“Schools by Design”

Partners:
- CalTrans District 8
- Coachella Valley Association of Governments
- Edward J. Blakely Center for Sustainable Suburban Development
In 1969, 42% of adolescent children walked or biked to school. However, in 2001 only 16% of children walked or biked. Why?
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Background:

- Constraints on school siting.
- Demise of the Neighborhood School.
- Dangers of walking to school – traffic accidents, death.
- Dangers of NOT walking to school – obesity, arthritis, absent conversation.
- Setting – Coachella Valley.
- Local Visionaries – Andy McCue, Catherine McMillan.
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Objectives:

- Collect data on existing student pedestrian habits in the Coachella Valley;
- Create meaningful and lasting partnerships between schools, cities, and the community regarding “walkable” school design and child pedestrian safety;
- Facilitate parent involvement in the process;
- Apply for safe routes to school funds at the state and federal level;
- Look at alternative use scenarios and partnership agreements.
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Collaborative Enterprise:

- Traffic studies carried out by the County of Riverside and UCR CE-CERT;
- Demographic data collection;
- Series of Steering Committee meetings and meetings to establish Partnerships with school districts;
- Student, Parent, and Administrators’ surveys to gather data;
- Partnerships for coming grant funding rounds.
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Outcomes:

- Safe Routes to School Funding.
- More Children are walking, with the expectation of Improved Public Health and Stronger Communities!
- M.O.U. to support Innovative Partnerships!
- Intention to implement More Informed school design.
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Next Steps:

• **Key Players:**
  - Public Health.
  - School Districts and Schools.
  - Local Government.
  - Communities.
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Next Steps:

• **Action Items:**
  - Ensure lasting partnerships;
  - Increase parent and community involvement;
  - Mixed/alternative use scenarios;
  - Extend Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U).