COMMUNICATIONS & NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT

Safe Youth Driving Behavior

According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, traffic crashes are the number-one killer of Minnesota teens — each year, more than 30 teens (ages 16–19) are killed on Minnesota roads. Teens are at greatest risk on the road due to inexperience, risk-taking behind the wheel, speeding, and distracted driving. Teens also have the lowest seat belt use rate of all age groups.

Questions / Issues:

- How can the police, schools, and community organizations partner to help reduce teen traffic accidents risks?
- How can the community communicate with youth so they understand the ramifications of unsafe behavior such as speeding, driving without a seatbelt, or drinking and driving?

Deliverables:

- Research programs that engage youth as a partner in the teaching and communication relating to driving, and outline successes and shortcomings.
- Post-D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), what are the new programs that address high risk behaviors that have been considered more successful, and how are they implemented? Explore funding opportunities for program implementation.

Sustainability:

- The project will promote social and economic sustainability goals. Engaging Rosemount youth and ensuring they have access to healthy and robust lifestyles will improve the social interactions in the community. Further, unhealthy lifestyles require expenditures of private and public dollars. With youth adopting healthy and appropriate behaviors, financial resources can be allocated elsewhere. The project is relevant to the City because it fulfills the 2013-2014 City Council’s goal to maintain an engaged, healthy, inviting, and safe community. This project would also implement the Comprehensive Plan goal to collaborate and provide services to all groups of residents.