

# STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

PROJECT Citizen



## Encouraging Safe Exercise

**W**hen Mexico, Missouri, bicyclists ride safely between Fairground and Lakeview Parks or on the Lakeview trail, they will have a local Project Citizen class to thank. These students supported the Lakeview trail proposal, wrote rules for the trail, and planned a bike-lane route to connect the two parks.

**Community Connection** Students in Ms. Diana Henage's class were concerned that their city did not provide any areas designated for bicycle riding. There were no bike trails and no bicycle lanes on city streets. When the students conducted community surveys, they found there was overwhelming public support for the creation of such bicycle lanes and trails.

**Taking Action** The class created a "Pedal to the Metal" proposal. They wanted to create bicycle lanes connecting two public parks. They also wanted to establish rules for cyclists, walkers, and people in wheelchairs on trails. They began by interviewing city officials about a park bicycle trail that was already being considered, as well as their new proposal. With student support, the park trail was approved, and the city council agreed to consider painting bike lanes. But the class did not stop there. The students gathered information on statewide bicycle programs and then sent lists of rules and regulations to the city manager and the city parks director for final approval. The students look forward to seeing their rules posted at the entrance of the new Lakeview Park Trail!



Designated bike lanes and bike trails make bicycling safer.

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KEYWORD: SZ7 CH7

### SERVICE LEARNING

1. How were the students inspired to promote safe exercise in their community?
2. How did the students work with local officials to gain support for their ideas?