

Oak Hills Elementary

Safe Routes to School Action Plan



Safe Routes to School Action Plan

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Introduction

WHAT IS SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is all about creating safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to bicycle and walk to and from schools. This is important for the health and safety of our kids and to foster livable, vibrant communities. SRTS programs increase physical activity and improve unsafe walking and bicycling conditions on routes to and from school and throughout the community.

The majority of students attending Beaverton School District (BSD) schools are either within a safe walk/bike zone or are offered bus service. BSD's SRTS Program encourages students to walk and bike to school where it's possible and take the bus provided by the school district when it's not.

Why is SRTS Needed?

A generation and a half ago, nationally, over 50% of students walked or biked to school; now only 13% of students use active transportation to get to school. Since the mid 1970s the number of children who are overweight has roughly tripled from 7% to almost 20%. Health concerns related to sedentary lifestyles, including diabetes, high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease, have become the focus of statewide and national efforts to reduce health risks associated with being overweight.

Beaverton School District would like to be part of the solution. The SRTS Coordinator is working with each school to develop a comprehensive SRTS Action Plan. Integrated into each plan are the "Six E's":

Education – Students learn lifelong safety behaviors and skills, while parents can learn about the benefits of active transportation and safe travel for students to school.

Encouragement – Parents and students are invited to engage in biking and walking events and activities that promote healthy and active transportation options.

Enforcement – Promote safe walking and biking through consistent enforcement of traffic laws around and on the routes to schools.

Engineering – Implement engineering changes such as new sidewalks, improved crossings, and other traffic calming measures to enhance safety of the walk or bike to school.

Evaluation – Assess the neighborhood travel routes, and drop-off and pick-up processes at the school; as well as evaluate the success of the SRTS Program as a whole throughout the district.

Equity – Reduce health and wealth disparities by providing equitable services in all school communities.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

School Name: Oak Hills Elementary School
www.beaverton.k12.or.us/schools/oak-hills

Address: 2625 NW 153rd Ave., Beaverton, OR 97006

County: Washington

School District: Beaverton School District
www.beaverton.k12.or.us

Enrollment: 580

Enrollment by Grade: K= 95, 16%; gr1= 85, 15%; gr2= 98, 17%; gr3= 106, 18%;, gr4= 88, 15%; Gr5= 108, 18%

Action Plan Contact: Lynne Mutrie, lynne_mutrie@beaverton.k12.or.us, 503-329-6469

THE PROJECT TEAM

School Principal:	Cheryl Hagseth
Parent/ Staff Representatives:	Jen Anderson, Wendy Turinsky
Sheriff's Office/ School Resource Officer:	Sgt Tim Tannenbaum
County Staff Representative:	Shelley Oylear, Cecilia Hagel
Neighborhood Association Representative:	CPO 7
School District Representative:	Kevin Sutherland
BSD Safe Routes to School Coordinator:	Lynne Mutrie

School Team's goal for school year 2016-2017

School Team's goal for school year 2016-2017: Increase peak walking and biking participation rate from 52%-75%, through personal surveys of regular drivers' barriers to walking and biking; targeted messaging, outreach and support to that group; and a potential school-wide effort to "Shut Down the Parking Lot" for one day to encourage active transportation to school.

Counts will be taken Walk+ Bike to School Days October 5, 2016 and May 10, 2017.

District Transportation Policy

Walking and biking is the preferred method for students traveling to and from school if students live within one mile from the school property. For those living beyond one mile, busing is the preferred mode.

Students are eligible to ride if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- They are a primary student who resides more than one mile from school.
- They are a primary student who resides less than one mile from the school, but within a hazardous area, that has been approved by the State Board of Education and the Beaverton School District School Board.
- They are a middle or secondary student who resides more than one and one half miles from school.
- They are a middle or secondary student who resides less than 1 ½ mile from the school, but within a hazardous area, that has been approved by the State Board of Education and the Beaverton School District School Board.

School Supplemental Transportation Area

Oak Hills Elementary has supplemental transportation plans in place for:

- North and east of West Union due to no safe routes, crossings and distance.
- South of Cornell Rd because of traffic and no safe crossings.

Walk and Bike Audit Evaluation

There are marked crosswalks Bethany Boulevard and Oak Hills Dr, Perimeter and Oak Hills Dr, Norwich St and 153rd and Norwich St and Norwich Circle. Each of these marked crosswalk have crossing guards and there are two crossing guards at Oak Hills and Bethany to help students cross the 5 lane, signalized intersection. The immediate neighborhood is very walkable on low speed, low volume roads. There are also several paths leading to the school. The path from Perimeter Rd to the school is used by residents living in the immediate neighborhood and those going to the school from west of Bethany.

Washington County's School Access Improvement Study identified several infrastructure needs for the school including:

- Sidewalk on West Union Rd from Bethany Blvd to 143rd Ave
- Sidewalks on Cornell Rd from 153rd Ave to the Westside Trail
- Enhanced crossing of West Union Rd between Bethany Blvd and 143rd
- Enhanced crossing of Cornell Rd at the Westside Trail

The school community would like to prioritize a sidewalk on south side of Oak Hills Dr. from Bethany Boulevard to Perimeter Drive. This sidewalk would ideally lead to a re-positioned crosswalk on the south side to cross Perimeter Dr leading to an updated, 6-8' wide walking path leading to the school.

There is additional concern regarding the arrival and departure procedures, including dropping off and picking up students in the immediate neighborhood. Many parents stop or park illegally and unsafely just beyond both north and south access points to school's parking lot and make unsafe maneuvers to avoid the choke points. This makes the routes challenging for those walking and biking.

The parking lot flow works well with assistance from staff and constant reminders for parents to pull forward.

Active Transportation Support

Oak Hills Elementary has been promoting active transportation for years and on event days can have over 50% participation. With leadership and support from the PTO and the school's Green Team the school has random bike fairy visits and the schools' excitement for active transportation continues to grow. The school's PE teacher has started an after school bike club as part of the district's Active Schools Initiative. The school team plans to continue on-going promotion of active transportation for the 2016-17 school year.

The school community is very active and parents favor more opportunities to walk and bike to school. They know that with more people walking and biking, the neighborhood and the commute to school is safer for everyone!

Beaverton School District and the school's Green Team knows that students who are active while getting to school arrive better prepared to learn and are more likely to get the CDC's recommended 60 minutes of daily exercise. Increased walking and biking in and around the school neighborhood also helps reduce pollution and congestion for our students and staff and teaches safe, healthy and active skills that can last a lifetime.



Arrival/ Departure Procedure

Approximately 37% of students are driven to school according to Fall 2015 Student Travel Mode Surveys. Most of Oak Hills ES students are either within the designated walk/ bike area or have bus service provided. Over 300 students were new to the walk/bike zone in Fall 2014, with the removal of busing from west of Bethany Boulevard due to installation of sidewalks on Bethany from Bronson Rd to West Union and full intersection treatments at Bethany Blvd and Oak Hills Dr.

The parking lot is adequate for the staff size. The arrival and departure area is small for the number of families driving. With help from staff and periodic reminders to families, the large volume of cars do make it through. Many cars use Norwich St, Norwich Circle and NW 153rd to drop off or pick up students to avoid the congested parking lot which makes travel for all modes, especially walkers and bikers, challenging.

Drivers who pick up their students off school grounds are reminded that children must exit towards the sidewalks or edge of road and if needing to cross, walk to a designated crossing to ensure safety. Please respect personal property. Parents are also reminded that u-turns, double parking, blocking and parking within 20 feet of crosswalks and intersections is illegal and creates a dangerous situation for others.



Oak Hills Elementary



Crossing Guard



Use Caution



Bike Rack



Car Drop Off/ Pick Up Area



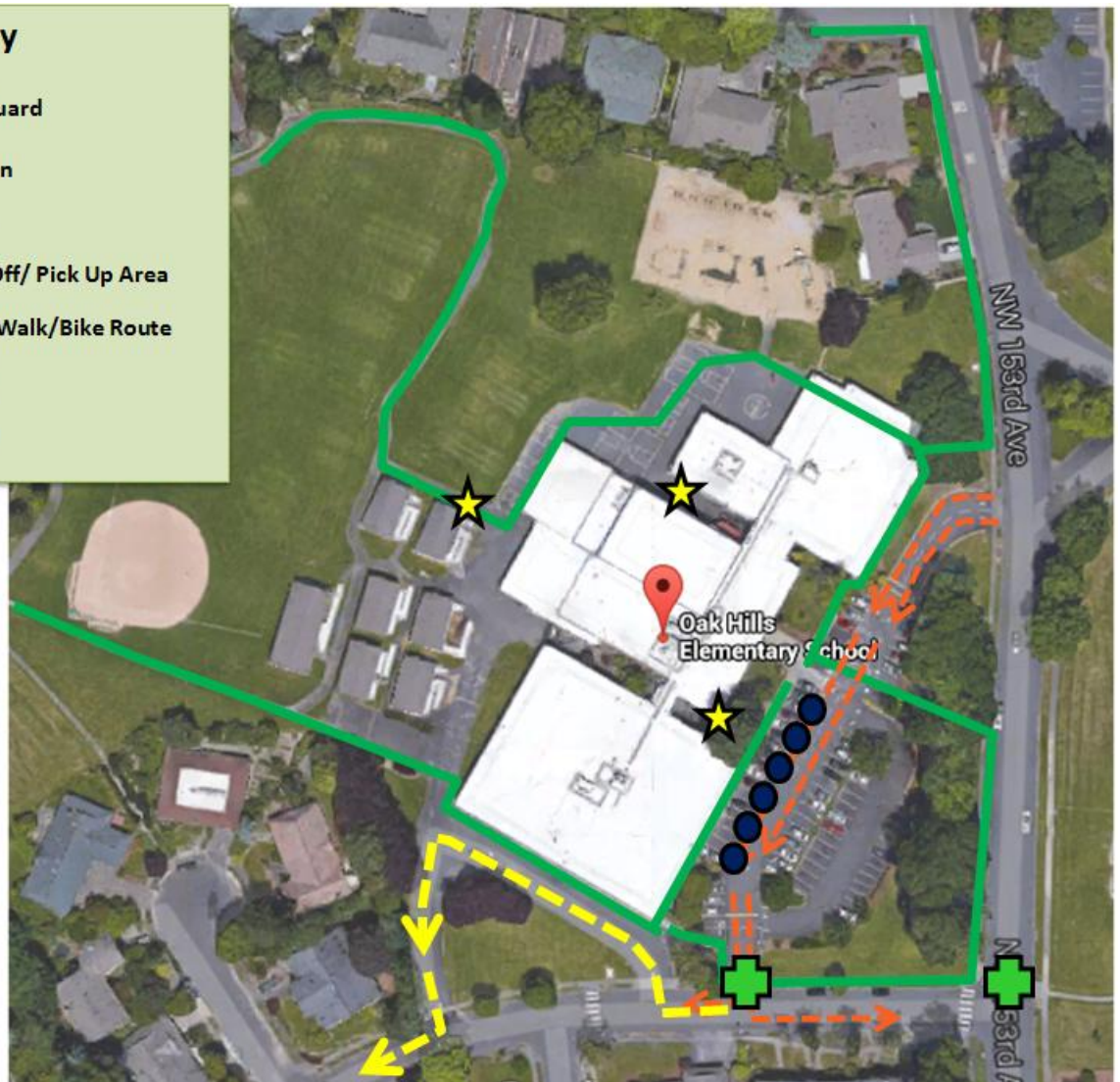
Preferred Walk/Bike Route



Car Route



Bus Route

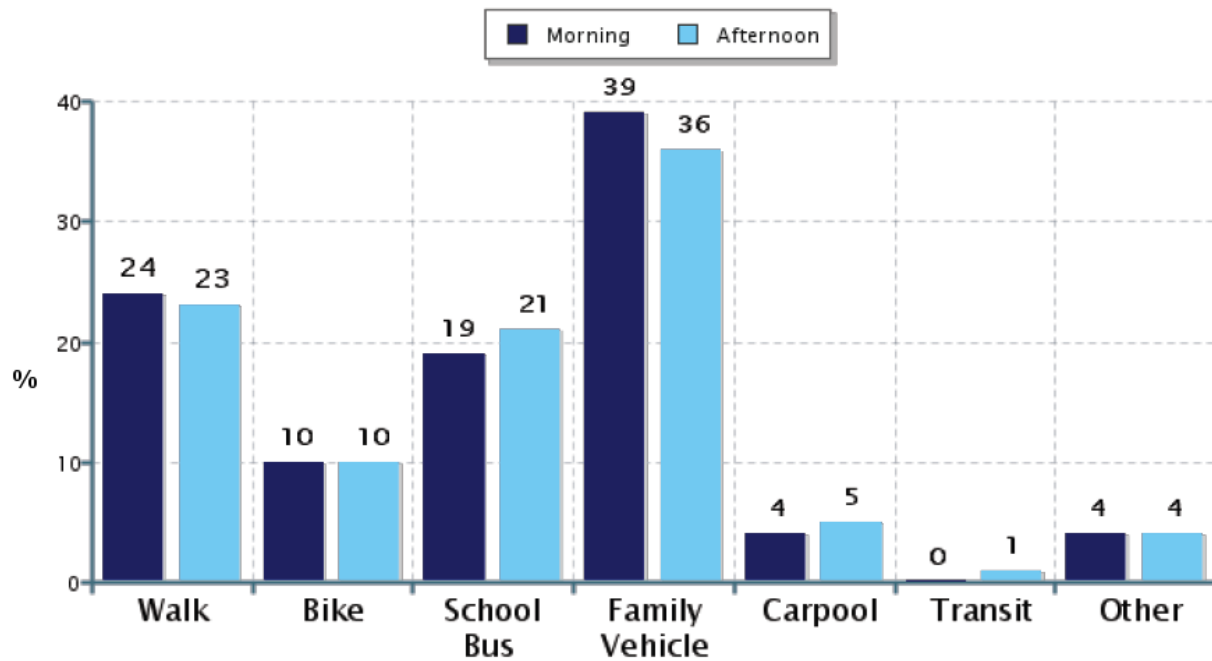


Evaluation and Data

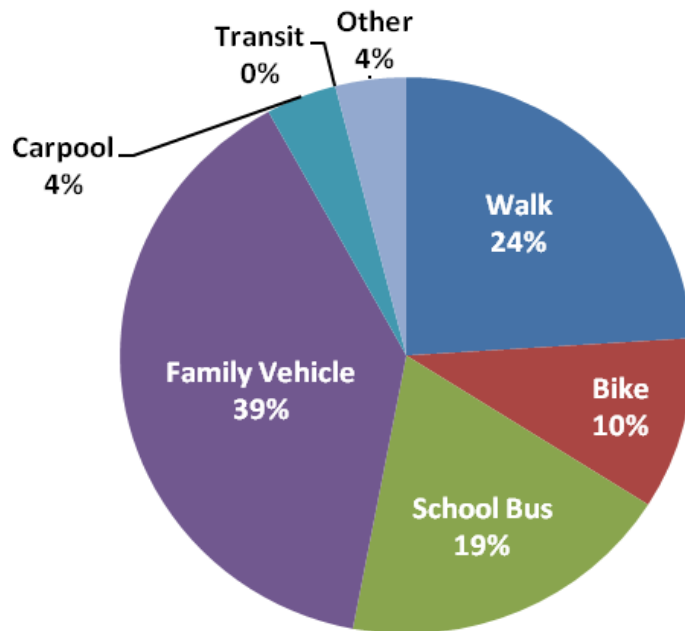
Student Travel Data

We conducted In-Class Student Tallies and this is how our students travel to and from school.

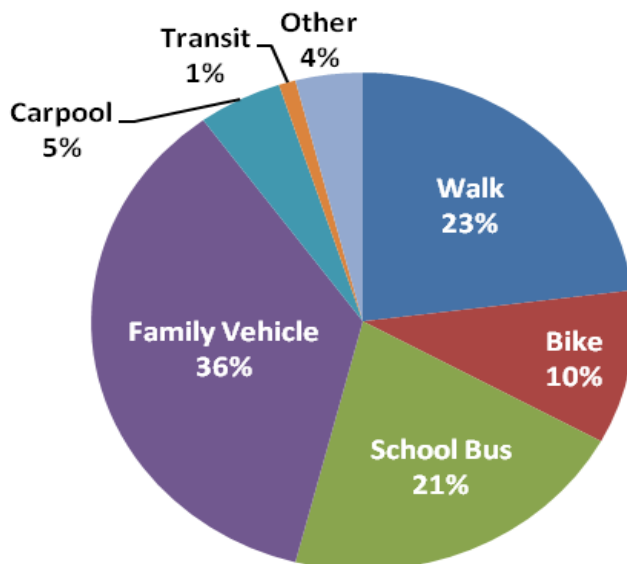
Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison



How students get to school - AM

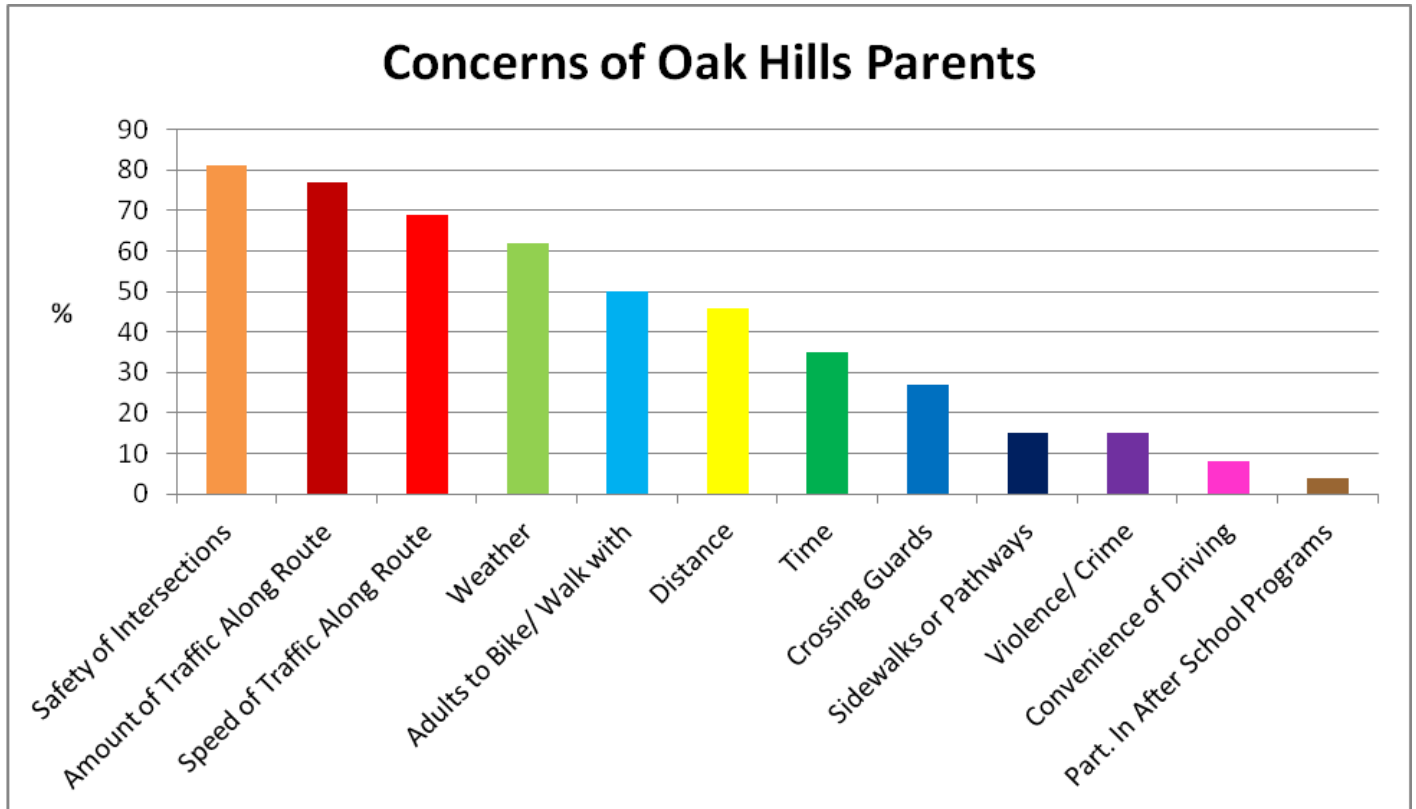


How students leave from school - PM



Parent Survey Data

We conducted a Parent Survey to gather information about how students get to and from school and learn about concerns and issues surrounding the walk or bike to school.



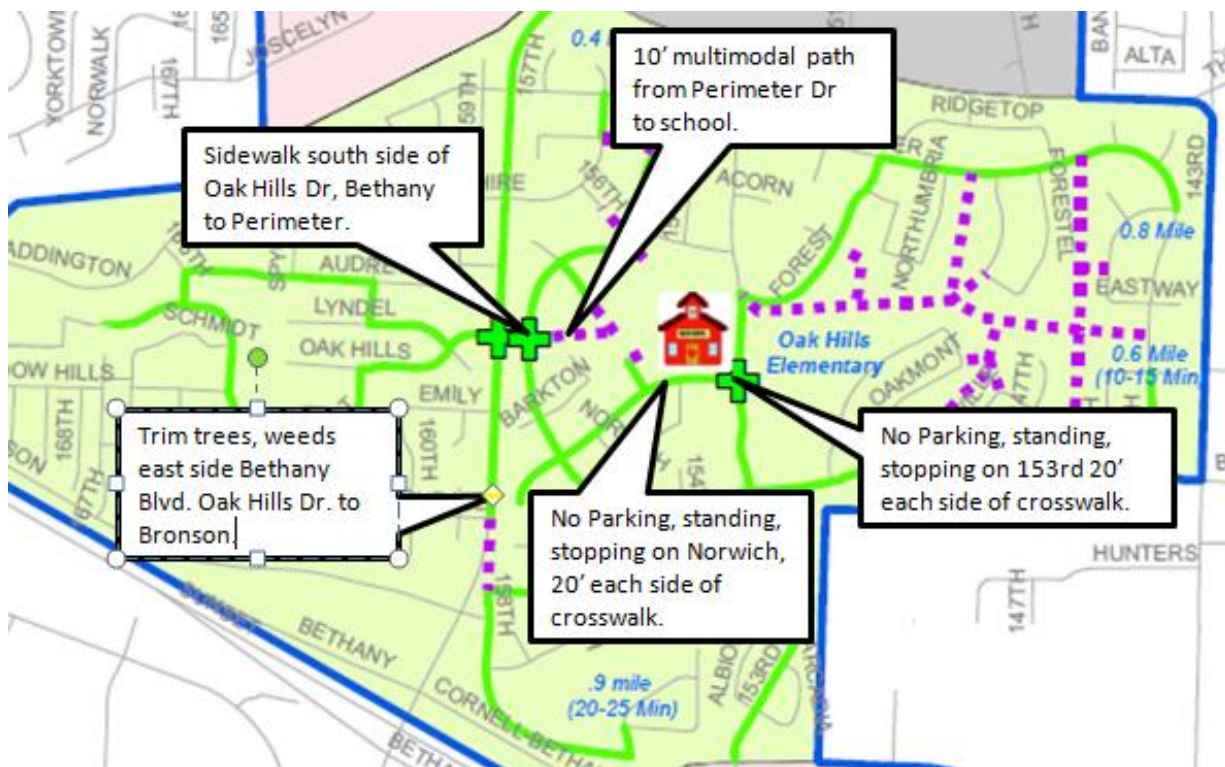
Recommendations and Plan Implementation



Infrastructure Options

- Sidewalk on south side of Oak Hills Dr, Bethany to Perimeter Dr (approx 147.38').
- Create 10' multimodal path from east side of Perimeter Dr and Oak Hills Dr to school.
- No Parking/ Stopping/ Standing on both sides of NW 153 St , 200' both sides of crosswalk or corner.
- No Parking/ Stopping/ Standing on east side of Perimeter , 20' both sides of crosswalk.

Please note, all infrastructure and enforcement projects are coordinated through the Washington County.



Programmatic Options

Education

- Introduce, inform and promote SRTS program to students, staff and community.
- Distribute basic Pedestrian and Biking safety information at back to school and after spring break.
- Distribute a safer routes map with above
- Back to School packet will include info and outreach to identify parents who are interested to lead walking/ biking groups.
- School team to develop guidelines for drop off pick up for Back to School packet/web site.

Encouragement

- PTO/ Green Team promote Alternate Drop Spots with walk/ bike routes.
- Promote October's Walk to School Day and Walk+ Bike Challenge Month every year.
- Host meetings for driving families to discover barriers, introduce options.
- Start, maintain weekly Walk/Bike Days.
- Regular SRTS safety tips and updates in monthly school newsletter.

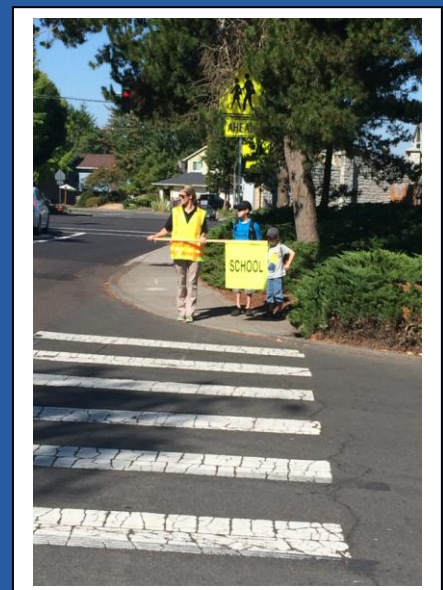
Evaluation

- Parent survey in May 2016 and May 2017.
- Hand raise survey in May 2016 and May 2017.
- Survey drop-off line to find specific reasons for not walking or biking,

Enforcement

- Speed, crosswalk laws at Oak Hills and Bethany.
- Traffic reduction at school level: with encouragement and reinforcement in Back to School packet, educate for safety.
- Parking, drop-off procedure enforcement.
- NW 153rd + Norwich St. crosswalk and parking, standing, stopping enforcement.

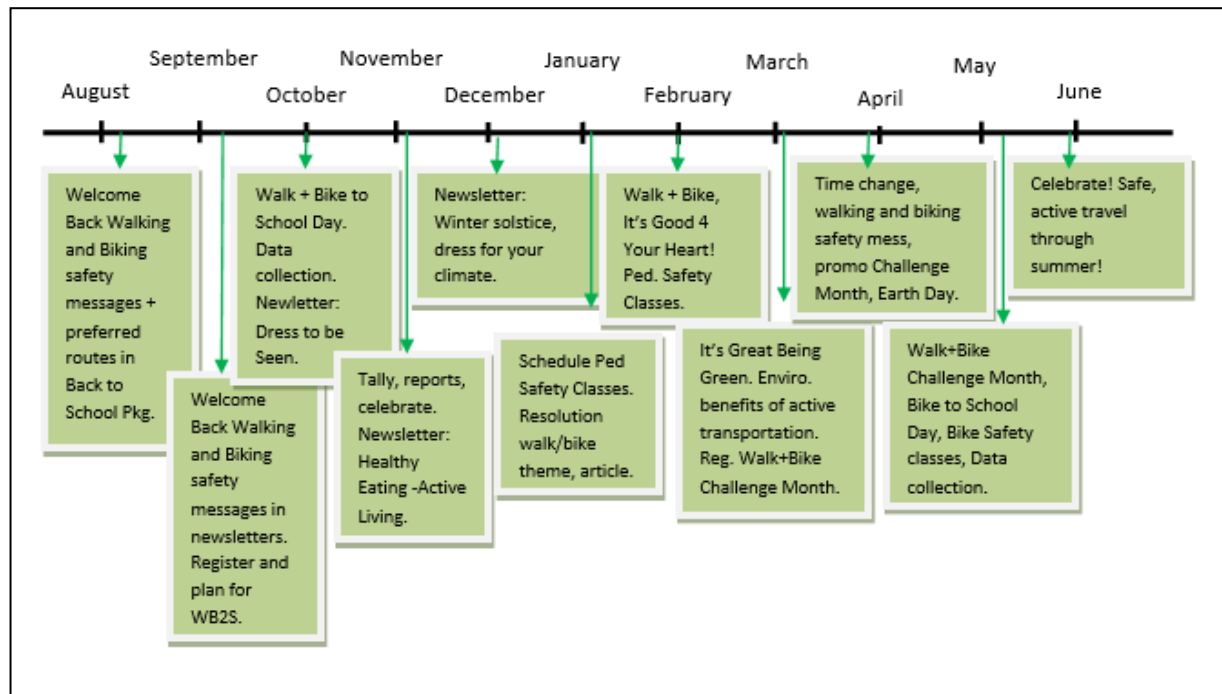
Note: enforcement requests are best made [here](#).



Prioritization

1. Review safer walk/ bike routes to school and create a school map to be sent out and posted on web site (May and August).
2. Identify & review with school team drop off/ pick up safety procedures in coordination with BSD safety/transportation and risk/mgt- (May and August) post on web site.
3. PTO/ Green Team establish at least 3 remote drop sites with walk/ bike routes.
4. Regular SRTS Pedestrian and Bike safety tips placed in monthly school newsletters.
5. Educate & Introduce parents to SRTS program, safety information regarding walking/biking options, including health benefits Sept PTO meeting and ongoing.
6. Promote and continue walking + biking school bus to help address parent safety concerns- Sept & ongoing.
7. Survey driving families to determine barriers and offer options.
8. Teach Pedestrian Safety to Grade 2 and 3 and Bicycle Safety to Grade 4 and 5.
9. List and prioritize infrastructure improvements, send to BSD and Washington County.

Year Time-line



Final Thoughts

Thank you for taking the time to read the Oak Hills Elementary School's SRTS Action Plan. A successful SRTS Program will require students, parents, school staff, Washington County, Beaverton School District, CPO 7 and the community to work together to ensure students are able to walk, bike or roll to school safely.

If you would like to be more involved in the Oak Hills Elementary School's SRTS Program, please reach out to school leaders or the PTO, we would love to have you involved!