

Multi-Agency Partnership Addressing School Safety

By: Joseph Bitar

Osceola County Traffic Engineering



How It All Began...

Requests received concerning school safety:

- Installing school crossings
- Speed reduction within school zone and enforcement
- Identifying school zone
- No parking within school zone
- Additional sidewalks
- Confirming the need for school crossing guards



Reporting Parties

1. School Districts

- Planning and Engineering Departments
- Transportation Department
- School Principals

2. Sheriffs Office

- School Crossing Guard Coordinator
- School Resource Officers
- Traffic Enforcement Officers

3. General Public

- PTA / Concerned Parents
- Citizens



Processing

Each request goes through the following process:

1. Field Investigations Include:
 - a. Observations
 - b. Counts
 - c. Photos
2. Data Analysis
3. In-Depth Discussions/ Stakeholder buy-in
4. Final Conclusions
5. Work Orders Issued



Stakeholder Buy-In

Three Keys to Success:

1. Communication:

- Requesting party
- Other parties affected by the decision

2. Joint Meetings:

- Meet with all parties
- Monthly/Bi-Monthly

3. Gather information on all conflicts / concerns



School Zone and Crossing Coordination Committee

Committee members include:

1. Osceola County Traffic Engineering Staff
2. School District Staff
 - Planning
 - Engineering
 - Transportation
3. Sheriff's Office
 - School Crossing Guard Coordinator
 - Traffic Enforcement



Multi-Agency Partnership Benefits

The benefits of this partnership are:

1. Setting and updating priorities
2. Planning for anticipated improvements
3. Budgeting in advance
4. Increase productivity / expedited work flow
5. Stakeholder buy-in
6. Improve School Safety



Projects Accomplished

Projects within the past 18 months:

- Installation of eleven school crossings.
- Installation of four school zones.
- Partnering on upcoming two school signals.
- Installation of no parking zones for three schools



Final Thoughts

This has been a successful experience and we will continue to maintain this partnership for years to come to insure school safety throughout the County.



Questions

Contact Information:

Joe Bitar, Civil Engineer I
Osceola County Traffic Engineering
jbit2@osceola.org
407.742.0509

