

Improving Walkability

Around Rochester's Schools



In 2014-2015, Healthi Kids collaborated with parents and community members at three Rochester City School District elementary schools in the Southwest Quadrant (Schools #2, #10 and #19) to assess perceptions on how safe it is for kids to walk to school.

What are the perceived barriers to walkability?

1 NOT ENOUGH CROSSING GUARDS

94.5%

of parents and community members said there were not enough crossing guards on the walk to school.



SCARY BUILDINGS & TRAFFIC

76.5%

of parents and community members said the walk did not feel good. Scary buildings and too much traffic made the walk feel uneasy and unsafe.



2 NOT ENOUGH CROSSWALKS

88%

of parents and community members said there were not enough crosswalks on the walk to school.



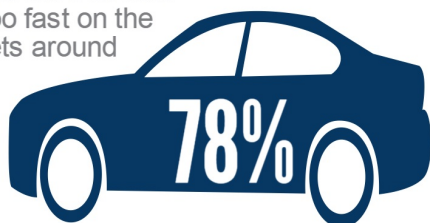
BROKEN/CRACKED SIDEWALKS

76.5%

of parents and community members said the sidewalks were not usable the whole way because of broken and cracked sidewalks.

3 SPEEDING

Participants felt that cars traveled too fast on the main streets around schools



5



What Will Improve Walkability?

After determining the perceived barriers to walking to school, Healthi Kids took to the streets and at four community events in the Southwest Quadrant we asked parents to identify recommendations they felt would solve issues of walkability around Schools #2, #10, and #19. The neighborhood identified six key improvements:



Healthi Kids Recommends

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| 1 | Restriping eight faded crosswalks and piloting a colorful crosswalk project around schools #2, #10, and #19 to promote traffic calming. | 6 | Expanding upon the City of Rochester School Walking Route Maps to include crossing guards at three new intersections |
| 2 | Installing speed trailers on major streets near schools to alert motorists to their speed to allow the City of Rochester to gather traffic data. | 7 | Creating a four way stop in front of School #10 to force motorists to stop in the school zone |
| 3 | Updating faded street signage around schools to improve visibility for kids walking to school. | 8 | Exploring the possibility of establishing a walking school bus program to ensure children have supervision while walking to school |
| 4 | Repairing uneven sidewalks in school zones to reduce the likelihood of kids falling or tripping on their walk to school. | 9 | Replicating the walkability assessment in each Rochester quadrant to assess the barriers children face when walking to and from school |
| 5 | Installing 2 new crosswalks at busy intersections | 10 | Expanding recruitment strategies for the crossing guard program |



To Learn More about walkability read Healthi Kids' latest report "Improving Walkability in Rochester's Southwest Schools" at:
www.healthikids.org