

Contact Information Sheet

Please complete the information below and include this page as the cover page of your proposal. The person identified as the Contact will be the main point of contact for CDOT staff.

Organization: County

Project Title: Platt Middle School Sidewalks and Bike/Walk Programs

Contact Name: Scott McCarey, PE, AICP

Contact Title: Alternative Transportation Coordinator

Organization: Boulder County

Mailing Address: 2525 13th Street, Suite 203

City, State, Zip: Boulder, CO 80304

Best Phone # to Call: 720-564-2665

Contact E-mail: smccarey@bouldercounty.org

Contact Fax: 303-441-4594

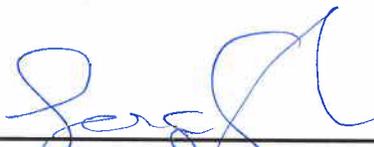
Amount of Funding Requested: \$238,887.00

School District: Boulder Valley School District

School Name & Address: Platt Middle School, 6069 Baseline Rd, Boulder, CO 80303

CDOT Region: R4
(See Addendum E)

Congressional District: D2

 TRANS. DIRECTOR 12/7/2012
Signature and Title of Person Submitting the Proposal* Date

*By signing, applicant admits to being authorized to sign for Boulder County and that all the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge.



Transportation Department

2525 13th Street, Suite 203 • Boulder, Colorado 80304 • Tel: 303.441.3900 • Fax: 303.441.4594
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 471 • Boulder, Colorado 80306 • www.bouldercounty.org

December 4, 2012

Marissa Robinson
Safe Routes to School Coordinator
Colorado Department of Transportation
4201 E. Arkansas Ave, Shumate Building
Denver, Colorado 80222-3406

RE: Platt Middle School 2013 Safe Routes to School Grant Application

Dear Ms. Robinson,

Boulder County is pleased to submit the attached Platt Middle School Safe Routes to School Infrastructure project application for consideration for FY 2013 Safe Routes to School funding. We believe this project will increase the walkability and ride-ability to Platt Middle School from the surrounding neighborhoods of Sombrero Ranch, Bruntwood Estates, Simmons and Baseline Heights.

In preparation of this application – and to create the most accurate cost estimate possible – we have taken existing topological survey of the area and developed a 30% design for the sidewalk project. This has ensured us that the project can be feasibly constructed completely inside Boulder County owned rights-of-way. In addition, we have brought these 30% drawings to two public meetings (both held at Platt Middle School) to solicit input from adjacent property owners. Through this process we have been able to garner additional neighborhood support for the project.

While this is primarily an infrastructure project, we recognize the important role that ongoing education and encouragement programs play in the success of these projects. We are fortunate to have Amy and Cris Thompson – the coordinators of the Heatherwood SRTS program, and whose children now attend Platt – leading these efforts. Their experience and enthusiasm will be invaluable in encouraging new walk and bike trips at Platt.

Finally, we understand that beginning this funding cycle applicants are required to provide a 20% local match. Should we be selected for funding, we will be prepared to encumber the appropriate funds from local Transportation Department funding sources. A full budget including recognition of this local match can be found inside the application.

Scott McCarey, PE, AICP, will serve as the project manager for the County and can be reached at any time via the contact information listed within the application. On behalf of the Boulder County Transportation Department, I thank you for the opportunity to submit our application.

Sincerely,

George Gerstle
Boulder County Transportation Director
2525 13th Street, Suite 203
Boulder, CO 80304
ggerstle@bouldercounty.org
303-441-3900

Section 1: Existing Conditions

1a. Platt Middle School is located directly on Baseline Road, one of four major roadways that connect the eastern Boulder County communities of Lafayette, Louisville and Erie with the City of Boulder. There are no sidewalks on Baseline Road to the east of the school. Students, including children with disabilities are currently forced to walk in the drainage swales or directly on the side of the road. There are no street lights on this section of the road making early mornings, evenings and days with low visibility particularly dangerous.

1b. Baseline Road is classified as a minor arterial, carries an average of 9,400 vehicles a day and has a posted speed limit of 35 mph. A hill on Baseline directly to the east of the school often results in vehicles exceeding the speed limit. A speed study done between June 26th and June 27th 2012 found 42.5% of vehicles were speeding. Five percent of vehicles (about 475/day) were travelling above 41 mph and 15% of vehicles (about 1400/day) were above 38 mph. Since October 2007 there have been 23 recorded accidents within ¼ mile of the project. The heavy traffic volumes and high vehicle speeds make it particularly important to create a safe walking and biking environment of middle school students.

1c. Demographics

School	Population	Grades	Demographics	# Walk	# Bike	% 2 Miles	Busing Distance	# Benefit	% F/R Lunch
Nevin Platt Middle School	544	6-8	A=1%, B=1%, C=79%, L=9%, O=10%	7	13	17%	2.0 miles	256	3%

1d. BVSD's Bicycle Lessons and Safety Program (BLAST) has provided basic bike safety instruction to over 1800 students in 15 schools since 2009. It will be used under this Safe Routes Grant to complement the inception of a Platt Bicycle Club. It will provide three hours of bicycle safety training for all 6th grade students during PE classes. In addition the BVSD Trip Tracker program encourages and rewards students for all forms of Non-SOV travel to and from school. Rewards are presented monthly in the form of Trip Tracker Dollars based on number of trips and active miles travelled. The dollars are accepted as 'real money' at 22 local kid-friendly businesses. Trip Tracker promotion at Platt will be linked to promotion of safe use of the sidewalk and the signalized intersection. In addition to encouraging walking and biking to school, Trip Tracker will reduce the amount of automobile traffic around the school by rewarding the use of RTD, School Bus and carpools. Finally, Platt participated in its first district-wide Bike to School Day last spring. Announcements and messages are made in October to promote walking and biking to school during National Walk to School Month.

1e, 1f. Please see the appendix for a map and photos of the affected area.

Section 2: Project Description

2a. This project will design and construct a six-foot concrete sidewalk for 960 feet along the north side of Baseline Road from the existing traffic signal at the entrance of the Platt Middle School east to Lawn Street. The existing signalized intersection will allow students to safely cross to the north side of Baseline to access the sidewalk. The sidewalk will include curb and gutter which will raise the sidewalk 6 inches above the surface of the road. Given the urban environment the required Categorical Exclusions are not anticipated to be a problem.

2b. The completed project will provide a safe walking and biking environment for students that live east of the school by providing both horizontal and vertical separation between vehicles and pedestrians. Currently students walk between 2 and 5 feet from the vehicle lane. Once completed students will be able to walk between 11 and 13 feet from the vehicle lane. There will also be a vertical separation from the vehicles in the form of the 6 inch curb preventing vehicle encroachment into the pedestrian environment from any stray motor vehicles.

2c. Continuing education and encouragement of Safe Routes to School is very important for the Platt Middle School parents and staff. One of the elementary schools that feed into Platt Middle School is Heatherwood Elementary- the winner of the 2011 James Oberstar Safe Routes to School Award. The excitement and energy of the students and parents for Safe Routes to School programs has now graduated – quite literally – to Platt Middle School.

2d. Boulder County and Boulder Valley School District already have an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the maintenance of sidewalks west of Platt Middle School and it is proposed that this agreement be amended to include the new 960 feet of concrete sidewalk. As with all Boulder County projects, special attention will be given to the maintainability of the project and a meeting with BVSD maintenance staff will take place at about the 60% design level to address any issues (e.g. size of the Bobcat snow plow).

2e. All of the project will be completed within Boulder County right of way. See appendix.

2f. It was confirmed that this project is not part of an MPO master planning effort. This project is concurrent with the County Transportation Standards to have a sidewalk on a minor arterial.

2g, 2h. Platt Middle School will start an after school bike club with the purpose of getting kids on bikes to develop a love for both the sport of cycling and for cycling as transportation. The bike club will meet weekly in the fall and spring with parent volunteer leaders who will guide students on local bicycle rides. These weekly club rides will give students a chance to learn local bicycling trails and routes in the area and help them learn that the best cycling route to a destination is not necessarily the same route they would use by car. The club will also cover the rules of the road such as hand signals, the importance of using bike lights in low-light conditions, putting your foot down at stop signs and stoplights, riding single file, when it is okay to “take the lane”, following proper traffic rules, always riding predictably, and of course wearing and buckling your helmet. With this grant, Platt Middle School will also start the successful BVSD Trip Tracker program. More about these encouragement programs can be found in the appendix.

2i. Scott McCarey, PE, AICP, will serve as the project manager. See appendix for a signed letter.

Section 3: Project Timeline

3a. Dan Marcucci, P.E. is a resident engineer for CDOT Region 4 and is aware of the grant application and project. Per direction from Marissa Robinson, this application does not require his signature.

3b. At the time of this application, Boulder County has developed a 30% design for the sidewalk. Topographical and right of way survey has already been completed and incorporated into the 30% design and can be seen in the appendix. Boulder County felt it was important to develop a 30% design before applying for Safe Routes to School funding for the following reasons:

1. Ensures that the project can be completed within existing right of way and that no property acquisition is needed to complete the project.
2. Allows for a very high degree of cost estimating including quantities of materials such as concrete, fill and drainage features.
3. Provides confidence that project can be completed in the timeframe depicted below.
4. Allows for better community input as adjacent property owners can see more precisely what is being proposed.

DATE	MILESTONE
October, 2012	Incorporation of survey in CAD; 10% design complete
November 1, 2012	Preliminary meeting with the five adjacent property owners
November 14, 2012	First community-wide meeting to introduce projects
November 20, 2012	30% design complete
August 1, 2013	Authorization to Proceed – Estimate Only
October 1, 2013	60% design complete
December 1, 2013	Bid Set design complete
February 1, 2014	NEPA Requirements Completed; Cat Ex filed
March, 2014	Kick-off meeting for Parent Committee
April 1, 2014	Advertisement for construction
May, 2014	Construction begins
May, 2014	Tasks finalized for education and encouragement
July, 2014	Construction completed
August, 2014	First week of school/ Ribbon Cutting
August, 2014 – March 2015	Education and encouragement program
October 3, 2014	National Walk and Bike to School Day
July 2015	Final invoicing completed

Section 4: Project Partners

The Platt Middle School SRTS program is collaboration between Boulder County, the Boulder Valley School District, neighborhood residents, Platt Middle School staff, Parent Teacher Organization and Safe Routes to School Parent Champions. Specific representatives from each organization are listed below:

Boulder County

George Gerstle, Director. George will dedicate staff and financial resources in the department.

Scott McCarey, Alternative Transportation Coordinator. Scott will serve as the project manager throughout the design, construction and implementation of the project.

Lesley Swirhun, Traffic Engineer. Lesley was the project manager for the Heatherwood SRTD program and will assist on this project.

Mike Thomas, County Engineer. Mike will serve as a technical resource for drainage, temporary traffic control and construction management. Mike will be the Professional Engineer to sign and stamp the construction drawings.

Russel Long, CAD Technician. Russel will lead the designs to be advertised for construction.

Keith Powell, Sheriff's Officer. Keith will be the Enforcement and Crossing Guard trainer.

Boulder Valley School District

Kevin Gates, Platt MS Principal. Kevin will direct teachers and staff to encourage students to participate in the education/ encouragement programs and will devote time and resources to ensure substantial bike and walk data is collected from the students.

Peter Hurst, Transportation Options Program Specialist. Peter will coordinate the collection of both pre and post project student data, ensuring this meets the national SRTS format. Peter will also coordinate the education and encouragement components with existing walk/ bike programs.

Don Orr, Superintendent for Facilities. Don will coordinate the maintenance agreements of the new facility and ensure final designs meet all minimum maintenance requirements.

Bob Young, Director of Transportation. Will direct appropriate staff for winter maintenance

Amy Thompson, SRTS Parent Champion. Amy and her husband Cris will lead the education and encouragement components. Amy has extended experience in walk/bike to school programs

Romy LaBorde, Safe Routes Program Parent Leader, Working with Boulder County, Romy will lead the post-project surveys, data collection, evaluation and reporting.

The Community

Bruntwood Estates Homeowners Association

Sombrero Ranch Homeowners Association

Simmons Homeowners Association

Baseline Heights Homeowners Association

The Regional Transportation District (RTD)

Nataly Erving, Senior Transit Planner. Nataly will develop and publicize changes to the route 225 to accommodate partial road closures during construction

Section 5: Project Evaluation

5a. Project outcomes include:

1. Increase the number and frequency of students who regularly walk and bike to school
2. Improve the connectivity between the Platt Middle School and surrounding community neighborhoods
3. Raise awareness of recommended walking and bicycling routes to school
4. Create a culture of walking and biking that students can bring with them to their next school
5. Decrease automobile trips used for drop off or pick up of students

5b. Platt Middle School teachers have already conducted pre-project surveys to determine current walk and bike rates to school. Kevin Gates, the principle of Platt Middle School, has committed to providing the time and resources necessary to conduct post-project surveys. In addition Boulder County will conduct traffic volume counts during peak school times at three intersections along Baseline Road. Participation rates in the Bike Club will also be reported. This data will include number of student members, number of students participating in weekly club rides, and number of student completing the Club's "Rules of the Road" program. The Boulder Valley School District Trip Tracker program will also provide excellent data as to the rates of bike and walk use to and from the school.

5c. Boulder County will collaborate with the BVSD Transportation Coordinator on the data collection methods to ensure the results can be compared to other Safe Routes programs within the district and the County. The pre and post-survey data will be compared to determine the additional walking and biking as a result of the project.

5d. We will evaluate traffic flow and safety in front of the school and communicate findings with the school, school district and Sheriff's office as appropriate. We will also prepare a news release on the findings of the surveys to raise awareness of the projects at Platt Middle School including the work the Education/Encouragement project is accomplishing.

5e. Extra credit: Platt Middle School and the Boulder Valley School District completed the initial Student Tally per the education component. The latest Student Tally Survey has been entered on NCSRTS web site and is attached in the appendix. We will share our data and outcomes with the National Safe Routes to School Center because a major portion of this project is located along a rural road and from our research there is limited data available for solutions to SRTS involving rural infrastructure.



Platt Middle School
looking north towards project

Section 6: Budget Proposal

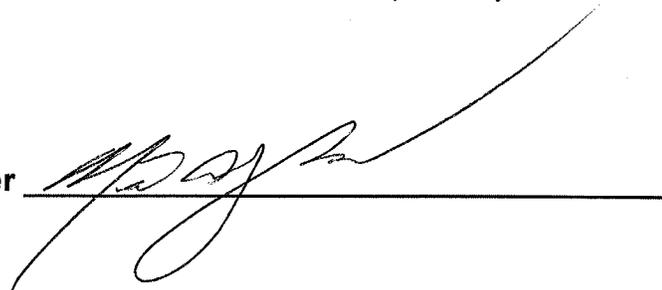
Item	Unit	Unit Price	Quantity	Total
Preliminary Engineering				
Survey	Lump Sum	\$ 3,500	1	\$ 3,500
Engineering / Drainage Design (10%)	10%			\$ 19,612
			TOTAL SURVEY & DESIGN	
Permitting				
NEPA report - Cat Ex (10%)	10%			\$ 19,612
Materials				
Clearing and grubbing	Acre	\$ 2,000	1	\$ 2,000
Stormwater Culvert (18-inch)	LF	\$ 75	960	\$ 72,000
Structure backfill	CY	\$ 20	425	\$ 8,500
Curb & Gutter Type 2 (2-foot)	LF	\$ 22	960	\$ 21,120
Asphalt Patching	SY	\$ 120	110	\$ 13,200
Concrete- (6 foot width, 6 inch depth)	SY	\$ 65	670	\$ 43,550
Fire Hydrant Relocate	Each	\$ 3,000	1	\$ 3,000
Stormwater Inlets	Each	\$ 3,000	3	\$ 9,000
Pedestrian Curb Ramps	Each	\$ 1,000	13	\$ 13,000
Sign Removal and Relocate	Each	\$ 250	8	\$ 2,000
Mailbox Relocate	Each	\$ 350	5	\$ 1,750
Pedestrian Railing	LF	\$ 200	20	\$ 4,000
Seeding / Landscaping / Irrigation	Lump Sum	\$ 3,000	1	\$ 3,000
Other Construction Expenses				
Mobilization	8%			\$ 15,690
Erosion Control / Stormwater Management	7%			\$ 13,728
Construction / Materials Testing	3%			\$ 5,884
Traffic Control	4%			\$ 7,845
Education and Encouragement				
Posters/flyers to advertise Bike Club				\$ 100
T-Shirts				\$ 300
Refreshments				\$ 100
BVSD Trip Tracker Program				\$ 3,000
CDOT oversight (5%) of total	5%			\$ 13,119

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	\$ 298,609
In-Kind Engineering/Design/ Survey	\$ (23,112)
Local cash match to be provided by Transportation Department	\$ (36,610)
TOTAL REQUESTED FROM SRTS (80% of Total Project))	\$ 238,887

NOTE: Contingencies not included as per SRTS instructions. Overruns are responsibility of Boulder County Transportation.

Engineer's Estimate certified by:

Mike Thomas, PE, County Engineer
(Colorado License #0026424)



Section 7: Previous SRTS Grants

In 2008, a parent survey revealed that few of Heatherwood students were walking or cycling to school due largely to a 75th Street – a high-volume, high-speed arterial bisecting the attendance area of Heatherwood Elementary. In fact, more than half of Heatherwood students lived on the west side of 75th and would have to cross it in order to go to school which is located on the east of 75th. In 2008, 75th St. had a 45 mph speed limit and very poor crosswalks, making it incredibly intimidating for families to cross at peak traffic times. As part of the \$235,000 SRTS Infrastructure grant that Boulder County received, 75th St. was made much safer for bicyclists and pedestrians. The improvements included extending the island at North Heatherwood Drive and 75th St. so drivers could no longer “cut the corner” when turning into the subdivision, extending a sidewalk to reach all the way to the crosswalk on 75th St., constructing a pedestrian refuge in the middle of 75th St. so kids can cross one direction of traffic at a time, and adding school zone flashers with a reduced speed limit to 20 mph around the crosswalks on 75th.

Before the project Heatherwood had extremely low participation in human-powered transportation to school (less than 12% in 2008). Since project completion, Heatherwood has made tremendous strides. A tally conducted in October of 2011 revealed that now over 43% of the student population regularly walk or bike to school. Additionally, in October of 2010, the relatively small school of 375 students placed first in the nation in the Clorox Greenworks Walk to School Challenge, where they had 234 children and 200 parents log in over 5,200 miles of biking and walking in one month.

In addition to the student increase in walking and biking from 12% to over 43%, there is also evidence of benefits in the greater Heatherwood community. We are seeing more and more staff members setting a great example by bicycling to school themselves. We even have one paraeducator, who rides her bike every day, nine miles each way. Recently, the school’s art teacher created a bicycle sculpture which now hangs in the entryway to our school and serves as a reminder to staff, families and visitors how much the school has embraced cycling. There has been excellent support from the greater community, including our local fire department and sheriff’s department who have been instrumental in providing extra safety patrols around the school. Additionally, the Boulder County sheriff’s department recently awarded the parent volunteer coordinator of the SRTS committee with a Citizen’s Commendation Award.

SRTS has also been embraced beyond the trips to and from school. Extra-curricular activities are now incorporating cycling into their programs. Local cub scouts organized a group ride and bicycle maintenance instruction for their dens. Students who volunteer at the local food bank are now riding bikes five miles to their volunteer sessions. A local yogurt shop selected Heatherwood’s SRTS program as the beneficiary for their Pennies for Thought Program by donating 10 cents for every yogurt sold. Each grade level at the school selected a day that month to ride bikes to the shop after school. In three short years, the community has transformed into a walking and cycling friendly neighborhood, from one where car-centric transportation was the unquestioned “norm.” An unanticipated result of all of this walking and biking is that more students are staying after school to play on the playground, socialize, exercise and get more fresh air which is wholesome and community building for all. Safe Routes to School has truly been a transforming force in the community.

Section 8: Subcontractors

8a, 8b. Per direction from Marissa Robinson, CDOT Safe Routes to School Coordinator, it is not required to list subcontractors in the application. Once the project design is completed in-house, the project will be sent out for bid to acquire the lowest price and the contractors will be obtained at that time.

8c, 8d, 8e. In short, the bike and walk mode split to Heatherwood went from 12% before the Safe Routes to School project, at 43% after the project. Please see Section 7 for a detailed description of the Heatherwood Safe Routes to School program and the sustaining effects that project had on both the Heatherwood students and the surrounding community.

8f. Boulder County is very fortunate in that the last Safe Routes to School project – Heatherwood Elementary – was awarded the 2011 James L. Oberstar Safe Routes to School Award. The experience gained in developing successful walk and bike programs will be invaluable. The Platt Middle School project will be similar to the Heatherwood project in that it will provide much needed sidewalks and pedestrian amenities in an area where there currently are none. The primary barrier to walking and biking in the Heatherwood project was 75th street which has very similar traffic volumes and vehicle speeds to Baseline Road in front of Platt Middle School.

Also similar will be the student parents, Amy and Cris Thompson, who led the Heatherwood education and encouragement component of the Heatherwood project. Their children have graduated Heatherwood and now attend Platt. They bring with them a wealth of experience in creating and sustaining successful student-focused bike and walk programs.

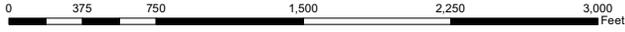
The project will be different from Heatherwood in the fact the students will be a little bit older. Bike skills that will be taught will be more advanced, including nighttime riding skills and biking in mixed traffic. Finally the project will be different in that the student population – and hence the audience for biking and walking – is larger at the Middle School than the Elementary School.



Appendixes

- A. Map of Project Area
- B. Location Photos
- C. Before and After Renderings
- D. 30% Design Drawing
- E. Statement from Project Manager
- F. Student Home Locations
- G. SRTS Pre-Project Student Tally
- H. CDOT Categorical Exclusions
- I. Additional Information on Education and Encouragement Program
- J. Letter of Support, Peter Hurst, BVSD Transportation Program Specialist
- K. Letter of Support, Tanya Santee, Acting Platt Middle School Principle
- L. Letter of Support, Amy Thompson, Parent Volunteer

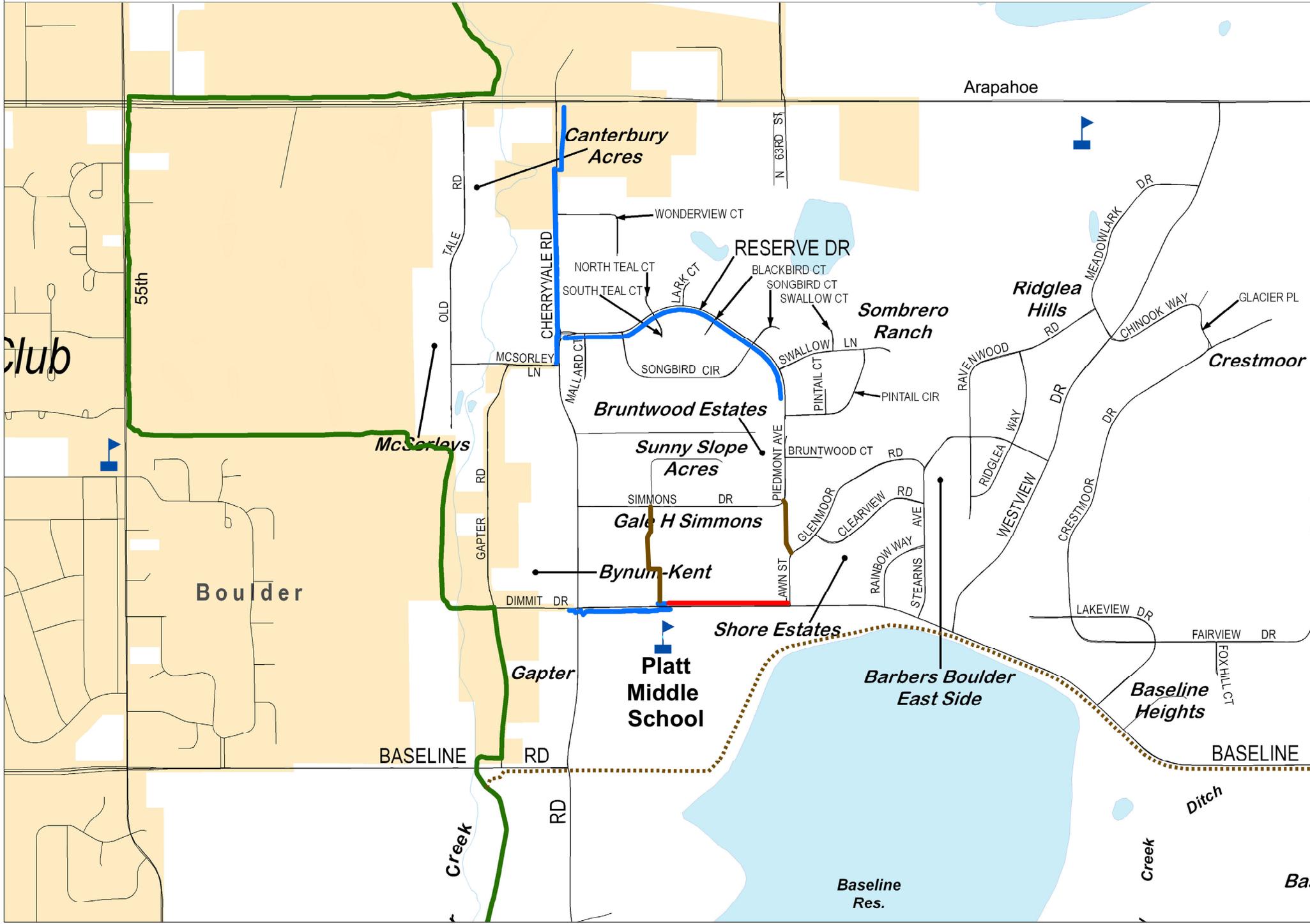
Platt Middle School Sidewalk Project



- Proposed Sidewalk
- Existing Sidewalk
- Existing Hard Surface Trail
- Existing Soft Surface Trail

- - - Conceptual Soft Surface Trail (unfunded)
- City of Boulder Limits
- ▬ Schools
- Roads

November 14, 2012





Looking east



Looking east



Looking northeast



Looking west



Looking west, at signal



Looking west, showing culvert



Before: Looking east



After: Looking east



Before: Looking northwest



After: Looking northwest

REC. NO. 2647011
<HOOS, GEORGE E & NORMA J - HOOS LIVING TRUST>

REC. NO. 2508817
<PRIEST KARA PETERSON>

REC. NO. 991762
<BURKE, RALPH A & VERNA L>

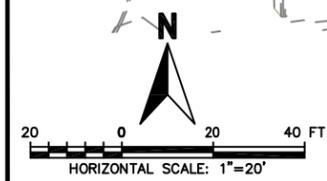
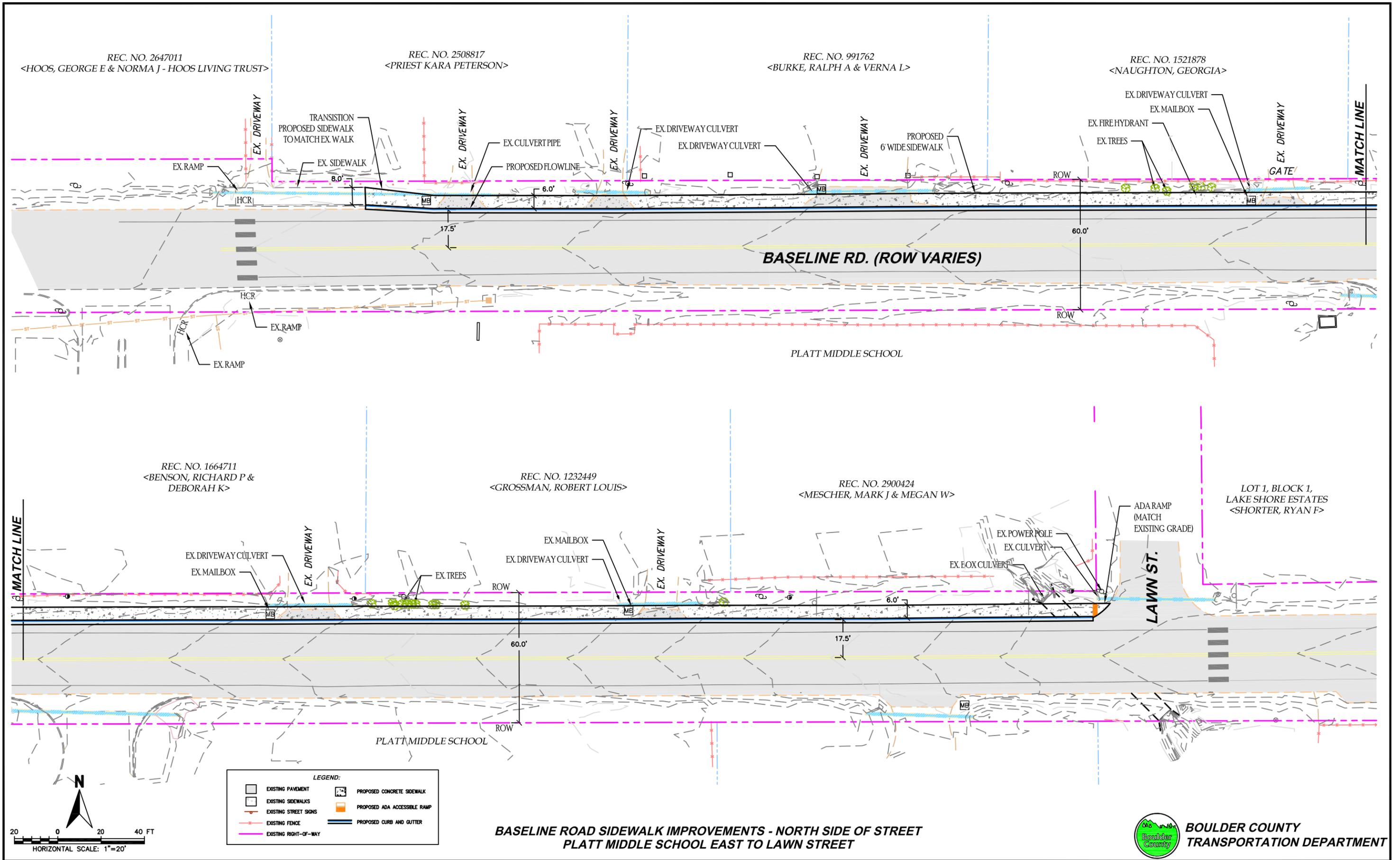
REC. NO. 1521878
<NAUGHTON, GEORGIA>

REC. NO. 1664711
<BENSON, RICHARD P &
DEBORAH K>

REC. NO. 1232449
<GROSSMAN, ROBERT LOUIS>

REC. NO. 2900424
<MESCHER, MARK J & MEGAN W>

LOT 1, BLOCK 1,
LAKE SHORE ESTATES
<SHORTER, RYAN F>



LEGEND:

	EXISTING PAVEMENT		PROPOSED CONCRETE SIDEWALK
	EXISTING SIDEWALKS		PROPOSED ADA ACCESSIBLE RAMP
	EXISTING STREET SIGNS		PROPOSED CURB AND GUTTER
	EXISTING FENCE		
	EXISTING RIGHT-OF-WAY		

**BASELINE ROAD SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS - NORTH SIDE OF STREET
PLATT MIDDLE SCHOOL EAST TO LAWN STREET**



Transportation Department

2525 13th Street, Suite 203 • Boulder, Colorado 80304 • Tel: 303.441.3900 • Fax: 303.441.4594

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 471 • Boulder, Colorado 80306 • www.bouldercounty.org

October 25, 2012

Marissa Robinson
Safe Routes to School Coordinator
Colorado Department of Transportation
4201 East Arkansas Avenue, Shumate Bldg.
Denver, CO 80222

RE: 2012 Platt Middle School Safe Routes to School Project

Ms. Robinson,
Boulder County is pleased to be partnering with Boulder Valley School District in applying for Safe Routes to School funding to improve the walking and bicycling environment at Platt Middle School. In accordance with the FY 2012 Safe Routes to School application Section 2.i) this letter is to confirm that I will be the project manager for the duration of the project.

As project manager my roles will include:

- Conducting adjacent property owner and community meetings
- Development of the construction designs
- Demonstration of acceptance to CDOTs Categorical Exclusions
- Selection of construction contractor and construction management firm
- Coordinating the education and encouragement components
- Completing all invoicing and financial requirements.

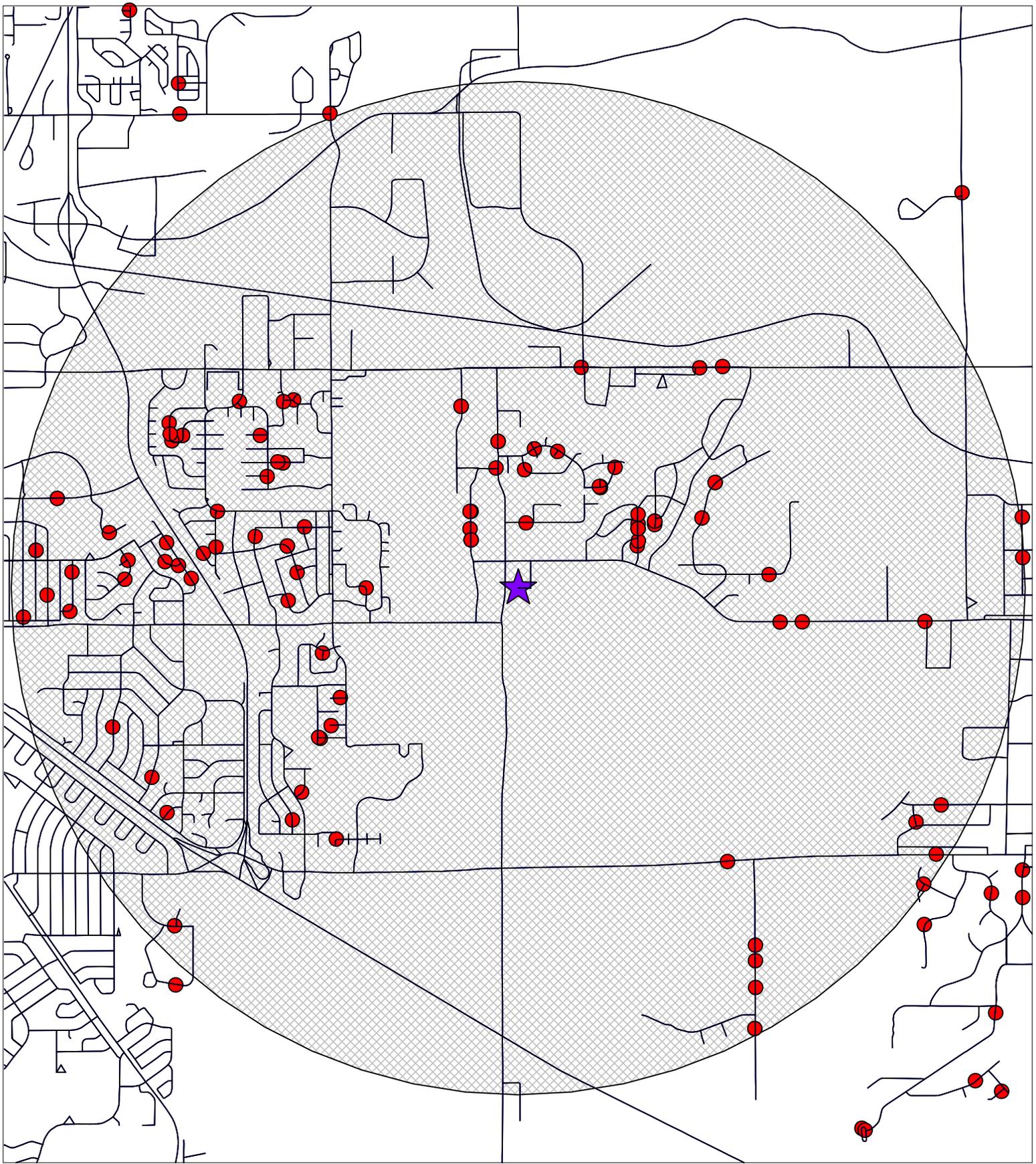
I, along with the entire Boulder County Transportation staff, am excited about this opportunity to improve walking and biking to Platt Middle School.

Sincerely,



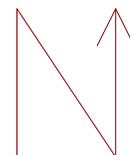
Scott McCarey, PE, AICP

Alternative Transportation Coordinator
Boulder County Transportation
2525 13th Street, Suite 203
Boulder, CO 80304
smccarey@bouldercounty.org
720-564-2665



Platt Middle School

	#	%
Total Students:	544	100
Total Inside 2-mi. Radius:	95	17
Total NOT Eligible for Transport.:	256	47



Scale
1" = 0.50 Miles

11/20/2012 4:46:41 PM

Safe Routes to School Student Arrival and Departure Tally Sheet
 Submitted to the National Safe Routes to School Center

	Total Number of Students	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Day 1 AM	332	6	17	140	121	30	14	4
Day 1 PM	327	7	18	144	113	27	14	4
Day 2 AM	329	5	9	67	152	78	15	4
Day 2 PM	326	9	9	156	93	46	9	4
Total	1314	27	53	507	479	181	52	16
Average #	329	7	13	127	120	45	13	4

Mode Split

2% 4% 39% 36% 14% 4% 1%

*All Days were Sunny

**COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DETERMINATION**

Date:	Revision Date:	Project Code #:
Project #:		

Project Name: **Platt Middle School Sidewalk Project**

Project Description: **Install new sidewalks, curb and gutter, and pedestrian curb ramps along Baseline between Platt Middle School and Lawn Street.**

A. Categorical Exclusion Project Determination

1. This project fits Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic CE number _____

2. CDOT Form #463 dated _____ (Revised _____) is attached.

B. Clearance Actions

REQUIRED If not checked is Not Applicable	DATE COMPLETED	REQUIRED If not checked is Not Applicable	DATE COMPLETED
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality (hot spot analysis)	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paleontology	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archaeology	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Materials	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> History	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> - ISA Checklist	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Bridge	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> - MESA (or Phase I)	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4(f)	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Threatened or Endangered Species	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6(f) Agreements	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetland Delineation (survey)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	_____

All required clearance actions indicated have been completed for the work described in the CDOT Form #463 referenced above. No significant environmental impacts will result from this project. All Permits and Additional Requirements indicated in Part C below will be obtained before project advertisement/construction. Implementation of project shall include required mitigation commitments.

RPEM Signature _____ Date _____ Region # _____

I concur in the above category designation and the scope of environmental clearance/permits indicated.
FHWA Division Administrator Signature (when required) (Please return form to RPEM) _____ Date _____

C. Permits and Additional Requirements

REQUIRED If not checked is Not Applicable	DATE COMPLETED	REQUIRED If not checked is Not Applicable	DATE COMPLETED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 404 Permit	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Division of Wildlife SB 40	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 401 Certification	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetland Finding	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 402 Certification	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> APCD Bridge/Structure Demo Permit	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> - Const Dewatering Certification	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Materials (Phase II)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Const Stormwater Cert CDPS	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> 6(f) Completion	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Floodplains Development Permit	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	_____

D. Comments

E. Environmental Project Certification

All clearance and permit requirements for this project have been completed and mitigation included in the _____ set of plans and specifications dated _____. The appropriate documentation is on file in the Region office.
RPEM Signature _____ Date _____

Note to Project Manager: Any changes to the plans and specifications after the date of the RPEM signature in Part B that affect environmental impacts or mitigation must be approved by the RPEM.

Additional information about the Education and Encouragement Program

Platt Middle School is in desperate need of a Safe Routes to School Program. Every morning traffic backs up over half a mile on Baseline Road (a major west/east arterial in Boulder) as parents try to drive in and out of the school parking lot. Impatient drivers try to hastily pull around cars waiting on Baseline to turn into the lot, creating a real hazard in the crosswalk that goes across Baseline in front of the school. Parents are making fast turns into the parking lot because they know they are blocking traffic and endangering students trying to use the crosswalk that runs east/west along the parking lot entrance. “I hold my breath everytime I see a student waiting at the crosswalk,” commented one Platt mother. The parking lot gets so congested in the afternoons, that the buses have a difficult time pulling out of the lot to start their routes. Students often wander out of the parking lot and walk along Baseline Road, searching for their parents who can’t get into the parking lot. “The traffic is so insane at Platt, I wouldn’t allow my mother-in-law to even attempt to pick up my son, seriously!” commented a Platt parent.

In short, too many students are arriving by car and bringing traffic danger and pollution to the front steps of the school. Platt Middle School needs to promote school and public bus use, walking, and biking to school to ensure safer arrivals and departures for everyone.

Bike Club. Platt Middle School will start an after school bike club with the purpose of getting kids on bikes regularly to develop a love for both the sport of cycling and for cycling as transportation, which will serve them in middle school and beyond. The bike club will meet weekly in the fall and spring. It will have a staff sponsor along with parent volunteer leaders who will guide students on bicycle rides either on campus or on nearby trails and at the local Valmont Bike Park. These weekly club rides will give students a chance to learn local bicycling trails and routes in the area, and help them learn that the best cycling route to a destination is not necessarily the same route they would use by car. The club will also cover the rules of the road beyond the basic information, such as hand signals, that they learned in elementary school. The club leaders will cover more advanced topics like, the importance of visibility and using bike lights in low-light conditions (not being a bike ninja), putting your foot down at stop signs and stoplights, riding single file, when it is okay to “take the lane”, understanding that you are a vehicle and following proper traffic rules and always riding predictably, and of course actually wearing and buckling your helmet rather than hanging it on your handlebars. The group rides will also cover bike handling skills on a variety of surfaces, asphalt, grass, dirt, and rocky surfaces along with varying weather conditions (watching out for snow and ice in the cold, respecting trails and not riding on them when muddy, reading the road in wet conditions and staying properly cool and hydrated in extremely hot conditions. The club will also cover basic bicycle maintenance, such as the ABC check (air in tires, brakes and chain).

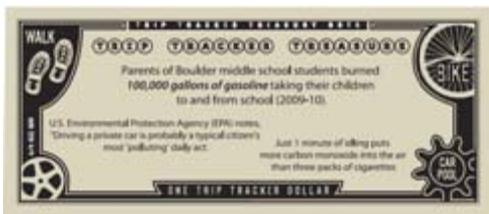
There are several other middle schools in the Boulder area, Casey, Manhattan, Horizons K-8, Centennial and Alexander Dawson, who already have bicycle clubs and who have competed against one another in cyclocross races via an annual Cycle Fest. The Platt club would love to get involved with these inter-school cycling activities as well and provide basic race skills by working with local amateur racers to mentor students who would like to try racing.

Events. The Boulder Valley School District’s Transportation Department organizes International Walk to School Day in the Fall and Bike to School Day in the Spring. We would like to get Platt fully participating in these events in part by organizing group rides from the local Stazio Ballfields, which are located 2.2 miles from Platt and the route in between is almost entirely via a scenic bike trail along South Boulder Creek. The intent of these events would be to prompt more organized group rides from this location with greater frequency, thereby reducing car traffic around the school.

Middle School Gap. Platt Middle School is fed by three local elementary schools, one of which won the national James L. Oberstar Safe Routes to School Award, Heatherwood Elementary. The SRTS program at Heatherwood was successful in raising walking and biking to school from 12% to 43% in three short years. Yet, when Heatherwood Elementary students graduate on to Platt Middle School, they are met with no SRTS program. It seems all of the education and experience gained with walking and biking to school at the elementary level is then lost in the middle school years. After eighth grade, Platt Middle School students move on to either Fairview High School or Boulder High School, both of which are leaders in the High School Mountain Biking League. Platt’s current lack of a SRTS program therefore creates an obvious gap, in the middle school years, while trying to promote healthy lifestyles, via walking and cycling, from kindergarten through 12th grade.

BVSD Trip Tracker. Trip Tracker encourages and rewards students for walking, biking, busing or carpooling to school. Students and their families are given a program logbook/calendar to record their alternative transportation trips each month. The calendars are turned in on paper or electronically at the end of the month. Totals are generated in the following categories: walk, bike, RTD bus, School bus, carpool and mixed mode. Trip Tracker at Platt Middle School will become an excellent source of data to be reported back to the National SRTS Center.

Trip Tracker Dollar Rewards are given based on number of trips and number of miles each month. Trip Tracker Dollars can then be redeemed like real dollars at area participating retailers. Retailers in the Boulder area include coffee shops, restaurants, miniature golf, ice cream shops, and bookstores. Examples of the Trip Tracker Dollars and tracking calendar are below.



December 2012 and January 2013 TripTracker										
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Weekly Totals
3-Dec		4-Dec		5-Dec		6-Dec		7-Dec		Max=10
am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	
10-Dec		11-Dec		12-Dec		13-Dec		14-Dec		Max=10
am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	
17-Dec		18-Dec		19-Dec		20-Dec		21-Dec		Max=10
am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	
		8-Jan		9-Jan		10-Jan		11-Jan		Max=8
		am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	
14-Jan		15-Jan		16-Jan		17-Jan		18-Jan		Max=10
am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	
		22-Jan		23-Jan		24-Jan		25-Jan		Max = 8
		am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	
28-Jan		29-Jan		30-Jan		31-Jan				Max = 8
am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm			
Total Maximum Trips for December plus January = 64										
My Total Number of Trip Tracker Trips for December plus January = 										



Peter Hurst
TO School Program
BVSD Transportation Department
6500 Arapahoe Avenue
Boulder, Colorado 80303
720-561-6116
peter.hurst@bvsd.org

December 4, 2012

Marissa Robinson
Safe Routes to School Coordinator
Colorado Department of Transportation
4201 E. Arkansas Ave, Shumate Building
Denver, Colorado 80222-3406

RE: Platt Middle School 2013 Safe Routes to School Grant Application

Dear Ms. Robinson,

Boulder Valley School District is proud to support Boulder County's application for 2013 Safe Routes to School infrastructure funds for Platt Middle School. This project will bring much needed sidewalks immediately adjacent to Platt Middle School along Baseline Road – a minor arterial with over 9,000 vehicles a day. Currently there are no pedestrian amenities in this street and students wishing to access the school must walk in the shoulder of the roadway. We believe that this project will both improve the safety of students currently walking or biking to school and will also encourage more students to use active transportation to get to and from school.

One of the feeder schools to Platt Middle School is Heatherwood Elementary – the winner of the 2011 James L. Oberstar Safe Routes to School Award. The education and encouragement programs at Heatherwood have “trained” students in walking and biking to work. We believe that it is critical to provide the capital infrastructure to encourage these same students to continue to walk and bike to their new school.

Finally, the infrastructure component of this project will be accompanied by an extensive bike and walk program design and led by a Platt Middle School parent, Cris Thompson. Through the Safe Routes to School Funds, Platt Middle School will start an after school bike club with the purpose of getting kids on bikes regularly to develop a love for both the sport of cycling and for cycling as transportation. The program will ensure that students will know about the new sidewalk improvements, and know and use safe biking techniques.

We hope that you will consider funding this important improvement at Platt Middle School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Hurst".

Peter Hurst
Transportation Options Program Specialist
TO School Program - Walk Bike Bus Carpool
Boulder Valley School District - Transportation Department
PO Box 9011, Boulder, CO 80301
peter.hurst@bvsd.org
720-561-6116



Attendance: 720-561-5534
Fax: 720-561-6898

Nevin Platt Middle School
6096 Baseline Road
Boulder, Colorado 80303
720-561-5536

Kevin Gates, Ph.D.
Principal

Tanya Santee
Assistant Principal

December 4, 2012

Marrisa Robinson
Safe Routes to School Coordinator
Colorado Department of Transportation
4201 E. Arkansas Ave, Shumate Building
Denver, Colorado 80222-3406

RE: Boulder County 2013 Safe Routes to School Application

Ms. Robinson,

For the past decade we have seen Platt Middle School students walking and biking to and from school in dangerous environment. Baseline Road – the only road connecting to Platt Middle School – has no sidewalks going to the east of the school. Students that walk or bike to school are forced to do so in the shoulder of the road.

Platt Middle School administration are pleased that Boulder County has developed a 30% design for sidewalks on the north side of Baseline Road. This six foot sidewalk will give students an opportunity to safely walk into the surrounding neighborhoods to the east of the school. Our teachers at Platt Middle School are also aware of the problem that currently exists and are supportive of this effort as well. This past fall Platt teachers helped to collect the needed “before condition” walk and bike data for the grant and look forward to helping with additional data collection in the future.

In addition, afternoon vehicle congestion at Platt has reached unsustainable levels. Many parents are driving their kids to school in part because they do not believe the walking and biking environment is safe. We are hopeful that improvements such as this one will make a dent in the car traffic we have on campus.

In sum, we strongly support Boulder County’s Safe Routes to School application and would be happy to help in any way possible.

Sincerely,



Tanya Santee

Amy R. Thompson
4660 Kirkwood St.
Boulder, CO 80301

Marissa Robinson
Safe Routes to School Coordinator
Colorado Dept. of Transportation
4201 E. Arkansas Ave., Shumate Bldg.
Denver, CO 80222

December 4th, 2012

RE: Platt Middle School SRTS grant application for 2013

Dear Ms. Robinson,

I am writing to you in strong support of the Platt Middle School Safe Routes to School grant application. I am a new parent at Platt Middle School and will be the lead SRTS coordinator for the school. I come from Heatherwood Elementary School in Boulder, winner of the James L. Oberstar award, where I have led the SRTS program for the last three years. I am excited to work with a new and larger school and bring the SRTS program to the middle school level.

Platt Middle School currently has very few students walking or bicycling to school and car traffic around the school is terrible. There is no sidewalk directly in front of the school on the north side of Baseline Road, yet there are several subdivisions just northeast of the school. Any student wanting to walk, bicycle or skateboard to school from this direction is currently doing so directly on the street. A sidewalk is desperately needed.

In addition to the sidewalk project, we will be working to educate students about safe bicycle commuting and encouraging students to ride to school, via an after-school bicycle club. We already have commitments from a teacher sponsor, Mr Pulley, and from my husband, Christopher Thompson, to lead the club (both of whom are experienced bicycle racers). We are looking forward to leading recreational group rides after school and organizing group rides from the local Stazio baseball fields to school via the Boulder Creek Path.

Platt Middle School would benefit greatly from a SRTS program from both the sidewalk addition and the encouragement and educational efforts to get more students walking and riding to school, rather than taking single family cars. Bringing SRTS to the middle school level is an important extension of the elementary school programs already in place in the Boulder Valley School District. I am happy to work with the county and school district to monitor our progress and report the status of our projects to CDOT. Thank you for considering our application.

Sincerely,



Amy Thompson
Parent Volunteer
Platt Middle School