

Fruita Middle School Walking and Biking Audit



September 27, 2016

Fruita Middle School Audit for Walking and Biking

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Audit Team Members:

Sam Atkins, City Engineer, City of Fruita

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The Fruita Middle School Walk Audit was conducted after school on typical day with dismissal at 2:40 pm. Personnel were stationed in the following locations for observation:

- Student drop-off/pick-up area
- Sidewalks and bike routes near school
- Bus Loading Zone
- West side of school
- Along North Maple St.
- Along West Pabor Ave.

Fruita Middle School has about 554 students, 36.6% of whom qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch. On this day, there were a total of 88 bike rack spots separated into two different bike racks (one bike rack on the east side of the school which is caged and the other is on the west side of school which is also caged). Of the 88 bicycle parking places available, 24 bikes occupied the bike cage on the east side of the school and 30 bikes occupied the west caged bike rack. There was a total of 2 helmets.

The Assistant Principal Jackie Tuckey's administration survey indicated the school does have a crisis team that meets monthly and traffic safety is an agenda item. There is no annual count of how children get to and from school.

The school has teachers act as crossing guards after school. They all come out of the building after school to keep students safe and observant of the school rules. Crossing guards are at N. Maple, E. Columbine Ave, and also in front of the school on E. Pabor Ave.

Observations/comments:

The following observations and comments regarding the school arrival and departure were made by members of the audit team and the school principal.

Drop-off/Pick-up Area:

- Parked vehicles and buses obstruct crossing views for walkers/bikers on Maple St.
- Limited visibility crossing Peach southbound while buses are parked along Pabor Ave.
- School Zone light on N. Maple is not flashing until 5 minutes prior to dismissal.

Parking Lot:

- One handicap ramp in north parking lot; ramp does not lead to a sidewalk or another handicap ramp (See Figure 1).

Bus loading zone:

- Lack of lighting in bus zones, located on the west side of school and on south end of Pabor Ave. which could create problems for winter arrivals.

Walkers/Bikers:

- Sidewalk ends on north side of N. Elm St.
- 18 Rd and E. Pabor seems to be an area of concern for walks/bikers.
- No illumination of bike racks (See Figure 2).
- Bike routes seem to be indicated by sidewalks; no physical barriers separating bikers from traffic.
- Sidewalks have a lot of cracks and holes (See Figure 3).



Figure 1: Handicap ramp is not accessible from parking lot; truncated dome pad may be a tripping hazard.



Figure 2: - Lighting does not illuminate bike cage on east side of school.



Figure 3: Cracked sidewalks present tripping hazards.

Suggested Solutions:

Location of Interest	Obstacle	Proposed Solutions	Responsible Parties
General	Information sharing of available resources (Safe Routes to school maps and WebApp; promotional ideas about getting kids to walk and bike to school	Link on school website with pertinent information including SRTS maps.	School administration, SRTS personnel, parent involvement groups, school safety teams.
General	Parents and kids may not grasp the benefits of healthy transportation to school.	Program to encourage walking and biking for health and independence.	School administration
General	Inadequate signs and vests for crossing guards and staff who help pedestrians and cyclists safely cross lanes of traffic	Crossing guards need Class A, Level 2 vests and bigger signs	SRO; District 51 Administration
General	Outdated handicap ramps	Revamp handicap ramps around school	District 51, City of Fruita
General	Poor lighting	Install lights to illuminate areas of need i.e bike racks, pick-up/drop-off area, bus area	District 51, City of Fruita
Pabor Ave. & 18 Rd.	Intersection adjustment	Add crosswalk, blinking lights, and possibly an island	City of Fruita
General	Additional signage to help with walkers/bikers visibility	No park zones to help alleviate visibility issues	City of Fruita
General	Cracks and holes in sidewalks around school present potential tripping hazards	Fix sidewalks to help encourage more walking and biking.	City of Fruita

Best Practices:

- “Children Breathing - No Idle Zone” = Engines off sign (e.g. West MS photos)
- Pick-up/Drop-off areas by grade (e.g. Bookcliff MS, Pear Park ES). This may create a safer situation for walkers and bikers.
- Crossing guard gathers kids by school for crossing busy street (e.g. Mesa View ES)
- Crossing guards have standard stop signs, and Class A, Level 2 vests.
- Crossing guards are well trained -- on site training available (e.g. Chipeta report for more on this). Crossing guards need to be paid to take the training.
- Take the time to teach parents how to go through pick-up/drop-off process correctly. (e.g. Bookcliff MS)
- Teach kids to wear helmets.
- Having staff and faculty outside the building at the beginning and the end of day. (e.g. West MS, Rocky Mountain ES)
- Clear and predictable flow of traffic through parking lots. (e.g. Bookcliff MS)
- The Health Assistant and PE teachers are active in promoting healthy transportation to and from school. (e.g. Mesa View ES)
- Hosting a bike rodeo and teaching the bike safety and skills unit in PE.
- Crossing guards shouldn't be teachers or other staff who can't get to their stations in time. (e.g. Tope ES, where the PTO pays crossing guards, and “specials” teachers also have duty)

Walk Route Maps

Fruita Middle School Walk Route Map Summary

	1-Mile Radius ~ 722 street crossings		2-Mile Radius ~936 street crossings		3-Mile Radius ~1020 street crossings	
	Length	Percent	Length	Percent	Length	Percent
Least Favored - 4	4.8	5%	28.4	19%	72.5	34%
Not Favored - 3	2.4	3%	11.5	7%	21.0	10%
Favored – 2	63.0	67%	84.7	55%	87.0	41%
Most Favored - 1	23.1	25%	28.9	19%	30.1	14%
	93.4	100%	153.4	100%	210.6	100%

Key to Walk Route Map Ratings:



GREEN

Most favored route. May have a detached sidewalk and/or a bike lane. May be a path that has no vehicle traffic. (A detached sidewalk is separated from the roadway, often by a strip of grass, dirt or rocks.)



BLUE

Has attached sidewalks that are wide enough for 2 people to walk side by side. (An attached sidewalk is right next to the roadway).



YELLOW

Has a place to walk or ride that may be a sidewalk, but could be a path or simply sufficient unpaved space on the side of the road.









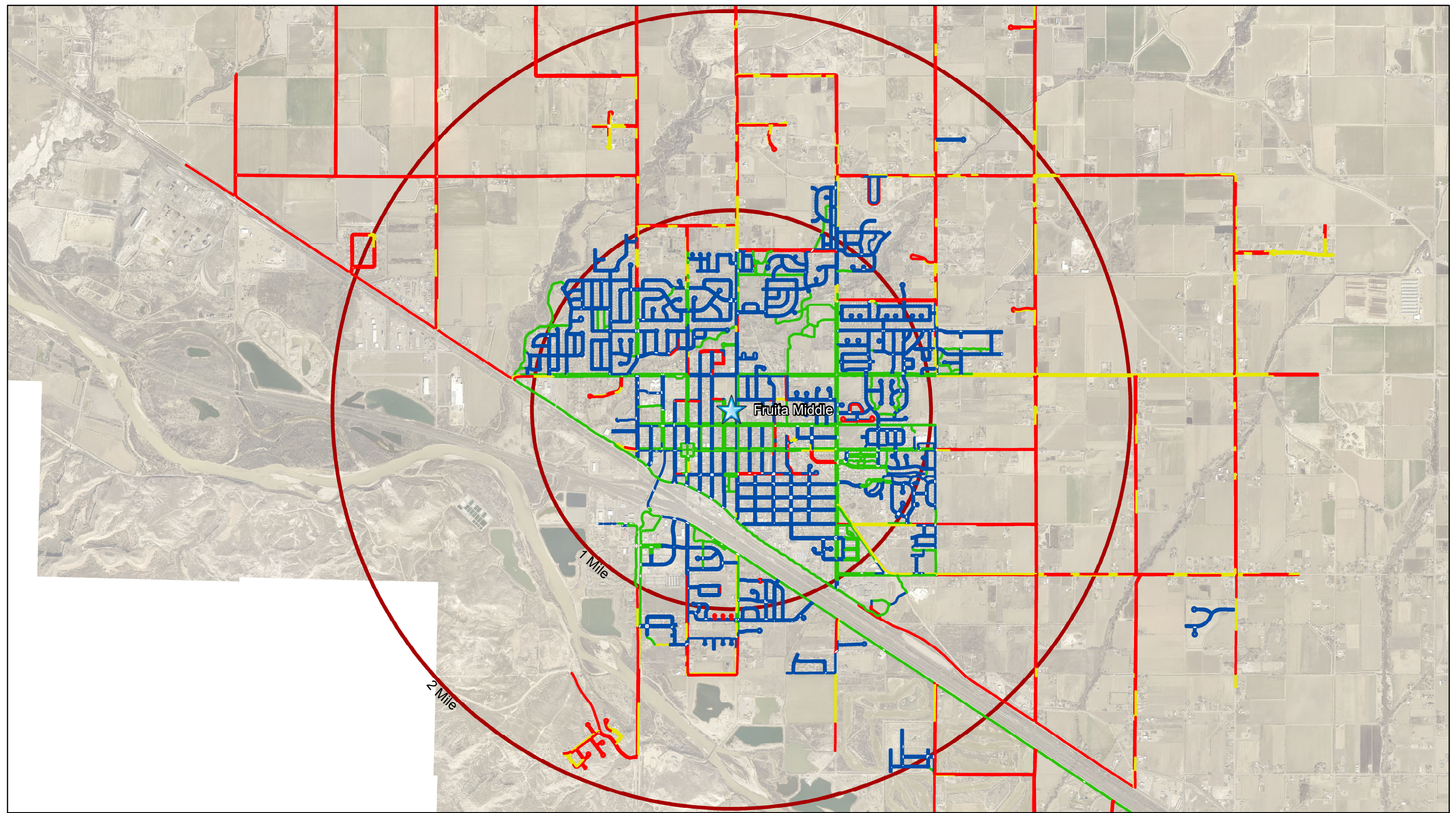
RED

Least favored route. Pedestrians and bicyclists must use the vehicle lanes to walk or ride. (No sidewalk and little or no space beyond the white edge line on the side of the road.)

SRTS 2016 - Fruita Middle Path Ratings within 1 & 2 Mile Radii

Legend

 Most favored	 Not favored	 Crosswalk	 1 & 2 Mile Radii
 Favored	 Least favored		



Classroom Tallies

Student Travel Tally Report: One School in One Data Collection Period

School Name: Fruita Middle School

Set ID: 22429

School Group: City of Fruita

Month and Year Collected: October 2016

School Enrollment: 0

Date Report Generated: 01/03/2017

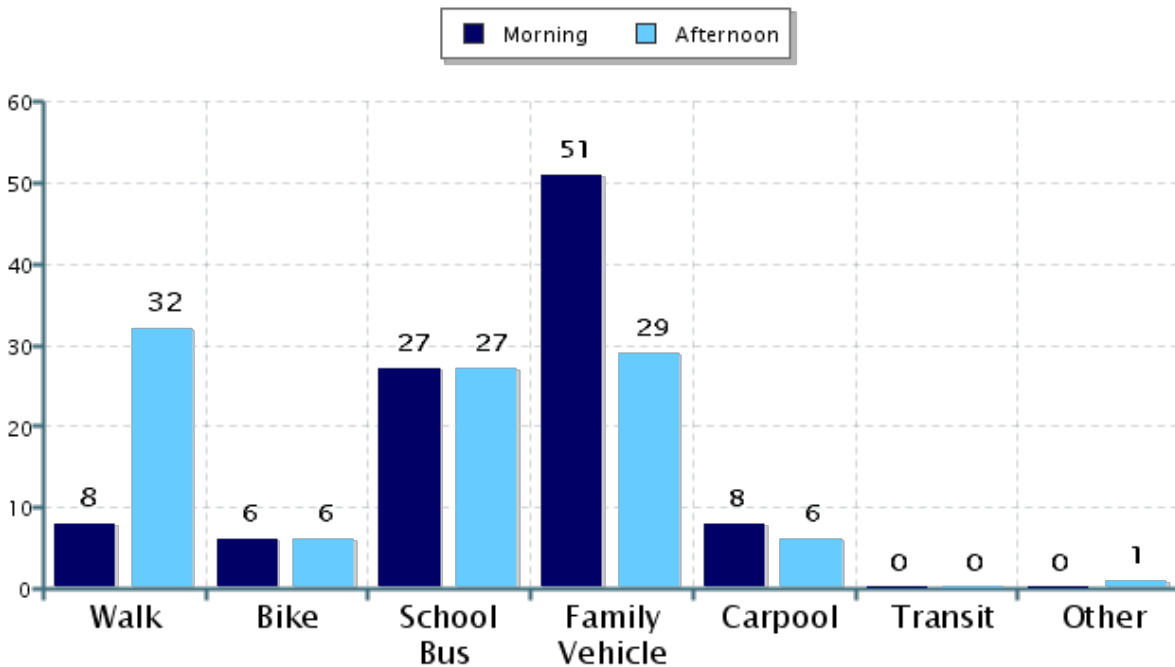
% of Students reached by SRTS activities:

Tags:

**Number of Classrooms
Included in Report:** 5

This report contains information from your school's classrooms about students' trip to and from school. The data used in this report were collected using the in-class Student Travel Tally questionnaire from the National Center for Safe Routes to School.

Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison



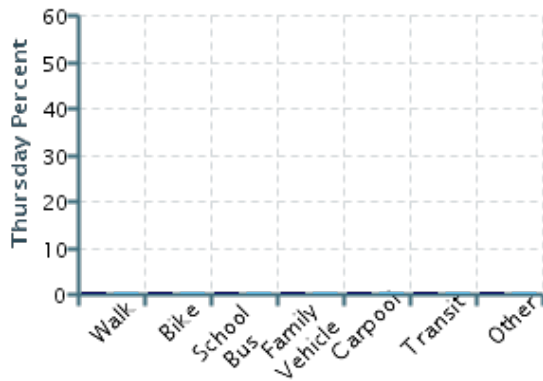
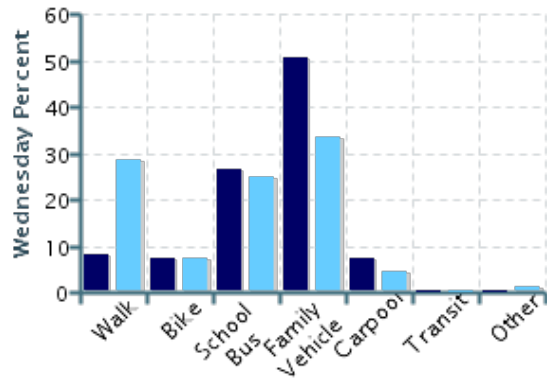
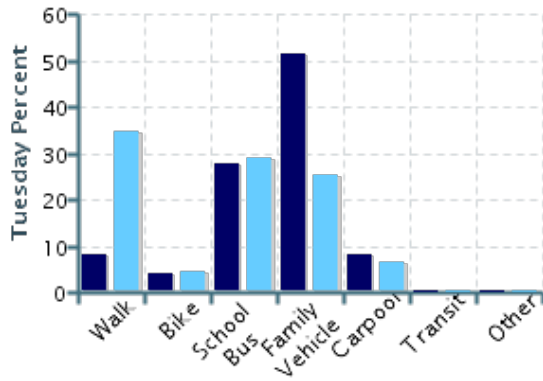
Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison

	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Morning	387	8%	6%	27%	51%	8%	0%	0%
Afternoon	386	32%	6%	27%	29%	6%	0%	0.5%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison by Day

■ Morning ■ Afternoon

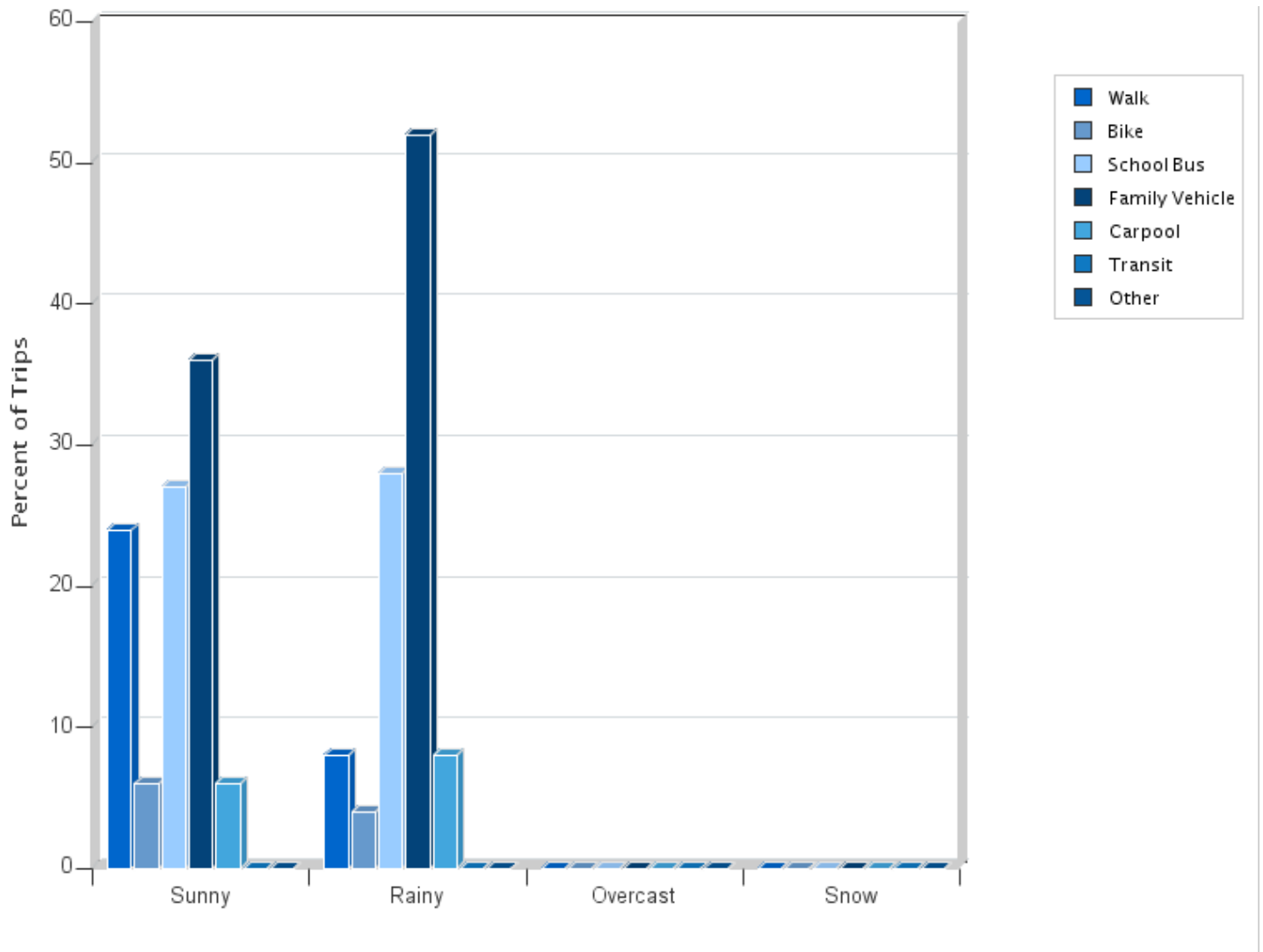


Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison by Day

	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Tuesday AM	194	8%	4%	28%	52%	8%	0%	0%
Tuesday PM	194	35%	5%	29%	25%	7%	0%	0%
Wednesday AM	193	8%	7%	26%	51%	7%	0%	0%
Wednesday PM	192	29%	7%	25%	33%	5%	0%	1%
Thursday AM		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Thursday PM		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Travel Mode by Weather Conditions



Travel Mode by Weather Condition

Weather Condition	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Sunny	579	24%	6%	27%	36%	6%	0%	0.3%
Rainy	194	8%	4%	28%	52%	8%	0%	0%
Overcast	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Snow	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Parent Surveys

Parent Survey Report: One School in One Data Collection Period

School Name: Fruita Middle School

Set ID: 15658

School Group: City of Fruita

Month and Year Collected: October 2016

School Enrollment: 0

Date Report Generated: 12/30/2016

% Range of Students Involved in SRTS: Don't Know

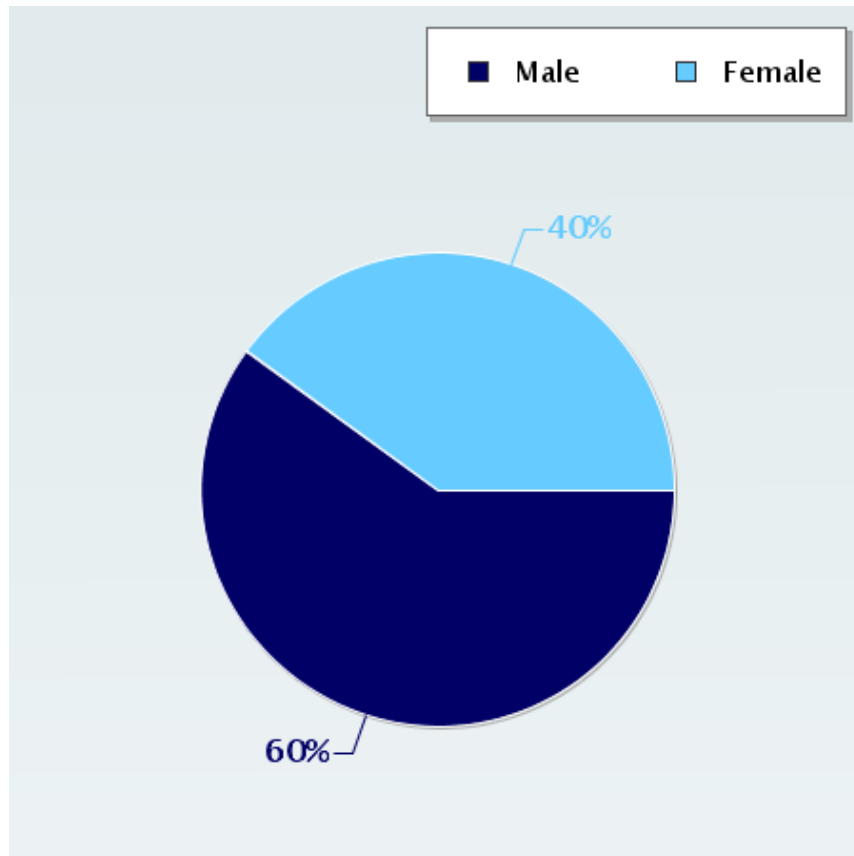
Tags:

Number of Questionnaires Distributed: 0

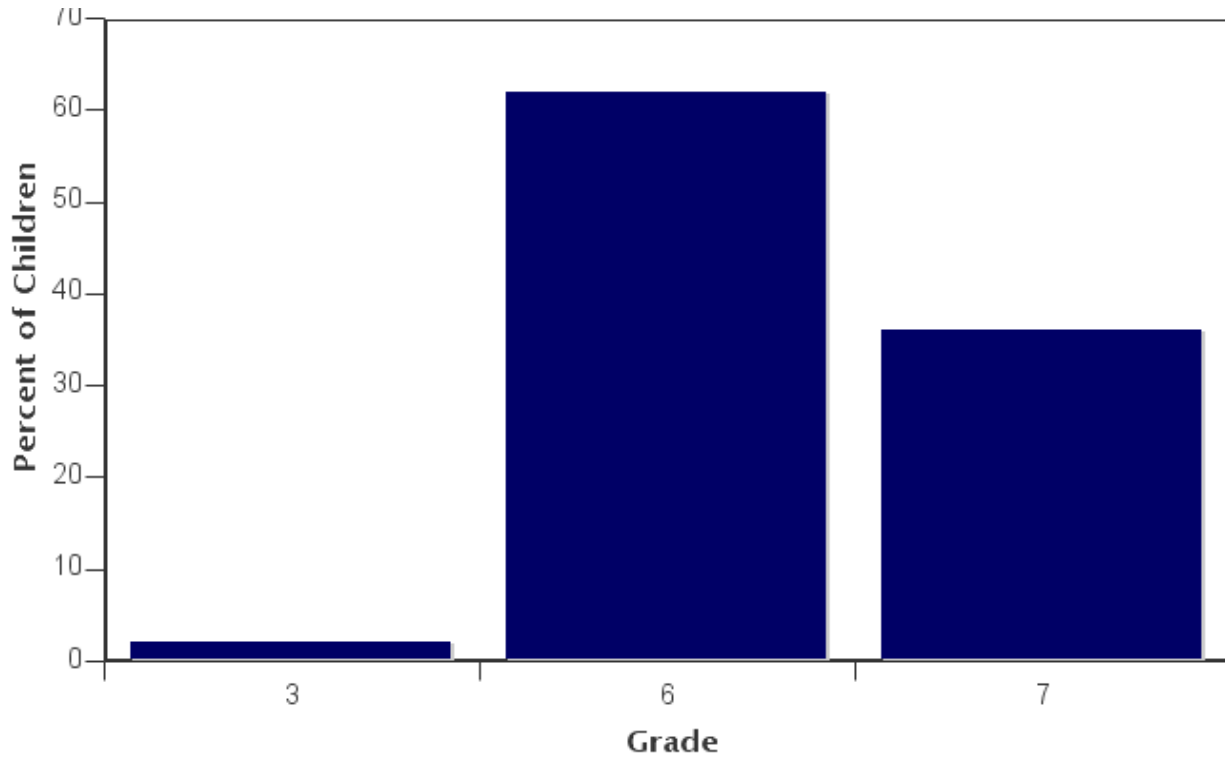
Number of Questionnaires Analyzed for Report: 60

This report contains information from parents about their children's trip to and from school. The report also reflects parents' perceptions regarding whether walking and bicycling to school is appropriate for their child. The data used in this report were collected using the Survey about Walking and Biking to School for Parents form from the National Center for Safe Routes to School.

Sex of children for parents that provided information



Grade levels of children represented in survey



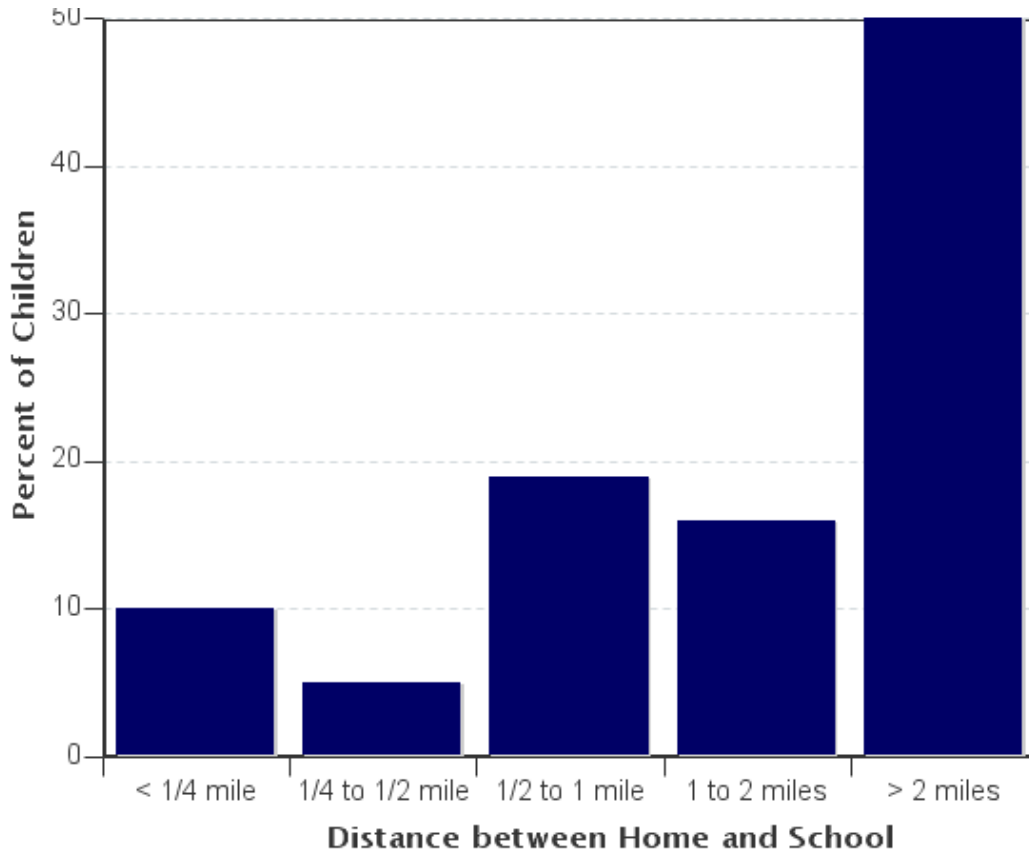
Grade levels of children represented in survey

Grade in School	Responses per grade	
	Number	Percent
3	1	2%
6	36	62%
7	21	36%

No response: 0

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Parent estimate of distance from child's home to school



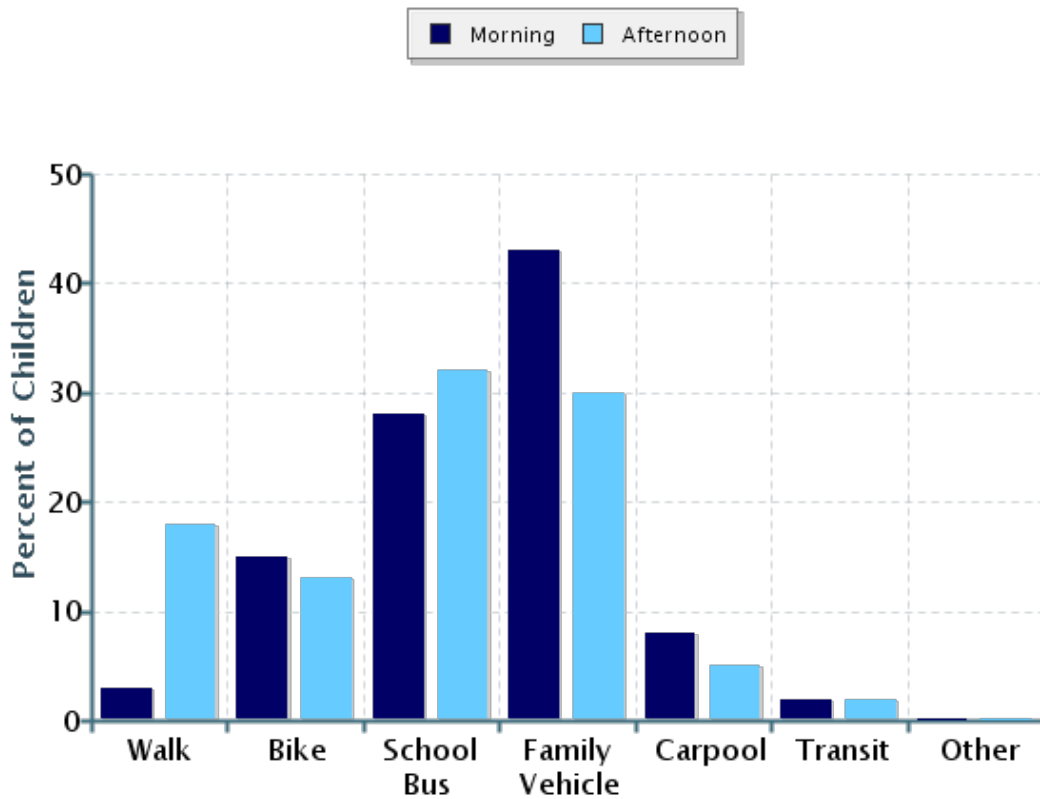
Parent estimate of distance from child's home to school

Distance between home and school	Number of children	Percent
Less than 1/4 mile	6	10%
1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	3	5%
1/2 mile up to 1 mile	11	19%
1 mile up to 2 miles	9	16%
More than 2 miles	29	50%

Don't know or No response: 2

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Typical mode of arrival at and departure from school



Typical mode of arrival at and departure from school

Time of Trip	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Morning	60	3%	15%	28%	43%	8%	2%	0%
Afternoon	60	18%	13%	32%	30%	5%	2%	0%

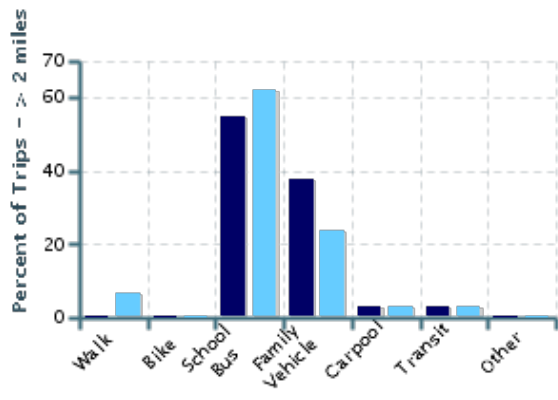
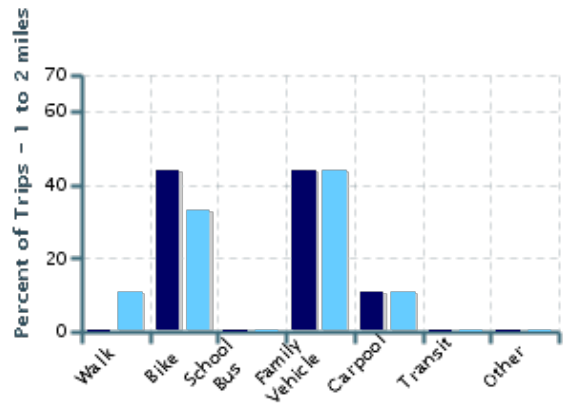
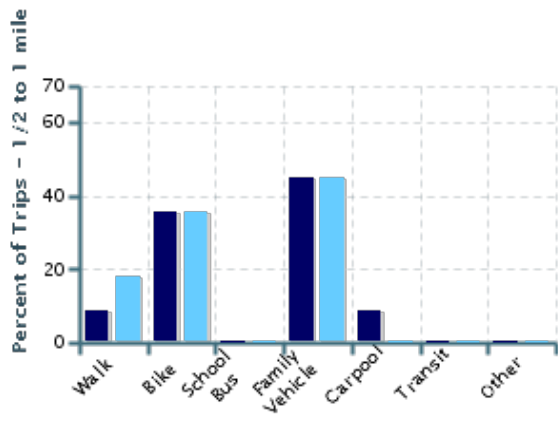
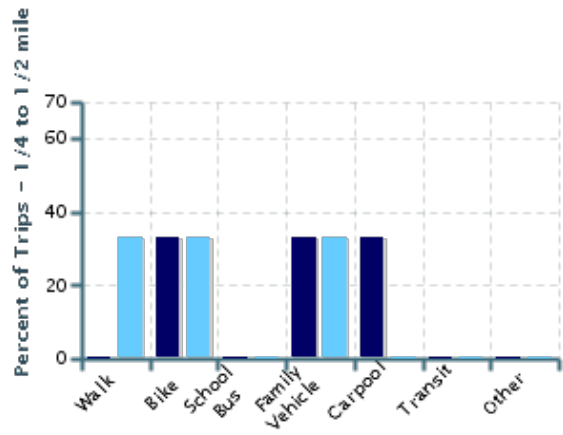
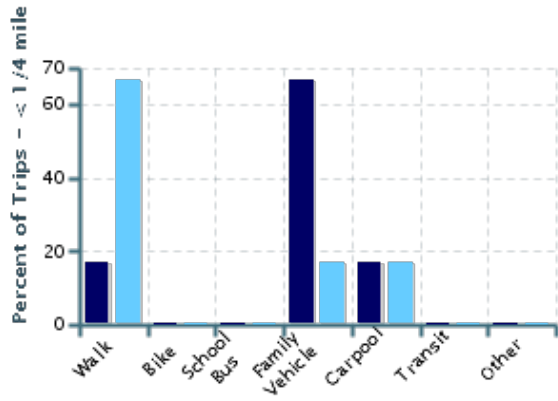
No Response Morning: 0

No Response Afternoon: 0

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Typical mode of school arrival and departure by distance child lives from school

■ Morning ■ Afternoon



Typical mode of school arrival and departure by distance child lives from school

School Arrival

Distance	Number within Distance	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Less than 1/4 mile	6	17%	0%	0%	67%	17%	0%	0%
1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	3	0%	33%	0%	33%	33%	0%	0%
1/2 mile up to 1 mile	11	9%	36%	0%	45%	9%	0%	0%
1 mile up to 2 miles	9	0%	44%	0%	44%	11%	0%	0%
More than 2 miles	29	0%	0%	55%	38%	3%	3%	0%

Don't know or No response: 2

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

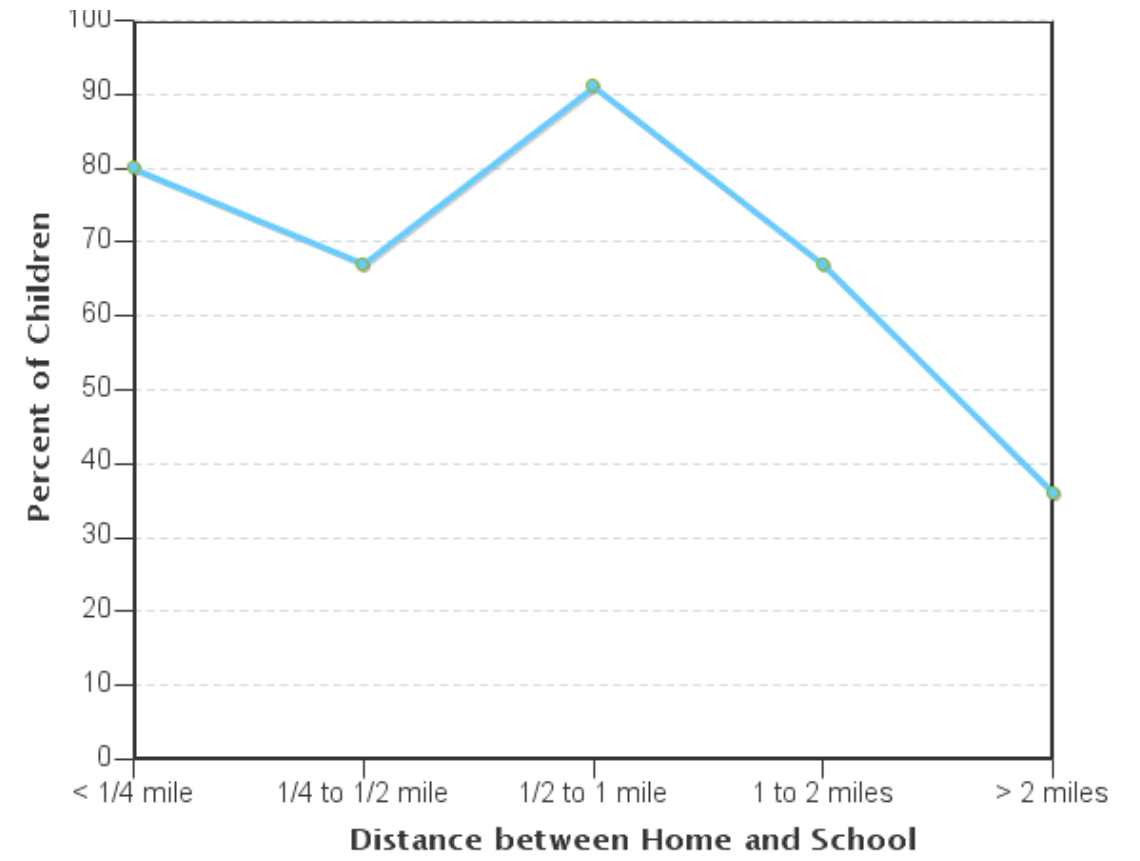
School Departure

Distance	Number within Distance	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Less than 1/4 mile	6	67%	0%	0%	17%	17%	0%	0%
1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	3	33%	33%	0%	33%	0%	0%	0%
1/2 mile up to 1 mile	11	18%	36%	0%	45%	0%	0%	0%
1 mile up to 2 miles	9	11%	33%	0%	44%	11%	0%	0%
More than 2 miles	29	7%	0%	62%	24%	3%	3%	0%

Don't know or No response: 2

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Percent of children who have asked for permission to walk or bike to/from school by distance they live from school

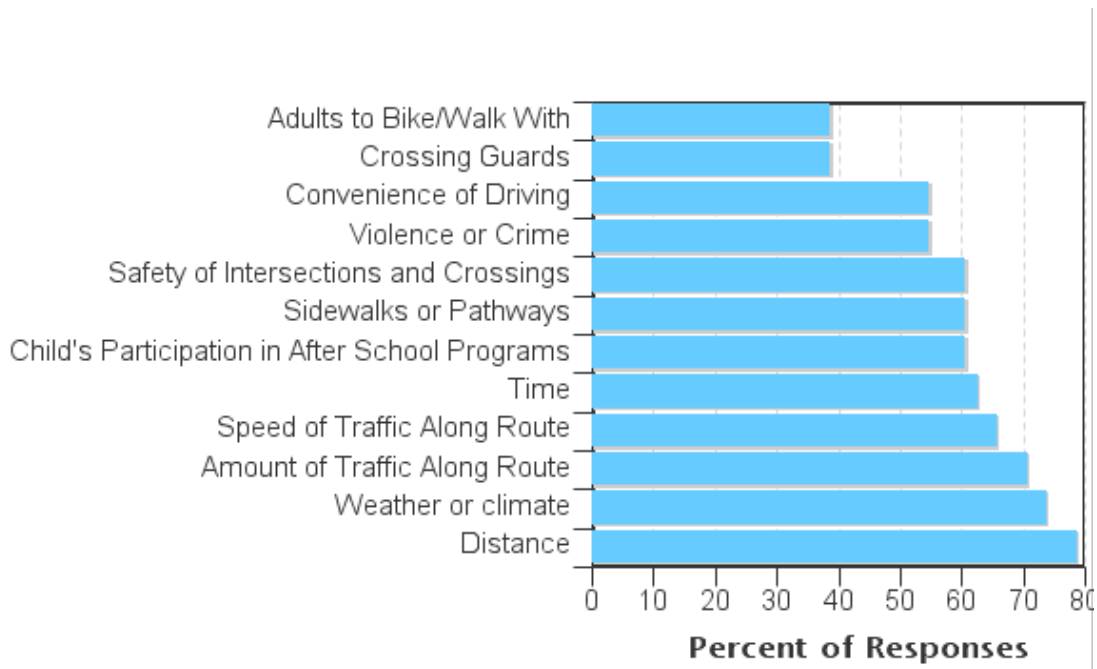


Percent of children who have asked for permission to walk or bike to/from school by distance they live from school

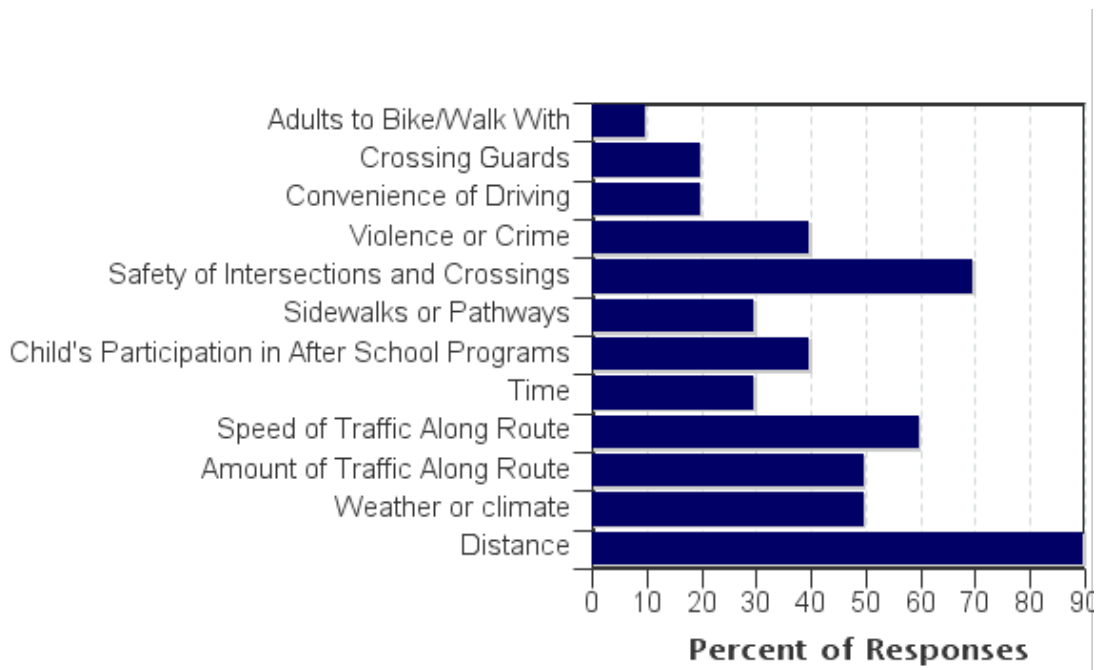
Asked Permission?	Number of Children	Less than 1/4 mile	1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	1/2 mile up to 1 mile	1 mile up to 2 miles	More than 2 miles
Yes	32	80%	67%	91%	67%	36%
No	24	20%	33%	9%	33%	64%

Don't know or No response: 4
 Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Issues reported to affect the decision to not allow a child to walk or bike to/from school by parents of children who do not walk or bike to/from school



Issues reported to affect the decision to allow a child to walk or bike to/from school by parents of children who already walk or bike to/from school



Issues reported to affect the decision to allow a child to walk or bike to/from school by
parents of children who already walk or bike to/from school

Issue	Child does not walk/bike to school	Child walks/bikes to school
Distance	79%	90%
Weather or climate	74%	50%
Amount of Traffic Along Route	71%	50%
Speed of Traffic Along Route	66%	60%
Time	63%	30%
Child's Participation in After School Programs	61%	40%
Sidewalks or Pathways	61%	30%
Safety of Intersections and Crossings	61%	70%
Violence or Crime	55%	40%
Convenience of Driving	55%	20%
Crossing Guards	39%	20%
Adults to Bike/Walk With	39%	10%
Number of Respondents per Category	38	10

No response: 12

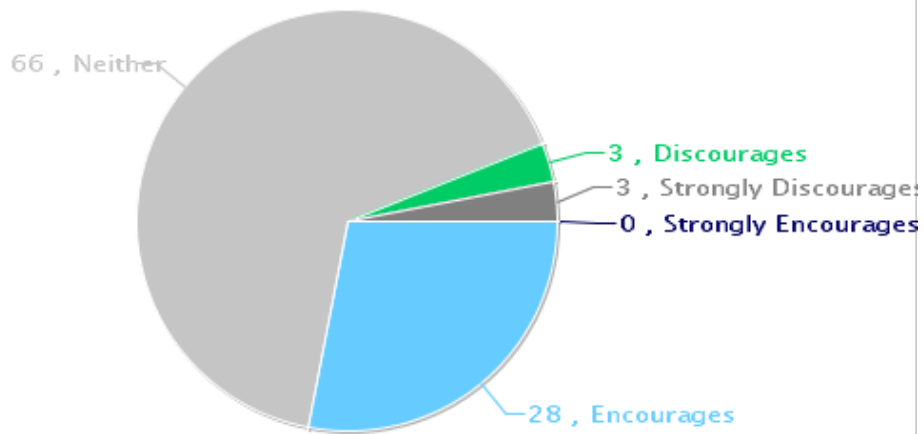
Note:

--Factors are listed from most to least influential for the 'Child does not walk/bike to school' group.

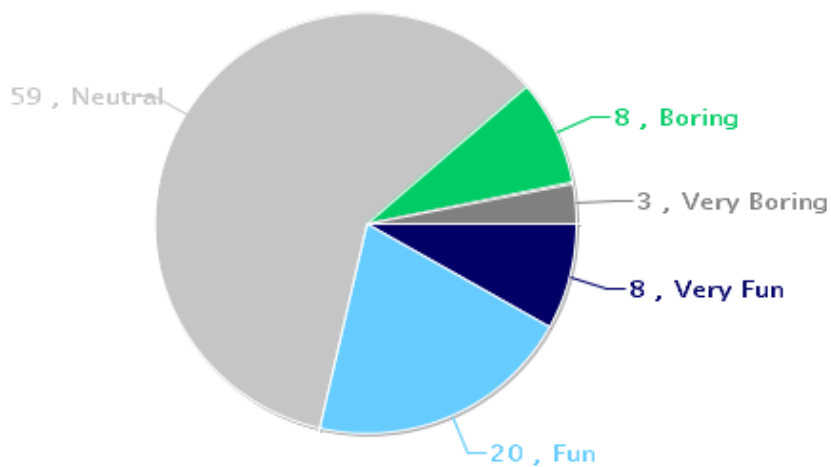
--Each column may sum to > 100% because respondent could select more than issue

--The calculation used to determine the percentage for each issue is based on the 'Number of Respondents per Category' within the respective columns (Child does not walk/bike to school and Child walks/bikes to school.) If comparing percentages between the two columns, please pay particular attention to each column's number of respondents because the two numbers can differ dramatically.

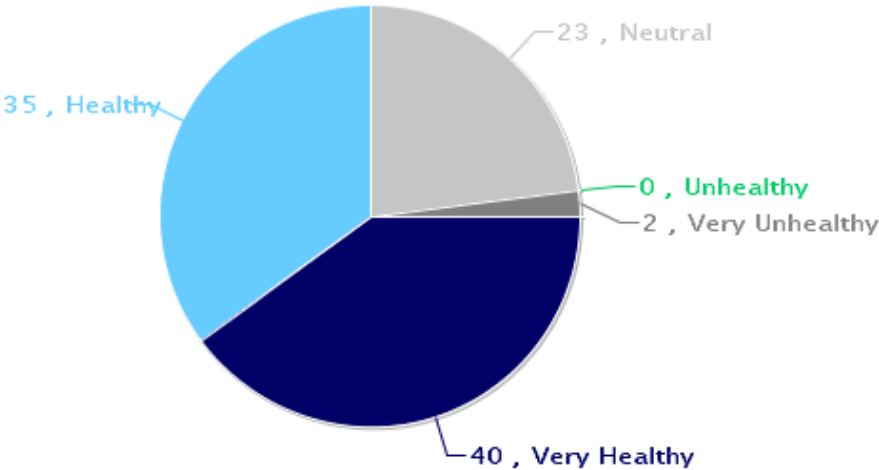
Parents' opinions about how much their child's school encourages or discourages walking and biking to/from school



Parents' opinions about how much fun walking and biking to/from school is for their child



Parents' opinions about how healthy walking and biking to/from school is for their child



Comments Section

SurveyID	Comment
1484880	We live way too far from school for them to walk but my work is 1/2 mile away and I'd love for them to walk if possible.
1484921	My child lives too far to walk or bike.
1484882	My son has walked or biked to school for 7 years, until this school year. The school is way too far for him to walk or bike.
1484927	I like the crossing guard at the drop off loop. Especially since it is dark at morning drop off.
1484947	We live on the south side of I-70 so crossing is a must for all schools.
1484889	We live 9.9 miles from our son's school. His school starts at 7:25AM. Walking or biking to school from out home is not really an option due to distance, time, traffic etc. We have let him walk short distances after school with friends but not all the way back to our home.
1484950	Question 10 isn't very clear. I allow him to walk b/c we live in a safe community and our house is close to the school.
1484931	Live 8+ miles away
1484881	Due to the time of school, it is dark in the mornings. That is also a significant factor.
1484892	We live too far for my son to walk or bike to school.