Smart Growth in Idaho

Safe Routes to School
Idaho Smart Growth overview

The challenge of responding to smart growth in Idaho despite easy path to sprawling communities

• Advocacy: organizing and joining coalitions to advocate for better policies and decisions.
• Education: offering research, compendiums, presentations and more.
• Technical Assistance: assisting communities directly with comprehensive planning, pedestrian and bicycle network design, placemaking and more.
ISG Advocacy efforts

**Transportation Policy – Safe Routes**

- **TEA-21**: ISG worked with Senator Kempthorne on support for key policies
- **ITD Board**: Adopted policy to form SRTS Advisory Council 2004.
- **Safe Routes to School**: Senator Crapo co-sponsored adding SRTS program and funding in federal transportation bill 2005.
- **Map-21 and Fast Act**: Continued to impact through coalition.
ISG Advocacy efforts

**Pedestrian and Bicycle funding**

- **Preserved bike/ped funding:** Coalition convinced ITD to continue to fully fund bicycle and pedestrian programs though new federal law allowed only 50% funding
- **Child Pedestrian Safety Act:** Supported IWBAs efforts to secure state funding for pedestrians and bicyclists, led to new program.
Connected Communities

**Land Use Policy**

- **North Meridian**: ISG is part of collaborative leading to comprehensive plan amendment calling for mixed use walkable centers.
- **Specific Plan Area**: Advocated and city of Boise adopted Specific Plan Area enabling ordinance.
- **Harris Ranch uses SP**: Harris Ranch goes from controversial to consummate smart growth development plan.
- **Dover Comprehensive Plan**: Completed full Comp plan update for small Idaho town.
Local Transportation assistance

- Review of local polices: Reviewed local policies in 57 Idaho communities for strengths and challenges regarding implementing SRTS
- SRTS Best Practices: Created a Best practice handbook on key issues.
Local Transportation assistance

- **SRTS Actions Plans:** Action plans for safer walking/biking in 20 communities.
- **Active Living Task Forces:** Facilitated task forces in 5 communities exploring complete streets and other active transportation strategies.
- **4 more years of SRTS:** have been asked to assist on SRTS statewide for next four years.
Idaho SRTS 2017-18

- **Six staffed programs**
  - 10 total staff members
  - 4 programs with full time staff
  - 2 programs with part time staff
- **Staffed Idaho Programs served:**
  - 10 school districts in 2017-18
  - 134 individual elementary and middle schools
  - Approximately 38,000 Idaho students
  - Had 18 volunteers on average
- **Walk to School Day 2017:**
  - 14 school districts participated
  - Over 40 individual school registered