

SRTS Spring Planning Team meeting

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

8:30 am, La Crescent-Hokah Elementary School

Present: Jason Ludwigson, Bill Waller, Tyler Benish, Bri Ceasar, Brian Pogodzinski, Jeff Copp, Mike Ernster, Luke Ahlschlager, Thomas Pollreis, Jim Gehrig and Linda Larson

1. Introductions/new members: Jim Gehrig is representing the Community Bike Shoppe; Linda Larson is retiring.
2. School Zone Speed Limits: (Luke Ahlschlager) Implementation of reduced speeds in four school zones began August 2024. Lots of community outreach, education, awareness was done at events and via social media. To date 25 warnings and 1 ticket have been given. Hokah is interested in doing the same. The feedback has been positive.
3. An Active Transportation Planning Assistance application was accepted for funding. A MNDot consultant is expected to start working with the city in April/May 2025. A planning team has been formed by the city. They will be the point of contact for local input, information and the creation of an implementation plan. This work will update the 2017 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.
4. Review of the SRTS Infrastructure Projects awarded (2025) and Transportation Alternatives Funding (2026) – update on projects was provided
5. SRTS Infrastructure grants – update on 2025 grant application was provided
6. Alternative Transportation Infrastructure – grant application for sidewalk infill is pending
7. Transportation Alternatives funding: Funding was awarded for shared use path along Hwy. 16 connecting down to Kistler Court (2029 funding)
8. Bike to School Day, Wednesday, May 7th: National Bike and Roll to School Day. Jason will send out volunteer sign-up. Jeff shared resources with Tom Pollreis from La Crescent Montessori/STEM. Bri offered social media support as well as Jason will contact WXOW for news coverage. Jeff offered promotion to students for the upcoming 2025 Bike Rodeo.
9. Walnut St. Design Process Update: Tyler spoke about a 10' path from the Wagon Wheel bridge trailhead, north and south to connect all trails. There is a Native American artist call for a project honoring ancestral heritage at the 'Overlook Plaza'/Wagon Wheel bridge trailhead.

10. SRTS Boost Grant Bike Fleet, trailer and bikes: 24 bikes 20” bikes and Strider balance bikes are available for use. Plan to use the bikes with the Bike Rodeo.
11. Bike Rodeo, 2025: Saturday, May 31st. This is a collaborative event with the City of La Crescent, the La Crescent Police Dept. Reserves (2-3), Community Education, La Crescent-Hokah Elementary School, Houston County Health, and the Community Bike Shoppe. Jeff will call a planning meeting for those involved.
12. Other items:

E-Bike/E-Scooter Regulations and Restrictions: (Mike Ernster and Luke Ahlschlager)

The La Crescent Police Department is addressing concerns about E-bikes and E-scooters. They are using handouts and a quick look paragraph to summarize these state laws. Expect to see more public awareness and education. Bri offered to help with a social media.

Applefest/Gravel Nationals in La Crescent, September 20. Explore La Crosse is heading the promotion. Two routes, a 65 mile and a 100 mile. All routes are in Houston County.

Brian told us the shoulder on Hwy. 21, Houston to Hwy 16 will be paved and widen in 2027.

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 am

Next Meeting: September 24th, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

Location: Elementary School