LOW COST ENGINEERING STRATEGIES AND **EXAMPLES FROM RURAL WESTERN** NORTH CAROLINA Safe Routes To School: Clay County Case Study

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#### HOW IT ALL STARTED



## **BEGINNING INVOLVEMENT**



 In 2015, our pilot program Walk Wednesday began at Hayesville Elementary.
In 2016, Hayesville Middle School joined

## **STUDENT CHECK IN**



Once students safely exited the vehicle they checked in with a teacher before entering the gazebo

# WALK WEDNESDAY



Pilot route that students took from the town square to their respective schools

# TOWN OF HAYESVILLE WALK AUDIT



## **REROUTE WALKING WEDNESDAY**



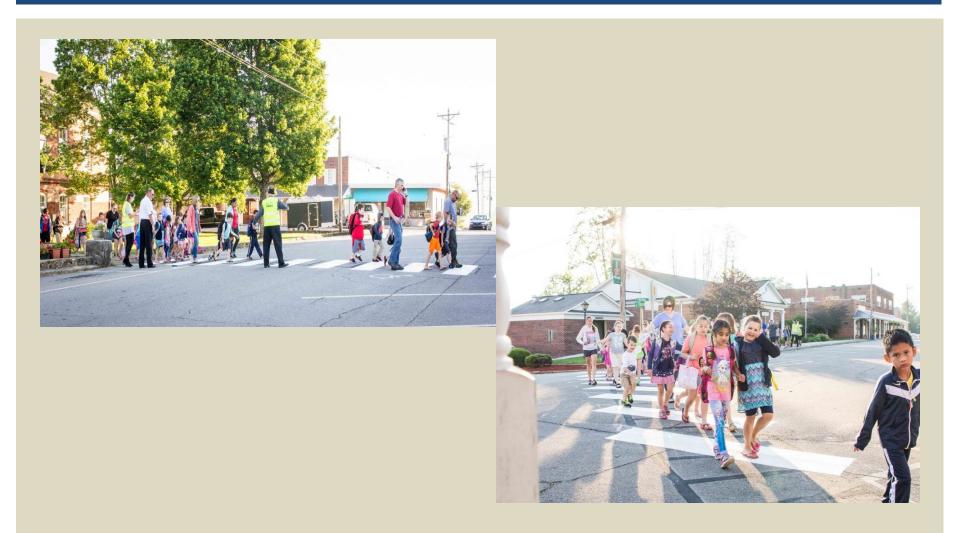


On the left was the original route that took students down a set of stairs. On the right, the new route eliminated the stairs and instead took students behind the gazebo.

## **REMOVED PARKING SPACES**



# **NEW CROSSWALKS**



# **REMOVED OBSTRUCTION**



#### **REMOVED OBSTRUCTION**



 Storefront items were removed
Reduced safety hazards
Increased sidewalk space

## WALKING WEDNESDAY



We averaged 80-100 students who participated in the walk to school program.



# WALK WEDNESDAY WITH HAYESVILLE ELEMENTARY & HAYESVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL



The gazebo became a safe space to corral students away from traffic

## WALK WEDNESDAY



# **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

- More walkable community
- Increased pedestrian safety
- Created aesthetically pleasing spaces
- Decrease in traffic congestion to elementary, middle and high school
- Increased accessibility for students with disabilities after the re-route

# COMMUNITY CONSENSUS

- Students love the excitement of being physically and socially active with peers
- Teachers appreciate the wellness focus that SRTS provides
- School administration feels this program has reduced school tardiness-students don't want to miss it and have to be on time for the walk.
- After the walk students arrive at the school cafeteria where each student receives breakfast, is alert, hungry and gets fueled for the day.



## STUDENT INVOLVEMENT



# TAKE AWAYS

