

City of White Salmon

A bright outlook on the sunny side of the Gorge

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Active Community Environment (ACE) Grant Awarded to Klickitat County Health Department

Submitted by cowsAdmin on Tue, 08/09/2011 - 4:46pm **Announcement**

Newsreel Until:
08/20/2011

Great news this past week from Department of Health & Department of Transportation! Klickitat County Health Department is a recipient for the Active Living Community (ACE) grant for 2011!

As one of the ACE grant awardees, Klickitat County Health Department's Program, Let's Connect! will provide a different way in which we think about design, building and using our streets. Instead of one user, the automobile, Let's Connect! will provide and campaigns for all users – cyclists, pedestrians, the transit user, the elderly, the disabled and the automobile. Let's Connect! will be of local and county-wide significance as it will create healthy physical, social and economic environments that encompass safe and healthy neighborhoods, worksites, schools, homes and public and green space by fostering cross-sector collaboration and community.

Let's Connect! will support having safer and connected community in Klickitat County, will increase access to physical activity for transportation and recreation and will increase physical activity levels in Klickitat County to reduce chronic disease and obesity in communities. Let's Connect! will consist of four major components 1) Active Community Environment assessment 2) Complete Street and Safe Routes to School workshop 3) Complete Streets ordinance 4) Safe Routes to School policy. The Active Community Environment assessment element will identify gaps in community practices and facilities, and provides ideas for community groups, active living task force and other groups to consider. The Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School workshop element will provide education on how to balance the needs of all users, and develop and implement effective policy. The Complete Streets ordinance element will develop community environments that promote safety, community connectedness and health for all users. The Safe Routes to School policy element will empower communities to make walking and bicycling to school and other community venues a safe and routine activity.

As a Complete Streets grantee, Klickitat County Health Department staff and Klickitat County community is committed to:

- Utilize a community health coalition, Healthy People Alliance of Klickitat County, which includes representation of local government, schools, seniors, youth, parks and recreation, health organizations, local transportation partners, city and county planning, public works, private sector partners and community members, to cultivate a dynamic Active Living Task Force.
- Designate a local health department staff person who will serve as Active Living Task Force Project Manager responsible for leading the community through the active community environment assessment, Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School workshop(s), Complete Streets ordinance adoption process and Safe Routes to School policy adoption process.
- Develop a plan to pass local Complete Streets ordinance and Safe Routes to School program, listing key steps necessary for community environment, key partners to include, community forms and draft legislature.
- Complete Washington State Department of Health's Active Community Environment assessment, utilizing U.S. Department of Transportation's Bikeability Checklist and Walkability Checklist to study attitudes of the public towards the environment and bicycling.
- Host, coordinate and attend one Complete Streets Workshop in Klickitat County to build a common understanding of complete streets, identify area complete streets goals and performance measures, create draft language for complete streets policy, identify ways to strengthen policies and steps for effective implementation and engage public works, transportation, bicycle/pedestrian, elected officials and stakeholders.
- Host, coordinate and attend one Safe Routes to School Training in Klickitat County to bring together school officials, transportation professionals, law enforcement officers, advocates and parents and provide a clear blueprint for how to develop a successful Safe Routes to School program.
- Work with elected officials and transportation professionals to provide input to comprehensive street plans with county and incorporated cities of Bingen, Goldendale and White Salmon to include Complete Streets ordinance.
- Work with school district and transportation professionals to provide input to school transportation plans with White Salmon Valley School District and Goldendale School District to include Safe Routes to School program and encourage students within one mile of schools to walk or bicycle.
- Pass local Community Streets ordinances by the local government body and Safe Routes to School program by the local school board.
- Implement recommended strategies from the state plans and as identified by Complete Streets ordinance and Safe Routes to School program. Enhancements and markers may include sidewalks, bike lanes, wide shoulders and raised crosswalks as well as ADA accessibility and adequate bicycle parking, after-hours lighting, visible signage and user-friendly maps.
- Complete all Active Community Environments Initiative program requirements: report quarterly on project status, comply with new state cultural resource requirements (Executive Order 5-05) and provide a one-page scope of work as requested.
- Further research of the relationships of land use, transportation, environmental impact and physical activity.

While there is no prescription for a complete street, being a recipient of Washington State Department of Transportation

Upcoming

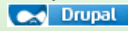
- **Bingen-White Salmon Business Partners** 10/11/2011 - 6:00pm - 7:30pm
- **Klickitat County Meth Action Team** 10/13/2011 (All day)

funding, will solidify the implementation of Active Community Environments and further encourage additional programs throughout Klickitat County.

Please feel encouraged and welcome to pass this information to interested family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances. If you have any questions, comments or are interested in hearing more, please call or email Stephanie Horace, Klickitat County Health Department, 509-493-6234, stephanieh@co.klickitat.wa.us

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by Dr. Radut