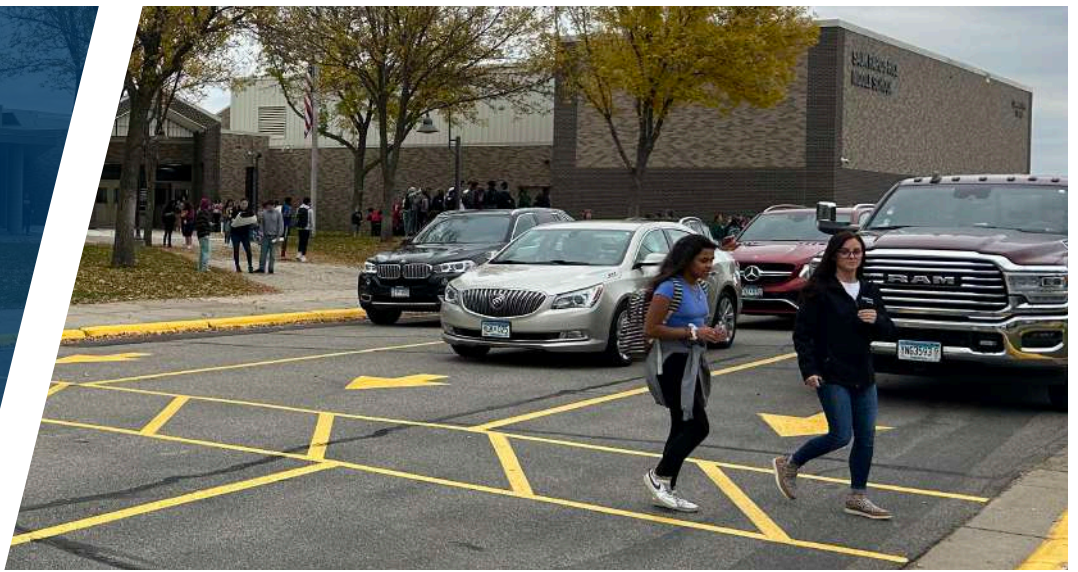


SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Executive Summary



The Vision

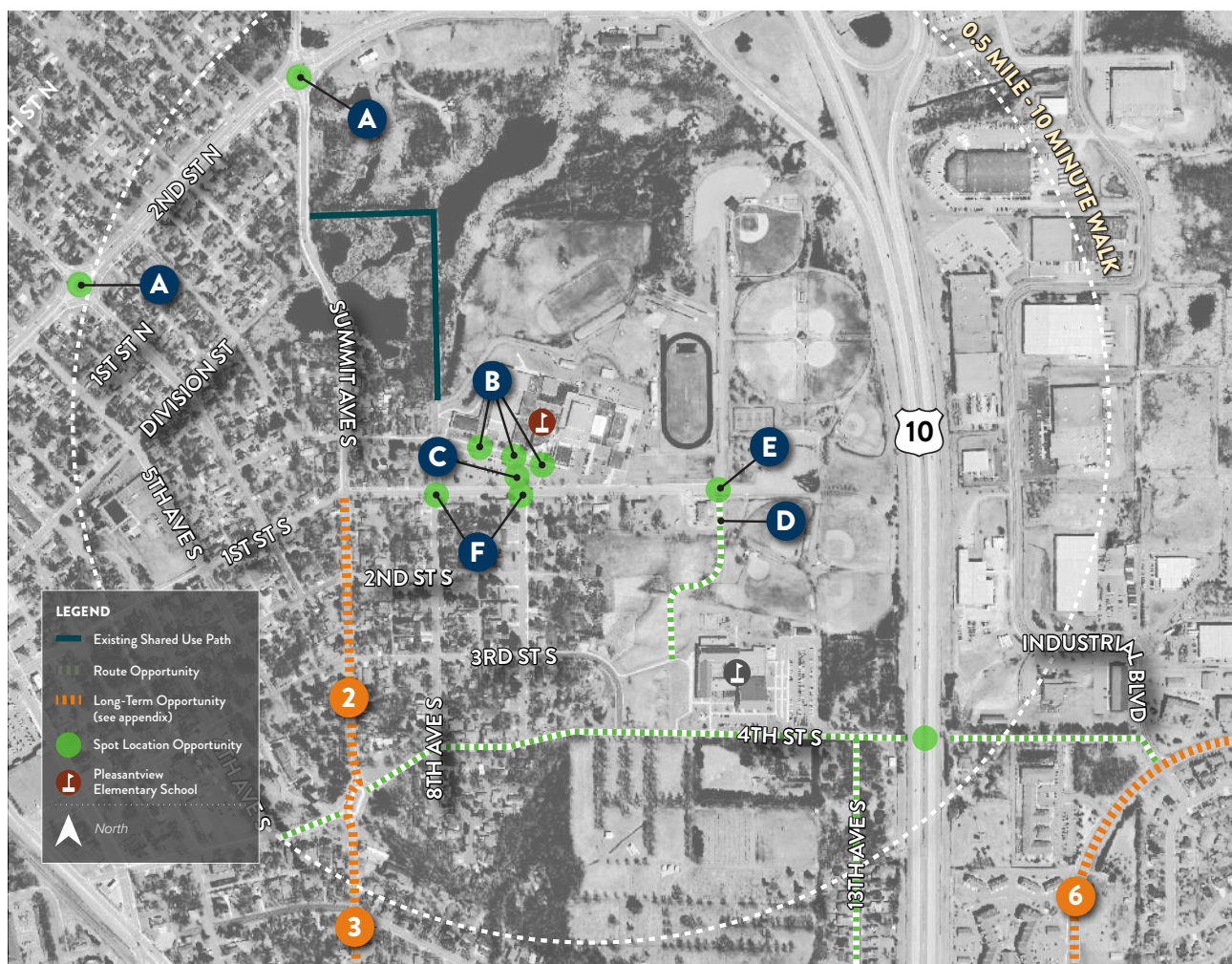
A plan to make walking, biking, and rolling to school a safe, accessible, and fun aspect of physical and emotional health, for students and all members of the growing Sauk Rapids community.

In June 2024, Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School completed a year-long planning process alongside two other Sauk Rapids-Rice Schools that culminated in a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plan. The SRTS plan identifies policy changes, infrastructure improvements, and program strategies to create a safe, comfortable, and fun active transportation system and culture of walking and biking to school, with a focus on addressing equity in transportation and meeting the needs of underresourced groups.

This executive summary highlights near-term, high-priority recommendations from the SRTS Plan.

Infrastructure

Engineering projects that improve streets and routes



- A** Enhance the visibility of each roundabout crossing by using techniques such as RRFBs that can be activated when pedestrians intend to cross.
- B** Enhance the visibility of each crosswalk by implementing various treatments such as curb extensions (where feasible) or parking barriers directly adjacent to each crossing to improve pedestrian visibility. Additionally, include features like lighting at each crosswalk location, and consider options such as raised crosswalks or high-visibility painted crosswalks.
- F** Implement raised curb extensions to reduce crossing distances, enhance student visibility, and mitigate potential conflict points. Additional measures to improve visibility include installing lighting at the crosswalk location and extending the no-parking zone within 30 feet of the intersection.

GET INVOLVED

Want to help make it safer, easier, and more comfortable to walk and bike to school in Sauk Rapids? Contact your Sauk Rapids SRTS Lead to learn how to get involved.

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Learn more about SRTS in Minnesota at www.dot.state.mn.us/saferoutes

Programs

Education, encouragement, engagement



Walk! Bike! Fun! Curriculum

How will this be implemented?

Physical education or health teachers can integrate Walk! Bike! Fun! as a component in their annual curriculum for students of all ages.

Why is this relevant and recommended?

Walk! Bike! Fun! is a two-part curriculum designed to help students learn traffic rules and regulations, the potential hazards to traveling, and handling skills needed to bike and walk effectively, appropriately, and safely through their community.

How will this address transportation inequities?

In-school curriculum provides all students an opportunity to engage with walking and biking safety, regardless of the resources available to them outside school.

Who needs to be involved to make this happen?

School staff, Bike MN, students.

What is the timeline for implementation?

Medium term (2-3 years).



Bike Rodeo

How will this be implemented?

The City and school could partner on an annual bike rodeo event held at the school.

Why is this relevant and recommended?

Bike rodeos are a skill-building event, providing students and families an opportunity to learn if they are not confident on a bicycle.

How will this address transportation inequities?

If paired with a bike donation event or by using an existing bike fleet available through CentraCare, this event will support all students' knowledge of and comfort with biking.

Who needs to be involved to make this happen?

City and school staff.

What is the timeline for implementation?

Short term (1 year).

