

Safe Routes to School and School Siting Workshop and Networking Lunch, September 12, 2006

About the Event

Safe Routes to School initiatives focus on the barriers to making walking or bicycling to school safe and feasible options for children. The movement is based on the documented decrease in the number of children who walk or bike to school since the 1970s and at the same time, the significant increase in the prevalence of overweight and obesity in today's youth. Advocates view the route to school as an important opportunity for children to engage in regular physical activity.

This session will focus on the factors influencing a child's route to school and an evaluation of the California Safe Routes program. Factors influencing a child's route to school range from aspects of the built environment to parental decision making and perceptions of neighborhood safety. Participants will learn about specific changes to the built environment, such as sidewalk improvements and school siting.

Audience

This workshop is primarily intended for staff of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota community funding recipients. These municipalities, including: City of Arden Hills, City of Bloomington, City of Eden Prairie, City of St. Louis Park, City of St. Paul, City of St. Paul Park, City of Two Harbors, and Ramsey County, received funding to address public health issues in their comprehensive plans and ordinances.

Location

The event will be held on the second floor of the Radisson University Hotel in the University Ballroom. The Radisson is located on the East Bank campus of the University of Minnesota at 615 Washington Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN. For a map of the University of Minnesota East Bank campus, please visit www.umn.edu/pts/maps/ebcolr.pdf.

The nearest parking is in the Washington Avenue Ramp, just west of the Radisson Hotel at 501 Washington Avenue SE. For other parking options, view the University's parking web site at www.umn.edu/pts/parking.htm. Staff of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota community funding recipients will receive additional information about parking validation. Carpooling is recommended.

Busing and biking are also options. The University of Minnesota campus is served by a number of transit and bicycle routes and all metro area buses offer racks for bike-bus connections. Contact Metro Transit at www.metrotransit.org or 612-373-3333 for transit information or view biking information from the University's Parking and Transportation Services Office at www.umn.edu/pts/biking.htm.

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Agenda

- 8:00 a.m. **Registration and Refreshments**
- 8:15 **Welcome and Introductions**
- 8:25 **Introduction to Safe Routes to School and School Siting**
Kevin Krizek, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Graduate Program in Urban and Regional Planning, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota
- 8:45 **Influencing a Child's Route to School**
Tracy McMillan, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, School of Architecture, School of Social Work, College of Engineering, University of Texas at Austin
- An Evaluation of California's Safe Routes to School Program**
Marlon Boarnet, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair, Department of Planning, Policy, and Design, School of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine
- 10:30 **Break**
- 10:45 **Local Perspective**
Kristie Billiar
Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Alice Tibbetts*
Communications and Advocacy Consultant, Safe Routes to School Community Organizer
- 11:15 **Panel Discussion and Question and Answer Session**
- 12:00 p.m. **Technical Assistance Overview and Networking Lunch**

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Keynote Speaker Biographies

Marlon Boarnet, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair, Department of Planning, Policy, and Design, School of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine

At the University of California, Irvine, Marlon Boarnet is a professor and chair of the Department of Planning, Policy, and Design. Boarnet's extensive research is focused in the areas of transportation policy, local economic development, intra-metropolitan population and employment settlement patterns, and includes publications on the economic and urban development impacts of highways, land use and travel behavior, transit-oriented development, urban enterprise zones, and population-employment growth models.

His articles have appeared in several refereed journals and he serves as the co-editor of the Journal of Regional Science and is an editorial board member of the Journal of the American Planning Association, Journal of Planning Literature, and Papers in Regional Science. He was also a guest editor for the Journal of American Planning Association's special issue on health and planning. Boarnet's co-authored book, *Travel by Design: The Influence of Urban Form on Travel* (Oxford University Press, 2001) is a comprehensive assessment of the modeling and policy challenges inherent in linking urban design to transportation planning.

Boarnet has received over one million dollars in competitively funded research grants that has included work for the California Department of Transportation, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the University of California Transportation Center, among others.

Boarnet received a Ph.D. from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs; a Master of Arts and Master of Public Affairs also from Princeton; and an undergraduate degree in physics from Rice University.

Tracy McMillan, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Assistant Professor, School of Architecture, School of Social Work, College of Engineering, University of Texas at Austin

Tracy McMillan is a transdisciplinary assistant professor at the University of Texas at Austin, holding appointments in Community and Regional Planning, Civil Engineering and Social Work. Her teaching and research is designed to reach across traditional disciplinary boundaries in order to address the complexity of real world issues. Her research examines the relationship between the built environment and public health, focusing particularly on the impact of non-motorized transportation and children's physical activity and traffic safety.

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She has served as a consultant for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the California Department of Health Services, and the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation and currently serves as an expert consultant for the Safe Routes to School Clearinghouse administered by the Highway Safety Research Center at UNC-Chapel Hill. Her professional affiliations include memberships in the American Planning Association, the American Public Health Association, and the Transportation Research Board. She is an appointed member of the City of Austin Mayor's Council on Fitness and is an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Texas School of Public Health.

McMillan received a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of California, Irvine; a Masters in Public Health from Emory University; and a Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science from SUNY Buffalo.

Kevin Krizek, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Graduate Program in Urban and Regional Planning, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

Kevin J. Krizek is an associate professor at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. In addition to teaching courses in land use, transportation, and urban planning, he directs the Active Communities / Transportation (ACT) research group at the University of Minnesota. ACT is a collection of students and researchers focusing on land use-transportation policies and programs that influence household residential location decisions and travel behavior, including cycling.

Krizek has published in the areas of transportation demand management, travel behavior, neighborhood accessibility, and sustainable development. His work has appeared in journals spanning urban planning, public health, and transportation. These journals include: the Journal of the American Planning Association, the Journal of Planning Education and Research, American Journal of Health Promotion, Transportation, Housing Policy Debate, Transport Reviews, and Transportation Research part D.

Before joining the Institute, Krizek worked for the American Planning Association, the Teton County, Wyoming Planning Department; and a transportation engineering consulting firm in Jackson, Wyoming. He is the immediate past Vice-President of the board of the Minnesota Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance.

Krizek earned a Ph.D. in Urban Design and Planning and M.S.C.E. from the University of Washington in Seattle. His master's degree in planning is from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his undergraduate degree is from Northwestern University.