

City Of Atlanta

Centering Youth in Road Safety

» Safe Routes to School Demonstration Pilot Project



The National Center for Safe Routes to School (NCSRTS), an organization encouraging and enabling children to walk and bike safely to school in partnership with General Motors, awarded the City of Atlanta's Department of Transportation (ATLDOT) a \$10,000 grant to install a protected Tactical Walk/Bike lane near Crawford Long Middle School on Empire Blvd SW. Located in the city's Equity Priority Area in Southwest Atlanta, this quick-build pilot project is an initiative to improve safety for the 700 students commuting to school. Furthermore, it offers improvements to the community through increased mobility safety and physical activity and reduced air pollution due to lesser cars driven on the roadway.

Anticipated for completion in May 2023 during Bike & Roll to School month, the school and department are taking additional steps to increase active travel to school. Students are participating in walk & roll events, a bike giveaway through a non-profit, and a bike parking corral installation. The school has also received bike racks from the department and developing continued initiatives to encourage more children to walk and bike to school.

Equity + Engineering

ATLDOT aims to provide safer, more equitable mobility options. Our Vision Zero action plan supports the mission to eliminate all traffic fatalities and injuries, which includes designing safe streets for children, our most vulnerable road users. Our call to action is #Drive25 to #SaveLives. Crawford Long Middle is a title-one school having a predominately Black and Hispanic population. The project offered an opportunity to improve roadway safety along Empire Blvd. SW, photo of current roadway development below, to address the concern of speeding cars and a prior student traffic injury. The design plans include the following:

- Enhanced traffic-calming treatments allowing children crosswalk access to the walk/bike lane.
- A designated pick-up/drop-off lane for families.
- A traffic-calming median to slow down cars.



Engagement + Education

Our department collected stakeholder input and feedback through three consecutive (in-person/virtual) public engagement community meetings in the Fall of 2022. Department representatives educated residents in the Glenrose Heights neighborhood living within a quarter (1/4) mile radius of the project through post mailers, and they also received notifications through social media channels. In addition, homes directly impacted due to parking restrictions received multiple rounds of door-to-door engagement leading up to the project's construction phase.

Crawford Long Middle School also supported and engaged with students and families about the project during monthly family engagement events and activities during the school year, including highlighting the upcoming project during Walk & Roll events and backpack mail and virtual school reminders.

EMPIRE BOULEVARD SW TACTICAL WALK AND BIKE LANE PROJECT

The Atlanta Department of Transportation (ATLDOT) invites you to a series of meetings to discuss safety improvements near Crawford Long Middle School and the Glenrose Heights community as part of the department's Safe Routes to School program.

To join the meeting, scan the QR code or go to bit.ly/EmpireBlvd2022

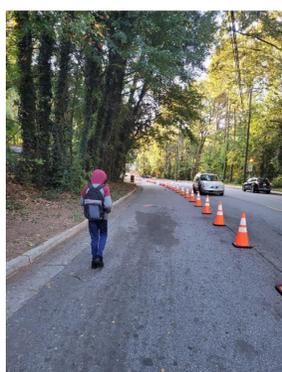
Meeting ID: 826 0648 0712
Passcode: 574046

Meetings

1. Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. (Virtual Zoom Meeting) Join with the Meeting ID and Passcode
2. Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. (In Person) Crawford Long Middle School Auditorium 3200 Latona Drive SW, Atlanta, Ga. 30354
3. Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. (Virtual Zoom Meeting) Join with the Meeting ID and Passcode

Encouragement

In celebration of National Walk & Roll to School Month and active school transportation, on October 19, 2022, ATLDOT installed a pop-up walk/bike lane demonstration using safety cones. Crawford Long Middle School students experienced walking through the lane before the semi-permanent installation. After using it as an added route to the school, they offered positive feedback to the department sharing their desire to walk and bike more with improved infrastructure. Special guest Crawford IV, a school namesake, and ATLDOT joined the event and recognized student participants.



Evaluation

A pre-survey for students and parents was collected before project implementation. It determined that 8% (50-60 students) of the student population walks to school daily, and 244 students live within the school's designated walk zone. As a result of speeding cars and heavy traffic congestion on Empire Blvd SW during dismissal, parents also echoed these traffic concerns in the survey below, along with crime and distance being the top indicators for more students not walking to school. The following steps for assessing the project's benefits include a post-parent and student survey and future traffic safety observations.

