

Thurston

Active Community Environments and Policy Monitoring

OVERVIEW

The **Active Community Environments** are places where people of all ages and abilities can easily enjoy walking, bicycling, and other forms of recreation. Aces have sidewalks, on street bicycle facilities, multi-use paths and trails, parks, open space and low cost or free recreation facilities. ACEs encourages mixed use development and a connected grid of streets, allowing homes, work, schools and stores to be close together and accessible to pedestrians, wheel chair uses, older adults and bicyclists. ACEs involve school communities in Walk and Roll programs to encourage daily physical activity, increased readiness to learn, decrease car trip drop-off, and traffic around schools, and increase good student walking and biking skills, .

Priority strategies:

1. Increase physical activity by connecting trails, bike paths
2. Change policy in Growth Management plans to include PA
3. To establish partnerships with transportation, planners, policymakers and local health
4. Develop a Active living Task Force to work on projects and to advise RTPOs
5. Conduct ACE assessment tool

POLICY & ENVIRONMENT CHANGES: MONITORING PROGRESS

Work in Progress for Environment & Policy Change

- Establish Active Living Task Force 2003
- Conducted ACE assessment tool 2004, 2007
- Partnership established with STEPS 2005
- Conducted ACE's 101 workshop 2005
- Developed trail plan with the City of Tumwater 2005
- Assisted with county growth management planning 2005
- Helped the City of Olympia implement tax utilities for parks and trails 2004
- Hosted WSDOT bike/ped survey session 2007
- Lead on Commuter Trip Reduction program 2007
- Integrate ACE's in to other organizations 2007
- Conducted interviews with planning commissioner on ACE's and CTR. 2007
- Developed draft trails plan for Thurston County 2007
- Developed new Bike Map 2007
- Conducted Active by Design Health and Built Environment workshop 2007
- Supported and implemented Walk and Roll schools program and partnership "building a generation of walkers, bicycle and bus riders" 2009
- Conducted baseline surveys for walk and roll programs 2009
- Support anti-idling campaign 2009
- Informed policymakers, school board, and superintendent on safe routes to school 2009

On Going Activities for ACE projects

- Active Living Task Force meetings
- Planning and execution of regional forum on transportation and schools
- Applying for grants or other funding sources
- Developing partnerships
- Safe and healthy walking and bicycling information
- Update and review comp plans
- Provide input to policymakers
- Evaluation, surveys, focus group tool use
- Policy implementation to support walk and roll program
- Environmental changes to support walk and roll program.

**LESSONS
LEARNED**

ACE's help establish partnerships that would not have occur without this project

FUNDING

CDC obesity grant provides funding to support ACE project. Thurston County is currently receiving \$15,000 to support its efforts. DOH partners with WSDOT to distribute the funds

In Kind

Thurston Regional Planning Council, Intercity Transit Youth Education Program, City of Olympia bicycle/pedestrian program, Olympia School District, Safe Kids Thurston County

**PARTNERS
PROVIDE
TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE**

- * WSDOT Washington State Department of Transportation
- * CTED Community Trade and Economic Development
- * DOH Washington State Department of Health

Other Information: Thurston County will be hosting a built environment forum in the fall of 2009.



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For persons with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats.
To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY 1-800-833-6388).