Hoefgen

The intersection below was considered by participants to be inappropriate for children to cross alone. A study is requested to determine if the intersection can be adjusted to increase the pedestrian safety level.

Pine, Aransas and Port (3 way intersection)

The following code compliance issues were identified. Participants are encouraged to call 311 for these types of issues if they fall within the City of San Antonio. The 311 operator will route the caller to the appropriate department or log the request into the system.

- Olive and Aransas (alley: student harassment, stray animals)
- Rear of school: Delaware at Hackberry and Olive at Hackberry
- Stray dogs on Hackberry
- Abandoned Houses on Hackberry (loitering, drugs)
- Suspected prostitution within the area close to the school

General Public Works maintenance issues were identified. Participants are encouraged to call 311 for these types of issues since they fall within the City of San Antonio.

Drainage issues on Hackberry

Next Steps

Copies of this report will be provided to Herff Elementary School, San Antonio Independent School District, Alamo Area Council of Governments, Bexar County Precinct 4, City of San Antonio (Departments Public Works, Planning, Code Compliance, Police), City Council District 2 office, Texas Department of Transportation San Antonio District Office, VIA Metropolitan Transit. We encourage these agencies to review the issues that have been identified and prioritize these projects for future individual or joint funding.

It is recommended that Herff Elementary and San Antonio Independent School District staff or representatives should schedule a follow up visit with appropriate City of San Antonio, VIA Metropolitan Transit and Texas Department of Transportation officials to discuss the benefits of the Safe Routes to Schools program and the importance of addressing these identified issues.

Herff Elementary and the San Antonio Independent School District should explore financial partnerships with these agencies, the MPO, the City Council District and, possibly the private sector, to help fund the highest priority issues.

The school and district should also educate parents who could not attend the workshop on the SchoolPool, Biking Buddies and Walking School Bus programs and continue coordination with the Alamo Area Council of Governments to implement these programs.

Workshop Evaluation by Participant

At the end of the workshops participants were asked to fill out an evaluation that was provided in English and in Spanish. A copy of the answers from the evaluation is provided below:



Herff Elementary Safe Routes to School Workshop Evaluation

February 28, 2006

DATA RESULTS

25 participants; 15 non staff in attendance

14 respondents

93 % of non staff participants responded



1. **Did the workshop meet your expectations?** yes 79% no 21%
If no, why not?

“Not all representative were present to listen or hear our suggestions”

2. **As a result of today’s meeting are you more likely to allow you child to walk to school in the future?** yes 50% no 50%
If no, what other concerns need to be addressed?

“not until all our needs are met. sidewalks, speed signs, speed lights”

“Too many bars/ liquor stores/ prostitutes motels”

“maybe”

“gang & criminal activity on Roosevelt and nearby motels.

“I might if things actually happened”

“nadamas que pongao mas policies o que den mas vuelts por la escuela para los ninos que caminan para que los policies los vallan vijilando” (There needs to be more police presence in the neighbor around the school diligently enforcing laws and protecting the children from the criminals)

“muchos motels cerca de la escuela. Cantinas cerca de la escuela” (Many hotels and bars near the school)

“Casi todo los dias caminamos en el dia o noche” (Almost everyday we walk day and night)

3. **Was the information presented clearly?** yes 93% no 7%
If no, what do we need to improve on?

“Si la proxima vez pedra ser en los dos idiomas en ingles y Espanol” (Have the information in both Spanish and English)”

“Que nos las den en Espanol (Provide the information in Spanish)”

“que la information sea en espanol (That the information is in Spanish)”

“La information verbal y escrita sea en español tambien” (Information verbal and written is in Spanish also)

“I don’t feel that the crossing guard issue was addresses appropriately. Act together. They should be responsible.”

“Que porgan tombien senales de que hay escuela en la calle Hansford porque unos carros pason muy recio.” (There needs to be a stop sign at Hansford Street. The cars speed through there too fast.)

4. What other topics can we include to improve the workshop?

“I can’t think of any right know”

“Statistics on bicycle safety and accidents”

“environmental”

“trafico ala salido de la escuela (traffic when leaving school)

“un poco muy bien mas en espanol (more in Spanish)

5. What problems and limitations did you encounter during the workshop?

“nobody to translate in Spanish”

“Problemas con el trafico” (Problems with the traffic.)”

“I don’t know”

“time”

“shortness of time”

“none”

“lack of representation of organization city ordinance, police dept. city etc”

“Se necesita mas Police en el dia cuando Salen los ninos de la escuela” (It is necessary for more Police during the day when school is session to protect the children.)”

“El idioma fue un elenento fundamental ya que el 97% hablamos espanol en esta junta” (97% are Spanish speakers and have elementary foundation in English)

“que se explico en el idioma ingles la major parte” (That they explained it in English)”

“Il idioma fue una limitacion parquet la mayoria hablamos espanol” (The language was a limitation because a majority of us speak Spanish)”

MPO Contact Information for information within this report please contact::

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