



# Final Report - Safe Routes To School Denver Osteopathic Foundation & Denver Public School

## I. Overall Background

The Denver Osteopathic Foundation partnered with DPS Risk Management for Colorado Safe Routes To School. The Denver Osteopathic Foundation (DOF) is a 501 (c) 3 organization which provides injury prevention programs for local schools, as well as CME for physicians. DOF has worked with DPS on pedestrian safety, child passenger safety, Health Day and fire prevention education issues for several years. DPS worked with DOF in the identification of two elementary schools of high need to facilitate a pedestrian and bicycle safety program: Ellis Elementary School and Southmoor Elementary School. DOF worked with the Douglas County School District and the following two elementary schools: Eagle Ridge Elementary School and South Street Elementary School in Castle Rock. DOF also worked with the Denver Police Department, DPS Safety and Security, DPS Transportation, the Colorado Department of Public Health & Education (CDPHE), Lone Tree Police Department, Castle Rock Police Department and SkyRidge Medical Center to help facilitate the Safe Routes To School program.

## II. School Backgrounds

- a) **Southmoor Elementary** is located at 3755 S. Magnolia Way at Magnolia and Monaco in the Denver Public School district in Denver, Colorado. There are 425 students in Southmoor in ECE-5<sup>th</sup> grade. 36% of the students ride the bus, 63% of the students are driven to school, and only 1% of the students walk or ride their bike to school. According to Parent Survey data, 60% of students live within a 1 mile radius of the school. The School Traffic Safety Committee (STSC) members completed the Site Assessments and the following information was collected:
- The major streets around the perimeter of the school are: Peach Street, Magnolia Way and South Monaco Street
  - There are three drop-off and pick-up zones for the parents and children
  - The buses park along South Monaco Street in front of the school
  - There is a drive-thru pick-up and drop-off zone in the staff parking lot on the West side of the school. According to feedback received, this drop-off area functions smoothly with little or no impact on traffic or parking
  - There is adequate bike storage on the West side of the school with two new bike racks that can hold 32 bikes

Parents drop-off and pick-up their children on S. Monaco Street in front of the school and along Peach Street, next to the East entrance of the school. The Peach Street drop-off/pick-up zone is designed as a continuous lane, where parents are not to exit or park their vehicles in order to drop-off or pick-up children. Parents and staff are concerned with the current use of this continuous lane, sighting concern with parents double parking, stopping in the middle of Peach Street and having the children crossing the street and walking in between cars. Additional concerns have been raised regarding parents making illegal U-turns on Peach Street and S. Monaco Street and blocking these intersections when dropping-off or picking-up children. The bottleneck caused by the previously sighted concerns is forcing, or at least contributing to, children jay walking and crossing the street between buses and cars which are extremely dangerous due to poor visibility. Southmoor does have a crossing guard at the intersection of Peach St. and Magnolia before and after school.

Mr. Kent Burger, Principal of Southmoor and the Chief of DPS Safety and Security, Edward Ray conducted a Walking Audit at Southmoor. Mr. Burger also met with Joel Walker, Senior Engineering Associate from the City/County of Denver Department of Public Works. The signage on Magnolia and Peach Streets and the fencing and gates around the school are not clear regarding loading and no parking zones. Mr. Burger was concerned with the new Light Rail station opening in November at Southmoor Park, just West of Monaco Street across from the school. He was concerned with pedestrians crossing campus grounds in order to get the Light Rail station. Mr. Burger also contacted CDOT (Colorado Department of Transportation) to discuss the Light Rail station and the potential impact of pedestrians walking across campus on their way to and from the Light Rail station.

b) **Ellis Elementary** is located at 1661 S. Dahlia St. at S. Dahlia Street, East Mexico Ave. and Iowa Street in the Denver Public School district in Denver, Colorado. There are 545 students in Ellis in ECE-5<sup>th</sup> grade. 9% of the students ride the bus, 65% of the students are driven to school, and 35% of the students walk or ride their bike to school. 73% of the students live within a 1-mile radius of the school. The School Traffic Safety Committee (STSC) members completed the Site Assessment around the school. The following information was collected based on the Site Assessment:

- The major streets around the perimeter of the school are: S. Dahlia Street, Iowa Street and East Mexico Ave.
- The school is just south of E. Florida Ave., which is one of the few Evans-to-Florida through streets.
- Parents often park across Dahlia and send their children running across the street through traffic and the parked school buses. The school buses also create a visual and physical block to motorists and pedestrians, which complicate the problem.
- Parents are double parking in front of the school buses as well. Children are darting through parked cars and buses.

- The buses are parked along Dahlia on the East side of the school. This is where most of the children exit the building.
- Parents are also using the staff parking lot as a drive-thru pick-up and drop-off zone. Children are running through the parking lot as well.
- There is inadequate bike storage on the playground with just one bike rack holding 16 bikes.

Parents drop off and pick up their children on S. Dahlia Street in front of the school and along Iowa Street, next to the North entrance of the school.

Ellis is very multi-cultural, with many languages spoken there including Spanish and Russian.

c) **Eagle Ridge Elementary** is located at 7716 Timberline Road at Timberline and Ptarmigan Street in the Douglas County School District in Lone Tree, Colorado. There are 650 students in ECE-6<sup>th</sup> grade. 13% of the students ride the bus, 87% of the students are driven to school, and less than 10% of the students walk or ride their bike to school. According to Parent Survey data, 78% of students live within a 1 mile radius of the school. The School Traffic Safety Committee (STSC) members completed the Site Assessments and the following information was collected:

- The major streets around the perimeter of the school are: Timberline Road and Ptarmigan.
- There are two drop-off and pick-up zones for the parents and children
- The buses park along Timberline Road in front of the school
- There is a drive-thru pick-up and drop-off zone in the school parking lot, just south of the school.
- There is adequate bike storage.

There is a crossing guard at the intersection of Ptarmigan and Timberline. Parents often park in the school parking lot to pick up their children. Sometimes children are running to their parents' car in the parking lot. There is a diagonal crosswalk that is very confusing for the students and drivers. There is also a big concern about the intersection at Timberline and Ptarmigan. It is a very busy intersection with a 4-way stop. The students seem concerned about when to cross there.

d) **South Street Elementary** is located at 1100 South Street at South Street, Curtis, Moore and Burgess streets in the Douglas County School District in Castle Rock, Colorado. There are 596 students in K - 6<sup>th</sup> grade. 40% of the students ride the bus, 33% of the students are driven to school, and only 27% of the students walk or ride their bike to school. According to Parent Survey data, 36% of students live within a 1 mile radius of the school. The School Traffic Safety Committee (STSC) members completed the Site Assessments and the following information was collected:

- The major streets around the perimeter of the school are: South Street, Curtis, Gilbert, Moore and Burgess streets
- There are two drop-off and pick-up zones for the parents and children
- The buses park along the back loop in the school parking lot

- Parents are continually parking in hug & drop zones
- There is adequate bike storage

South Street is a major thorough-fare and added traffic congestion before and after school creates serious safety concerns. There is a fire department located near the school. It is important for children to understand pedestrian rules regarding emergency vehicles. There are two crossing guards, one on South Street and one in the driveway to the parking lot. Students have to cross many streets to get to the manned crosswalk. Traffic is very heavy. Parents don't always follow the traffic rules, which create an additional hazard. There has been a lot of construction traffic which causes additional hazards for the walkers. Snow removal continues to be an issue, as students have to walk on the streets.

### III. Pre-Data Collection for all Schools

- a) **Southmoor Elementary:** The Student Arrival And Departure Tally Sheets were completed by all of the teachers and this data indicates:
- 65.7% of the students are driven to/from school by their parents
  - 18.04% of the students ride the bus school to/from school
  - 9.04% of the students are driven to/from school through a carpool
  - 4.61% of the students walk to/from school
  - .33% of the students bike to/from school

A total of 61 parents completed the "Parent Survey". Following is a summary of the data:

- 60% of the students live within a 1-mile radius of the school
- 31% living less than ¼ mile of the school
- 67% of the children are driven to and from school, which correlates with the Student Arrival and Departure Tally Sheets
- 85% of the parents reported that it takes less than 10 minutes to get to/from school
- 77% reported their child has asked to walk or bike to or from school
- 31% of the parents reported they would not feel comfortable letting their child walk/bike to school at any grade
- Parents were concerned with the following issues which would affect their decision to allow, or not allow, their child to walk/bike to/from school:
  - distance – 57%
  - time – 30%
  - speed of traffic along route – 52%
  - amount of traffic along route – 44%
  - general safety along route – 49%
  - concerns about bullies, kidnapping or assault, animals, etc. – 33%
- 82% reported the school neither encourages or discourages walking and biking to/from school
- 71% reported walking or biking to/from school is perceived as very fun or fun

- 90% reported walking or biking to/from school is perceived as very healthy or healthy

b) **Ellis Elementary:** All of the forms had to be translated into Spanish and Russian. The Student Arrival And Departure Tally Sheets were completed by all of the teachers.

- 57.56% of the students are driven to/from school
- 23.29% of the students walk to/from school
- 11.24% of students ride the bus to/from school
- 10.01% of the students are driven to/from school through a carpool
- .80% of the students bike to/from school

A total of 85 parents completed the “Parent Survey”. The following data was collected from the Parent Surveys:

- 68% of the students live within a 1-mile radius of the school,
- 28% living less than ¼ mile of the school.
- 58% of the children are driven to and from school, which correlates with the Student Arrival and Departure Tally Sheets.
- 69% of the parents said that it takes less than 10 minutes to get to/from school.
- 41% said their child has asked to walk or bike to or from school.
- 53% of the parents said that they would not feel comfortable letting their child walk/bike to school at any grade.
- Parents were concerned about the following issues which would affect their decision to allow, or not allow, their child to walk/bike to/from school:
  - distance – 41%
  - time – 20%
  - speed of traffic along route – 38%
  - amount of traffic along route – 35%
  - general safety along route – 41%
  - concerns about bullies, kidnapping or assault, animals, etc. – 49%
- Nearly half of the parents – 48% - said that the school neither encourages nor discourages walking and biking to/from school.
- 59% said that walking or biking to/from school is very fun or fun

84% said that is either very healthy or healthy.

c) **Eagle Ridge Elementary:** The Student Arrival And Departure Tally Sheets were completed by all of the teachers and this data indicates:

- 62.53% of the students are driven to/from school by their parents
- 9.14% of the students ride the bus school to/from school
- 10.53% of the students are driven to/from school through a carpool
- 13.79% of the students walk to/from school
- .89% of the students bike to/from school

A total of 82 parents completed the “Parent Survey”. Following is a summary of the data:

- 78% of the students live within a 1-mile radius of the school
- 29% living less than ¼ mile of the school
- 63% of the children are driven to and from school, which correlates with the Student Arrival and Departure Tally Sheets
- 83% of the parents reported that it takes less than 10 minutes to get to/from school
- 35% reported their child has asked to walk or bike to or from school
- 30% of the parents reported they would not feel comfortable letting their child walk/bike to school at any grade
- Parents were concerned with the following issues which would affect their decision to allow, or not allow, their child to walk/bike to/from school:
  - distance – 49%
  - time – 17%
  - speed of traffic along route – 39%
  - amount of traffic along route – 45%
  - general safety along route – 41%
  - concerns about bullies, kidnapping or assault, animals, etc. – 55%
- 76% reported the school neither encourages or discourages walking and biking to/from school
- 69% reported walking or biking to/from school is perceived as very fun or fun
- 95% reported walking or biking to/from school is perceived as very healthy or healthy

d) **South Street Elementary:** The Student Arrival And Departure Tally Sheets were completed by all of the teachers and this data indicates:

- 34.69% of the students are driven to/from school by their parents
- 43.38% of the students ride the bus school to/from school
- 3.82% of the students are driven to/from school through a carpool
- 13.47% of the students walk to/from school
- .40% of the students bike to/from school

A total of 142 parents completed the “Parent Survey”. Following is a summary of the data:

- 41% of the students live within a 1-mile radius of the school
- 17% living less than ¼ mile of the school
- 35% of the children are driven to and from school, which correlates with the Student Arrival and Departure Tally Sheets
- 47% of the parents reported that it takes less than 10 minutes to get to/from school
- 20% reported their child has asked to walk or bike to or from school
- 58% of the parents reported they would not feel comfortable letting their child walk/bike to school at any grade
- Parents were concerned with the following issues which would affect their decision to allow, or not allow, their child to walk/bike to/from school:
  - distance – 60%

- time – 22%
- speed of traffic along route – 44%
- amount of traffic along route – 44%
- general safety along route – 44%
- concerns about bullies, kidnapping or assault, animals, etc. – 65%
- 85% reported the school neither encourages or discourages walking and biking to/from school
- 44% reported walking or biking to/from school is perceived as very fun or fun
- 85% reported walking or biking to/from school is perceived as very healthy or healthy

#### **IV. Intervention/Approach**

Pedestrian education presentations took place at each school including ECE (Pre-K), Kindergarten, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms. The pedestrian safety presentations were given by DOF staff member Lisa Shamon, Program Coordinator and Diane Heth. The presentation lasts 30-minutes, beginning with a pre-test, followed by the training, and concluding with a post-test. Following is an outline of the Pedestrian Safety program:

- Students are given a simple pre-test. Children are asked, “What is the FIRST thing you need to do before crossing the street.” Children are not lead to answers by the instructor. As participants share their opinions, for example, Stop, the instructor will ask the class, “How many of you think Stop is the first thing you should do?” Participants are asked to raise their hand and instructor counts the number of each response.
- Via the use of various props participants are taught the correct order of tasks they must perform in order to safely cross the street:
  1. STOP before crossing the street
  2. LOOK LEFT, RIGHT, & LEFT again
  3. LISTEN for cars before crossing the street
  4. HOLD and adults hand
- The learning of STOP, LOOK, LISTEN is supported by the use of various visual aids and interactive activities including:
  - Colorful hand props with images of stop signs, traffic lights, pedestrian crossing, hand gesturing “stop”, and right/left
  - STOP, LOOK & LISTEN song to the Row, Row, Row Your Boat tune – during this exercise, the children are standing and using hand motions and their feet to help them learn and remember STOP, LOOK, LISTEN
  - School specific storyboard focusing on the school and the streets around Southmoor (Peach Street and Magnolia Way)
- Upon the conclusion of training, a post-test is conducted in the same manner as described for the pre-test.
- Age appropriate “prizes” are given to participants to reward and remind them of the safety lesson learned. ECE and Kindergarten students are given stop sign zipper pulls and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students are given red bracelets that read, STOP, LOOK, LISTEN

### **The Pedestrian presentations took place on the following dates:**

- The pedestrian education presentations took place at **Southmoor** Wednesday, September 20 and Thursday, September 21. Presentations were conducted in nine classes (totaling 218 students), including ECE, Kindergarten, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms. **During the Pre-Test**, only **27%** of children were able identify STOP as the correct answer. **73.33%** of the children answered correctly with STOP being the first thing they must do to safely cross a street for the **Post-Test**.
- The pedestrian education presentations took place at **Ellis** on Tuesday, January 16 and Thursday, January 18, 2007. Presentations were conducted in 13 classes (totaling 161 students), including ECE, Kindergarten, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms. **During the Pre-Test**, only **29.81%** of children were able identify STOP as the correct answer. **89.44%** of the children answered correctly with STOP being the first thing they must do to safely cross a street for the **Post-Test**.
- The pedestrian education presentations took place at **Eagle Ridge** on January 31, February 1 and 21). Presentations were conducted in 14 classes (totaling 258 students), including ECE, Kindergarten, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms. **During the Pre-Test**, only **45.35%** of children were able identify STOP as the correct answer. **93.41%** of the children answered correctly with STOP being the first thing they must do to safely cross a street for the **Post-Test**.
- The pedestrian education presentations took place at **South Street** on Tuesday, November 28 and Wednesday, November 29. Presentations were conducted in 14 classes (totaling 281 students), including Kindergarten, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms. **During the Pre-Test**, only **13.88%** of children were able identify STOP as the correct answer. **99.29%** of the children answered correctly with STOP being the first thing they must do to safely cross a street.

### **Pedestrian Safety Teacher Survey Results**

#### **1. Southmoor Elementary**

- 37.5% of the teachers rated the overall quality of the pedestrian presentations as excellent
- 63.3% of the teachers rated the overall quality of the pedestrian presentations as good
- 75% of the teachers rated the DOF presentation as excellent
- 25% of the teachers rated the DOF presentation as good
- 60% of the teachers rated DOF as excellent in adequately addressing bicycle/pedestrian safety concerns
- 40% of the teachers rated DOF as good in adequately addressing bicycle/pedestrian safety concerns

#### **2. Ellis Elementary**

- 50% of the teachers rated the overall quality of the pedestrian presentations as excellent
- 50% of the teachers rated the overall quality of the pedestrian presentations as good
- 50% of the teachers rated the DOF presentation as excellent
- 50% of the teachers rated the DOF presentation as good
- 40% of the teachers rated DOF as excellent in adequately addressing bicycle/pedestrian safety concerns
- 60% of the teachers rated DOF as good in adequately addressing bicycle/pedestrian safety concerns

### **3. Eagle Ridge Elementary**

- 57.1% of the teachers rated the overall quality of the pedestrian presentations as excellent
- 35.7% of the teachers rated the overall quality of the pedestrian presentations as good
- 50% of the teachers rated the DOF presentation as excellent
- 50% of the teachers rated the DOF presentation as good
- 50% of the teachers rated DOF as excellent in adequately addressing bicycle/pedestrian safety concerns
- 42.9% of the teachers rated DOF as good in adequately addressing bicycle/pedestrian safety concerns

- **South Street Elementary**

- 93% of the teachers rated the overall quality of the pedestrian presentations as excellent
- 7% of the teachers rated the overall quality of the pedestrian presentations as good
- 100% of the teachers rated the DOF presentation as excellent
- 100% of the teachers rated DOF as excellent in adequately addressing bicycle/pedestrian safety concerns

### **Skills On Wheels Workshops**

The Skills On Wheels workshop took place at **Southmoor** on Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Trevor Madden conducted the Skills On Wheels workshop. The power point presentation was held in the cafeteria from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. for all 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students (**256 students**). Every child received a “Ride Right” bracelet, as well as the Skills On Wheels Take Home Bicycle Lesson. The skills portion of the workshop was held on the black top behind the school from 4-5 p.m. **17** students participated in the actual skills portion of the workshop. Each child who participated had a signed bike consent form, a helmet and a bike. DOF also gave **two students helmets** through the Earn A Helmet program – a program in which children who cannot afford a helmet can earn one through their participation in the Skills On Wheels program. The school announced the “Skills On Wheels” workshop at a program called “Muffins For Mom” on Thursday morning, April 12<sup>th</sup>, one week prior to the workshop with flyers and a tabletop display. This

helped promote the “Skills On Wheels” workshop to the parents and to encourage them to sign their children up for the workshop. Each child who participated in the skills portion received a “Ride Right” bracelet to help them remember to ride their bikes on the right side of the street.

The Pre & Post tests for the Power Point Presentation are as follows. Twenty-seven (27) 3<sup>rd</sup> graders scored 100% on the pre-test and 52 3<sup>rd</sup> graders scored 100% on the post test. Twenty-nine (29) 4<sup>th</sup> graders scored 100% on the pre-test, and 55 4<sup>th</sup> graders scored 100% on the post-test. Thirty-two (32) 5<sup>th</sup> graders scored 100% on the pre-test, and 58 5<sup>th</sup> graders scored 100% on the post-test. After listening to the presentation the number of students who scored 100% nearly doubled at all grades. The pre-tests of the students indicated that on average **74% of 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders achieved a 90% or higher**. After the power point presentation, post-test results indicated that on average, **98% of 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders achieved a 90% or higher**.

The Skills On Wheels workshop took place at **Ellis** on Monday, October 23. Trevor Madden conducted the Skills On Wheels workshop. The power point presentation was held in the auditorium from 2-3 p.m. for all 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The skills portion of the workshop was held on the black top behind the school from 3-4 p.m. **36 students** participated in the actual skills portion of the workshop. Each child who participated had a signed bike consent form, a helmet and a bike. DOF also gave **8 students helmets** through the Earn A Helmet program – a program in which children who cannot afford a helmet can earn one through their participation in the Skills On Wheels program. Each child who participated in the skills portion received a “Ride Right” bracelet to help them remember to ride their bikes on the right side of the street. DOF also gave Ellis **300 copies of the Take Home Bike Rodeo forms**. Those were sent home to 300 students in 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade, but only seven were returned.

The power point presentation bicycle skills workshop targeted 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The primary objective is to learn safe riding skills associated with being viewed as a transportation vehicle – including road signs and hand signals. Pre-test of the students indicated that on average **39% of 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders achieved a 70% or higher**. After the power point presentation, post-test results indicated that on average, **85% of 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders achieved a 70% or higher**.

Following the bicycle classroom presentation students were challenged to demonstrate their skills on a course created outside the school. Students required frequent promoting by course preceptors in order to successfully execute the skills (i.e. hand signals, lane change) properly. Students need repetition and modeling to translate the information learned into practiced behavior. That is why we recommend that students work at home with their parents to gain more skill. A Bicycle Skills Training Workbook was provided to students in English and Spanish. Practicing bicycle skills at home with parents gives the student more confidence in their ability and parent’s reassurance that their child can operate a bicycle safely.

The Skills On Wheels workshop took place at **Eagle Ridge** on Wednesday, August 23 and Thursday, September 7. Trevor Madden conducted the Skills On Wheels workshop. The power point presentation was held in the gym from 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. for 150 students who signed up. The skills portion of the workshop was held on the black top behind the school from 3:45 p.m. – 5 p.m. **Fifty-seven (57) students** participated in the actual skills portion of the workshop. Each child who participated had a signed bike consent form, a helmet and a bike. The Lone Tree Police Department also gave away helmets for those children who needed them. Each child who participated in the skills portion received a “Ride Right” bracelet to help them remember to ride their bikes on the right side of the street.

The Skills On Wheels workshop took place at **South Street** on Tuesday, May 15. Trevor Madden conducted the Skills On Wheels workshop. The power point presentation was held in the cafeteria from 2:45 – 3:45 p.m. for all 3<sup>rd</sup>-6th grade students (301 students). The skills portion of the workshop was held on the black top behind the school from 4:10 – 5:10 p.m. 22 students participated in the actual skills portion of the workshop. Each child who participated had a signed bike consent form, a helmet and a bike. DOF also gave four students helmets through the Earn A Helmet program – a program in which children who cannot afford a helmet can earn one through their participation in the Skills On Wheels program. Each child who participated in the skills portion received a “Ride Right” bracelet to help them remember to ride their bikes on the right side of the street. South Street is having a “Safety Week” April 23-27 which was supposed to include the Skills On Wheels Workshop (this was rescheduled due to inclement weather), as well as Stranger Danger and Internet Safety.

### **Newsletter**

DOF also created a newsletter which was sent home to the parents at each school. The newsletter was from the principal and included the following:

- A description of the program (Safe Routes To School)
- Information promoting walking/biking to school
- a brief description of the pre-data survey information,
- the interventions; pedestrian and bicycle programs and results
- Walk ‘N Roll Wednesdays
- Walk ‘N Park Wednesdays
- Calendar of Events – for April/May

Each of the schools except South Street had a day where the school promoted walking or biking to school.

**Southmoor** had Walk ‘N Roll Wednesdays on April 25, May 2 and May 9. They are implemented Walk ‘N Park Wednesdays where children and parents meet at Southmoor Park at 8:15 a.m. and walked to school on April 25, May 2 and May 9. The PE teacher, Mr. Bazz also promoted walking and biking to school as part of the wellness strategy. Because of inclement weather, the first Walk ‘N Park/Roll Wednesday scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> was cancelled. On May 2<sup>nd</sup> the school had 61 walkers & bikers. DOF gave out

water bottles as incentives. Mr. Burger said he hasn't seen the bike rack full in his tenure at Southmoor. On May 9<sup>th</sup> they had 57 walkers and bikers.

**Ellis** promoted Walk 'N Roll Wednesdays for the month of April. DOF provided Ellis with 800 giveaways for Walk 'N Roll Wednesdays; pencils, reflectors, whistles and water bottles. Khoa also wrote a press release promoting Walk 'N Roll Wednesdays. Channel 7 came out and filmed a very brief segment.

The Walk 'N Roll Wednesdays at Ellis were held in the month of April. 480 students live within a 1-mile radius of the school. 27% of the students regularly walk or bike to school. Ellis had an increase in the number of students walking/biking to school because of Walk 'N Roll Wednesdays. Those numbers increased by:

Week 1, April 4	30%
Week 2, April 11	34%
Week 3, April 18	36%
Week 4, April 25	26% *

\*

During Week 4 the 5<sup>th</sup> graders were at Ballarat and not at school that day. The weather also factored into the percentage of children walking/biking to school that day; it was significantly colder and little rainy on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Eagle Ridge** had a Walk & Wheel to School Day on May 18<sup>th</sup>. This was promoted in the newsletter which was sent home to all the parents.

**South Street** had a "Safety Week" April 23-27 which was supposed to include the Skills On Wheels Workshop, as well as Stranger Danger and Internet Safety. The Skills On Wheels workshop had to be rescheduled from April 25<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup> due to inclement weather. Douglas County Schools were closed on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

## V. Post-Data Collection for all Schools

- b) **Southmoor Elementary:** The Student Arrival And Departure Tally Sheets were completed by all of the teachers and this data indicates:
- 56.5% of the students are driven to/from school by their parents
  - 15.3% of the students ride the bus school to/from school
  - 7.4% of the students are driven to/from school through a carpool
  - 7.8% of the students walk to/from school
  - 2.6% of the students bike to/from school

A total of 17 parents completed the "Parent Survey". Following is a summary of the data:

- 71% of the students live within a 1-mile radius of the school
- 0% living less than ¼ mile of the school

- 53% of the children are driven to and from school, which loosely correlates with the Student Arrival and Departure Tally Sheets
- 76% of the parents reported that it takes less than 10 minutes to get to/from school
- 35% reported their child has asked to walk or bike to or from school
- 18% of the parents reported they would not feel comfortable letting their child walk/bike to school at any grade
- Parents were concerned with the following issues which would affect their decision to allow, or not allow, their child to walk/bike to/from school:
  - distance – 47%
  - time – 41%
  - speed of traffic along route – 59%
  - amount of traffic along route – 53%
  - general safety along route – 41%
  - concerns about bullies, kidnapping or assault, animals, etc. – 47%
- 41% reported the school neither encourages or discourages walking and biking to/from school
- 65% reported walking or biking to/from school is perceived as very fun or fun
- 95% reported walking or biking to/from school is perceived as very healthy or healthy

b) **Ellis Elementary:** All of the forms had to be translated into Spanish and Russian. The Student Arrival And Departure Tally Sheets were completed by all of the teachers.

- 45.4% of the students are driven to/from school
- 27.3% of the students walk to/from school
- 11.5% of students ride the bus to/from school
- 8.9% of the students are driven to/from school through a carpool
- 3.4% of the students bike to/from school

A total of 18 parents completed the “Parent Survey”. The following data was collected from the Parent Surveys:

- 78% of the students live within a 1-mile radius of the school,
- 17% living less than ¼ mile of the school.
- 56% of the children are driven to and from school, which does not correlates with the Student Arrival and Departure Tally Sheets.
- 55% of the parents said that it takes less than 10 minutes to get to/from school.
- 72% said their child has asked to walk or bike to or from school.
- 39% of the parents said that they would not feel comfortable letting their child walk/bike to school at any grade.
- Parents were concerned about the following issues which would affect their decision to allow, or not allow, their child to walk/bike to/from school:
  - distance – 50%
  - time – 17%
  - speed of traffic along route – 44%

- amount of traffic along route – 39%
- general safety along route – 50%
- concerns about bullies, kidnapping or assault, animals, etc. – 61%
- 28% reported that the school neither encourages nor discourages walking and biking to/from school.
- 72% reported walking or biking to/from school is perceived as very fun or fun
- 100% reported walking or biking to/from school is perceived as very healthy or healthy

d) **Eagle Ridge Elementary:** The Student Arrival And Departure Tally Sheets were completed by all of the teachers and this data indicates:

- 53.4% of the students are driven to/from school by their parents
- 11.7% of the students ride the bus school to/from school
- 13.0% of the students are driven to/from school through a carpool
- 18.7% of the students walk to/from school
- 1.2% of the students bike to/from school

A total of 33 parents completed the “Parent Survey”. Following is a summary of the data:

- 75% of the students live within a 1-mile radius of the school
- 30% living less than ¼ mile of the school
- 45% of the children are driven to and from school, which does not correlate with the Student Arrival and Departure Tally Sheets
- 78% of the parents reported that it takes less than 10 minutes to get to/from school
- 73% reported their child has asked to walk or bike to or from school
- 42% of the parents reported they would not feel comfortable letting their child walk/bike to school at any grade
- Parents were concerned with the following issues which would affect their decision to allow, or not allow, their child to walk/bike to/from school:
  - distance – 52%
  - time – 24%
  - speed of traffic along route – 43%
  - amount of traffic along route – 45%
  - general safety along route – 55%
  - concerns about bullies, kidnapping or assault, animals, etc. – 36%
- 73% reported the school neither encourages or discourages walking and biking to/from school
- 69% reported walking or biking to/from school is perceived as very fun or fun
- 94% reported walking or biking to/from school is perceived as very healthy or healthy

d) **South Street Elementary:** The Student Arrival And Departure Tally Sheets were completed by all of the teachers and this data indicates:

- 34.8% of the students are driven to/from school by their parents
- 45.4% of the students ride the bus school to/from school

- 5.2% of the students are driven to/from school through a carpool
- 13.5% of the students walk to/from school
- 1.0% of the students bike to/from school

A total of 43 parents completed the “Parent Survey”. Following is a summary of the data:

- 56% of the students live within a 1-mile radius of the school
- 12% living less than ¼ mile of the school
- 30% of the children are driven to and from school, which loosely correlates with the Student Arrival and Departure Tally Sheets
- 54% of the parents reported that it takes less than 10 minutes to get to/from school
- 33% reported their child has asked to walk or bike to or from school
- 58% of the parents reported they would not feel comfortable letting their child walk/bike to school at any grade
- Parents were concerned with the following issues which would affect their decision to allow, or not allow, their child to walk/bike to/from school:
  - distance – 63%
  - time – 23%
  - speed of traffic along route – 67%
  - amount of traffic along route – 67%
  - general safety along route – 42%
  - concerns about bullies, kidnapping or assault, animals, etc. – 72%
- 81% reported the school neither encourages or discourages walking and biking to/from school
- 47% reported walking or biking to/from school is perceived as very fun or fun
- 82% reported walking or biking to/from school is perceived as very healthy or healthy

## **VI. Strategies for improvement and conclusions**

**Southmoor** - As a result of the Walking Audit by Mr. Burger and Edward Ray, new signs were put up on Peach Street that clearly identify “Passenger Loading Only” and “No Parking”, as well as additional fencing and gates along Monaco near the bike racks and along Peach Street, by the ECE playground. This will discourage pedestrians from inappropriately crossing campus or accessing building entrances. The gates will be locked daily from 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. They will be open from 8:30 – 9 a.m. and from 3:30 – 4 p.m. This will help with safety and security as well. Southmoor also has a buzzer at each building entrance visitors must push and wait to be buzzed into the school building.

The STS Committee discussed some of the traffic concerns around the school, especially at 3:45 p.m. on Peach St. and Magnolia Way. DPS reprinted with AAA’s permission *Getting Children to School Safely: Parents are the Key* brochures which were sent home in Thursday folders (February 1) with a note attached to it addressing some of the traffic safety concerns around Southmoor. There was some discussion of the possibility of having parents handing out “tickets” to parents violating traffic rules. This intervention

has not been implemented as of yet. There has been an increased police presence at the school though.

The STS Committee is looking into the “Walking School Bus” idea in an effort to increase the number of students walking/biking to school. DOF & Southmoor sent home information in the Bugler as well as a newsletter which will be sent home to parents. Southmoor had Walk ‘N Roll Wednesdays on April 25, May 2 and May 9. They also implemented Walk ‘N Park Wednesdays where children and parents meet at Southmoor Park at 8:15 a.m. and walk to school on April 25, May 2 and May 9. Lisa Shamon attended the PTA Board meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup> and gave the PTA Board an overview of Safe Routes To School. The PTA supported the program and helped with the Skills On Wheels workshop, as well as Walk ‘N Roll Wednesdays and Walk ‘N Park Wednesdays in April and May – April 25, May 2 & May 9. The PE teacher, Mr. Bazz also promoted walking and biking to school as part of the wellness strategy.

The school was very receptive to the program. The STSC Committee members worked well together addressing safety concerns and strategizing ways to increase the number of children walking/biking to school. This School Improvement Plan can be used as a blue print going forward. This is an opportunity for Southmoor to continue with the STSC Committee and work with the Police Department and DPS. It is also an opportunity for Southmoor to continue with Walk ‘N Park & Walk ‘N Roll Wednesdays in the fall, with the PTA taking the lead. The first Wednesday in October (October 3<sup>rd</sup>) is International Walk To School Day which could tie directly into Walk ‘N Roll Wednesdays.

**Ellis** - The STSC Committee had a great deal of discussion to try and change the bus parking. Joel Walker, City & County of Denver, Engineer met with Principal Khoa Nguyen, and went to Ellis to assess the situation. Pauline Gervais from DPS Transportation and David Leyba from DPS Safety/Security also gave the school their recommendations, as well as attended one STSC meeting. After looking and discussing the situation for almost three months, the school decided not to change the bus/parking issue. At a later STSC meeting in March, Tony Burkhardt from District 3 told the committee that the bus parking is an extreme safety hazard. He recommended that the buses should park along Iowa and close the teacher parking lot to parents as a through-way. Denver Police Department is talking to DPS Transportation and Safety to revisit this issue again. Any changes would be made in the fall of 2007. In the meantime, Ellis has asked the City & County of Denver to have signs placed on the east side of Dahlia indicating no stopping, parking or pick-up on that side of the street. They will continue to educate their students and parents concerning the safety of the students. One suggestion was to have the PTA provide monitors for the staff parking lot and intersections.

As a result of the STSC meetings and having the PTA involved in some of the discussions about parking and the safety of the students, one parent did step up to be the crossing guard at Mexico and S. Dahlia. They are still looking at the possibility of hiring another crossing guard for the corner of S. Dahlia and Iowa. The school has not been able to find someone for this position yet. DOF created a banner promoting Walk ‘N

Roll Wednesdays, which is hung up in front of the school. This banner was up for the entire month of April. DOF and the school made a sign saying, "Cross At The Corner" in English, Russian and Spanish. The sign is on Dahlia in front of the school.

The STSC Committee looked into the idea of a "Walking School Bus" to try and increase the number of students walking/biking to school. They attempted to implement this before Walk 'N Roll Wednesdays. Ellis promoted Walk 'N Roll Wednesdays. DOF provided Ellis with 800 giveaways for Walk 'N Roll Wednesdays; pencils, reflectors, whistles and water bottles. Khoa also wrote a press release promoting Walk 'N Roll Wednesdays. Channel 7 came out and filmed a very brief segment.

The school was very receptive to the program. The STSC Committee members worked well together and seemed to want to address the safety concerns, as well as trying to increase the number of children walking/biking to school. The parents and the teachers are working hard to make sure their students are safe, as well as encouraging the students to walk/bike to school. This is an opportunity for the STSC Committee to continue to meet regularly to discuss this, as well as traffic concerns and parking (bus) around the school. This School Improvement Plan can be used as a blue print going forward to work with the Police Department and DPS Transportation and Safety and Security. This is also an opportunity for Ellis to continue with Walk 'N Roll Wednesdays in the fall, with PTA taking the lead. The Walk 'N Roll Wednesdays could tie directly into International Walk To School Day which is Wednesday, October 3, 2007.

As of the final STSC meeting, Ellis is going to change the bus parking to Iowa Street for the 2007-08 school year. They will confirm this is possible with Pauline Gervais from DPS Transportation. They will block off part of the school parking lot as well. They would like to try this for a year. Parents will now be able to park along Dahlia Street, which is what they want to do now. Overall the school liked the program; it helped them focus and increased awareness about safety for the parents, students and teachers. The school and teachers felt it was too much paperwork and planning with the Pre & Post Parent Surveys and Student Arrival & Departure Tally sheets. However, they would like to continue with the safety committee. They liked the pedestrian safety presentations, as well as the Skills On Wheels power point presentation and the skills course. District 3 (Tony Burkhardt) said he might be able to help them with a bike rodeo in the fall. Tony thought the program was great and would like to see Safe Routes To School be implemented in other schools in District 3.

**Eagle Ridge** - Ted Bathauer, the police officer from Lone Tree wants to implement some changes regarding the flow of students and drivers to make it safer around the school. He will be meeting with the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) regarding these changes. The school is ordering orange vests for parent volunteers to help with the traffic. There is a need for increased police presence at the school in the morning for drop-off and in the afternoon for pick-up. The boy scouts will also be purchasing an additional bike rack for the school. The school has a need for flashers and a flashing speed limit sign on Timberline. They are trying to work with the Lone Tree Police Department to get additional signage around the school to help reduce the speed of traffic.

Eagle Ridge was very enthusiastic about Safe Routes To School. This School Improvement Plan can be a blueprint for the School Improvement Plan going forward. This plan can be used to go to the city and/ the Police Department to increase the number of children walking and biking to school safely. Eagle Ridge could continue with a Walk & Wheel Day in the fall and one in the spring, with PTA taking the lead. Eagle Ridge would like to implement Walk & Wheel Wednesdays in the fall. This could also tie directly into the International Walk To School Day on Wednesday, October 3, 2007. They are in the process of discussing how this would work. They also talked about Walk & Park at Eastridge Park, which is on Timberline between Ptarmigan and Quebec. They would have to get volunteers. They would need 6-7 volunteers to facilitate Walk & Wheel Wednesdays & Walk & Park Wednesdays. The STSC Committee also is looking into incentives of some sort for the students who walk or wheel on those Wednesdays.

**South Street** – There has been some increased police presence at the school. The police have been writing tickets for parents not following the city rules. There was a letter sent to the parents from the town of Castle Rock regarding neighborhood concerns about illegal parking and warning the parents that police would be increasing their patrols. In the letter there were suggestions for parents to park other places, such as in the church parking lot.

The STS Committee at South Street Elementary in Castle Rock has decided to require a Skills on Wheels workshop for all students who want to ride their bicycles to school. Students completing the course work at school or at home with a parent are given a special badge to hang on their backpack to show they have completed the bicycle skills training. This is similar to the program that Eagle Ridge Elementary has initiated at their school. This program is being organized and funded through the PTA at the school.

The STSC Committee was a small one, but very enthusiastic. Principal Carrie Stephenson was very organized and committed to increasing the number of children walking/biking to school. This School Improvement Plan can be used as a blue print going forward to meet with the city and the Police Department. This is an opportunity for the STSC Committee to continue to meet regularly and to continue discussion on increasing the number of children walking and biking to school safely.

## **VI. Conclusion**

The schools were very receptive to the program. The STS Committee members worked well together while addressing safety concerns and strategizing ways to increase the number of children walking/biking to school. This School Improvement Plan can be used as a blue print going forward. This is an opportunity for the elementary schools to continue with the STS Committee and work with the local Police Department and the school district.