

Profile: Community Walks the Walk to Map School Routes

In April 2001, the SR2S Task Force of **Fairfax**, California held a Charrette, or design workshop, to develop a SR2S Improvement Plan. A town-wide mailing helped to promote the event. The high-powered group of more than 40 residents included representatives from the town council, the planning commission, parks and recreation commission, the volunteer board, the police and fire departments, the public works director, and the chamber of commerce as well as parents and neighbors of the public and private elementary schools.

Parents from the schools had walked, inventoried, and photographed the town's routes to schools and presented their findings to the community at the Charrette. Middle school students described their bicycle commute to the audience with vivid descriptions of the conflicts they experience negotiating traffic. This was followed by a "Toolbox" presentation by transportation consultants showing examples of safe street techniques developed in other communities.

The group then dispersed into work teams, complete with maps, flip charts, and colored pens, to devise their own ideas on how to make Fairfax a better place for walking and biking, concentrating on school routes. Each group developed creative solutions in a flurry of activity. A number of innovations were discovered as a result of this effort, which will be refined and incorporated into the town's capital improvement plan.

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (www.nhtsa.gov)

Profile: Undercover Enforcement

The **City of Glendale**, California, implemented an aggressive enforcement operation, using plain-clothed policemen as decoys trying to cross the street on foot. When they would get cut off by speeding cars, the offending motorist would be surprised to find that the pedestrian was, in fact, a plain clothed policeman. The city got the media's attention by allowing journalists to try it themselves. The technique paid off and pedestrian deaths were eliminated in the year following the program.

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (www.nhtsa.gov)

Profile: Drive Safely—Citizens on Alert

Edna Maguire School in **Mill Valley**, California, produced Citizen's Warning forms and made the forms available at the school office. Anyone who witnessed a speeding or dangerous driver filled out a form and turned it in to the police department, who then sent out a warning letter to the registered owner of the vehicle. The letter notifies the vehicle's owner that they have been observed breaking traffic laws and warns them about repeating such behavior.

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (www.nhtsa.gov)

Profile: Directing Traffic

School officials, the PTA, law enforcement officials, and community groups worked jointly to solve congestion and speeding problems surrounding Sabin Elementary School. Their objective was to minimize traffic congestion, decrease speed, and improve visibility and crossing safety. They installed semi-diverters (devices that close off incoming traffic to a street while still allowing cars to exit) to encourage a clockwise circulation around the school. The neighborhood was consulted through a written ballot, with 73 percent supporting the diverters. The work was completed in 1998, along with an added marked crosswalk and a pedestrian refuge island. The project successfully diverted traffic without sending it to other streets.

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (www.nhtsa.gov)