



Safe Routes to School in Action

Cheyenne, Wyoming

Background

When applying for SRTS funding from the Wyoming DOT, Cheyenne officials decided to focus on an area where parents and children were already walking and taking advantage of public transit despite the poor infrastructure and neighborhood conditions. Students from these historically underserved neighborhoods were walking to schools along a power line corridor that served as storage for dilapidated vehicles and trash. Because there was no path or official route to an already established interstate crossing, students would find holes in the fence along the corridor and cut across the interstate to get to school.

The city applied for SRTS funding in 2007 and was awarded two \$200,000 grants to complete paths along Interstate 80. The purpose of the path improvement project was to replace dangerous and littered routes to school with cleaner and safer greenways for walking and biking. And it has done just that!



*Power line corridors before paths were constructed.
Completed paths are pictured below at ribbon cutting ceremony.*

Details

2007 grant funding supported the completion of nearly 1.5 miles of trail in 2 different sections near 2 elementary schools and 1 middle school. On May 30th, 2009 the community celebrated the completion of the project with a ribbon cutting ceremony. What was a power line corridor littered with trash and abandoned vehicles is now a safe and clean place for children to walk. Community members have expressed enthusiasm about the project and have shared that the project has brought the community together. Although the path north of Interstate 80 serves simply as a utilitarian path, the southern path has been described by neighbors as “a safe place for their children to go in the neighborhood”.



There were several speakers at the grand opening of the trail, including the Mayor, City Council representatives, school representatives, the WYDOT SRTS Coordinator, and the developer who donated the land to the City. In his speech, the Mayor expressed that the Greenway is a great amenity for the community, improving quality of life for residents and visitors to the City, and that it is also a safe and efficient route for children to get to school.



Noninfrastructure SRTS funding supported many of the events at the grand opening ceremony, including a raffle for bikes and helmets and a pedometer giveaway.

What's Next

The Cheyenne SRTS program is currently using a 2008 SRTS grant of \$30,000 to contract with Alta Planning and Design, a community planning company, to prepare a SRTS plan for infrastructure and education projects for the next SRTS funding cycle. Future grants requests

will continue to focus on infrastructure improvements, although the Cheyenne SRTS program is excited to further develop the encouragement and education aspects of their program.

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