

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Executive Summary



The Vision

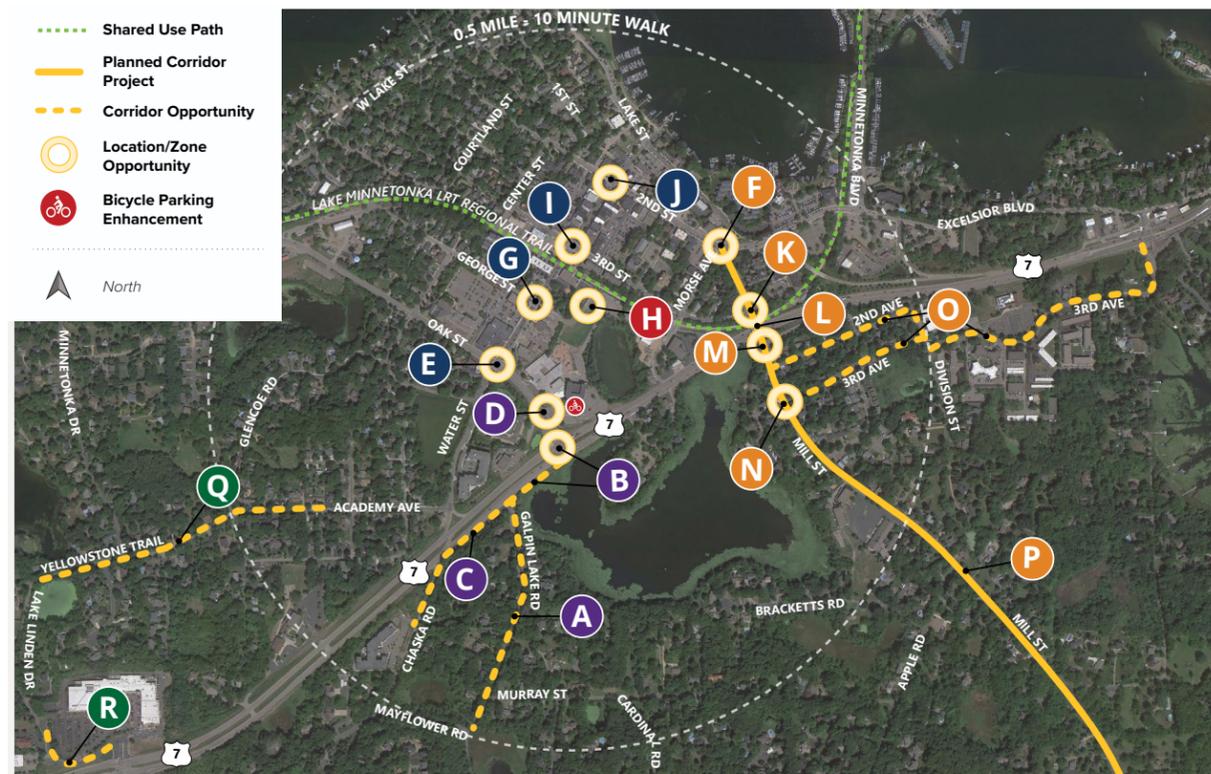
Walking and biking to school is safe, comfortable, and fun for all students at Excelsior Elementary.

In June 2022, Shorewood and Excelsior Elementary completed a year-long planning process 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 summary highlights **selected high-priority infrastructure recommendations and selected program recommendations.**

Infrastructure

Engineering projects that improve streets and routes



B Explore installing a trail on the southern side of Hwy 7 from Galpin Lake Rd to Oak St; consider connection with Recommendation C. Evaluate options to improve crossing Hwy 7 at Oak St, including No Right Turn on Red signage, a recessed stop line for westbound traffic, and a curb extension with a mountable truck apron on the northeast corner.

K, M, P As part of the planned shared use trail along Mill St from Holly Lane to 2nd St, evaluate opportunities to fill gaps in the pedestrian network and improve pedestrian crossings and connections, including through reconfiguring intersection geometries and installing curb extensions, high visibility crosswalk markings, and ADA-compliant curb ramps.

R Install U-shaped bicycle parking adjacent to the main entrance to Excelsior Elementary.

GET INVOLVED

Want to help make it safer, easier, and more comfortable to walk and bike to school in Shorewood? Contact your school principal or SRTS lead to learn how to get involved.

Laura Nelson | Assistant Principal, Excelsior Elementary | laura.nelson@minnetonkaschools.org

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



Programs

Education, encouragement, engagement



Walk/Bike to School Day

When, where, and how will this be implemented? In October, February, and May to start, with adults or secondary school students leading groups along pre-identified routes.

Why is this relevant and recommended? These events have been held successfully in the past; a new coordinator, e.g., a teacher, school staff person, or caregiver, is needed to continue coordinating participation.

How will this address transportation inequities? Coordinated events can make walking/biking accessible to students disproportionately impacted by unsafe crossings.

How will this be evaluated? Student participation counts.

Who needs to be involved to make this happen? Students, PTO, school staff

What is the timeline for implementation? Short-term.



Drop & Walk

When, where, and how will this be implemented?

Coordinated drop-off points along the Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail.

Why is this relevant and recommended?

Strategic drop-off locations can remove major crossing barriers (e.g., Hwy 7 and Mill St).

How will this address transportation inequities?

Coordinated events can make walking/biking accessible to students disproportionately impacted by unsafe crossings.

How will this be evaluated? Annual caregiver survey about transportation patterns.

Who needs to be involved to make this happen?

Students, PTO, school staff.

What is the timeline for implementation? Short-term.