

Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health Statewide Health Improvement Program

National Walk/Bike to School Day

Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health is working with three school districts on Safe Routes to School during this first year of SHIP 4: Roseville Area Schools, Saint Paul Public Schools, and White Bear Lake Area Schools. This was the first year Public Health SHIP was actively involved in planning, implementing and participating in the Walk/Bike to School Day on Wednesday, May 4, 2016.

Roseville Area Schools had several schools participate in their own unique way. One school hosted a bike rodeo, where over 200 students attended. Emmet D. Williams had over 80 bikes on their bike rack by encouraging students to ride to school. At Falcon Heights Elementary, the Lt. Governor participated at a remote bus drop; students had their busses drop them over a half mile away and they walked into school as a group. The principal at this school said that the Parent-Teacher Association had unanimous support in doing a remote bus drop again.

Saint Paul Public Schools have celebrated Walk to School Day in the past, but not at this level. One school hosted a bike rodeo and several schools successfully implemented a remote bus drop. Transportation department said it was a “flawless” day. All together there were nearly 6,000 students that participated in some type of event. One principal said he would like to do this before the end of the school year and teachers said that students’ behavior was better in the classroom. It was agreed upon as a Safe Routes to School steering committee that they would want to do this again in the fall, building upon the momentum of Safe Routes to School with the MNDOT planning grant they were awarded for the 2016-2017 school year.

White Bear Lake Area Schools has had a steering committee since the beginning of the year to help implement Safe Routes to School efforts. They decided to pilot a remote bus drop at one school, and the principal was overwhelmingly on board. The principal said that the students came “into the school beaming and excited to learn”. It went successfully and the district hopes to model future efforts from this pilot at other schools.



**Success
Story**