



Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Connections

Sidewalk Connectivity

The Highway 5 corridor is currently focused on vehicular transportation, is lacking important sidewalk connections, and acts as a barrier that divides Carlisle into two separate regions. This prevents pedestrians from easily accessing this route and creates dangerous crossing experiences. In addition, the disconnected routes prevent students from easily and safely walking to school, especially if their homes are located on the opposite side of Highway 5 from their school. Several sidewalk connections are proposed along this corridor to connect these routes and encourage more safe pedestrian-use. One connection shown above links the middle school to Highway 5 and then leads pedestrians southeast to an existing sidewalk along the corridor. Another series of proposed links connects the elementary school down to an improved crosswalk at 5th Street and Highway 5. The sidewalk then extends southeast to the proposed downtown gateway intersection.

Connecting routes through town not only creates safe routes to school, but encourages recreation and creates easier opportunities for exercise. Businesses near this route would benefit from increased traffic, and neighborhoods will feel less divided by the highway. A more

pedestrian friendly corridor also assists in slowing drivers as they perceive the change from an open highway to more enclosed community experience.

One of the most dangerous intersections in town is the intersection of Highway 5 and Scotch Ridge Road. The City of Carlisle is in the process of hiring an engineer to complete a study of this intersection in order to fully understand potential changes in its design. The pedestrian connections of this intersection should be considered just as important as the vehicular access during this study to ensure safe experiences for the children of Carlisle who need to be able to get to school.

Many of these sidewalk and trail connections are fairly simple projects and were noted as desired improvements during the survey process conducted by Iowa State University. It is clear that these improvements would benefit a majority of community members and would allow Carlisle to move from a divided community to one community.



5th Street and Highway 5 Crosswalk, looking southeast



Before

Before



Highway 5 Sidewalk Connection, looking northwest

Carlisle

Safe Routes to School

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Iowa Department of Transportation Trees Forever ISU Landscape Architecture Extension ISU Extension Community and Economic Development

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