

Fir Grove Elementary

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. 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: Fir Grove Elementary School
www.beaverton.k12.or.us/schools/fir-grove

Address: 6300 SW Wilson Ave, Portland, OR 97008

County: Washington

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

Enrollment: 487

Enrollment by Grade: K= 75, 15%; gr1= 84, 17%; gr2= 75, 15%; gr3= 85, 17%;, gr4= 79, 16%; Gr5= 89, 18%

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

THE PROJECT TEAM

School Principal: Erica Marson

**Parent/ Staff
Representatives:** Stacey Barnett, Rachel Wilde

**Sheriff's Office/
School Resource
Officer:** Steve Schaer

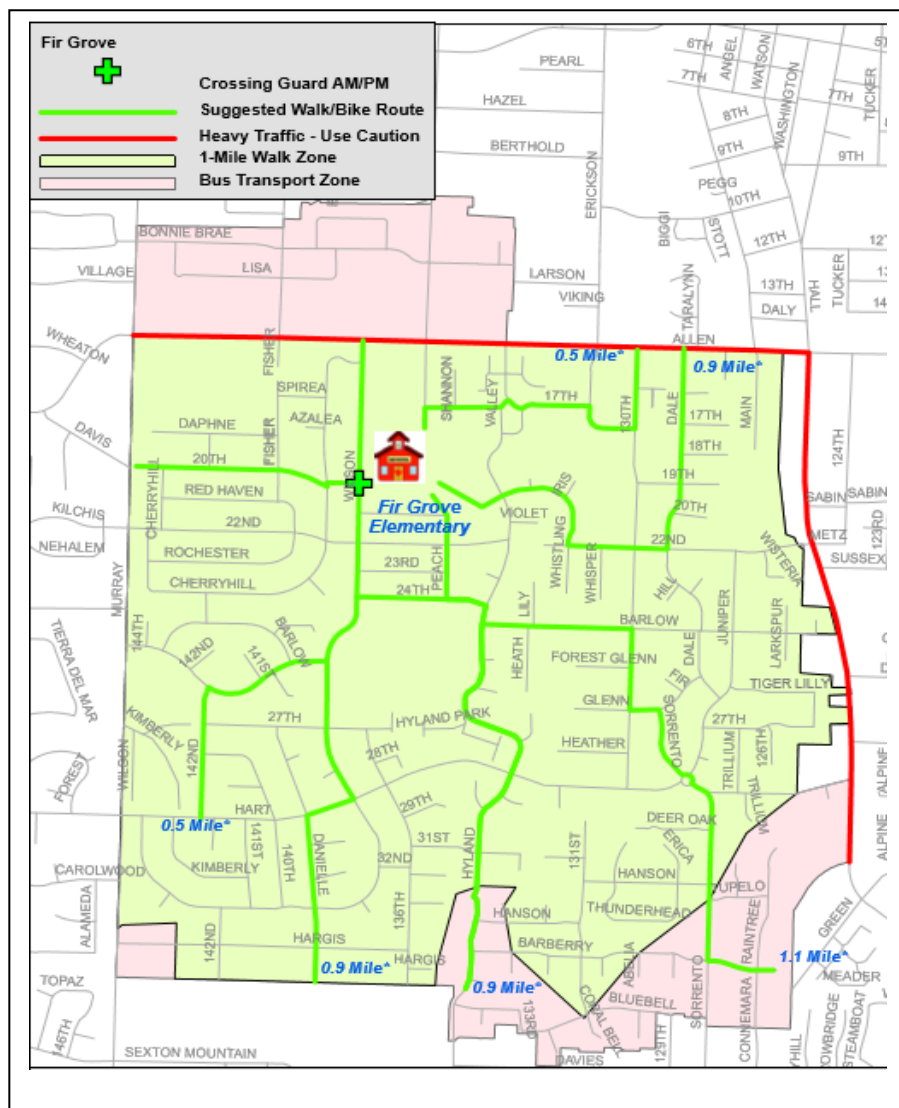
**County Staff
Representative:** Jabra Khasho, Luke Pelz

**Neighborhood
Association
Representative:** Highland Neighborhood Association

**School District
Representative:** Kevin Sutherland

**BSD Safe Routes to
School Coordinator:** Lynne Mutrie

School Attendance Area



Fir Grove Elementary is in Beaverton's Highland Neighborhood and surrounded by residential neighborhood on east, west and south sides.

The attendance area is basically framed by Allen, Hall Blvd. and Murray Blvd. Most roads within the walk zone all have sidewalks and are low speed.

There are many parks and paths that also serve the school and parks to the east of the school.

The school has two parking lots. The south one is mainly for staff, visitors and deliveries and the north one is for arrival and departure, parent parking and buses.

Map Disclaimer

Beaverton School District (BSD) strongly encourages parents, caregivers to use this map to find a good route from your home to school. However, new hazards or conditions may arise; parents and children should exercise common sense when using these maps and the recommended routes. In general we recommend that you budget 20-30 minutes for each mile of walking. Time needed may vary depending on traffic and/or terrain. We also suggest that parents/ caregivers travel the route initially to explore the best route and the safety skills needed to be used on the route. The BSD does not maintain or supervise the routes provided in the map, and is not responsible for students when they are walking or biking to or from school. If you see problems along identified “suggested routes” please contact BSD Public Safety at bsd_public_safety@beaverton.k12.or.us.

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 for Transportation
- 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 for Transportation.

School Supplemental Transportation Area

Fir Grove Elementary has supplemental transportation plan in place for:

- North of Allen Blvd because of no safe crossing.
- Lower south east of attendance area is over one mile.

Walk and Bike Audit Evaluation

There is a marked crosswalk with crossing guard on Wilson at 20th St. Highland Middle School is to the south. Students come from all directions, some through the park to the east and many crossing at the intersection in front of school. Roads in the walk area are calm with low traffic counts and slow speeds.

The supplemental transportation zone north of Allen has been asked to be looked at and add needed improvements to have safe walk zone. Many walk anyway because it's faster to walk than take the bus.

Fir Grove will be receiving a newly painted parking lot summer 2016. The Safety Team proposed that cars/ buses enter off Wilson and exit out on Menlo, all one way. Included in the plan would be to add wheel stops in north parking lot to create adequate room to walk to school. Many parents stop or park illegally and unsafely on Wilson opposite school and make unsafe maneuvers to avoid the choke points. This makes the routes challenging for those walking and biking.

Active Transportation Support

Fir Grove has promoted Walk+Bike to School day for the past three years and started promoting May's Walk+Bike Challenge in 2016. The school team would like to examine remote meeting points to travel to school as a group. is beginning to actively promote walking and biking to school.

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 many of the school's staff and parents know 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 students and staff and teaches safe, healthy and active skills that can last a lifetime.



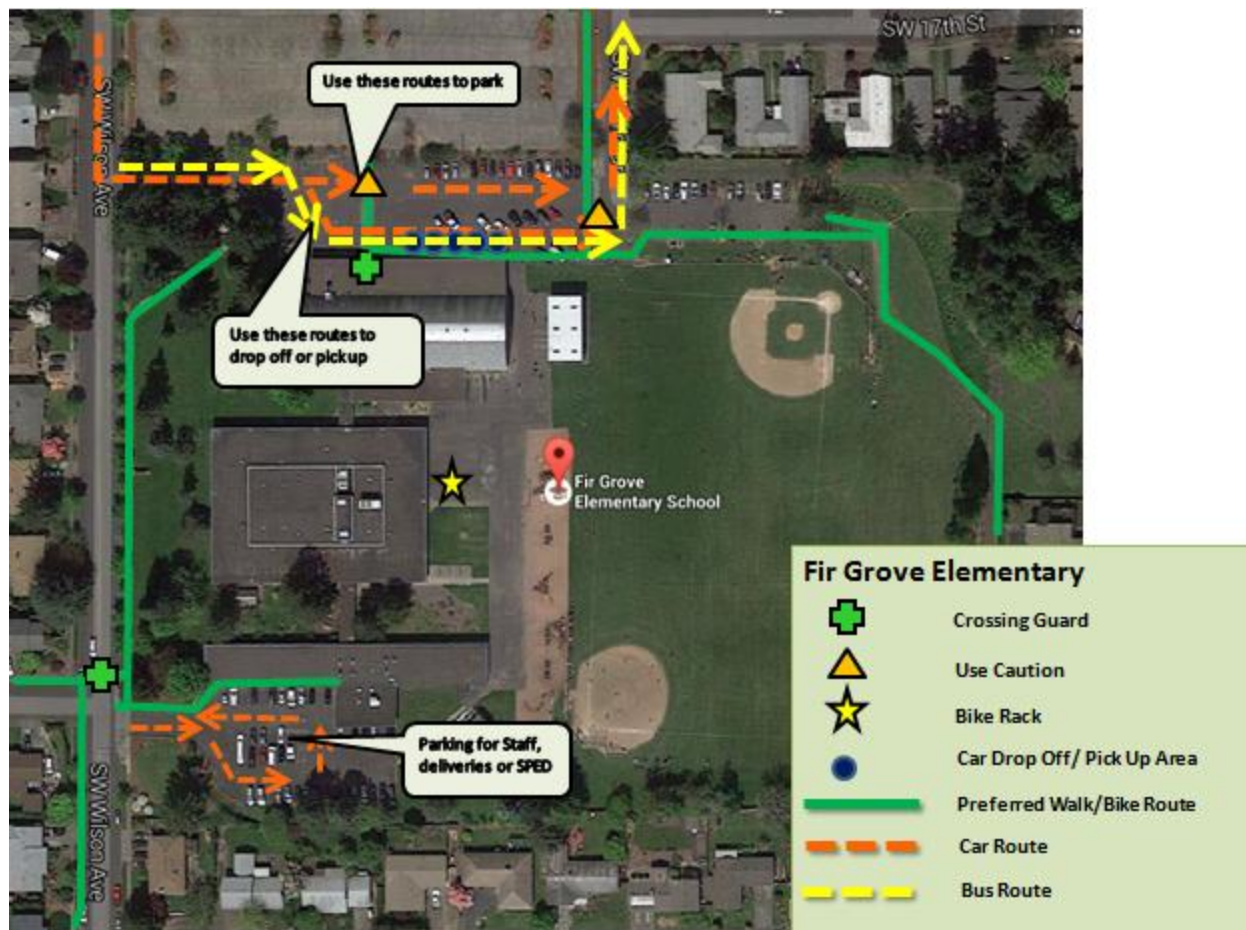
Arrival/ Departure Procedure

According to Fall 2015 Student Travel Mode Surveys, 56% of students were driven to school in the morning and 47% of students are driven home from school in the afternoon. Most of Fir Grove's students are either within the designated walk/ bike area or have bus service provided.

There are two parking lots but only one is for student arrival and departure. With approximately 50% of parents driving, the extra 250 vehicles on the local streets and negotiating Fir Grove's parking lot make travel to and from school and throughout the neighborhood challenging. The parking lots are adequate for the staff size and typical visitor needs, but the volume of vehicles and those who park in handicapped spots and stop in other restricted areas hinder the flow of both cars and buses.

Drivers who drop off or 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 and blocking crosswalks and intersections is illegal and creates a dangerous situation for others.



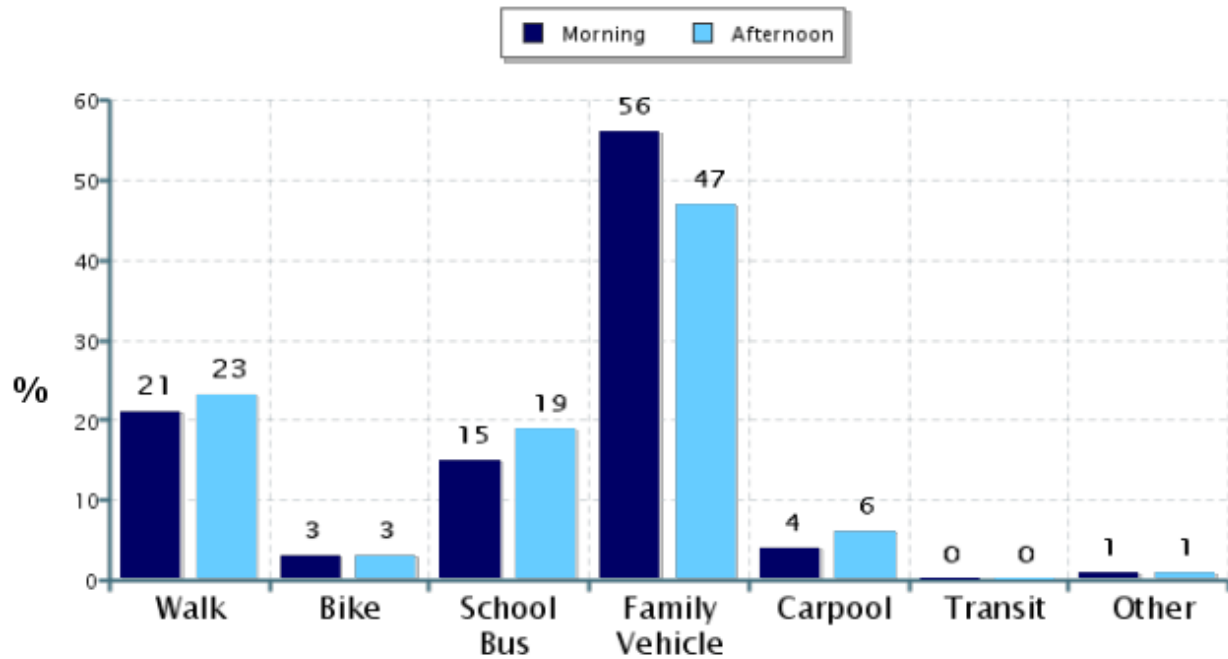


Evaluation and Data

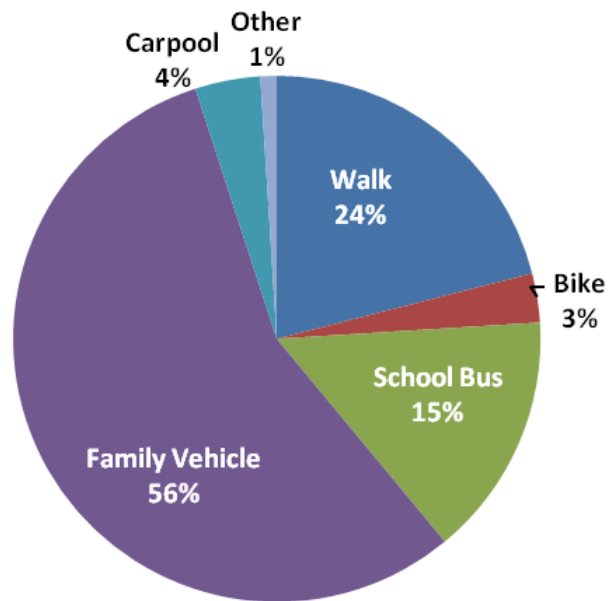
Student Travel Data

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

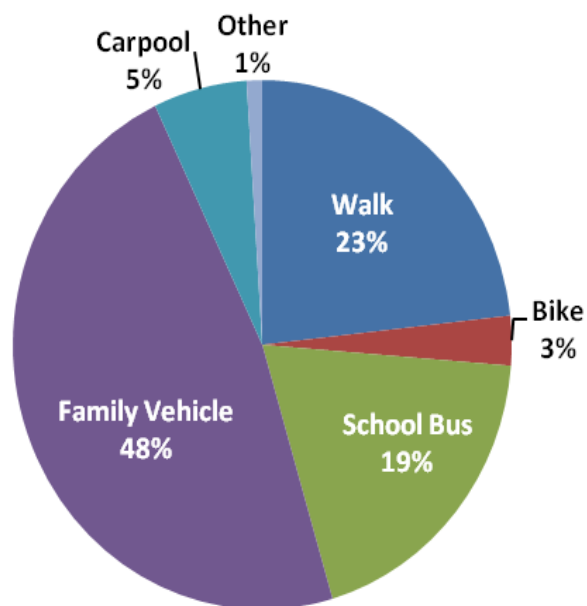
Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison



How students get to school - AM

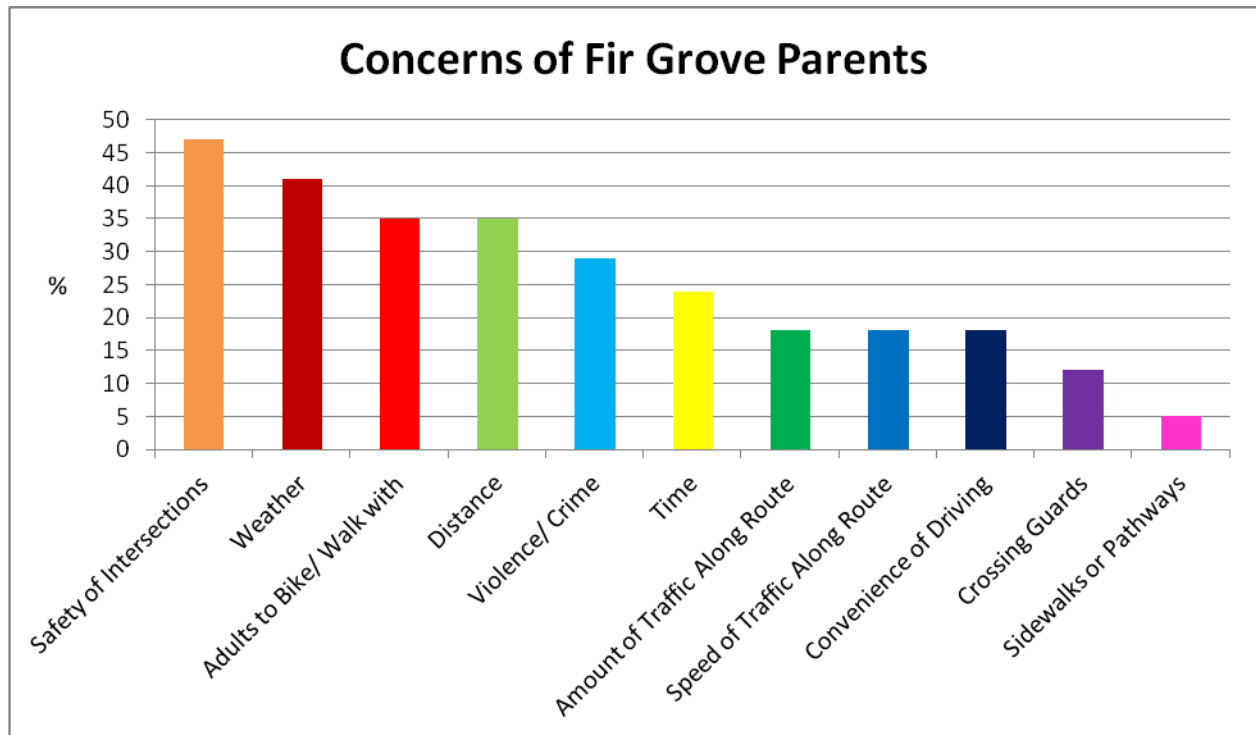


How students leave from school - PM



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.



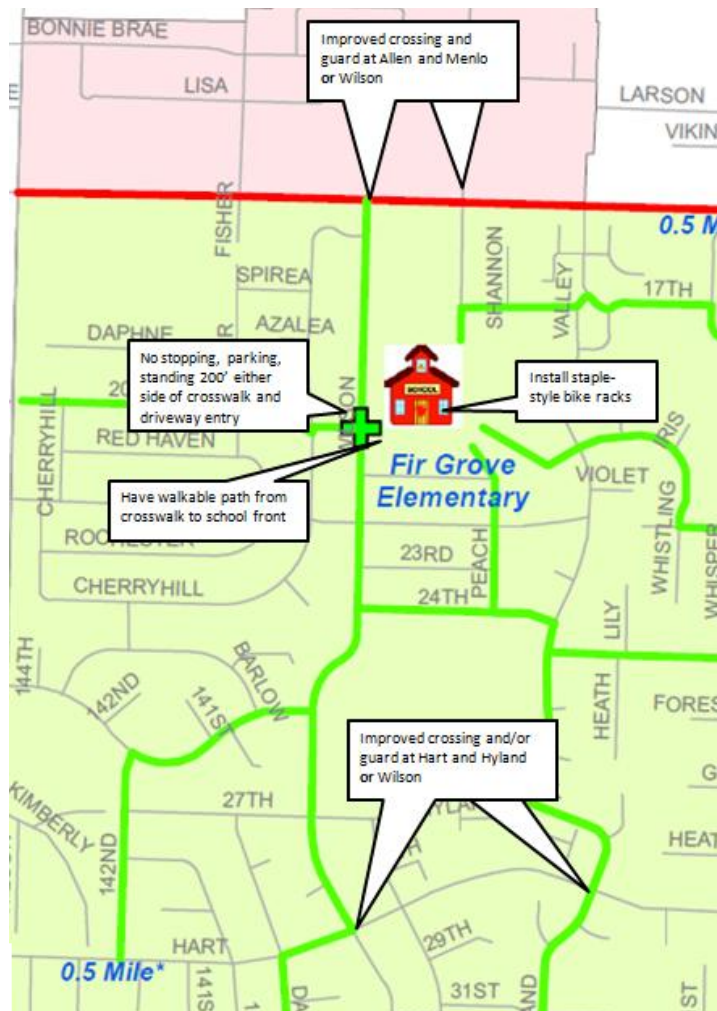
Recommendations and Plan Implementation



Infrastructure Options

- Have walk path from Wilson and SW 20th crosswalk to school front door.
- No Parking/ Stopping/ Standing on both sides of Wilson St , 200' both sides of exit.
- Staple –style Bike Racks.
- Improve Allen Blvd for School Crossing designation at Wilson or Menlo.
- Improve Hart for School Crossing designation at Wilson or Hyland.
-

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 school buses
- School team to develop guidelines for drop off pick up for Back to School packet/web site

Encouragement

- Encourage students, staff and community to try walking or biking to school with first Walk to School Day each year
- Walk+Bike Challenge Month
- initiate monthly Walk + Bike Days
- Regular SRTS safety tips and updates in monthly school newsletter

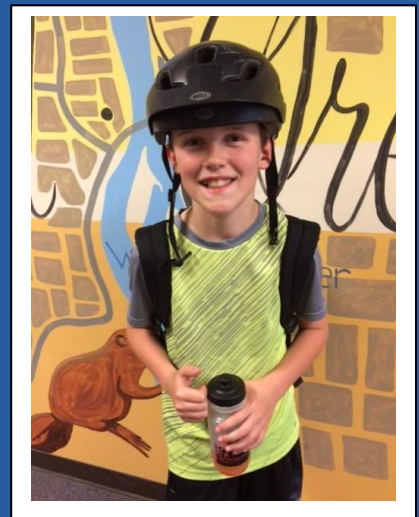
Evaluation

- Parent survey in May 2016 and May 2017
- Hand raise survey in May 2016 and May 2017

Enforcement

- Traffic reduction: examine and enforce rules at school level with encouragement and reinforcement in Back to School packet, educate for safety.
- Parking, drop-off procedure enforcement.
- Wilson Ave and 20th St., No U-Turn and intersection stopping distance enforcement.
- Crossing guard at Allen and Wilson or Menlo.
- Crossing guard at Hart and Wilson or Hyland.

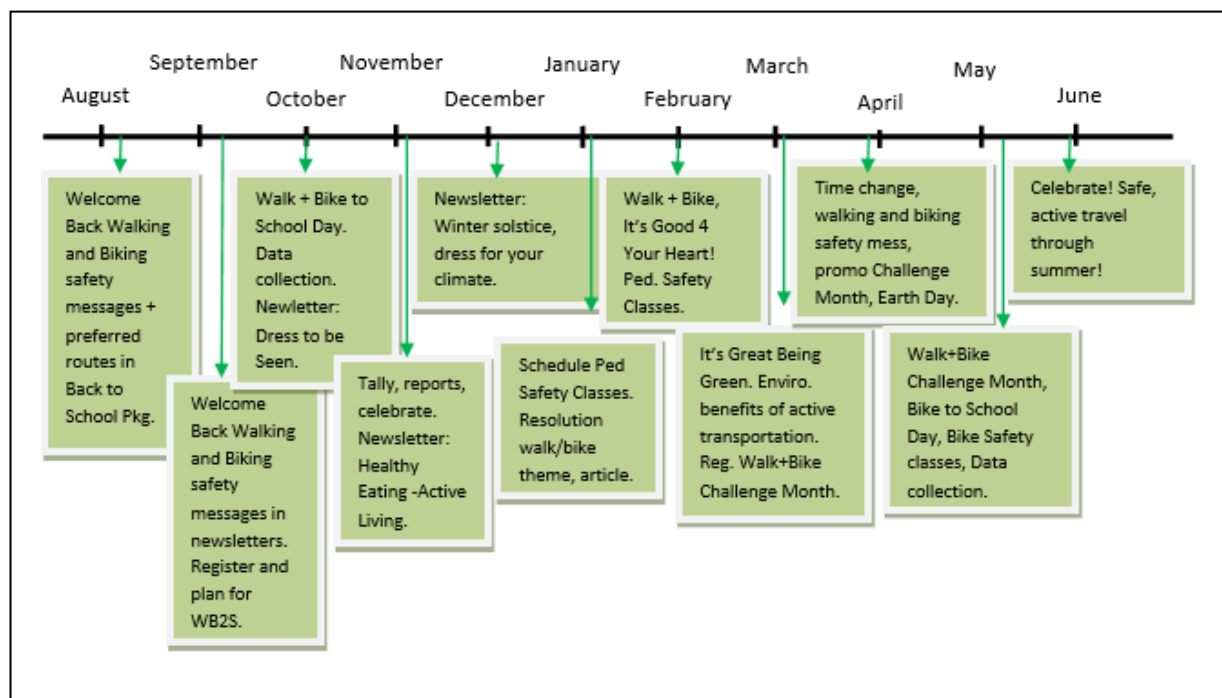
Note: enforcement requests are best made [here](#).



Prioritization

1. Identify & review with school team, safer walk routes to school and create a school map to be sent out and posted on web site (Sept).
2. Identify & review with school team drop off/ pick up safety procedures in coordination with BSD safety/transportation and risk/mgt- (Sept) post on web site.
3. Regular SRTS Pedestrian and Bike safety tips placed in monthly school newsletters.
4. Establish Walking School Bus route with leaders. Regular Encouragement events.
5. Educate & Introduce parents: introduction to SRTS program, safety information regarding walking/biking options, including health benefits Sept PTO meeting and ongoing.
6. Determine two walking school bus routes and promote to help address parent safety concerns- Sept & ongoing.
7. Teach Pedestrian Safety to Grade 2 and 3. Bike Rodeo May 2017.
8. List and prioritize infrastructure improvements, send to BSD and City of Beaverton.

Year Time-line



Final Thoughts

Thank you for taking the time to read Fir Grove Elementary School's SRTS Action Plan. A successful SRTS Program will require students, parents, school staff, City of Beaverton, Beaverton School District, Hyland Neighborhood Association 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 Fir Grove Elementary School's SRTS Program, please reach out to school leaders or the PTC, we would love to have you involved!