City of Lebanon Safe Routes to Play Initiative
A Blueprint for Active Transportation for Children and Families

Meghan Butts: Transportation Planner and GIS Senior Analyst
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission
July 2019
Background

- Safe Routes to Play (SRTP) is a *child-centered transportation planning process*

- Engaging youths

- Multiple partners including health care, transportation, recreation, municipal and regional planning
Public Outreach Methods

• Public Outreach for the Safe Routes to Play project was done in multiple forms:
  
  – Participatory mapping exercise done with walking tours ("walkabouts") in four neighborhoods;
  
  – Participatory mapping exercise done at two School Open House events;
  
  – Parent surveys distributed online and as hardcopies to gather information about travel patterns to and from locations where children play.
Participatory Mapping Exercise

The participatory mapping exercise allowed participants to share their favorite places to recreate, and identify barriers for bicyclists and pedestrians to access those recreational areas.
Key Themes from Public Meetings and Walkabouts

• Improving Existing Playgrounds for Children of All Age Groups

• Completing the Mascoma River Greenway

• Exploring Opportunities for New Trail Connections

• Addressing Locations with Safety Concerns
Improvement Strategies

- Construct project to install Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon and pedestrian refuge island at the intersection of NH Route 10/Gould/Oak Ridge Road
- Extend sidewalks southerly on the west side of NH Route 10 between Oak Ridge Road and Quail Hollow
- Develop a trail connection between Sachem Village and Boston Lot
- Develop a trail connection between Sachem Village and Alana Cole Park
Intersection Improvements

• This feedback regarding safety and a crash data sparked UVLSRPC to apply for a Road Safety Audit with NH DOT

• Multiple meetings with the Community

• Cooperative effort between the State, RPC, and City
Intersection Improvements
Improvement Strategies

- Complete the Mascoma River Greenway project to ensure neighborhood-level pedestrian and bicycle connectivity with downtown Lebanon and West Lebanon Village
- Improve crosswalks between the Northern Rail Trail and the CCBA
- Develop an access path/trail connecting Meriden Road (NH Route 120) with the Northern Rail Trail
- Construct Transportation Enhancement project to improve bicycle shoulder and sidewalks on Meriden Road
- Evaluate potential traffic calming measures on Taylor Street
Mascoma River Greenway

• Language developed in SRTP helped to demonstrate real data obtained from the public regarding the need for the MRG

• Barriers experienced by the community in regard to active transportation lack of sidewalks, speed of traffic, intersection safety were addressed by the MRG

• Maps were helpful tools to show youth living in proximity to the MRG
Mascoma River Greenway

Rail Trail Connecting Our Community
Continuing to Move Forward

- City of Lebanon has moved forward on more than half of the strategies listed in the plan
- More than just transportation
Questions?

Contact information

Meghan Butts
mbutts@uvlsrpc.org
603-448-1680