



## 2015 Active Transportation Collaboration

### SDSU Landscape Architecture Program, SD Department of Health, and Selected SD Community

Interested Community Request Application (Page 1 of 2)  
**Due November 26, 2014**

**Name of Community:** City of Rapid City

**2010 Population of Community:** 67,956

**Distance from Brookings (all submissions welcome):** 390 miles (5 hours, 26 minutes)

**Joint community application – indicate YES or NO. If YES, list both communities:** No.

**Identify specific neighborhood(s) or area(s) of community to be addressed by this assessment:** Deadwood Avenue/Plaza Drive area. See attached map.

**Community Contact Name:** Sandy Smith

**Your Role in Community per this Application:** Long Range Planner

**Organization/Title:** City of Rapid City, Long Range Planner I

**Address:** 300 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

**Phone:** (605) 394-4120

**Email:** Sandy.Smith@rcgov.org

**City Website:** [www.rcgov.org](http://www.rcgov.org)

- **Briefly describe why your community is in need of and would benefit from this active transportation assessment project.**

The area that is specified to be assessed is an area that has minimal sidewalks, and is not connected to the current shared-use network path. There is currently an application to connect the current path to this area (Sweet Creek Trail application). Located in this area is Harmony Heights apartment complex, Youth and Family Services, a Coca-Cola bottling company, Black Hills Federal Credit Union, as well as car dealerships, churches, elderly living community, etc. The City of Rapid City receives complaints about this area not being walkable. Complaints about this area show that commuters would like to utilize active transportation, yet the area does not currently have the means to support it. There are many businesses and residents in this area that could benefit from not relying on

a vehicle to travel to and from destinations. Data from the 2010 Census shows that around this area there are 344 housing units, with a population of about 623. Employment data from the Travel Demand Forecast Model shows there are 1,784 employees in this area. Promoting and creating active transportation in this area would be necessary to achieve a less auto-dependent commute for Rapid City. The City of Rapid City would benefit from South Dakota State University assessing this area and providing recommendations that could be implemented in the future planning process to include active transportation options in multimodal transportation planning. While we understand that the Active Transportation Collaboration assessment is not to create sidewalk connectivity paths, we believe that this assessment would provide a foundation for future implementation, as well as generating alternative design concepts for active transportation.

- **Do you have a specific idea or problem in mind for this assessment to address? If so, please explain.**

This assessment can analyze and review what is necessary for the residents and commuters of this area to implement physical activities into their daily routines.

- **Describe your existing capacity and potential future capacity to implement the proposed final recommendations from SDSU.**

The Rapid City Council has the authority to provide funding by the ordering the implementation of sidewalks. This process can take place if there are studies and assessments that have provided recommendations. The future long range planning of Rapid City would benefit from the recommendations that SDSU could provide. The recommendations could be shown in the 2040 Long Range Transportation plan.

- **List any other recent funding or technical assistance your community has received for similar assessment work or construction projects, and how those projects would enhance or be enhanced by this assessment opportunity.**

The City of Rapid City received the Community Walk Audit grant from the South Dakota Department of Health. This has allowed the Rapid City residents participate in walks to state their opinions about the current walking conditions of Rapid City. This grant will be completed by May 2015. There are eleven walking routes around Rapid City, and there have been ninety-eight walking participants thus far. There are two walking routes in the area that is proposed for SDSU to assess. The results from the walk audit would be provided to SDSU so the program can better understand the views of the Rapid City residents. With the acceptance of this application, the area that the walking participants are concerned about would be assessed to implement active transportation.

**Potential Community Partners/Stakeholders:**

- City of Rapid City Public Works
- City of Rapid City Parks and Recreation
- City of Rapid City School District
- South Dakota Department of Transportation
- Representatives from the Health Impact Assessment Committee (YMCA)
- Representatives from the Rapid City Community Walk Audit
- Representative from Destination Rapid City
- Representative from Fountain Springs Church
- Representative from Youth and Family Services
- Representative from Coca-Cola
- Representative from Black Hills Federal Credit Union
- Harmony Heights residents
- Fountain Springs Community residents
- Representative from local bicycle shops
- Black Hills Runners Club





PLAZA

INTERSTATE 90

INTERSTATE 90

COCA COLA

WESLEYAN

SUNNY SPRINGS

HARMONY HEIGHTS

SAMCO

RAND

FOUNTAIN PLAZA

SOPHIA

DEADWOOD

LIEN

PRIVATE DRIVEWAY

PLANT

COMMERCE

