

**Denver Metro SAFE KIDS Coalition
Pedestrian Safety Committee
SUMMARY**

The Denver Metro SAFE KIDS Coalition Pedestrian Safety Committee is a diverse group of individuals representing an array of different agencies, who are working together to improve the pedestrian environment to make walking a safer, more viable option for people in the metro Denver area. In the past eighteen months, our committee worked with seven schools to take part in International Walk Your Children to School Day. The event was a huge success, but it generated a lot of interest among committee members to focus on more than a one-day event. Since the inception of this committee in 2000, we have accomplished quite a bit.

Members of the committee worked to get a state resolution passed proclaiming October as Pedestrian Safety month and designating Colorado Walking Wednesdays throughout the year, which will enable us to better promote walking in our state. In addition, the committee brought international pedestrian advocate David Engwicht to Denver to speak to more than 50 interested people about making Denver more pedestrian friendly and to meet with Denver city staff to discuss the City's Pedestrian Master Plan. The committee has also been working with Denver planners, engineers, and elected officials to secure funding for the implementation of this plan.

After learning of a dangerous crossing through the walkability assessments completed on Walk to School Day, our committee researched ways to address the situation. We received a grant for \$8,000 from the National SAFE KIDS Coalition and convinced the city to match that amount and provide all of the necessary improvements. In total, we secured \$16,000 for pedestrian enhancements around Grant Ranch School which allowed the city to paint a crosswalk, add three STOP signs, provide curb cuts and construct a median for safer crossing.

The diversity of agencies represented on our committee is our greatest strength. Representatives from the Colorado Department of Transportation and the Department of Public Health and the Environment provide us with a statewide perspective and foster networks with other pedestrian advocates around Colorado. Representatives from several hospitals and local non-profits have experience working with the media and the community to build support for health and transportation issues. Staffers from the City and the Regional Council of Governments ensure that we are kept abreast of local plans and policy issues. Together, we are able to affect change from the ground up and the top down, impacting policies and facilities, and ultimately making our area a better place for pedestrians.

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Name	Company
Mia Bemelen	DRCOG RideArrangers
Theresa Rapstine	The Children's Hospital
Allison Frankel	Transportation Solutions
Nevada Presley	Whole Foods Market
Rebecca Record	City & County of Denver
Arleta Rewers	The Children's Hospital
Dan McNulty	Denver Police Department
Jerry Thomas	Denver Police Department
Karan Hutchins	Denver Health Medical Center
Kelly Colvin	City & County of Denver
Janie Hollingsworth	City & County of Denver
Gay Page	Colorado Department of Transportation
Randy Gamet	FedEx Express
Phyllis Uribe	Swedish Medical Center
Jessica Sherwood	Feet First
Mark Stevens	Denver Public Schools
Bill McCartin	Denver Public Schools
Taralyn Jensen	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Frank Rowe	Parent volunteer
Donna McNulty	Parent volunteer
MonaRae Hobart	Denver Police Department
Dr. Lisa VanBramer	Rocky Mountain Research and Prevention Institute

**Denver Metro SAFE KIDS Coalition
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- * Brought together over twenty individuals representing 14 different agencies who meet monthly and discuss ways to make Denver more pedestrian friendly.
- * Received almost \$30,000 in monetary and in-kind contributions to promote walking in schools, to improve facilities, and to provide a forum for elected officials, planners, engineers and the media to learn about pedestrian advocacy.
- * Increased the number of Denver schools participating in Walk to School Day by 700% in one year and developed a comprehensive walk to school program that any school could implement without cost.
- * Completed a preliminary investigation of pedestrian crashes in Denver and discovered:
 - Automobile-pedestrian crashes increased by over 90% between 1999 and 2001 in the City and County of Denver
 - There has been little or no research done on child pedestrians.
 - Certain socioeconomic groups are at a higher risk for pedestrian collisions.
 - Vehicle speed plays a role in crash risk and injury severity.
- * Hosted a pedestrian forum with over 50 attendees including elected officials, police officers, engineers, planners, public health officials and interested citizens to discuss ways to make Denver a better place for pedestrians.
- * Worked with state legislators for the passage of Colorado Senate Joint Resolution 03-045, which recognizes the importance of walking as a safe, healthy behavior, designates October as Pedestrian Month, and declares every Wednesday "Colorado Walking Wednesday."

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Walk to School Day at Bromwell Elementary, Denver CO
October 2, 2001



Pedestrian signage, curb cuts and signage helped make this intersection at
Grant Ranch School a safer place for pedestrians.
November 21, 2002

Denver Metro SAFE KIDS Coalition
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PHOTOGRAPHS



Volunteers at Slavens School worked hard to make the event possible
October 2, 2002



These girls and hundreds of their peers walked to school in Denver
October 2, 2002.