



# Oak Hills 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. 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.

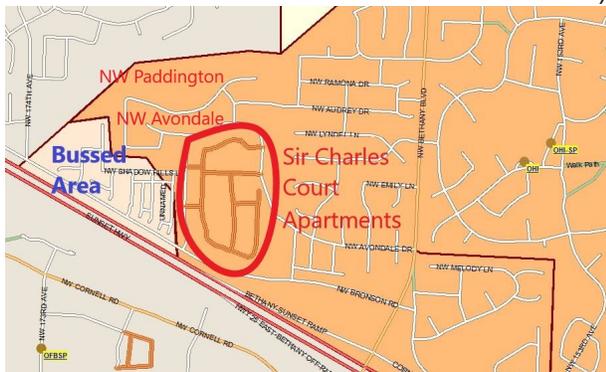
## SCHOOL INFORMATION

<b>School Name:</b>	Oak Hills Elementary School <a href="http://www.beaverton.k12.or.us/schools/oak-hills">www.beaverton.k12.or.us/schools/oak-hills</a>
<b>Address:</b>	2625 NW 153 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., Beaverton, OR 97006
<b>County:</b>	Washington
<b>School District:</b>	Beaverton School District <a href="http://www.beaverton.k12.or.us">www.beaverton.k12.or.us</a>
<b>Enrollment:</b>	569
<b>Enrollment by Grade:</b>	K= 95, gr1=94, gr2= 93, gr3=100, gr4= 90, gr5= 97
<b>Action Plan Contact:</b>	Jen Anderson, <a href="mailto:jen_anderson@beaverton.k12.or.us">jen_anderson@beaverton.k12.or.us</a> , 503-317-6958

### ***School Team's goal for school year 2019-2020***

The school team's goal for school year 2019-2020: 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 families living about 1 mile away from school who routinely drive to and from school. Students who are driven to school are among the largest segment of tardies each day. The team would like to reduce this problem by promoting and encouraging carpooling, walking school buses, bike buddy groups and specific outreach to this community to participate in the Family Earth Night Bike Fair in April.

For consideration: Approximately 76 Oak Hills students live in the Sir Charles Courts Apartments (circled red area), which recently had its bus service removed. The two streets on the northwest of Sir Charles Court (NW Avondale and NW Paddington) adds 31 additional students. (47 students to the west of Sir Charles Court are still bussed to school.)

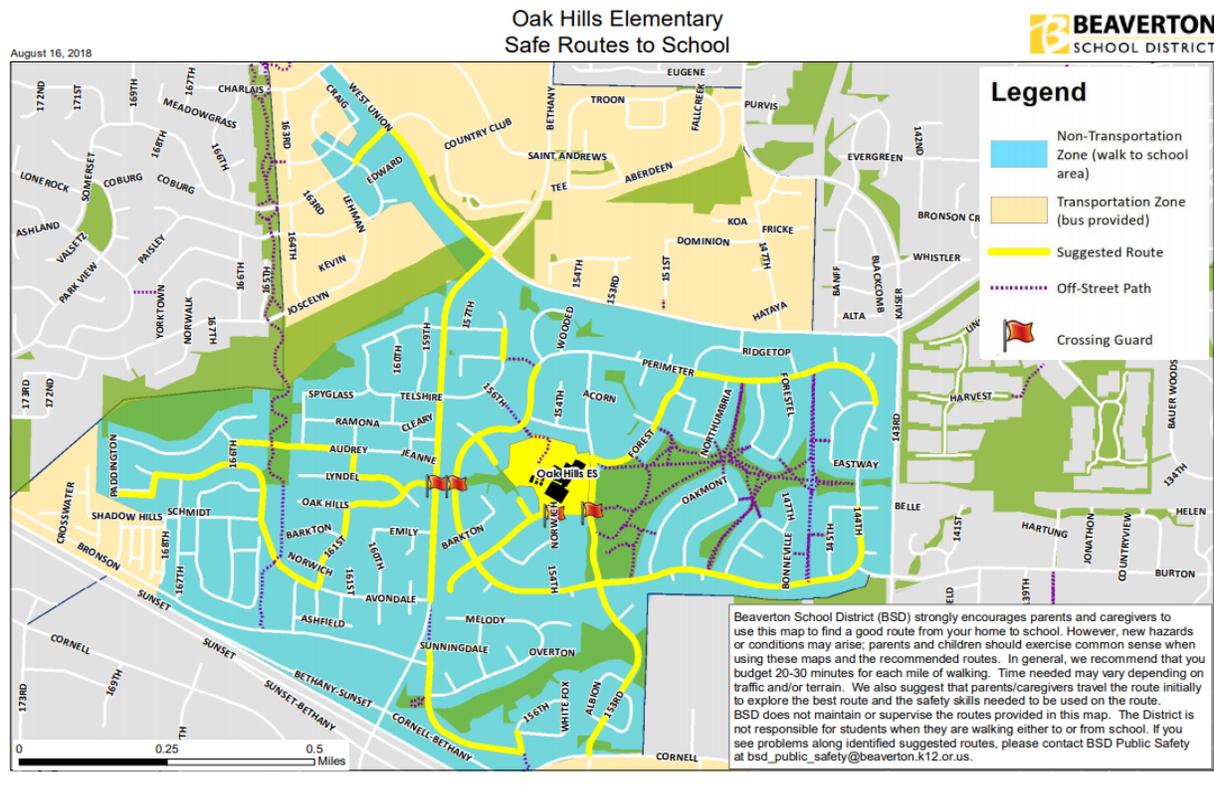


The team will also work to collect more accurate parent survey data and walk/bike data; the current survey is not large enough to be statistically relevant. Counts will be taken National Bike to School Day May 8, 2019 and Walk+ Bike to School Day October 2, 2019. The team will also continue to promote biking/walking through Bike Fairy notes, Back-to-School announcements, regular newsletters updates, Green Team lessons on active transportation and support for classroom tally tracking during Walk & Bike Challenge Month in May. The team would like to pursue new covered bike racks.

## Existing Conditions

### School Attendance Area

The Bethany school community is north of Hwy 26 and has Bethany Boulevard running through the attendance area. There are two main walking/ biking areas: one is within the Oak Hills Home Owners Association with quiet roads, sidewalks and paths. The other is to the west of Bethany, a five-lane, 35 mph arterial. In 2015, school bus service was removed from neighborhoods west of Bethany due to a signalized crosswalk with two crossing guards at Oak Hills and Bethany. Oak Hills has worked to promote walking and riding from across Bethany to ease driver congestion and calm traffic for those families who walk and bike to school.



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](mailto: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.
- 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.

## ***Walk and Bike Audit Evaluation***

There are marked crosswalks Bethany Boulevard and Oak Hills Dr, Perimeter and Oak Hills Dr, Norwich St and 153<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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 school plans to post a sandwich board or cone at the school bus loop to prevent parents from walking between the buses after school, causing unsafe conditions.

The parking lot flow works well with assistance from staff and constant reminders for parents to pull forward. School will distribute "Go Park" flier, reminding parents when to park versus drive through the pickup/drop-off line. Staff would like restriping of parking lot for better flow, including that the outside lane be marked "thru-lane" and the left-turn arrow in the middle of parking lot be repainted for visibility.

## ***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 school's excitement for active transportation continues to grow.

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 39% of students are driven to school (and 36% home from school), according to May 2018 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.

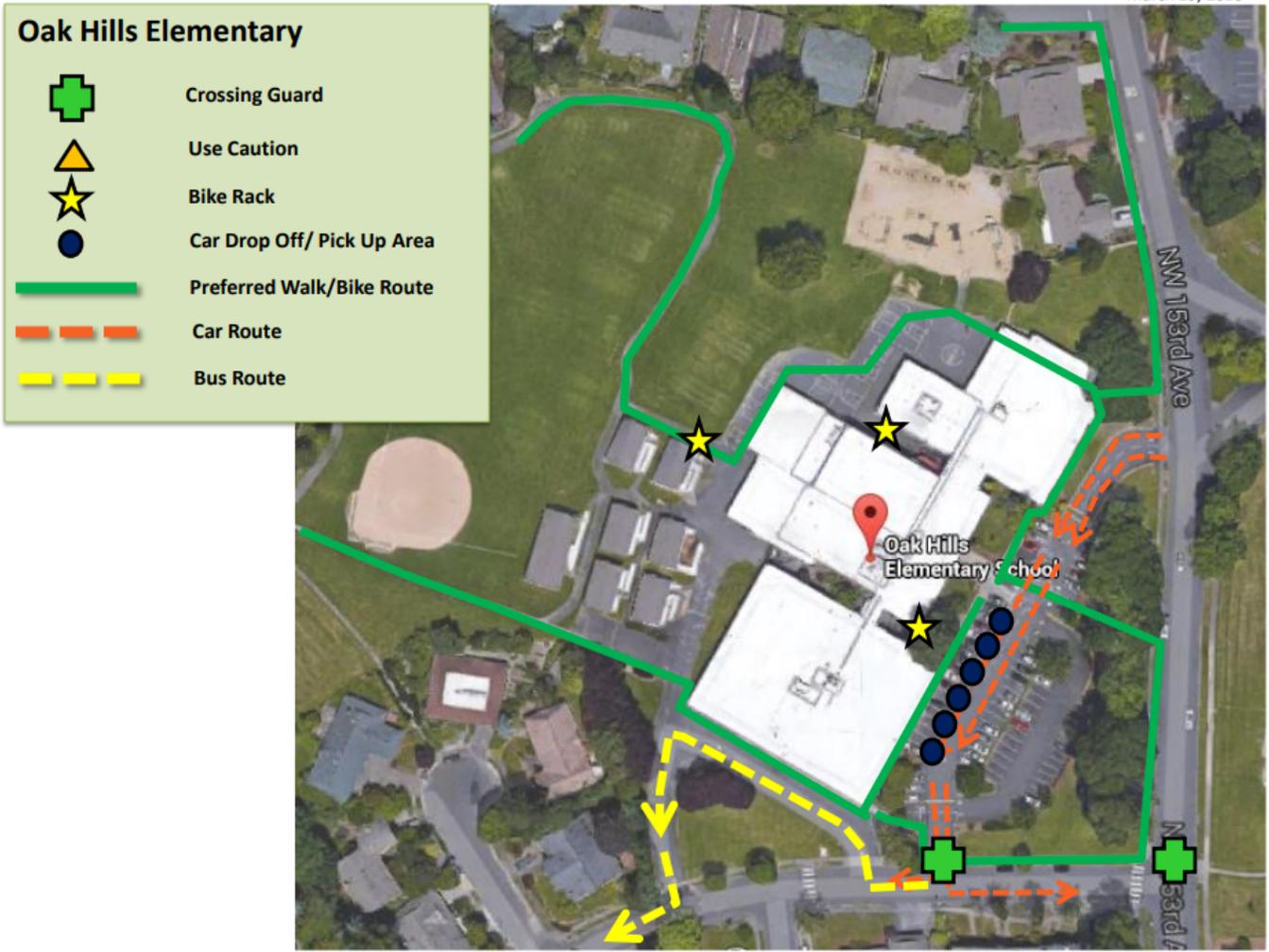
The parking lot is adequate for the staff size. The arrival and departure area is small for the number of families driving. With help from staff and periodic reminders to families, the large volume of cars do make it through. Many cars use Norwich St, Norwich Circle and NW 153<sup>rd</sup> to drop off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

Crossing guards at Bethany and Oak Hills continue to cross a steady stream of walkers and bikers daily. Occasionally they have drivers who enter the crosswalk too early; enforcement is always appreciated. Crossing guard at Norwich Circle is concerned about parents who stop to let students out on Norwich right across from the bus loop and let students run across the street, not in crosswalk. Some drivers also speed through the crosswalk. Crossing guard at Norwich and 153rd also cites concerns about parents darting across street with students to school, not in crosswalk.

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.





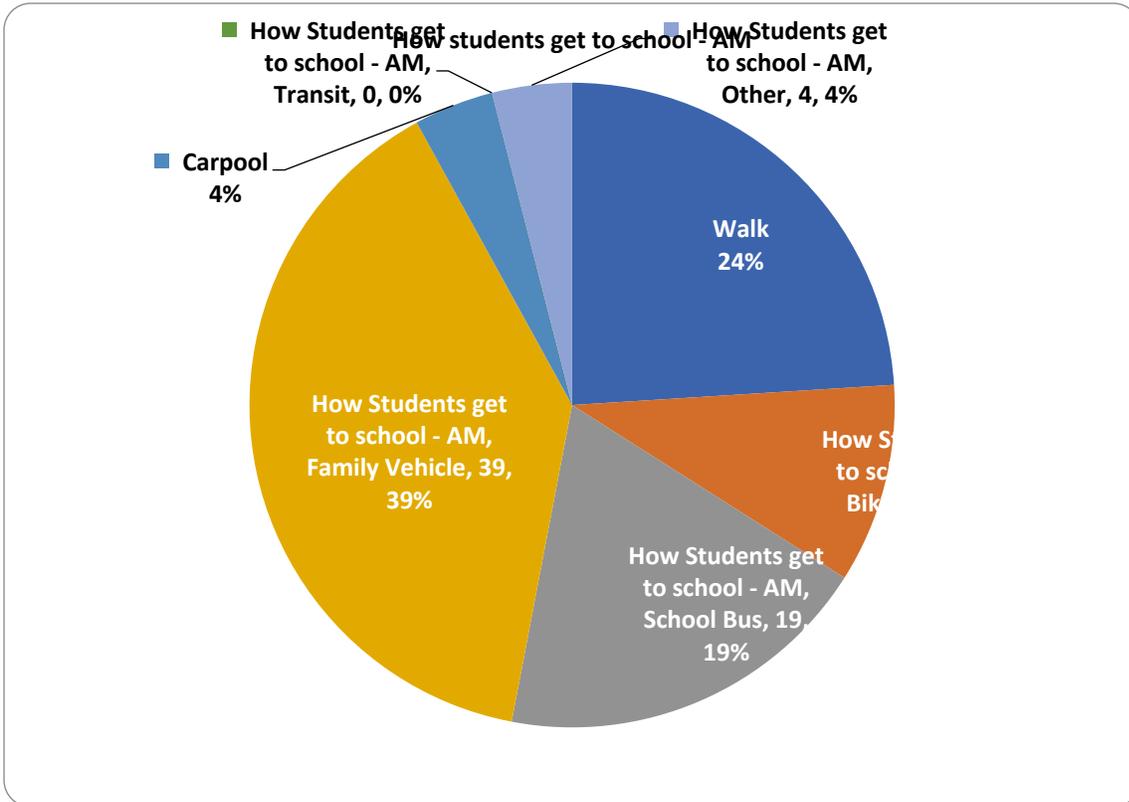
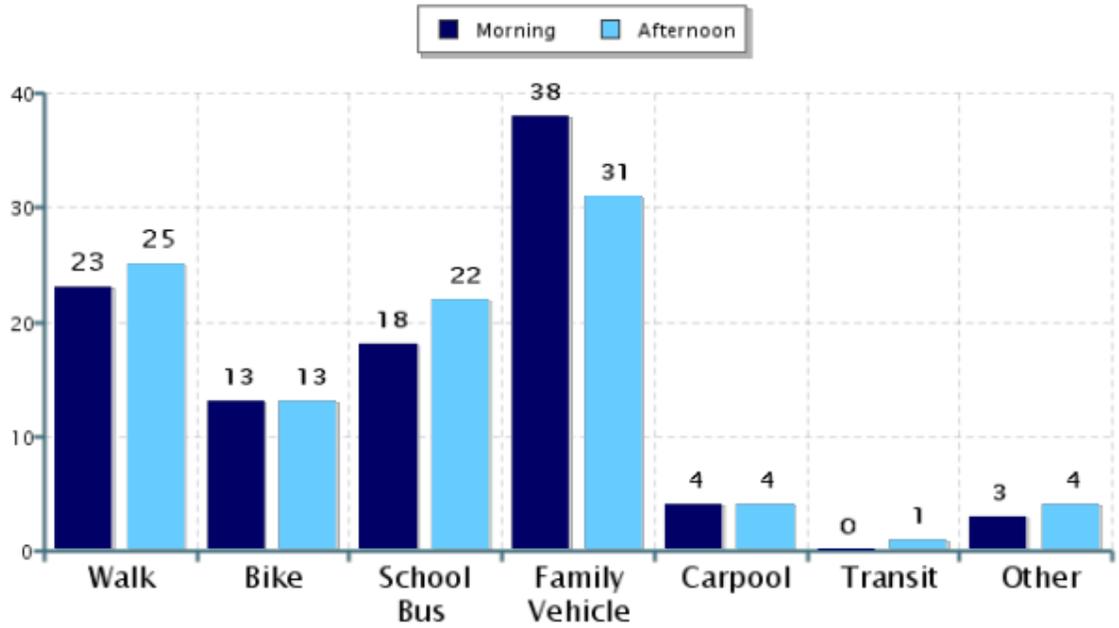


## Evaluation and Data

### *Student Travel Data*

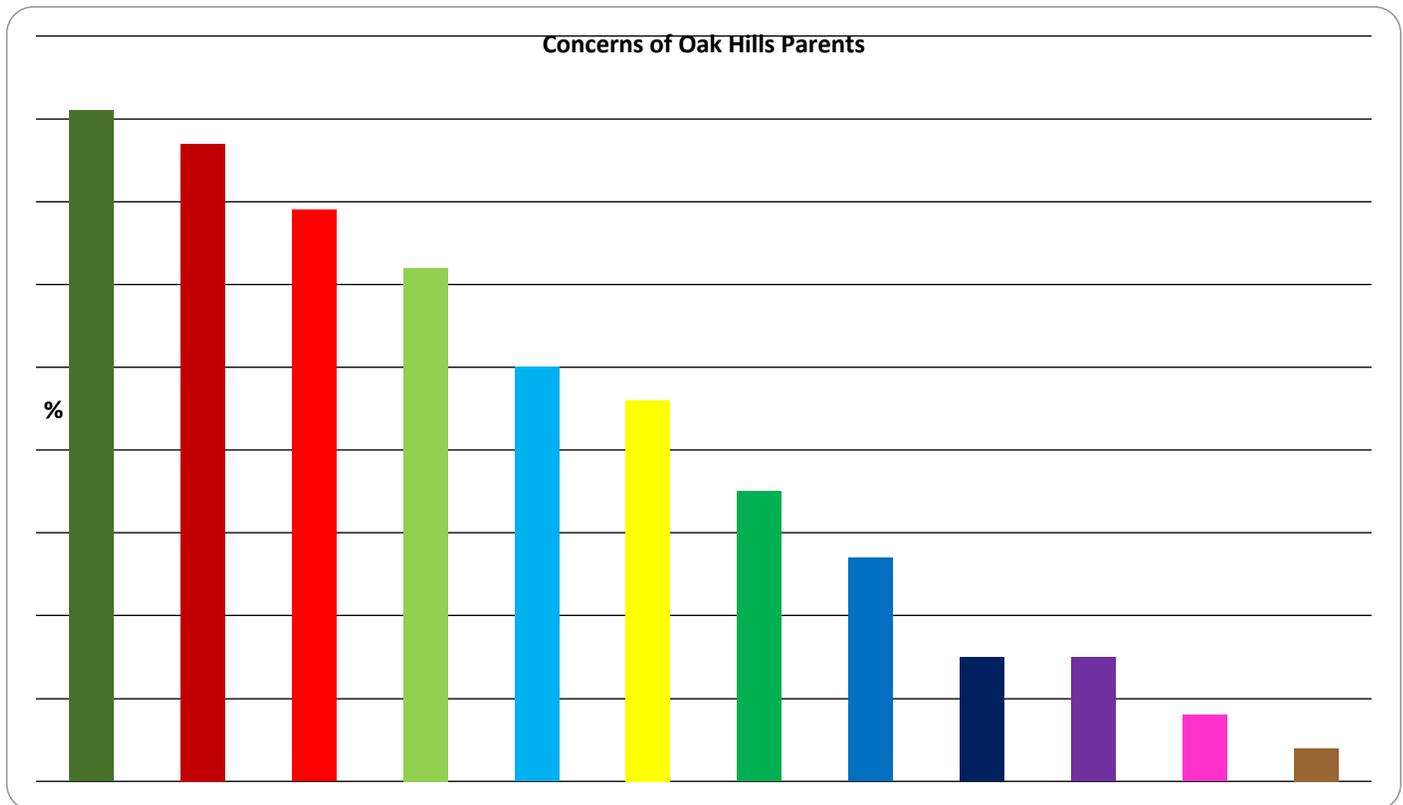
We conducted In-Class Student Tallies and this is how our students travel to and from school (May 2018)

## Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison



## 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. (2016 survey. May 2018 survey = 7 parents, need to update)



## Recommendations and Plan Implementation

Collaborate to accomplish school team's goals, continued support and promotion of current walk and bike efforts, improve data collection and tracking (borrow SRTS clicker with volunteers posted at crosswalks, or request crossing guard help), expand outreach to broader segments of school community to move the dial on reducing the number of daily drivers.

## 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 night 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 in leading walking/biking groups.

- School team to develop guidelines for drop-off and pickup for Back-to-School packet and website.

### **Encouragement**

- PTO/Green Team promote alternative 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 and introduce options.
- Start, maintain weekly Walk/Bike Days.
- Regular SRTS safety tips and updates in monthly school newsletter.
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### **Evaluation**

- Parent survey in May 2019 and May 2020.
- Hand raise survey in May 2019 and May 2020.
- 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 153<sup>rd</sup> + 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 Timeline***

August	Welcome Back walk & bike routes, safety messages, parking lot procedure including no idling
September	Messages in newsletters, PTO, Facebook, assemblies
October	Walk & Bike to School Day incentives & data collection. Newsletter: Dress to be seen
November	Tally, reports, celebrate. Newsletter: Walking and biking is fun in the rain. Incentives/rewards, safety messages for drivers
December	Newsletter: Dress for winter when walking & biking, continue incentives/rewards
January	Schedule pedestrian safety classes. Newsletter: Resolutions to walk/bike
February	Walk & Bike is good for your heart. Ped safety classes, Safety Town
March	Walking/biking is great for being green. Schedule bike fair, promote walking school buses
April	Time change, walk/bike events for Family Earth Night, promote challenge in May
May	Walk & Bike Challenge Month, incentives/rewards, surveys
June	Celebrate! Safe & active travels through summer

## **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. Keep up the great work, Oak Hills!

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!

