

City of Aurora

Planning Department
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October 1, 2008

Lenore C. Bates
Colorado Department of Transportation
Safe Routes to School Coordinator
4201 E Arkansas Ave, Shumate Bldg
Denver CO 80222-3406

Dear Ms. Bates:

Re: Final Report - Aurora Frontier Safe Routes to School Contract 07-HTD-00064

Attached please find the final report for the City of Aurora Safe Routes to School grant, Contract 07-HTD-00064, for Aurora Frontier K-8 School. The report is in two parts including this cover letter. The first part is a four page essay that follows the Colorado Department of Transportation recommended six-part format for final accomplishment reports. The second part is a 30 page overview of timelines, deliverables, surveys, survey results, and sample forms and letters utilized throughout the implementation of the program at Aurora Frontier as well as annotated photos of key events occurring during the course of implementing the programs at the school.

On behalf of the City of Aurora, Aurora Frontier K-8, and Bicycle Colorado I want to thank you and Betsy Jacobsen for your support and encouragement throughout this process. You were always readily available to answer questions and provide guidance as we navigated the demands of this new federal grant program. Your efforts played a critical role in the success of this bicycle and pedestrian safety education program.

Should you have any questions concerning this correspondence, please feel free to contact me. Again, thank you for all your hard work in helping us implement the Safe Routes to School program in the City of Aurora.

Sincerely,



Jay Pierce
Bike & Pedestrian Coordinator

Attachments

**Final Accomplishment Report – Aurora Frontier Safe Routes to School
Contract 07-HTD-00064, City of Aurora, Colorado
October 1, 2008**

Accomplishments compared with original project objectives: There were five original project objectives. The five objectives are listed below followed by a discussion of how the objective was met and what improvements have resulted in increased bicycle and pedestrian safety at the school.

1. **Increase the number of students biking and walking to school:** On the second page of the Data and Survey Results section of the Bicycle Colorado attachment it shows that the number of students that walked to school after the encouragement programs increased by 4% (these data figures do not include students that were bussed to school). Although this number does not appear to be significant, it must be noted that before the encouragement programs began, a full 66% of the students already walked to school. This is an extraordinarily high number. The same data table shows that the number of students that biked to school after encouragement programs had been introduced increased by 9.3%. By the end of the encouragement programs over 80% of the students not bussed to school were walking and/or biking to school (301 ÷ 374). Not only did the program achieve increases in students walking and biking to school it provided safety improvements that increased parent's level of comfort related to their kids walking and biking to school. This is not just anecdotal evidence. Aurora city staff attended the bike rodeo at Aurora Frontier and saw the great participation by students and parents at this event. The parents were genuinely impressed with the level of safety education their kids received. Additionally, parents and kids learned how to change a flat tire.

There were two key safety improvements that resulted from the Safe Routes to School program at Aurora Frontier. The first was that Aurora Public Schools (a partner in this grant) decided to pay to install a pedestrian-activated signal at the school to increase safety for kids that walked and biked to school. APS paid \$50,000 for this improvement and the city paid for the installation rather than wait for the crossing to meet warrants and have the city pay for all the costs. Both parties felt there were too many kids potentially at risk and agreed to share the cost of the signal. The second key safety improvement that resulted was the implementation of full time crossing guards at the school.

2. **Increase safe biking and walking habits by students:** This is very hard to objectively judge and does perhaps justify an anecdotal reply. The intensive bike and pedestrian safety training that teachers and students received increased the student's awareness of potential areas of traffic conflict. The city did produce a nationally-awarded commuter/bike/pedestrian safety video in partnership with Aurora Public Schools and that video is shown regularly on public cable television stations in Aurora and the Colorado Front Range. Most recently the video aired at 9:00 P.M September 30, 2008. That is to say, efforts to educate the parents as well as the kids have increased safety awareness.

3. **Provide school staff with the ability to maintain safe biking and walking programs at the school:** The Aurora Frontier curriculum is broken into four quarters each year. Each quarter a different series of focus elective classes are offered students. Some quarter's class offerings are mandated by the school staff because they reinforce other curriculums being taught. However, once a year Ms. Handy (the P.E. teacher) offers the bike and pedestrian safety focus class. This class is offered during the spring quarter.
4. **Create a crossing guard program at the school:** Aurora Frontier School had the bare bones of a crossing guard program in place at start of school. The Safe Routes to School grant and the efforts of Bicycle Colorado helped to train the crossing guards and determine the best location for the crossing guard to locate. The crossing guard station is located at the intersection of Jericho Way and Conservatory Parkway where students must make their first major street crossing as they leave school and head home. This is also the intersection of two major bike lanes in the neighborhood that connect the neighborhood to the school. The crossing guard program is an on-going program at the school to this day.
5. **Create effective encouragement programs to promote biking and walking to school:** The main thrust of the grant's encouragement program was the Walking and Wheeling Wednesday program. For four weeks in April and May, students were encouraged to walk and bike to school in order to win prizes. Volunteers worked as crossing guards in the school parking lot (where Bicycle Colorado identified major safety hazards), students that arrived by bus were dropped off at a nearby park and chaperoned to school on foot, and students were given punch cards to track their days of participation. In May there was also the bike rodeo which was very well attended. Bicycle Colorado and city staff provided bike maintenance services in addition to the bike rodeo event. A bike helmet program also supplied over 100 helmets to students. Please see Bicycle Colorado attachment page two, May 2007, for a description of the bike helmet program.

Were all activities for the project completed as scheduled? With the only exception of the walking school bus, every activity was completed as scheduled. A list of activities planned, a brief description of the activities, and their completion dates follow:

- **Walk to School Day:** Walk to School Day (October 4, 2006) was a major event scheduled for the kickoff of the Safe Routes to School program at Aurora Frontier School. Unfortunately the contract to proceed for this grant did not get delivered until the following day, October 5, 2006. In spite of this Bicycle Colorado, the City of Aurora, Safe Kids USA, and Aurora Frontier still spent countless hours to plan this major event at the school. There are several photos of this event in Bicycle Colorado's attachment. A major effort was made by all parties involved. Safe Kids provided bicycle reflectors and the city's Fire Department showed up in an in-service fire truck to cheer on the kids and present them with prizes for their participation. Although none of the expense of this major activity was available for reimbursement through the grant, the enormous effort that all parties put into this event is a testament to their desire to see this program succeed.

billed, a considerable amount of time was added to the program for pedestrian safety training. In the end the training hours received by students for both bike and pedestrian safety was very close to that estimated for bike training alone. This was a good use of training time by BC and produced a program that was more comprehensive and reached a greater number of students than would have if bike training alone were provided.

Third Party Performance: The Aurora Frontier program was in the first set of Safe Routes to School grants awarded by the State of Colorado. Bicycle Colorado was extremely generous with their time to the city in assisting with the assembling of this grant. Without their assistance the city would never have had a chance to participate in the program. The City of Aurora is very grateful to Bicycle Colorado for this effort. The resources of BC were stretched very thin at times as they grew to meet the demands of their expanded public outreach programs and the rigors of the requirements of the Safe Routes to School program became apparent. As a result, monthly progress reports and billing statements from Bicycle Colorado to the city were often late and missing necessary documentation. Correcting this deficiency each month created a lot of extra work for the city and CDOT. In retrospect the city should have taken a more proactive approach with Bicycle Colorado and required more accurate and timely reports at the first of each month. The city, Bicycle Colorado, and Aurora Public Schools have recently met to discuss this issue. Expectations regarding what an efficient and complete reporting procedure would look like have been identified. Information deadlines have been adjusted for other programs currently in progress and we are hopeful that they will be adhered to. The team deserves credit for being open to critical feedback and their willingness to modify their operating procedures.

Bicycle Colorado, Aurora Public Schools, and the City of Aurora performed adequately in the face of these limitations. The ultimate goal of delivering effective bike and pedestrian safety training for K-8 students and increasing the number of students that walked and/or biked to school at Aurora Frontier was met.

Other Pertinent Data/Reports/Results: Please see attached material (forms, tables, pictures) from Bicycle Colorado highlighting their efforts at Aurora Frontier for this program.

Aurora Frontier Safe Routes to School Non-Infrastructure Grant Final Accomplishment Report

City of Aurora Department of Planning in conjunction with Bicycle Colorado

Overall Goals of the project:

Aurora Frontier is a new school that opened for its initial school year in fall 2006. The neighborhood in which this school was built was zoned and designed to encourage bicycling, walking and other modes on non-motor vehicle travel. Because of this the city and the school believed that students should be encouraged to walk and bicycle to school from day one. Students received training, encouragement, and praise for walking and bicycling while parents and community members received information about safe driving and safe walking and bicycling habits. In conjunction with this non-infrastructure project, a pedestrian activated mid-block crossing was established at the school which required education and training for students, school staff and pedestrians.

Timeline and Deliverables:

October 2006:

Due to a lag in project funding, this program was started on a volunteer basis by City staff, Bicycle Colorado, and the local Safe Kids Coalition with a celebration of International Walk and Bike to School Day. Nearly all school students participated either by walking or bicycling from their home, or walking from a park nearby the school if they took the bus. Special arrangements were made by Aurora Public Schools staff in order to allow student drop off at this remote park and PTO volunteers chaperoned students as they walked through the park to school.

Late October/November 2006:

Beginning in late October, Bicycle Colorado began to provide in-class education for all Physical Education classes at Aurora Frontier. This in-class education focused on safe bicycling and walking skills for all students in the school. K-2nd grade students focused on street crossing, parking lot awareness, and dangers of the road. 3-6th grade students focused on bicycling skills, rules of the road, and bicycle helmet usage. During this time students in the school were surveyed about their bicycling and walking habits to and from school.

November 2006:

As part of the in-class training, Bicycle Colorado staff trained physical education teacher Jennifer Handy on how to continue teaching bicycle and pedestrian safety training in her classroom. Ms. Handy received educational curriculum as well as hands on training and shadowed Bicycle Colorado staff in the classroom.

February/March 2007:

Bicycle Colorado staff worked with Aurora Frontier's PTO in order to create a series of spring events

Encouragement:

Aurora Frontier School has continued to hold an annual event for International Walk to School day. This program, led by the PTO, has created a fun and exciting way for students, parents, and teachers to reinforce expectations and safety messaging. The school also provides a section on bicycling and walking to school in the student handbook sent home to families each school year.

Engineering:

During the time of this grant, a pedestrian activated signal was installed at the mid-block crossing directly in front of the school. School administrators, school staff, PTO volunteers and Bicycle Colorado staff worked to incorporate development of good crossing habit in this area. In order to discourage crossing in other locations we implemented a reward system based on random "ticketing" of good crossers. Therefore the more you crossed safely and correctly, the more likely you were to be ticketed and become eligible for prizes and praise from the principal.

	Weather	# of Students in School	Walk	Bike	Bus	Parent's Car	Carpool	Transit	Other
Monday AM	Sunny	495	225	44	125	85	16	0	
Monday PM	Sunny	495	260	44	125	60	6	0	
Tuesday AM	Sunny	495	219	46	125	76	29	0	
Tuesday PM	Sunny	495	266	46	125	60	38	0	
Wednesday AM	Sunny	495	206	36	125	60	68	0	
Wednesday PM	Sunny	495	300	36	125	25	9	0	
Thursday AM	Sunny	495	225	44	125	85	16	0	
Thursday PM	Rain	495	260	44	125	60	6	0	
Friday AM	Sunny	495	219	46	125	76	29	0	
Friday PM	Sunny	495	266	46	125	60	38	0	
	Weather	# of Students in School	Walk	Bike	Bus	Parent's Car	Carpool	Transit	Other
Monday AM	Sunny	499	230	49	125	75	16	0	
Monday PM	Sunny	499	270	49	125	45	6	0	
Tuesday AM	Sunny	499	234	51	125	56	29	0	
Tuesday PM	Overcast	499	271	51	125	50	38	0	
Wednesday AM	Sunny	499	206	36	125	60	68	0	
Wednesday PM	Sunny	499	325	36	125	15	4	0	
Thursday AM	Overcast	499	230	49	125	75	16	0	
Thursday PM	Sunny	499	270	49	125	45	6	0	
Friday AM	Sunny	499	234	51	125	56	29	0	
Friday PM	Sunny	499	271	51	125	50	38	0	

SAMPLE PARENT SURVEY

Parent Survey:

1. What is your child's sex and grade level?

Boy _____ Girl _____ Grade _____

2. What is the approximate distance from your home to the school?

- 1.4 mile or less
- 1.4 to 1.2 mile
- 1.2 mile to 1 mile
- between 1–2 miles
- over 2 miles

3. How does your child usually travel to and from school? (check the appropriate boxes below)

TO SCHOOL IN THE MORNING

	Every Day	2-3 times a week	Once a week	Occasionally
Walk				
Bike				
Driven				
Carpool				
Bus				

From school in the afternoon

	Every Day	2-3 times a week	Once a week	Occasionally
Walk				
Bike				
Driven				
Carpool				
Bus				

5. Do you have concerns about traffic safety along the routes to school? yes _____
no _____

6. If you drive your child, why do you make that choice?

- o Safety
- o Convenience
- o Drop off on way to work
- o Too far to walk
- o Sidewalks (lack of or incomplete)
- o High speed vehicles
- o Child is too young
- o Bad weather
- o Child would not obey safety rules
- o Backpacks too heavy
- o Carrying projects or musical instruments
- o Tardiness
- o Safe place to cross the street
- o Scary people
- o Lack of safe place to store bikes
- o No biking or walking route maps
- o Paths are incomplete or not wide enough
- o Unfriendly dogs
- o Other

7. Would you allow your child to walk or bike if:

- o Accompanied by other children
- o Accompanied by other parents
- o Provide routes maps
- o Crossing guards more effective
- o Safety training for students
- o Improved sidewalks and bike paths
- o Cars slowed down
- o Secure bike storage was available
- o Paths were separated from traffic
- o Other

Please return this survey to the school office.

Or mail it to:

SAMPLE HELMET

ORDER FORM

Helmets by the Dozen!

Bicycle helmets save lives! Up to 88% of all bicycle-related brain injuries can be prevented by wearing a helmet. Bicycle Colorado is excited to offer low-cost bicycle helmets to your school. Please fill out the attached form and return it along with a check to Bicycle Colorado. You can expect your helmets to be delivered within 10 days!

Here are some sizing guidelines: Please keep in mind these are based on average sizes for ages. If your child is small or large for their age please choose a size accordingly.

Toddler size 2-4 years

Small 5-6 years

Medium 6-15 years (these helmets are very adjustable!)

Large 15+ and adults

These are high quality, CPSC certified bicycle helmets. If you have questions about the helmets or sizing please contact Maggie Thompson at Bicycle Colorado 303-417-1544 or Maggie@bicyclecolo.org

Bicycle Colorado is a non-profit bicycle advocacy organization providing bicycle and pedestrian safety in Colorado schools. For more information visit www.BicycleColorado.org!

Quantity	Helmet Size	Price (\$7 per helmet)
	Toddler	\$
	Small	\$
	Medium	\$
	Large	\$
	Total Price	\$

Please make checks payable to BICYCLE COLORADO

Please include the following information in case we need to contact you regarding your order.

Contact Name _____

Telephone Number _____

SAMPLE LETTER TO TEACHERS

Dear Aurora Frontier Teachers and Staff:

Thank you so much for your help surveying AF students about how they travel to and from school. This survey will help AF, Bicycle Colorado, and the City of Aurora document changes in behavior during our 2006-2007 Safe Routes to School Program.

Please take the time to do a quick show-of-hands survey from today until Tuesday. Please return the forms to the front office on Tuesday. If you have any questions regarding the survey don't hesitate to contact me. My cell number is 202-236-4430 and my e-mail is Maggie@bicyclecolo.org.

Thanks again, with your help we will be one step closer to a healthier more active student population in Colorado!

Sincerely,

Maggie Thompson
Education Director
Bicycle Colorado

SAMPLE CLASSROOM

TALLY

**SAMPLE PUNCH CARDS
FOR ENCOURAGEMENT
PROGRAM**

**Aurora Frontier K-8
Walking and Wheeling Wednesday**



Official Punch Card

April 11 ◇◇
April 18 ◇◇
April 25 ◇◇
May 2 ◇◇

**Aurora Frontier K-8
Walking and Wheeling Wednesday**



Official Punch Card

April 11 ◇◇
April 18 ◇◇
April 25 ◇◇
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**Aurora Frontier K-8
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Official Punch Card

April 11 ◇◇
April 18 ◇◇
April 25 ◇◇
May 2 ◇◇

**SAMPLE
ENCOURAGEMENT
PROGRAM FLYER**

Walking and Wheeling Wednesdays

Walk or ride your bicycle Wednesdays April 11- May 2 to be entered into a drawing for some fun prizes!

April 11, April 18, April 25, May 2nd

Walkers

Put your feet to the street! Dress for the weather, look out for cars, and walk with your neighbors

Bicyclists

Ride your bike for fun and exercise. Don't forget to stop at stop signs, look out for cars, and wear your helmet!

Bus Riders

Students who are bussed can participate by walking from the Kiss and Walk site behind the school on Jericho Way. PTA volunteers will greet students and make sure they safely make it to school.

Carpoolers

If you cannot get around driving your student on a Walking and Wheeling Wednesday you can drop your student off at the Kiss and Walk and they will receive credit for walking. The Kiss and Walk drop off is behind the school or Jericho

Parents: We hope you will encourage your student to participate in this program, and we invite you to participate alongside your student. By encouraging our children to be active and healthy we are setting them up for a lifetime of good health and adventure!

Contact Maggie Thompson at Bicycle Colorado with any questions: 303-417-1544
maggie@bicyclecolo.org



Students parking bikes in the "bike cage"



A young student arriving wearing his helmet



Students learn how NOT to wear a helmet!



Practicing hand signals on a rainy day

Volunteer Crossing Guards during Walking and Wheeling Week





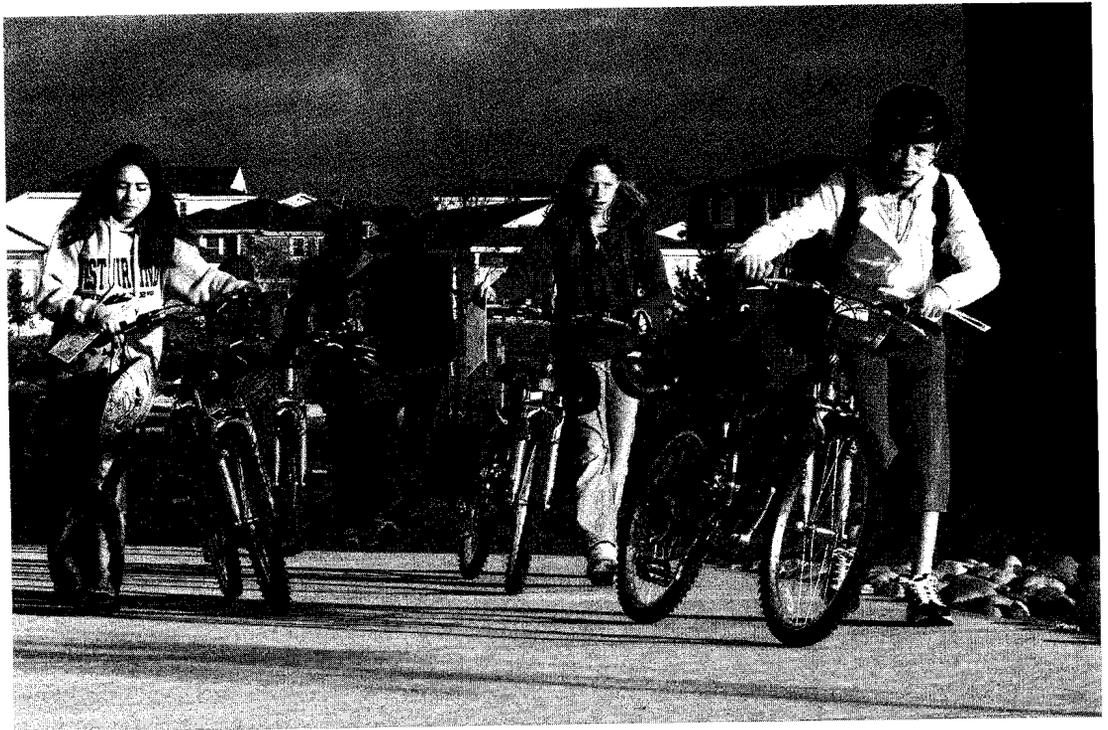
Students locking bikes up on International Walk to School Day



Students signing the Walk and Bike to School Banner



Vice Principal Jocelyn Stephens, Senator Susanne Williams, and Principal Cassie Parra



Middle School Students Arriving for Class



FedEx, City Staff, Bicycle Colorado, Safe Kids, School Staff and local Politicians celebrating a successful event!

09/11/2008

To Whom it May Concern:

As part of the final accomplishment report for the Aurora Frontier School Safe Routes to School program I would like to provide a short justification for a change in the allotment of staff hours spent during this program.

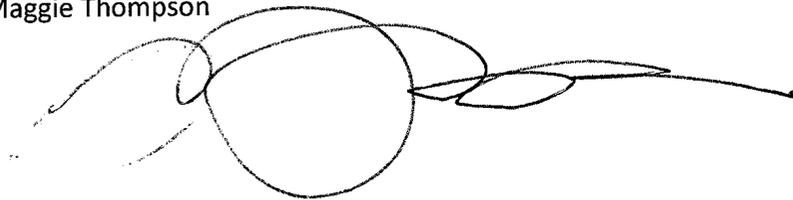
Due to the fact that this was a first year program for the City of Aurora, Bicycle Colorado, and Aurora Frontier School our initial estimations of how staff time would be spent was slightly off. Despite this, we were able to perform an effective and successful program allowing us to spend time where and when it was needed.

Please take into consideration the fact that this was a new school and during the grant writing process we were unsure of things like class times and durations, number of enrolled students, and the types of programs and education that would be most successful in this program.

I am available for further justification if needed, please feel free to contact me at any times with questions.

Sincerely,

Maggie Thompson



Education Director
Bicycle Colorado