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Sidewalk and Bus Lane Installed Near Cedarville School; Students Encouraged to Walk More

By Erich T. Doerr



A new sidewalk designed to make it easier for children to walk to school has been added at Les Cheneaux Community Schools in Cedarville, while the district has also built a new bus lane to offer a safer drop-off point. They are designed to work together to make arrivals and departures at the school easier.

Transportation-related improvements at the Les Cheneaux Community Schools include the construction of both this sidewalk (right) alongside Beach Street and this bus lane (left). The bus lane is used by school buses and parents to provide a safe area to drop off and pick up students. The sidewalk, running from M-134 to Hodeck Street, is part of an effort to encourage more students to walk to school. It has also proved popular for use by spectators

The sidewalk was constructed in June for \$165,000. Most of the funding came from grants, with the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation providing money to Clark Township for the project and the Mackinac Economic Alliance (MEA) securing a Safe Routes to School grant from the Michigan Fitness Foundation to further assist the project. Clark Township paid more than \$11,000 toward the project, including covering the construction engineering costs.

The MEA and the school are now collaborating to institute programs that will encourage the students to walk, bike, and use the sidewalk while going to and from school. Most of these programs will not

coming to Cedarville Trojans games.

be instituted until spring, when weather improves. The Michigan Fitness Foundation is making suggestions for some of the programs.

“We want to create good health habits for walking,” MEA Executive Director Anne Ottaway said.

The new sidewalk runs alongside Beach Street, stretching from Hodeck Street north to M-134. The sidewalk has an additional benefit of making it easier for crowds of all ages to attend Cedarville’s athletic events at the school. The sidewalk is maintained by Clark Township, like all others in Cedarville.

The school installed the new bus lane this summer. The buses use it in the morning when dropping off students, but in the afternoon buses are placed in the upper parking lot, instead.

“It has been working pretty well,” Les Cheneaux Schools Superintendent Randy Schaedig said, noting the lane provides a much safer dropoff point since it isn’t on the neighboring road.

The bus lane cost the school district \$20,000 to build. The Mackinac County Road Commission did much of the work on the project, including all of the planning before construction, sign installations, and landscaping. A separate contractor handled the paving.

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