

Veldran, Lisa

From: Veldran, Lisa
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 10:40 AM
To: ALL ALDERS
Cc: 'cwittke@safercommunity.net'
Subject: FW: sidewalks and pedestrian safety

Alders,

I am forwarding an email (see below) from Cheryl Wittke of Safe Communities to you.

Lisa Veldran, Administrative Assistant

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From: Cheryl Wittke [<mailto:cwittke@safercommunity.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 10:28 AM
To: council
Cc: Dryer, David; McCormick, Dan; Bachmann, Christy
Subject: sidewalks and pedestrian safety

Dear Council Members:

I recognize that decisions to install sidewalks in older neighborhoods are difficult as they're sometimes met with opposition by local residents concerned about increased assessments and maintenance, and impacts on trees. I wanted to pass on information from the National Center for Safe Routes to School website (www.saferoutesinfo.org) about the importance of sidewalks as a safety improvement:

"Many roads around schools are not equipped with sidewalks and can be unsafe for walking. According to a study by the UNC Highway Safety Research Center conducted for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the likelihood of a site with a paved sidewalk being a crash site is 88.2 percent lower than a site without a sidewalk after accounting for traffic volume and speed limits. A study of the California Safe Routes to School program has shown that providing sidewalks is one of the most effective engineering measures in encouraging children to walk to school."

As we look to increasing Safe Routes to School efforts in Madison, ensuring a network of sidewalks is key to our plan to organize "walking school busses" and other encouragement activities. Many parents are not willing to allow their children to walk to school if there is no place for them to walk. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Wittke
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