

Bethany 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. 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: Bethany Elementary School
www.beaverton.k12.or.us/schools/bethany

Address: 3305 NW 174th Avenue, Portland, OR 97006

County: Washington

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

Enrollment: 565

Enrollment by Grade: K= 91; 1= 92; 2= 93; 3= 87; 4= 98; 5= 104

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

THE PROJECT TEAM

School Principal: Casey Lange

**Parent/ Staff
Representatives:** Kimberly Hawk, Jen Larsen, Angie Hamilton

**Sheriff's Office/
School Resource
Officer:** Sgt Tim Tannenbaum/ Mike Griffin

**County Staff
Representative:** Shelley Oylear, Melissa Norman

**Neighborhood
Association
Representative:** CPO 7

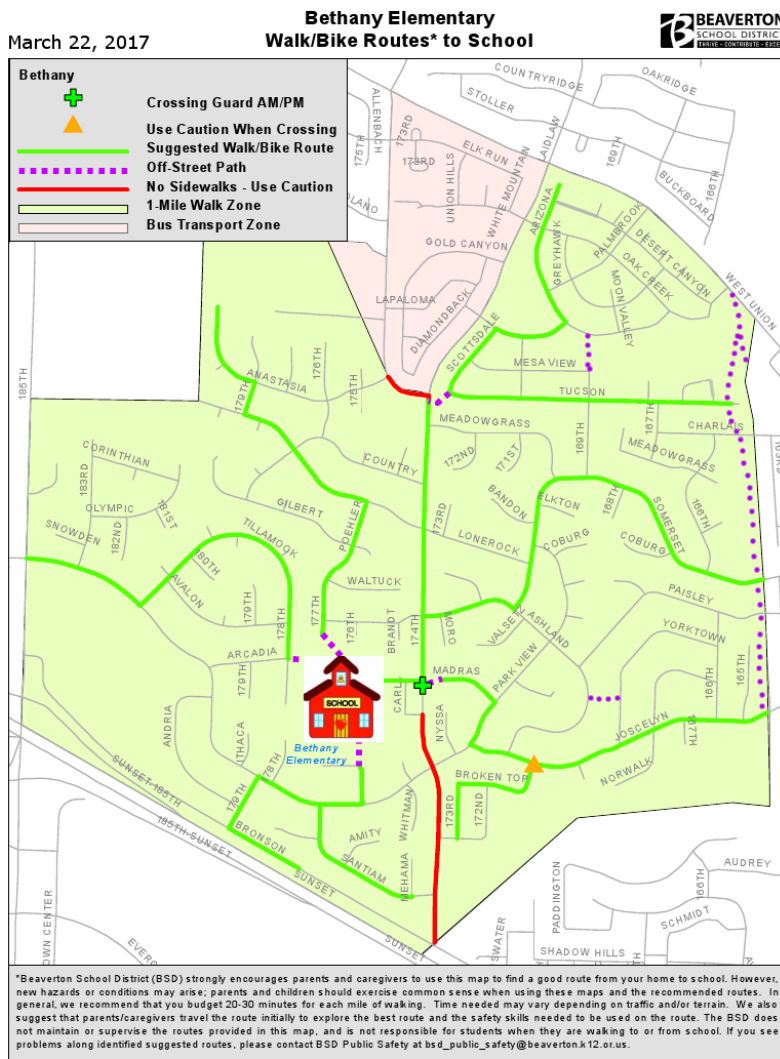
**School District
Representative:** Maureen Wheeler

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

Existing Conditions

School Attendance Area

Bethany Elementary is in an established community, built in 1975. The attendance area is West Union to the north, Highway 26 to the south, the powerline trail to the east and 185th to the west. The arterial, NW 174th Ave, which turns into Laidlaw to the north, runs through the middle of the attendance area. NW 174th Ave serves both the Bethany community and the new neighborhoods being developed to the north. Most of the neighborhood streets are low speed and volume and have sidewalks. The crossing to Bethany Elementary of NW 174th is a marked crosswalk with school zone flashers to the north and south of the crosswalk. The single entrance/exit for vehicle traffic is from NW 174th Ave.



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 the bus 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

Bethany Elementary has a supplemental transportation plan in place for a triangle in the northern section of the attendance area bounded by 174th, Laidlaw and West Union due to no sidewalk/ shoulder/ safe crossing options on portions of 174th.

2016 Wash CO Traffic combined am/pm count was 7,770 at NW 174th and Bronson, just south of school. 2017 count being done June 2017 and will update.

Walk and Bike Audit Evaluation

There is a marked mid-block crosswalk on NW 174th at the driveway entrance to the school where a crossing guard is positioned for the am and pm times. The neighborhoods on both sides of 174th are low traffic and low speed. The major problem area is the crossing of 174th. It is a marked crosswalk without other treatments. The crossing guards are present for arrival and departure, but the school often has before, after school and weekend events at the school.

There are several trails leading directly to the school from neighborhoods to the north, west and south of the school.

The arrival/ departure flow is usually challenging as private vehicles, buses, many bikers and pedestrians all use the one entrance and exit. The parking lot is small and drop-off/ pick-up area is short. Parent volunteers often assist with arrival/ departure flow at school.

Washington County's School Area Improvement Study projects include:

- Sidewalks on South Side of Street 174th Ave: Anastasia Dr. to Laidlaw Rd.
- Sidewalks on West Side of Street 174th Ave: Laidlaw Rd. to Meadow Grass Dr.

Active Transportation Support

Bethany is beginning to actively promote walking and biking to school. In May 2017 the SRTS team started weekly Walk + Bike to School Days with promotion and day of celebration. The team plans to continue with promoting walking school buses and specific Walk + Bike events for the 2017-18 school year. Bethany also had bicycle and pedestrian safety classes in every PE class, during lunch periods throughout Earth Week and hosted an after school “safe Transportation” poster contest.

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 Safe Routes to School 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

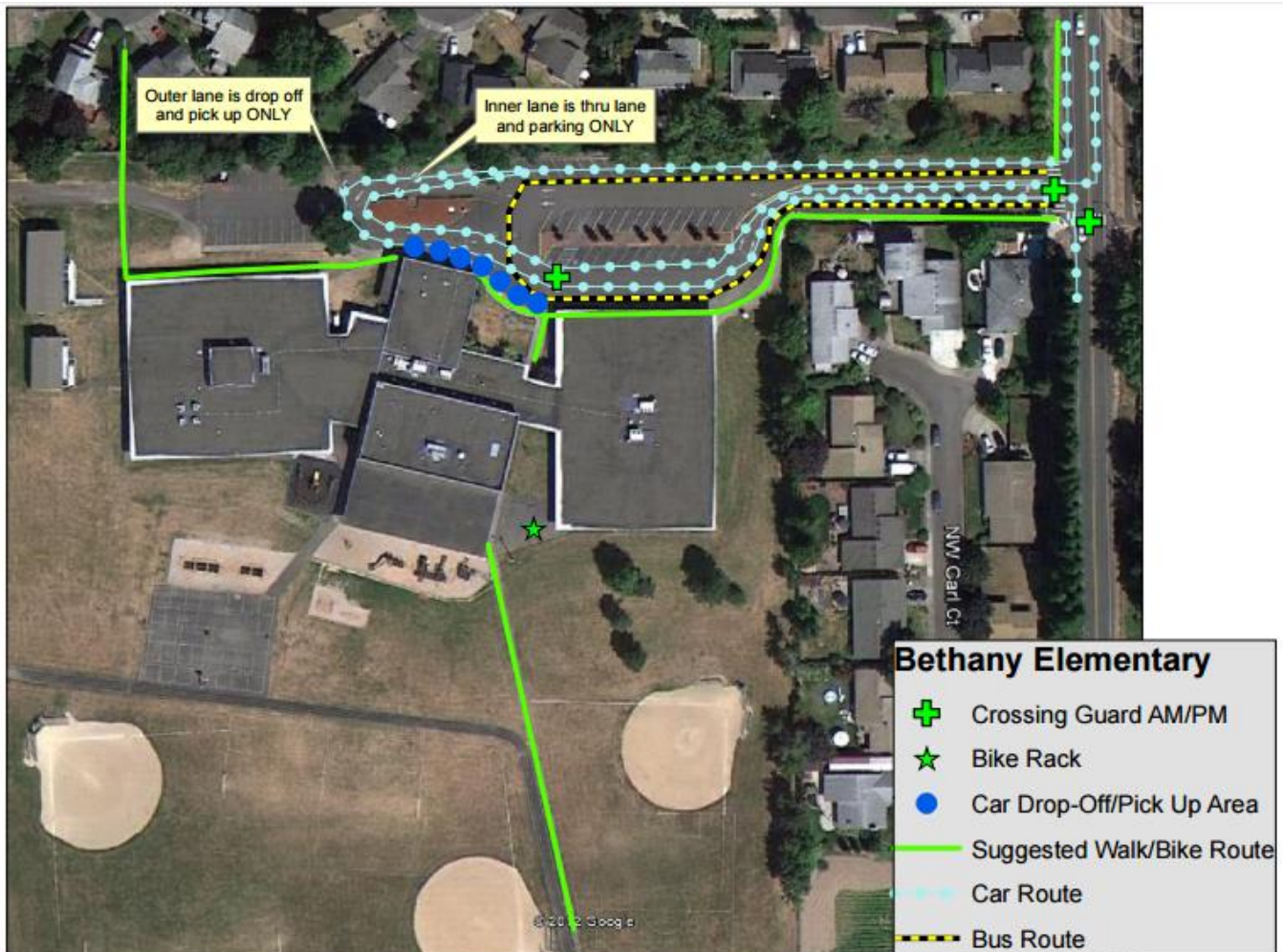
Approximately 44% of students are driven to and from school most days according to the Spring 2017 Student Travel Mode Surveys. All of Bethany's students are either within the designated walk/ bike area or have bus service provided.

The parking lot is small, but adequate for the staff and daily general needs. The arrival and departure areas for private cars, walkers and bikers are for the most part combined. The arrival -departure procedure is complicated by the number of people needing to drop their student off at the door and witness their entrance to the building.

There are many students who use the crossing of 174th. The one crossing guard has reported close calls with motorists, often speeding, on 174th and parents not yielding to students when entering/ exiting the Bethany driveway. The addition of volunteer drop off/ pick up attendants has helped with the flow, but attention, adherence to the school's procedure and extra caution must be exercised by all at all times to ensure safety.

Drivers who drop or pick up their students in cars are reminded that children must exit towards the sidewalks and if needing to walk through the parking lot, look for crossing areas and cautiously go there to cross ensure safety. Parents are also reminded that u-turns, double parking and blocking crosswalks and intersections is illegal and creates a dangerous situation for others.

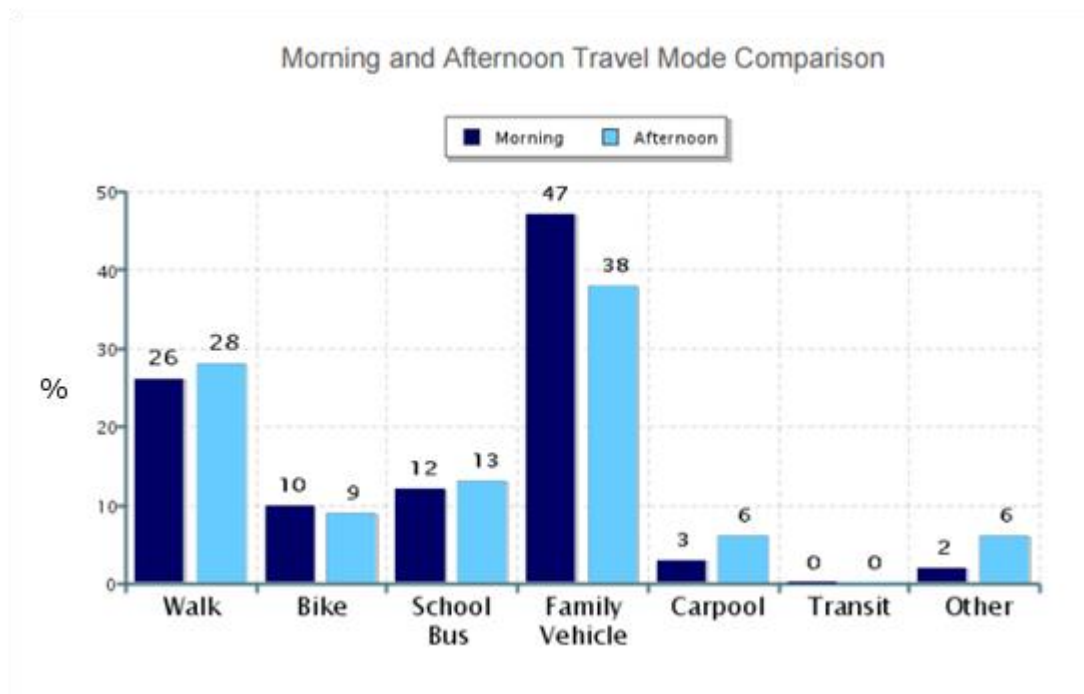




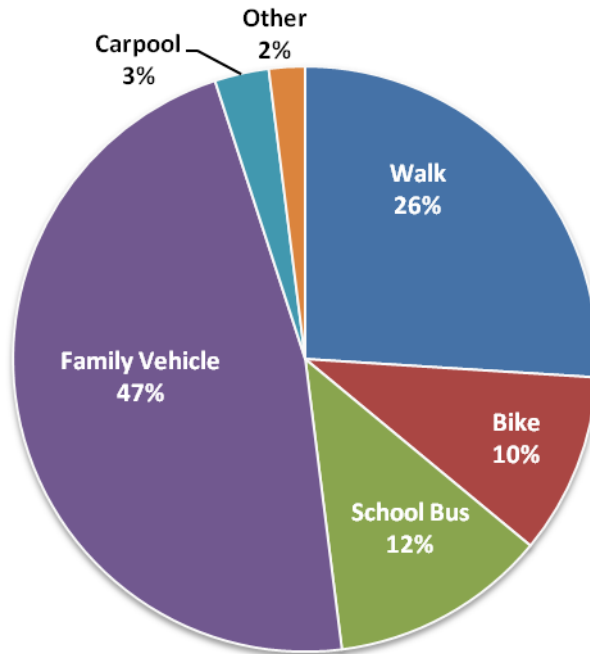
Evaluation and Data- May 2017

Student Travel Data

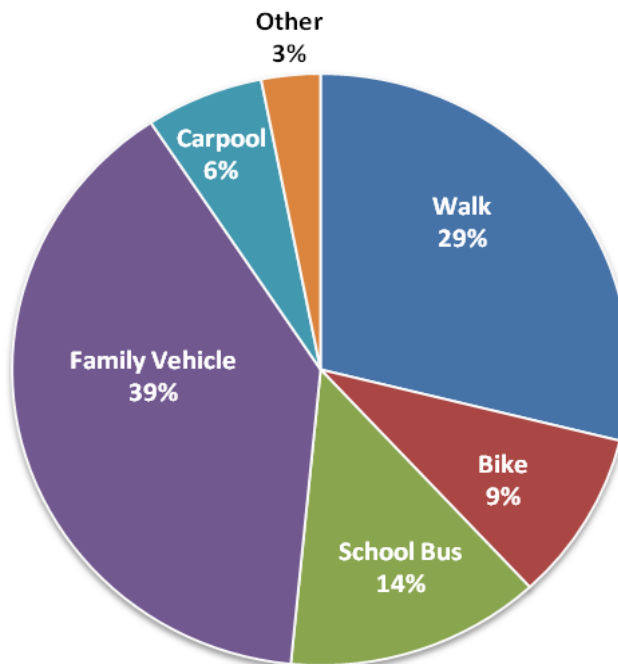
We conducted In-Class Student Tallies and this is how our students travel to and from school.

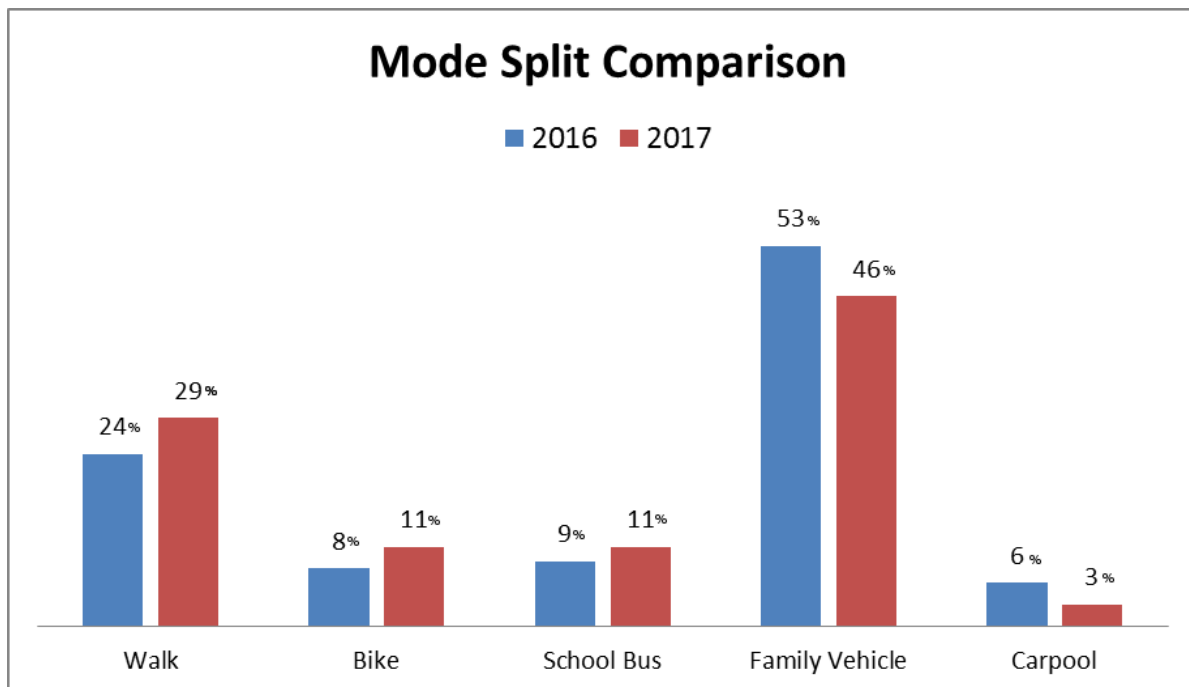


How Students Arrived at School



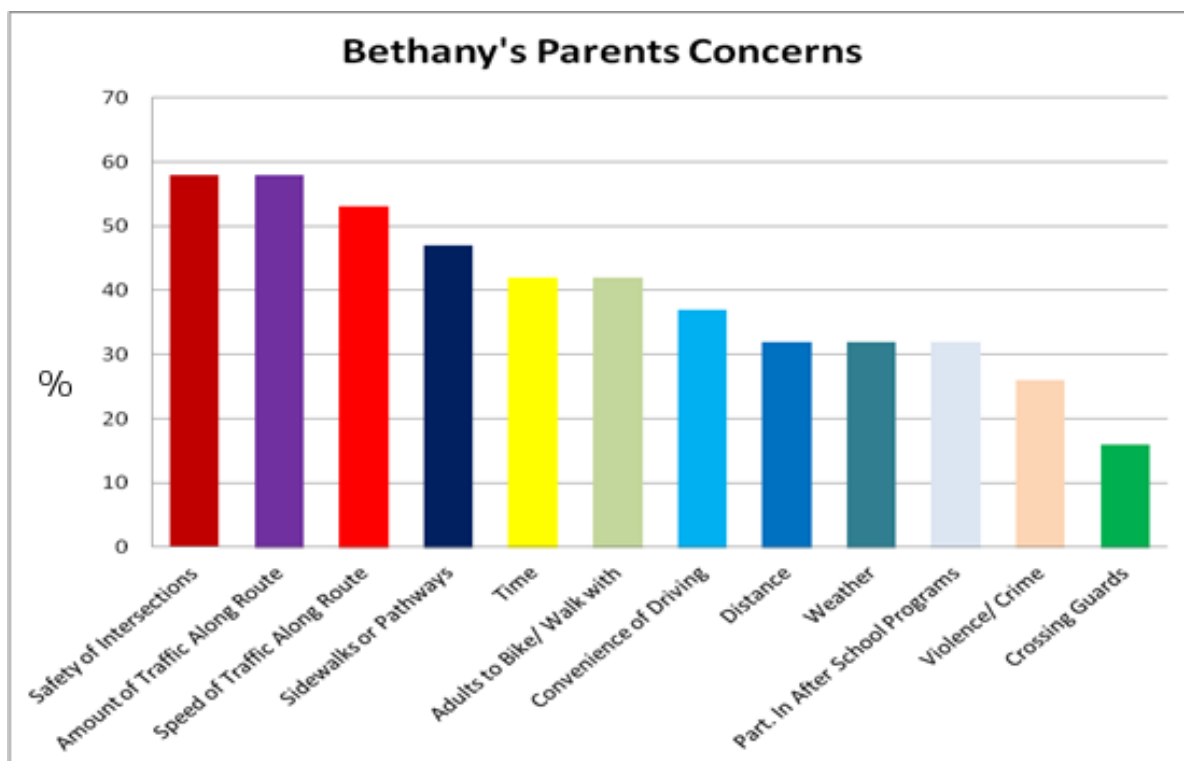
How Students Departed School



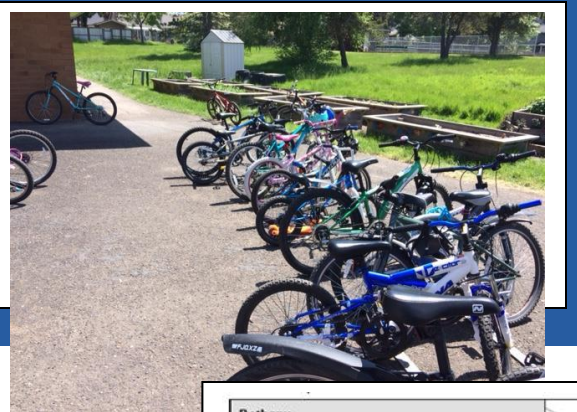


Parent Survey Data

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.



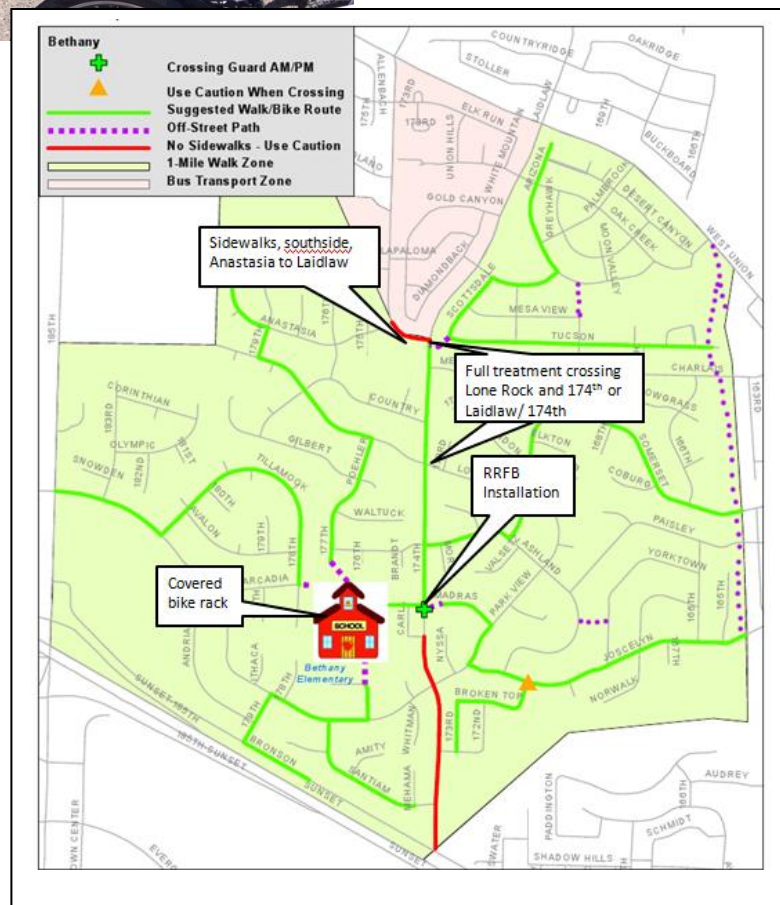
Recommendations and Plan Implementation



Infrastructure Options

- Install Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon on NW 174th Ave at school driveway.
- Install covered bike rack.
- Increase bike parking spots to 100.
- Complete sidewalks on NW 174th from Laidlaw to Anastasia.
- Have full treatment intersection at NW 174th and Laidlaw or Lone Rock Dr.

Please note, all infrastructure and enforcement projects are coordinated through 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.
- Bike/ Pedestrian Safety in PE classes annually in September and May.
- Earth Day lunch time pedestrian safety classes.
- School team to promote encouragement days, and drop off pick up procedures.

Encouragement

- Encourage students, staff and community with monthly Walk to School Day, weekly in May, each year.
- Establish west and south walking school bus routes.
- Start Walk Buddy Program.
- Regular SRTS safety tips and updates in monthly school newsletter.
- Yard signs/ flags to encourage safe, shared use of roads.

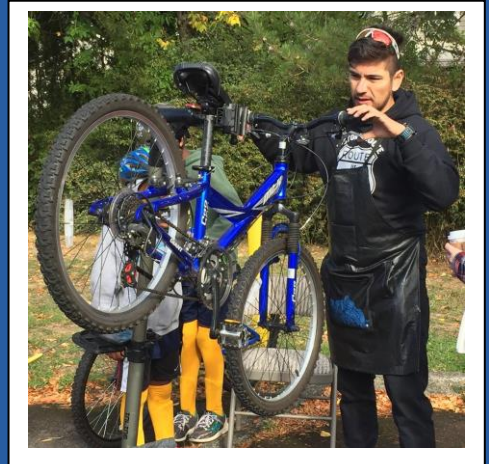
Evaluation

- Parent survey in May 2018.
- Student Tally in May 2018.

Enforcement

- Speed enforcement on 174th.
- Crossing enforcement on 174th.
- Parking, drop-off procedure enforcement.

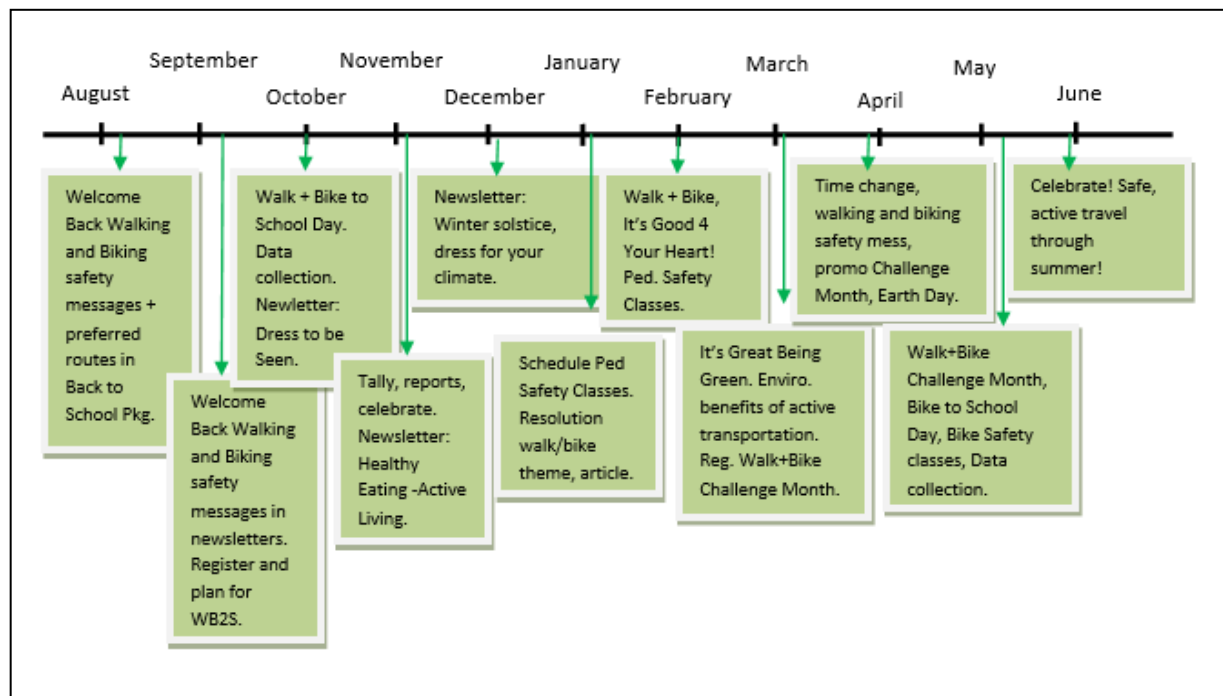
Note: enforcement requests are best made [here](#).



Prioritization

1. Work with Washington County to install RRFB at 174th crossing (summer 2017).
2. Work with BSD to install additional bike racks for 2018 and covered bike shelter in 2019.
3. Identify & review with school team drop off/ pick up safety procedures in coordination with BSD safety/transportation and risk/mgt- (August) post on web site.
4. Establish Walk Buddy map and program at Back to School Picnic- August 31.
5. Promote and continue walking school bus with new routes to help address parent safety concerns, ask PTO/ Green Team for additional bus leaders - Sept & ongoing.
6. Promote monthly Walk+Bike to School Days from Oct- April.
7. Regular SRTS Pedestrian and Bike safety tips placed in monthly school newsletters.
8. Twice yearly Bike/ Ped Safety Classes in ALL PE- Sept and May.
9. Annual coordination with Green Team- Lunch education
10. Promote walking/biking safety and options at Sept PTO meeting and ongoing.

Year Time-line



Final Thoughts

Thank you for your interest in making the trips to school safe, healthy and fun! This Action Plan is to be updated annually to continue to make it easier for parents, guardians and students to choose to take the bus, walk or bike to school. We need to continue to work to make the active choice the easy choice for the health and safety of our students and community.

The success of this plan 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.

We need people to help us with this on-going project. If you would like to be more involved in the Bethany SRTS Program, please reach out to school leaders or the PTO.

