

Larchmont/Mamaroneck Safe Routes to School



Why Safe Routes to School?



✓ For the environment

Air quality is measurably better around schools with more walkers and bicyclists (EPA, 2003)

✓ For individual health

Most kids aren't getting the physical activity they need. Recommendation is 60 minutes on most, preferably all, days of the week

(US Depts. of Health and Human Services and Agriculture, 2005)

✓ For the community

Families connect with their neighbors and the world around them when they walk or bike to school

SRTS Goals



- Where it's safe, get children walking and biking
- Where it's not safe, make changes

SRTS Partnership



Cross section of community leaders

- ✓ Elected officials
- ✓ Municipal employees
- ✓ Law enforcement
- ✓ School administrators
- ✓ PTA representatives
- ✓ Rye YMCA



SRTS: The 5 E's



- ☑ Engineering
- ☑ Enforcement
- ☑ Education
- ☑ Encouragement
- ☑ Evaluation

L/M SRTS Programs



Engineering

Where it's not safe, make changes



L/M SRTS Programs



Education and Encouragement

Where it's safe, get children walking and biking

- ☑ Safety Pledge
- ☑ Crosswalks Safety Campaign
- ☑ Video PSA contest
- ☑ Walking School Buses

L/M SRTS Programs



Safety Pledge

Goal: Long term behavior change!

- Educate parents
- Educate children
- Increase awareness among drivers and pedestrians

L/M SRTS Programs



Parents' Safe Driving Pledge

I promise to:

- Never speed through residential streets and school zones
- Never talk or text on a hand-held device while driving
- Always wear a seat belt and make sure passengers wear seat belts
- Always yield to students walking or bicycling, especially in crosswalks
- Never run stop signs or red lights
- Never pass a stopped school bus with flashing red lights
- Never park or stop in crosswalks
- Always drop off my child at the curb, never from a double-parked car
- Never leave the driver's seat when dropping off or picking up
- Never park illegally (i.e. at a yellow, red or blue curb)
- Never leave the car idling for more than 3 minutes

Students' Safety Pledge

I promise to:

- Always follow the directions of the crossing guard or traffic signals
- Always cross the street in a crosswalk
- Always look left, right and left again before crossing the street
- Always look before crossing the end of a driveway
- Never dart out between parked cars
- Wear my seat belt when riding in a car
- Always exit the car from the curbside at school
- Always wear a bike helmet when riding my bike
- Always ride my bike with traffic, not against it
- Always use hand signals when turning on my bike

L/M SRTS Programs



Crosswalk Safety Campaign

Goal: Better understanding of crosswalk rules

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- ✓ Educate drivers & pedestrians about correct crosswalk usage
- ✓ Reach elementary & middle school students and parents



Crosswalk Safety: Myth vs. Reality

How safe is your student when crossing a busy street as a pedestrian or cyclist? We parents need to teach more than the basic rules of STOP, LOOK and LISTEN. Our community encourages children to walk to school as much as possible – and we want them to arrive safely. Please review these procedures with your children and follow the rules yourself – you are the best role model for your children.

Myth: Pedestrians always have the right of way.

Reality: No, not always. Legally, pedestrians have the right-of-way within a crosswalk if there is no traffic light. If there is a traffic light, whoever has the green light - pedestrian or car- has the right of way. Pedestrians are also expected to exercise “due care” for their own safety, and are NOT permitted to suddenly obstruct the path of a moving vehicle that is close enough to be a hazard.

Myth: You are safe in a crosswalk.

Reality: Painted lines do not protect you from harm, even if you have the legal right of way. This is extremely important at crosswalks where there is no traffic signal or stop sign. If you are not crossing at a marked crosswalk, pedestrians do not have the right of way and must yield to vehicles. Your best protection is your own attention!

Myth: A green light or walk signal means “GO”

Reality: A green light or walk signal indicates that it is your turn to cross, but first make sure that the intersection is clear -- and watch for red light runners! Also, make sure that any right-turning cars will yield to you. Cyclists should dismount and walk across if they wish to cross a busy intersection.

Myth: If you see the driver, the driver sees you.

Reality: The driver may not see you in time to stop. To be safe, make eye contact with any driver whose path will cross yours, and proceed only when certain the car will stop. If there is a median, make separate decisions about crossing each direction of traffic.

Additional Safety Tips:

- Always walk on the sidewalk; if there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic
- Bicycles ride in the same direction as cars
- Cross only at corners: avoid the dangerous practice of “jaywalking” or crossing between parked cars
- Continue to look Left, Right, and Left again as you cross, it’s easy to miss an oncoming car
- When you are near the street, don’t push, shove, or chase your friends
- Watch out for cars and trucks at every driveway and intersection as you walk.



L/M SRTS Programs



Crosswalk Safety – A few tips to make your walk to school SAFE:

- When there is a traffic light, whoever has the green light has the “right-of-way”. If there is no light, pedestrians have the right-of-way in a crosswalk, but make eye contact with the driver to be sure he/she sees you.
- A walk signal does mean it’s your turn to cross, but check to make sure there are no cars coming.
- Just because you have the right-of-way doesn’t mean a car may not still be a hazard. Your best protection is your own attention!
- Always walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic. (Bicycles ride in the same direction the cars drive.)
- Cross only at corners or crosswalks. Always look both ways.
- Bikers and skateboards should always get off their bike/skateboard and walk when crossing a busy intersection.
- When you are near the street, don’t push, shove or chase your friends.
- Crossing the street involves your feet, but also your eyes and ears... Don’t wear headphones or text while crossing the street!
- It’s good for your health and the health of the planet! Stay fit while reducing your carbon footprint!

L/M SRTS Programs



Video PSA Contest

Goal: Extend reach of SRTS to older students

- ☑ Engage high school students in SRTS initiatives
- ☑ Educate teens and the community about (1) pedestrian and bicycle safety and (2) the health and environmental benefits of walking and biking to school – all through the eyes of a teenager



L/M SRTS Video Contest Winners!



L/M SRTS Programs



Walking School Buses

Goal: Help families share the responsibility of walking children to school

- ☑ Encouraged by PTAs; coordinated by neighborhood volunteers
- ☑ Provides an opportunity to reinforce safe pedestrian behaviors before kids start walking independently
- ☑ FUN! “It’s like a playdate on the way to school!”

L/M SRTS Programs



Walking School Buses: a year-round initiative



L/M SRTS Programs



Evaluation

- ☑ Baseline measurements obtained in March 2008: utilized National Center for Safe Routes to School data tools
- ☑ Periodic tallies to evaluate impact of programs
- ☑ Incorporate measurement when planning programs: e.g. Murray Avenue School walking school bus initiative

L/M SRTS: Seeking Support



Collaboration with MUFSD and municipalities to seek funding:

- ☑ NYS DOT Safe Routes to School: Hommocks and Central School sidewalks and all-elementary SRTS programs
- ☑ Transportation Enhancement Program: Old Boston Post Road curbing and sidewalk
- ☑ Mamaroneck Schools Foundation: traffic study
- ☑ National Center for Safe Routes to School mini-grant: expansion of walking school bus program
- ☑ State Farm “Good Neighbor Grant”: expansion of walking school bus program

**We will continue to search for grants
to fund infrastructure and programs**

L/M SRTS: The Word is Out



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The Sound & Town Report

Mamaroneck and Larchmont's Weekly Newspaper

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Packed house at Mamaroneck Village Board Trustees adopt local law, address parking

By PAIGE BENTZ
So many residents packed the Village Court Room for the Village of Mamaroneck Board of Trustees meeting Tuesday night that many attendees were left standing. The majority of the crowd was there in support of Mamaroneck resident Rocco Salaturo, whose home is tied up in land use lawsuits. Following a standing ovation for Salaturo by the majority of the audience, Mayor Kathy Swartz explained that the decision upon which these lawsuits are based were made by a land use board before the current members of the board.

Elections 2009



Village Trustees candidates Louis Sauter and Pamela Robinson discuss the issues in this week's candidate profiles on Election Day opportunities in the Village of Mamaroneck. (See pages 18-21.) Sauter is running as part of a "unification" slate with Mayor, Boardmember and Matthew Weiss. Robinson is running on the Democratic ticket with John Insalaco.

Cast your vote!

Tell us who you favor in the Nov. 3 village elections! Residents, trustees and those who join in a "unification" slate (depending on the Republican and Conservative ticket, while incumbents Sauter, Robinson and Robinson run on the Democratic ticket.)

Mayor:
 Herman Rosenthal (R)
 Kathy Swartz (D)
 Travis Fitzsimmons
 Randall Robinson (D)
 Louis Sauter (D)

Trustees (Partial term):
 Rick Adams (D)
 Matthew Weiss (D)

Log onto www.mysoundandtown.com to make your voice heard!

WALKING SCHOOL BUSES GET INTO GEAR

Shoes trump cars during Chatsworth's Walk to School Week

Murray Avenue School kicks off walking campaign



Photo: Liz Fitzgerald
In the Chatsworth School yard, boys proudly display their "Tiger Walk" bracelets, earned by all who walked or biked to school.



Photo: Paige Bentz
A little wet weather didn't deter these walking school buses, as students stream down the sidewalks to Murray Avenue School from both directions.

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CHATSWORTH (from page 1)

that parents in the school's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Committee organized a walking event they had also designated a walking week in March, during the school's Nutrition and Wellness month.

For the purpose of the week, those who rode bikes were counted among the walkers. Liz Fitzgerald, chair of the Chatsworth SRTS, said that 10 Walking School Buses came from several neighborhoods in Larchmont, picking up students as they made their way to school. While she did not have detailed statistics, she reported that at the end of the week, "one woman said they had had 20 kids on their route... because it's the second go-around people were more aware of."

The committee will continue to emphasize walking and biking to school, Fitzgerald said. "In order to capture the enthusiasm of Walk to School Week, we will be selling out 'Walking Wednesdays' in a couple of weeks to encourage families to walk or bike at least once a week throughout the year. To record the number of participants, she said, children will "sign on to tally sheets as they enter the school building on Wednesdays. The grade level that has the most walkers or bikers will be announced over the PA system each week."

She explained that the purpose of the program was "to create awareness of the benefits of walking to school," which include the health benefits of daily exercise, the need for pedestrian safety, concern for the environment, and "the positive impact of building connections between families, schools and the broader community," according to a press release from the school district.

Fitzgerald noted that the message was also directed at drivers, to remind them to be cautious, that they are in a community that encourages walking to school. Hopefully it



A Walking School Bus on Larchmont Avenue heading over to the Chatsworth School earlier this year.

Photo: Liz Fitzgerald

will slow the drivers down as well. "To that end, the walkers carried bright yellow signs reading "Caution - Walking School Bus."

As an added incentive, Fitzgerald said, "We gave away glow-in-the-dark bracelets to all the participants who walked or biked to or from school during the week." The bracelets were imprinted with the motto "Tiger Walk," a reference to the Chatsworth School's mascot, the Tiger Cub.

Fitzgerald, a mother of four, said that many studies point to the advantages of walking to school. She herself finds it a

great way to start the day; "it helps 'get your thoughts together and get out your wiles from the morning.' It also helps children be more awake than if you rolled out of the car" and into school. In addition to the advantages of exercise, she continued, walking to school gives the bonding between parents and their children. "Parents who walk with their kids say it's a great time to talk to your kids," Fitzgerald reported. With traffic congestion an annoying problem at Chatsworth, as at other area schools, she noted that walking also reduces vehicular traffic, which in turn reduces carbon emissions.

Deborah Kocay, who grew up in Larchmont and attended Chatsworth, mentioned that many more people walked in the village when she was a child in the 1960s. Counted and Prevention.



Bracelets reading "Tiger Walk" were distributed to all children who walked or biked.



More bikes than usual were parked outside the Chatsworth School during Walk to School Week.

L/M SRTS: The Word is Out



Mam'k Walking School Buses a Model at County Conference (Larchmont Gazette 10/29/09)

Larchmont resident Kim Larsen, who chairs the Larchmont and Mamaroneck Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Committee, was a featured speaker at the October 16, 2009 SRTC conference hosted by the Westchester County Department of Transportation at the County Center in White Plains. Ms. Larsen presented Larchmont's walking school bus program to well over 100 conference participants who included state, county and city transportation officials as well as school administrators from all over the Lower Hudson Valley.

Kim Larsen displays some of the signs used during Walk to School Week in the Mamaroneck School District. "This month's district-wide Walk to School Week featured numerous walking school buses at each of elementary school," reported Ms. Larsen. "We've found that children really enjoy the sociability of the walking school bus. It adds another layer of fun to the walk to school."

"Larchmont has developed a fun and creative walking school bus program and we hope other communities will soon follow their lead," commented Naomi Klein, principal planner for the Westchester County Department of Transportation and organizer of the conference. Additional speakers included Westchester County Executive Andy Spano, Transportation Commissioner Lawrence Salley and County Health Commissioner Dr. Joshua Lipsman.



L/M SRTS: Next Steps

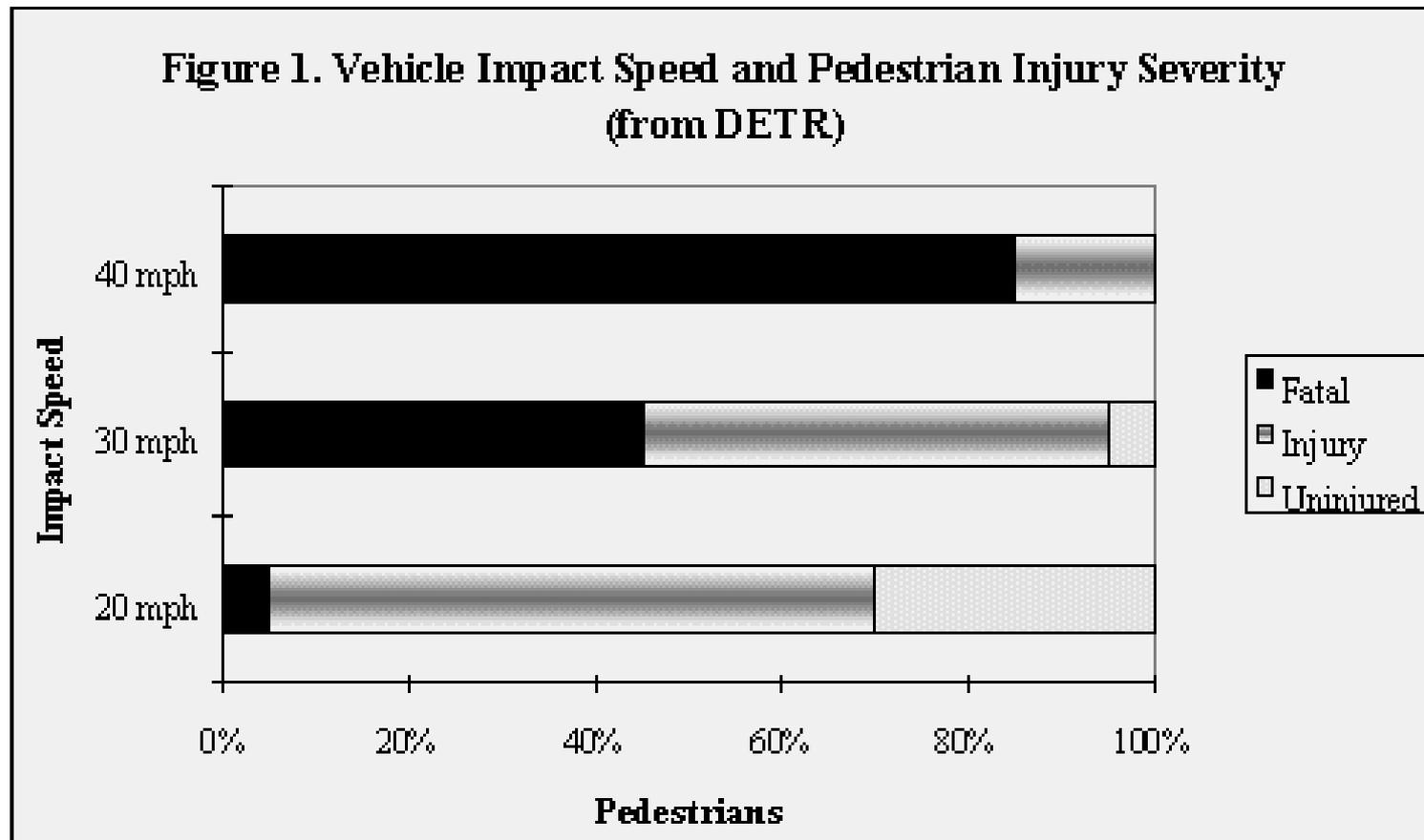


- ☑ Education and Encouragement at middle and high school level
- ☑ Driver Awareness programs
- ☑ Traffic Calming on Boston Post Road: Speed limit reduction during school hours in vicinity of MHS

L/M SRTS: Next Steps



Why reduce speed limit on Boston Post Road?



Larchmont/Mamaroneck Safe Routes to School

