



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECT

What is the Safe Routes to School project?

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project is a community initiative designed to enhance the safety, accessibility, and convenience of walking, biking, and other alternative modes of transportation for students traveling to and from school. The goal is to make it easier and safer for children to walk or bike while reducing traffic congestion near schools.

Why is this project important for Larned?

- Student Safety: Sidewalks, crossings, and signage improvements help protect children.
- Health & Wellness: Encourages more walking and biking, promoting active lifestyles.
- Traffic Reduction: Fewer cars near schools means less congestion during pick-up and drop-off times.
- Community Improvement: Upgrades benefit all residents, not just students, by creating more walkable and bike-friendly neighborhoods.

What kinds of improvements are being planned?

- New or repaired sidewalks
- ADA-compliant ramps and crossings
- Bike lanes or shared-use paths
- Safer intersections with marked crosswalks and signage
- Traffic-calming measures near schools

How will this project make walking and biking safer?

The project includes:

- Clearly marked crosswalks
- Safer intersections with curb extensions or signals
- Reduced traffic speeds near schools
- Designated bike routes and sidewalks separated from traffic when possible

Which schools will benefit?

The project will focus on routes serving the Ft Larned Elementary School. The route primarily follows North Broadway from the school to 16th Street and constructs a walk to the Northside Athletic Fields. It is located in proximity to Jordaan Park (featuring ballfields, disc golf, Pawnee County Fair Grounds, and the Haas Building), the golf course and driving range, and the Larned Community Center, as well as Doerr-Vernon Park. It is designed to reduce the crossing of high-traffic streets, utilizing existing walks when possible, with priority given to areas where students most frequently walk or bike.

What is the cost, and who is funding the project?

Almost all of the cost for this \$860,000 project is covered through grant funding. The project is supported through Federal Safe Routes to School funding (via the Kansas Department of Transportation), and the City's responsibility is limited to any unanticipated right-of-way needs and ongoing maintenance of the improvements once completed.

When will construction begin?

Planning and design efforts are underway and are being coordinated by the City of Larned and Alfred Benesch Group Engineers. Construction is expected to begin once design approvals and funding agreements are finalized. A tentative schedule will be shared with the community as soon as it becomes available. It will be ready for student pedestrian traffic at the start of the 2027/2028 school session.

How can parents and residents get involved?

- Encourage students to participate in walking/biking programs.
- Volunteer for "walking school buses" or bike trains, where groups of students walk or ride together with adult supervision.
- Provide feedback to City Hall on priority areas needing attention.

City of Larned Proposed SRTS Phase II Construction Overview Map

