

# Ann Arbor Public Schools Student & School Safety Update

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Submitted to the City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission Liz Margolis, Executive Director - Student & School Safety

## **Pedestrian Safety Tips for Students**

- A one-page tip sheet was developed on pedestrian safety aimed at students. Both AAPD and City Traffic Engineers reviewed the document.
- This document has been posted on the district website and all schools are sharing with their families and students.

https://www.a2schools.org/Page/14357

## Pedestrian Safety – Walking Safely in the City of Ann Arbor

## When using an activated crosswalk please remember these tips:

- Push the button before you step off the curb and proceed into the crosswalk.
- Every student should push the button prior to crossing as this restarts the flasher sequence.
- Most flashers operate for about 30 seconds on four lane roads, a bit shorter on two lane roads.
- Wait to ensure cars have stopped before stepping off the curb and crossing.

### **General Tips on Walking Safety**

- **Cross at the crosswalk.** Ann Arbor's <u>crosswalk ordinance</u> requires that motorists stop for pedestrians at or in crosswalks, but only at crosswalks.
- Look both ways before entering the street.
- **Use the signals.** Traffic signals are there to help pedestrians communicate with drivers. In Ann Arbor's downtown, all traffic signals include a pedestrian crossing interval in each signal cycle. Outside the downtown area, some signals have a pedestrian call button which, when pressed, adds a pedestrian crossing interval.
- **Take refuge**. Some crosswalks have a pedestrian refuge island in the street. Cross easily and safely, one side of traffic at a time.
- Be visible. In the dark, wear light-colored clothing and reflective gear to ensure your visibility.
- Report sidewalks that aren't treated or plowed. Sidewalks should be treated for ice or plowed of snow in a timely fashion. You can report untreated sidewalks by using A2 Fix It or calling City of Ann Arbor Community Standards at 734.794.6942.



## A2 STEAM (K-8) SRTS Grant Update

The city has informed us that they are planning to submit final designs for the sidewalk plans along Traver to include a 3-foot grassy extension and reduce the sidewalks from 8-feet to 5-feet in depth. This lowers the overall project costs and estimated assessment costs. The city is planning a may bid opening with construction beginning after school is out and completed before school opens in the fall.

AAPS very much appreciates the work city staff have done on this project and we have all learned and will implement improved community engagement if we proceed with this type of grant project in the future.

#### Safe Routes to School Committees

These schools have engaged or plan to engage their SRTS teams to work with the City and AAPD on assessing and making improvements for the school commute (walk, bike, drop off and pick up):

- Dicken Elementary School 2135 Runnymede
  - SRTS survey completed by parents and 3<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> graders
  - o Crosswalks identified for improvements and will be presented to City
  - o PTO supports this effort
  - Applying for a Michigan Fitness SRTS Mini-Grant
- Bach Elementary School 600 W. Jefferson
  - To support their new drop off and pick up lane, a Bach parent has developed a video to educate and encourage "No dipping" – cars dipping into and out of the car lane. It can be seen soon on Bach's website.
  - Parent and student survey will be conducted soon.
- Bryant Elementary School 2150 Santa Rosa
  - The new drop off and pick up lane plan has been working well. Staff support the plan by bringing students out to the cars after school creating a safer parking lot better controlling potential safety concerns between students, cars and buses.
- Angell Elementary School 1608 S. University
  - Angell did not receive the Zendrive grant. But we still plan to examine the issue of traffic back-ups along Washtenaw at the end of the school day. This assessment will be done with city engineers and AAPD.