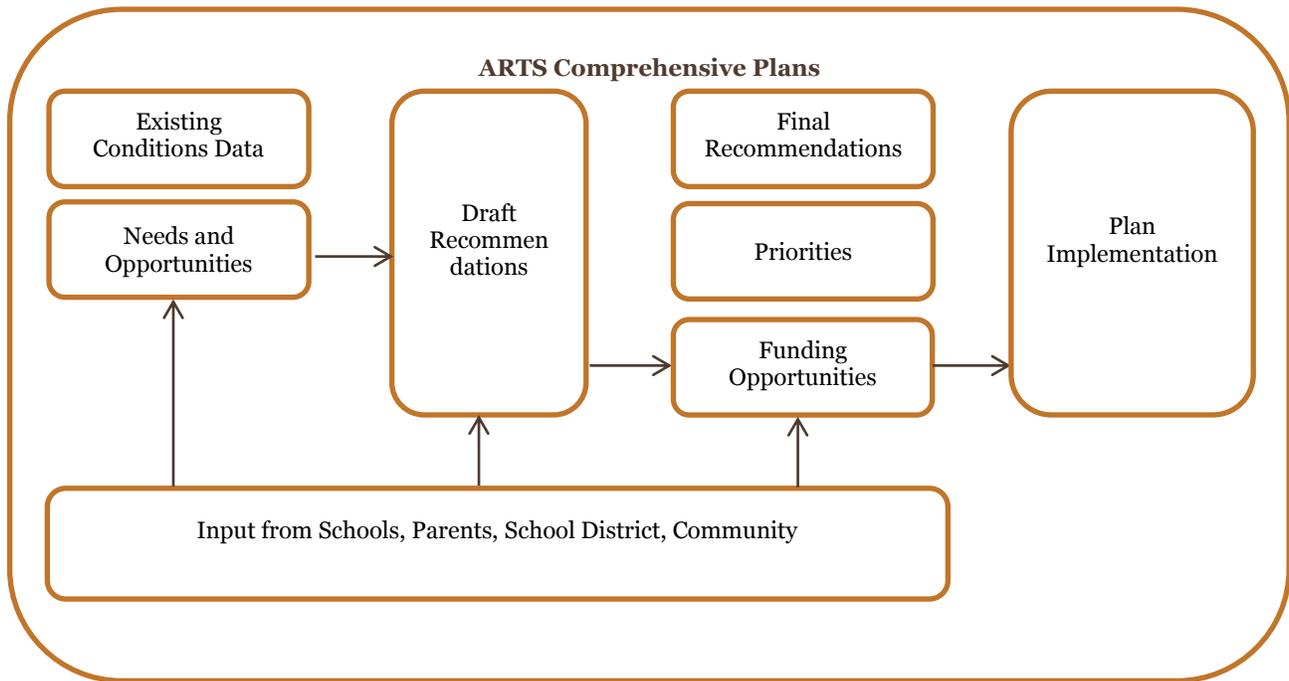




The Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) aims to help Minnesotans live longer, healthier lives by reducing the burden of chronic disease. The City of Bloomington Public Health Department uses SHIP funding to work with the communities of Edina, Richfield, and Bloomington to develop and implement programs to improve nutrition, increase physical activity, and reduce tobacco use in schools, workplaces, community settings, and healthcare sites. As part of this effort, comprehensive Active Routes to School (ARTS) plans are being developed for each public school in Edina.

The development of the ARTS plans is based on data collected about existing walking and biking conditions and activities, as well as input from school staff, parents, school district, and community. The existing conditions are gathered through site visits at each school, meetings with school principals and PTOs, parent surveys, and review of existing policies and infrastructure plans. This information is then used to develop recommendations to increase the number of students walking and biking, as well as the safety of walking and biking to each school.



The ARTS plan recommendations will cover the “five E’s” of ARTS:

- Education – Teaching children to walk and bike safely
- Encouragement – Developing programs that support students walking or biking to school, such as National Walk to School Day, starting a walking school bus, or establishing an adult crossing guard program
- Enforcement – Increasing safety through law enforcement support, such as speed zone enforcement or increased patrols along the designated routes to school
- Engineering – Identifying infrastructure needs to make walking and biking possible, such as new sidewalks or trails, as well as addressing safety needs such as lowering traffic speeds or improving crossings of high-traffic roadways
- Evaluation – Measuring the effectiveness of the various components of the ARTS projects

No one of the five E’s of ARTS will by itself increase walking and biking. The creation of the ARTS plan is the start of the collaboration process and cooperation is needed among schools, parents, students, residents, city staff, and other agencies to make positive changes in the community.