



**Safe Routes to Schools Program Workshop Report
San Antonio – Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Riverside Park Academy, February 28, 2006**

Safe Routes to Schools Program

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 presented in seven 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, VIA Metropolitan Transit and San Antonio Independent School District. Together we provide parents an avenue for discussion as to problems they are aware of within the area. The issues identified range from transportation issues to code compliance issues to police safety issues to name a few. 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 qualify for funding through the SRS program. Agencies are asked to consider the issues presented and to adopt appropriate changes to support the Safe Routes to School's overall goals. Together we can improve our children's safe routes to school.

Study Area Description

Riverside Park Academy is located at 202 School St 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 3 represented by Councilman Roland Gutierrez and County Commissioner Precinct 1 represented by Commissioner Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez.

Riverside Park Elementary Attendance Boundary

202 School St
San Antonio, TX 78210



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 | 3 |
| Federal Developments | 0 |
| Charter Schools | 2 |
| Single Family Homes | 1183 |

Community Outreach

In addition to the MPO representative attending a Parent/Teacher Association prior to the workshop the principal provide parents with a handout on the day of the event. The real outreach came from the Parent/Teacher Association President who called parents the day of the event and invited them to the workshop.

SRS Workshop

The Riverside Park Academy Safe Routes to School Workshop was held immediately after the normal school day on February 28, 2006, at 4:00 p.m. The start time was delayed until the PTA President contacted parents. 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 represented at the workshop.

Fifteen parents participated in the workshop. The school provided staff for interpreting for the non-English speaking participants. Two bicycles were provided as door prizes as incentives for parents to participate. The MPO provided helmets as part of the door prizes.

Identified Concerns

The issues discussed during the workshop were not limited to transportation issues. Participants were encouraged to identify all concerns relating to their children traveling to school safely. Code compliance, law enforcement issues and general public works issues are discussed as well as the topics of sidewalks. The following is a summary of the issues discussed.

The primary concern of parents and staff at the school is that the railroad tracks are so close to the school and they do not feel there are sufficient safety measures in place. The tracks travel through the school grounds per the attendance zone map on the San Antonio Independent School District website.

The second concern according to priorities identified was the issue of missing sidewalks in the attendance area. 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. The streets identified below were of particular concern for participants in attendance.

| Location/Limits |
|---|
| School Street from Naylor to Presa |
| School Street from Monroe to the Railroad tracks |
| Rockwood Street from Railroad tracks to Roosevelt |

| |
|--|
| Hansford St from Roosevelt to Mission |
| Hansford St from Presa to Naylor |
| Naylor from school to Zapata on the easide of the street |
| Presa from Steves to Llano |
| Kirkpatrick from Parker to Roosevelt |
| Fairbanks from Kirkpatrick to School Street |
| Whiting from McMullen to where it ends past Eads |
| McMullen from Presa to Whiting |
| Roosevelt from Kirkpatrick to Eads |
| Kalteyer from Mitchell to Hansford |
| Felisha from Roosevelt to Mission |
| Isabel from Roosevelt to Mission |
| Benita from Roosevelt to Mission |
| Palo Blanco from Roosevelt to Mission |
| Weaver from Roosevelt to Mission |

Automobile congestion and speeding were also addressed during the workshop. The San Antonio Police Department is responsible for the enforcement of all traffic violations (including speeding and parking in no parking zones); each school is assigned a school safety officer to assist with all enforcement issues. 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.

| |
|--|
| Automobile Congestion around the school on School St and Hansford St :even though there is signage posted which states: No parking |
| Speeding along Roosevelt: especially from Benita to General McMullen |
| Steves where it crosses Presa |
| Fairview from Presa to DeVoto |

| |
|-----------------------------|
| Presa from Fair to Fairview |
| All along Mission Rd |

There were a number of crossings identified that parents are not comfortable allowing children to cross unattended. As stated above concerned parents can call 311 and explain they would like the city to consider alternative measures to make the crossing safer. It is also recommended the parents discuss the crossings with the San Antonio Independent School District.

| |
|-------------------------|
| Roosevelt and Mitchell |
| Steves and Presa |
| Presa and Rockwood |
| Roosevelt and School St |
| Hansford and Mission |
| Nayor and Zapata |
| Presa and Fair |

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 attached to the report.

Next Steps

A copy of this report is being provided to Riverside Park Academy, San Antonio Independent School District, City of San Antonio Council District 3 office, Bexar County Commissioners Court Precinct 1 Office, Texas Department of Transportation San Antonio District Office, VIA Metropolitan Transit, Alamo Area Council of Governments, and Steps to a Healthier San Antonio. We encourage these agencies to review these recommendations and prioritize these projects for future individual or joint funding.

An MPO representative will meet with the principal and the Parent/Teacher Association to discuss the report and how they can be involved.

To further explain the infrastructure projects identified in this workshop, Riverside Park Academy and San Antonio Independent School District staff should 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 implementing these requested improvements.

Riverside Park Academy and the San Antonio Independent School District should explore financial partnerships with these agencies, the MPO, and, possibly the private sector, to help fund the highest priority projects.

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.

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Riverside Park Academy
Safe Routes to School Workshop Evaluation
February 28, 2006



DATA RESULTS

21 participants; 15 non staff in attendance
9 respondents completed the evaluation
60 % of non-staff in attendance completed the evaluation

- 1. Did the workshop meet your expectations? yes 100% no 0**
- 2. As a result of today's meeting are you more likely to allow you child to walk to school in the future? yes 100% no 0**
- 3. Was the information presented clearly? yes 100% no 0**
- 4. Can we improve the workshops? If so, how?**

"Very Good workshop"

"NA"

"by making it safer for our children"

"NA"

"No"

"more information on programs"

"NA."

"traducirlo en espanol" (to translated it into Spanish)

- 5. What other information or resources would help make the workshop better?**

"hold the meeting more often"

"Just give up info & phone #'s to call for additional questions"

"no, Thank you for all the information you gave"

"more people should be involved"

"bus information and discount available to students and parents"

"hold the meeting more often"