

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information contact:  
Blake Theisen, PLA, ASLA  
Ayres Associates  
Ph: (608) 255-0800

### **Beloit seeks input for Safe Routes to School Planning Process**

April 25, 2017 - In an effort to encourage and enable Beloit's children to safely walk and bike to school, the City of Beloit is undertaking a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Planning Process. The City along with Ayres Associates will be holding a public input meeting on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the board room at the Kolak Education Center located at 1633 Keeler Avenue. Maps of the existing neighborhood sidewalks and school sites will be available for viewing. Please join us to give us your opinions on where to focus priorities for new improvements. The meeting will be an open house format.

Childhood obesity rates have more than tripled in the past 30 years, while the number of children walking and biking to school has declined. According to the 2001 National Household Travel Survey, less than 16 percent of students between the ages of 5 and 15 walked or biked to or from school, compared to 42 percent in 1969. Walking and biking to school, a source of daily activity for children, is more difficult because of the many safety hazards. A SRTS Plan can help remove these barriers to physical activity. In addition, Safe Routes to School Plans aim to reduce fuel consumption, improve air quality around our schools, and increase community security, accessibility and involvement.

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