

NEWS RELEASE

Panhandle

Public Health District

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For immediate release

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Tri-City Active Living Advisory Committee provides support to area schools to increase safety for walking and biking

The Tri-City Active Living Advisory Committee recently provided a number of safety signs, reflective vests, light-up STOP paddles, and bike racks to Lincoln, Lincoln Heights, Scottsbluff High School, Westmoor Elementary, and Gering Junior High School to support a safer walking and biking experience to and from school.

The committee conducted walk audits around the schools in May 2019 identifying key safety elements like crosswalks, drop-off and pickup points, sidewalk connections, traffic speed, and driver responsiveness.

Panhandle Public Health District Health Educator Janelle Visser said, “We were pleased to be able to provide the items for the schools. This is just one piece the committee has offered to help increase safety around the schools for kids to walk and bike.”

She added, “There’s still a number of other factors like driver’s following traffic speeds and being attentive in school zones, yielding to kiddos in crosswalks, and being patient during drop-off and pickup times that need to be followed for it to truly be a safer environment.”

It shouldn’t take the heartbreaking news of a child being seriously hurt to remind us to drive safely. Driver’s need to be attentive at all times, please keep phones out of your hands.

Drivers must yield to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk by bringing their vehicle to a complete stop.

Visser concluded, “Please keep these tips in mind and help kids get safely to and from school and around the community by walking and biking.”

The committee was formed nearly three years ago to support the tri-city’s ongoing efforts to improve sidewalks and intersections, calm traffic, and expand the network of bike routes and walking trails and stands ready to serve as a resource and liaison among all groups seeking input and diversified group representation.

Please join the conversation at their monthly meetings with the next one scheduled for **October 21** from **Noon-2pm** at the **Panhandle Coop Training Center** in **Scottsbluff** or on Facebook in the Tri-City Active Living Advisory Committee group. ALL input is encouraged!

For additional information, visit Panhandle Public Health District at www.pphd.org. Panhandle Public Health District is working together to improve the health, safety and quality of life for all who live, learn, work and play in the Panhandle. Our vision is that we are a healthier and safer Panhandle Community.