

Sergeant Bluff, Iowa

Population 4,326

Safe Routes to School served as an opening for discussion in Sergeant Bluff. A walkability audit then demonstrated problems with common routes to school. One side of the street had no sidewalk, yet it was the logical walking side. The city created crosswalks and moved stop signs behind them to encourage cars to stop before they get to the crosswalk.



As recently as 2007, the city acquiesced to developers who didn't want to pay for sidewalks. By 2013, people living in those new developments were complaining about lack of safe walking paths. The city then spent \$220,000 to add sidewalks -- and promptly made sidewalks a requirement for any new developments.

A coalition included police, school districts, planning organizations, health department, parks and recreation, a city council member, a school principal, transportation. The widespread interest led to strong collaboration.

With people from different walks of life championing the effort, volunteers soon showed up from unexpected places. A church got involved in repairing an existing sidewalk, for instance, at no cost to the city or homeowners. A local business coordinated the project

and donated labor, supplies, tools, and equipment for the job. A local concrete company provided concrete at cost. The church paid for the concrete.

- Start with quick wins.
- The schools are what sparked the jump to community changes.
- Assemble a group of people who have passion for the community.



Thank you to and photos courtesy of Aaron Lincoln and Angela Drent