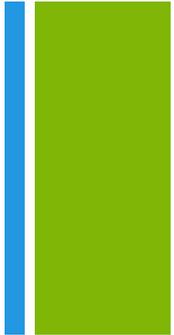




About Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS)



- **Transportation Challenges**
 - Decline in walking and biking leads to both traffic congestion and air pollution issues
- **Health Challenges**
 - Children are engaging in less physical activity, resulting in greater incidence of childhood obesity

- In 1969, 48% of children 5-14 walked or biked to school, as compared to 13% in 2009*
- In 1969, 41% of children in grades K-8 lived within 1 mile of school, and 89% of those children walked or biked to school. In 2009, 31% of children lived within that radius, however, only 35% of those children walked or biked to school on a regular basis*

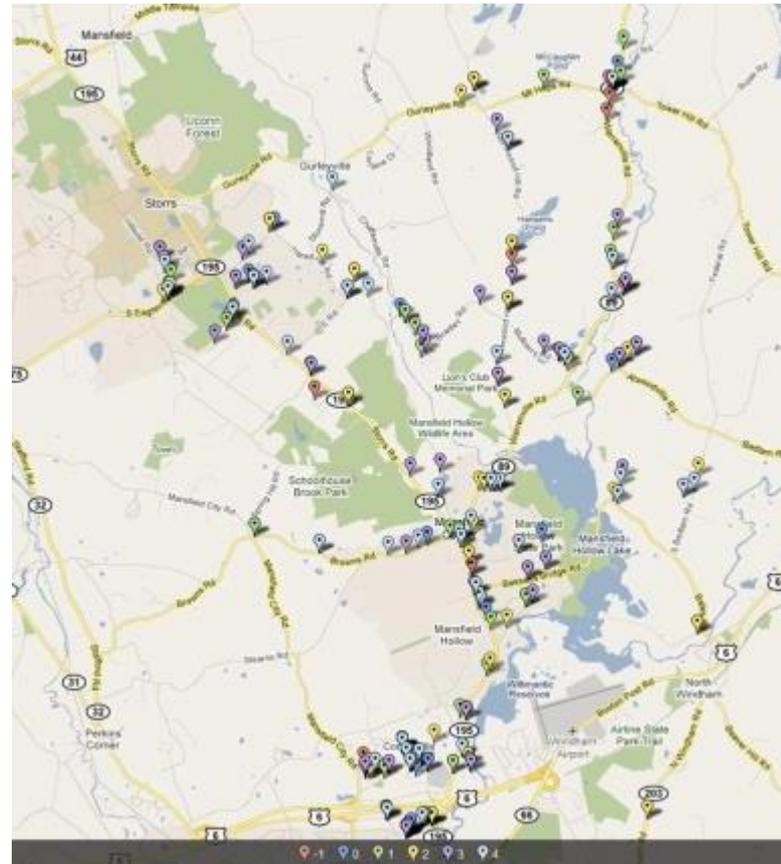
*http://guide.saferoutesinfo.org/introduction/the_decline_of_walking_and_bicycling.cfm



Southeast Elementary Safe Routes

May 2011 Parent Survey (Mansfield Advocates for Children)

- 15.5% indicated that their child had asked for permission to walk or bike to school
- 94.2% acknowledged walking to school as a healthy or very healthy activity
- 9.8% lived within 1/2 mile of the school; 18.2% within 1 mile
- 78.9% believed that walking or biking to school under current conditions is either unsafe or very unsafe





Southeast Elementary SRTS Project

2011 Safe Routes to School Application

- Based on survey results, Town decided to pursue participation in the Safe Routes to School program in 2011
- As a first step, the Safe Routes to School Team developed a SRTS Master Plan
- Grant funding was then requested for the major engineering strategy identified in the Master Plan

safe routes

TO SOUTHEAST
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
IN MANSFIELD,
CONNECTICUT

A SAFE ROUTES TO
SCHOOL MASTER PLAN

2011



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Southeast Safe Routes to School

Master Plan Vision



- Encourage the pursuit of healthy activities such as walking and biking at an early age to improve the chances that such activities will be a life-long lifestyle choice
- Provide students with the option of walking and biking to school, something that is currently discouraged due to lack of safe off-road facilities leading to the school
- Reduce speeding and other reckless driving activities near the school by increasing driver awareness of pedestrians and bicyclists

+ Southeast Engineering Strategies

Recommended Improvements

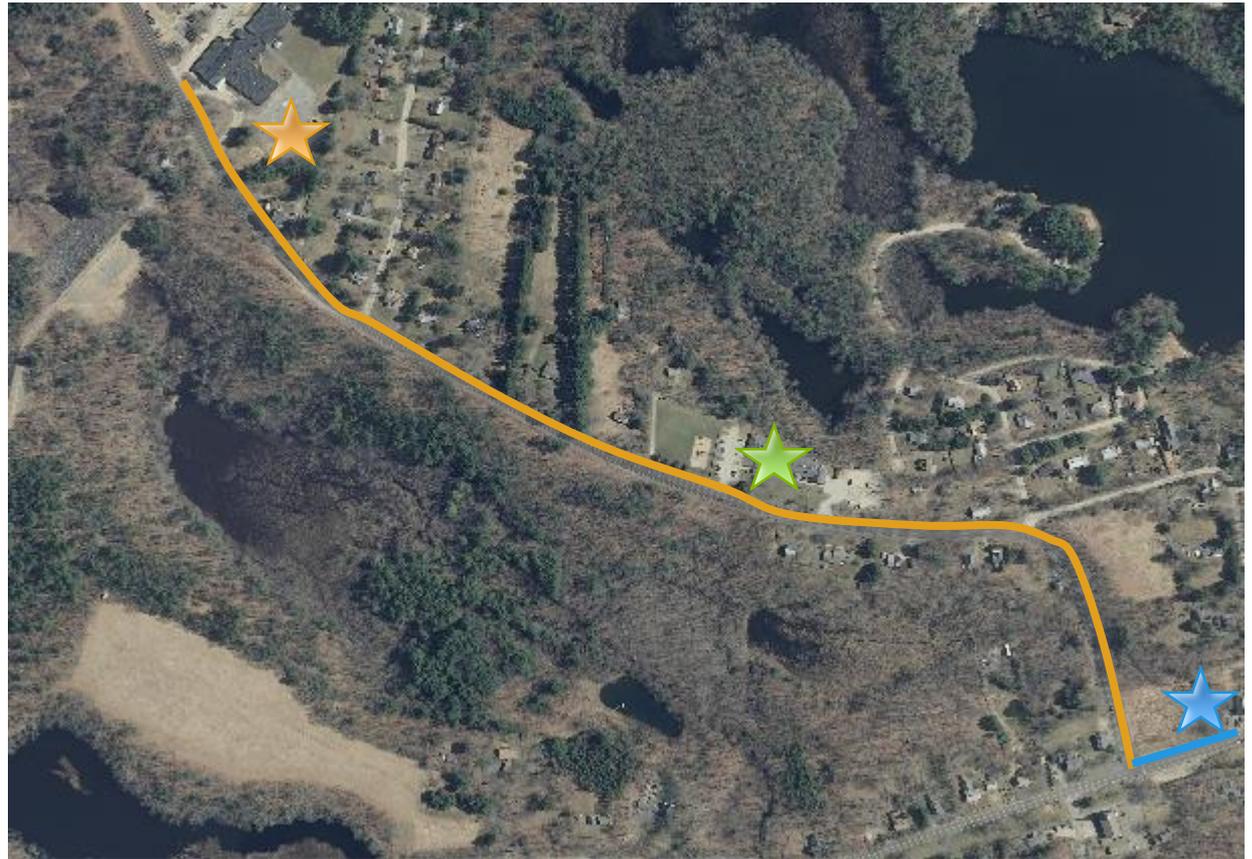
- Improve On-site Pedestrian Connections
 - Dedicated pedestrian path along south side of southernmost driveway connecting to new Route 89 walkway
 - Striping and signage in northern parking lot to connect to adjacent ballfields



+ Southeast Engineering Strategies

Funded Project

- New Off-Road Walkway to connect the existing walkway on Route 195 with Southeast School
- Grant Funding Secured for \$495,100 for Construction
- Town Capital Funding of \$17,700 for Survey
- Town Engineering Staff Completing Design and Construction Administration



+ Southeast Engineering Strategies

Challenges

- Inland Wetlands Impacts
- Wide intersection with three roadways
- Narrow Right-of-Way resulting the potential need for land acquisition



Google Street View, December 2, 2015



Southeast Safe Routes to School

Next Steps

- Engineering Division Complete Preliminary Design (July 2016)
- Connecticut Department of Transportation(CTDOT) Complete Preliminary Review
- Engineering conducts final design (Fall 2016)
- Connecticut Department of Transportation(CTDOT) Complete Final Design Review
- Project Bidding (Winter/Spring 2016)
- Project Construction (Summer/Fall 2017)

