

LUMMI NATION CREATES SAFER STREETS FOR A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Public Health Issue

- The Lummi people are the original inhabitants of Washington's northernmost coast.
- Pedestrians were killed in half the fatal car accidents on the main road in the Lummi Nation.
- Streets had no lights and few sidewalks, cars were often speeding, and stray dogs attacked people – many people felt unsafe while walking and biking.

Program

- Lummi CEDAR Project is a community-based, nonprofit Native American organization serving the Lummi Nation by promoting Native American traditions and values as tools to build and strengthen the community.
- The Lummi CEDAR Project used Public Health and Health Services Block Grant funding to create a Safe Street Program, conducting research, focus groups and a ‘walkability’ study to identify barriers encountered by people trying to be physically active on the reservation.

Impact

- Physical improvements created a safer environment including:
 - New sidewalks installed near schools and housing areas
 - Digital speed indicators installed on main thoroughfares
 - Lowered speed limits
 - Increased fines for citations to help deter speeding
- Residents report a significant reduction in speeding cars and say they feel much safer walking or biking on the reservation.
- New policy reconciles County and Tribal rules to enable provision of animal control services, drastically reducing the number of dangerous stray dogs plaguing walkers & bikers.
- Lummi CEDAR Safe Streets Program created a Lummi Nation specific bike and pedestrian plan that guides development of the built-environment on the reservation by adapting the Whatcom County Bike and Pedestrian Development Master Plan.
- Newly formed partnerships between the Lummi Nation and agencies outside the Nation, such as Whatcom County government are paying off in these benefits to the community. The Lummi CEDAR Project is now a partner of the Whatcom County ACHIEVE initiative, a community health initiative.
- “Just because we are a Sovereign Nation, we can’t work in a vacuum. We learned the importance of collaboration in terms of policy. This will allow for joint efforts to take place, given that we have a common vision,” said Ms. Shasta Cano-Martin, Lummi Safe Streets Coordinator.
- The Lummi CEDAR Project received 2010 National Champion Award for Public Policy Achievement

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