

Scenic Elementary School Walking and Bicycling Audit



September 26, 2016

Scenic Elementary School

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Audit Team Members:

Erik Borschel, Engineering Intern, Mesa County

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The Scenic Elementary Walking and Bicycling Audit was conducted after school on a typical day. Personnel were stationed in the following locations for observation:

- In front of the school for parent pick-up
- Sidewalks and bicycle routes near school property
- Intersection of Scenic Drive and school entrance
- Crosswalk to parent parking lot

Discussion:

There are approximately 215 students that attend Scenic Elementary, 27.5% of whom qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Scenic has one regular bus and one Harvard Academy van that wait in the staff parking lot closest to the school. There was one bike rack located uphill from the school grounds that is separated by gravel. There were no bikes parked at the rack but later we learned that there is consistently one bike rider that is accompanied by a parent on most days. There are consistently 10-15 walkers.

Observations/Comments:

Members of the audit team and members of the school community made the following observations and comments regarding the afternoon pick-up and departure:

Drop-off/Pick-up Area (front of Scenic Elementary):



Figure 1: Diagram of school layout.

- Cars enter school grounds from a hill that could limit visibility. Parents are parking in the staff parking lot next to the school where children are not supervised and cars are not necessarily looking for pedestrians because they are not supposed to be there.
- Cars exiting parent pick-up area are driving too fast.
- Car engines run continuously while they wait to pick up their children.
- Crosswalks and other painted areas need to be evaluated and repainted.
- Signage is small and there is a lack of speed zone signs.

Intersection of school entrance and crosswalk to parent parking lot:

- Crosswalks and other painted areas need to be evaluated and repainted.
- Signage is small and there is a lack of speed zone signs. The stop sign on Scenic Drive is faded.
- There is a lack of sidewalks on school grounds, on Scenic Drive or on Broadway.
- Cars stack up onto W. Scenic Drive. When that happens, some drivers go into the wrong lane of traffic to get into the parent parking area.

Walkers/Bikers:

- There is ample bike parking at the school that is underutilized and there are no bike routes.
- Residents across Broadway are frustrated because there is no crosswalk and no sidewalks along Scenic Drive or Broadway.
- No raised curb to separate pedestrians; school uses cones and painted lines (need repainting).
- Sidewalks are not continuous surrounding the campus.



Figure 2 Scenic Drive outside of school entrance.



Figure 3: Parent pickup lane, walk path separated on by cones, stripe.

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.	Scenic administration, Safe Routes To School personnel, parent involvement groups, school safety teams
General	Small and faded signs on school grounds.	Update signage and make sure that there are larger signs directing vehicle and pedestrian traffic	District 51 Administration
Parent pick-up	Drivers are exiting the parent pick-up area too fast.	Speed zone signage needs to be posted in school's exit loop	School District maintenance
Walking or Biking routes along Scenic and Broadway	There are no sidewalks along Scenic Drive or Broadway. There is no crosswalk across Broadway and no sidewalk to cross to.	A plan for sidewalk installation or other infrastructure to support walking or biking in this area.	Mesa County; City of Grand Junction; Colorado Department of Transportation
Parent pick-up	There is a great amount of congestion after school and more help is needed with traffic adherence, walkers and bikers.	Additional support staff from the school to help with traffic direction and helping kids to cars.	Scenic staff; School Resource Officer
Crosswalks on the school campus	Paint is faded and not highly visible.	Crosswalks need repainting along with lines to delineate walking and biking routes as well as traffic separation in parent pick-up.	School District maintenance

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

Scenic Elementary School Walk Route Map Summary

	1-Mile Radius ~113 street crossings		2-Mile Radius ~192 street crossings	
	Length	Percent	Length	Percent
Least Favored - 4	16.9	49%	25.4	48%
Not Favored - 3	13.3	39%	16.0	31%
Favored - 2	1.3	4%	4.8	9%
Most Favored - 1	2.7	8%	6.3	12%
	34.2	100%	52.5	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

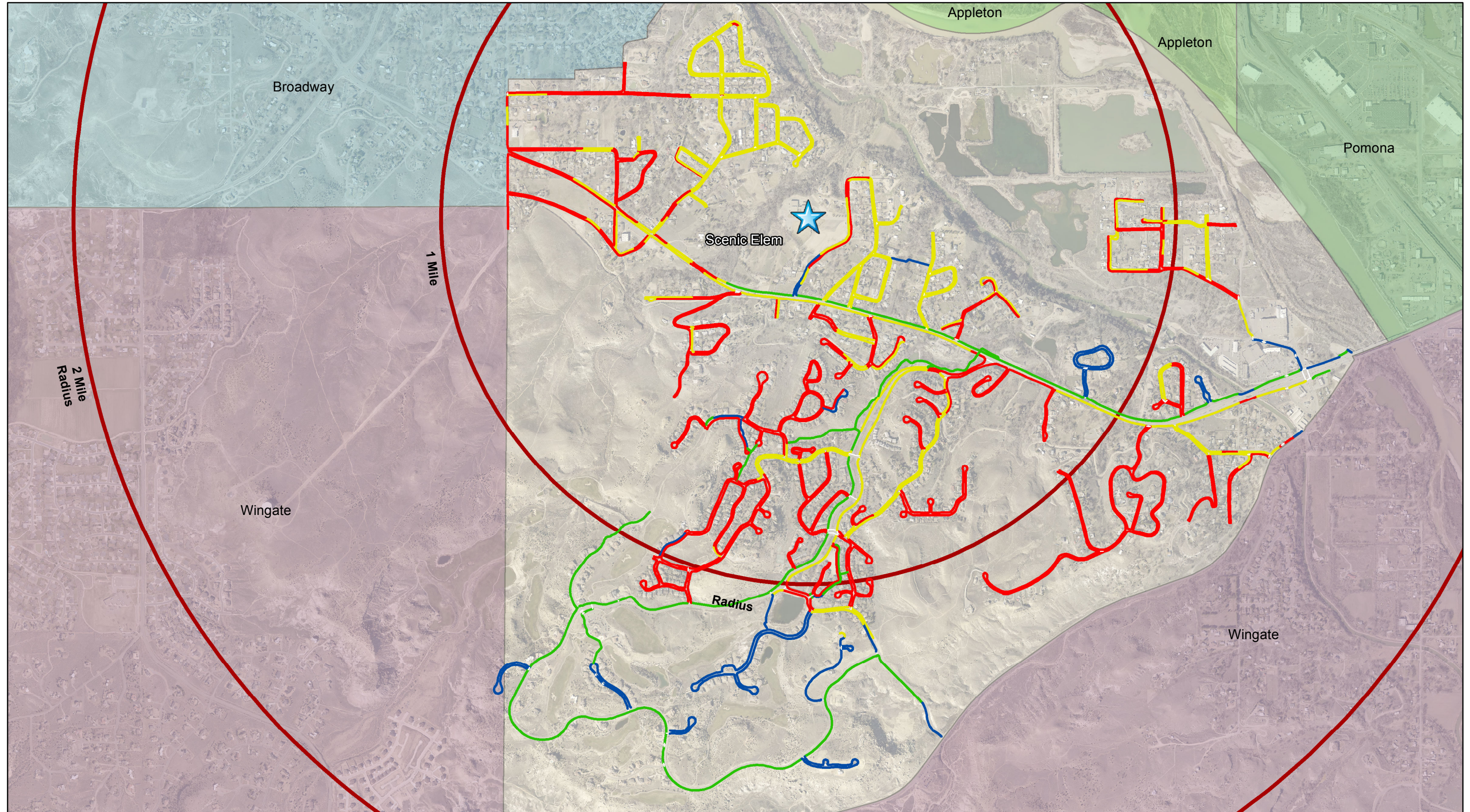
Least favored route. Pedestrians and bicyclists must use the vehicle lanes to walk or ride. (No sidewalk and little or no space beyond the white edge line on the side of the road.)

SRTS 2016 - Scenic Elementary Path Ratings within 1 & 2 Mile Radii

Legend

- Most favored
- Favored
- Not favored
- Least favored

- Crosswalk
- 2 Mile Radius
- 1 Mile Radius



Parent Surveys

Parent Survey Report: One School in One Data Collection Period

School Name: Scenic Elementary School

Set ID: 15758

School Group: Mesa County Valley School District 51

Month and Year Collected: October 2016

School Enrollment: 0

Date Report Generated: 12/30/2016

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

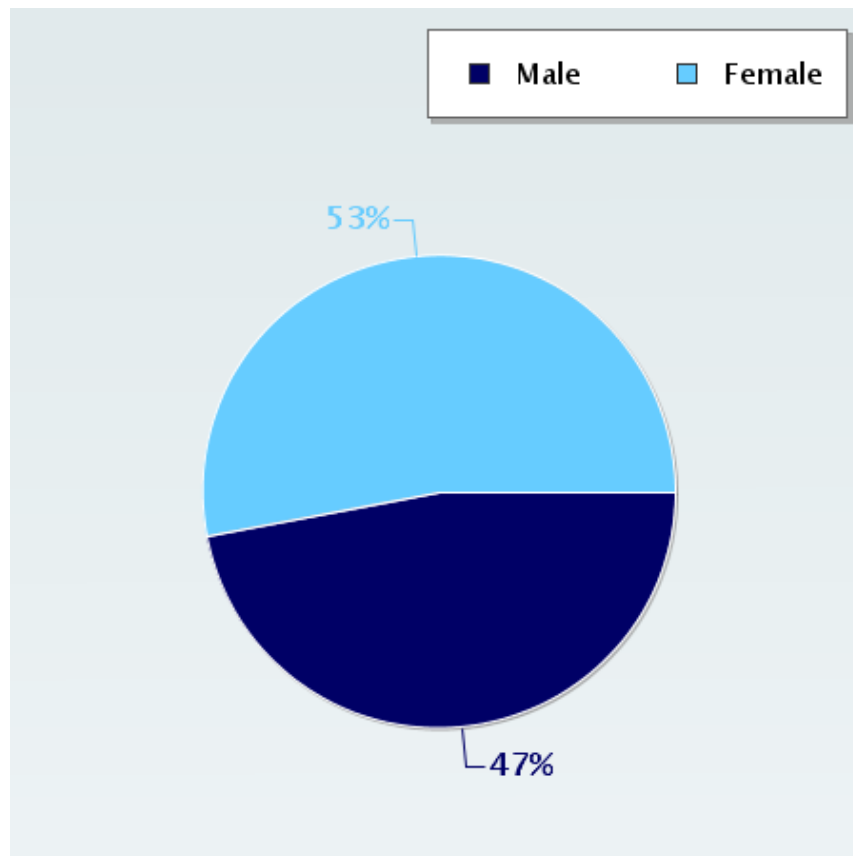
Tags: Safe Routes To School

Number of Questionnaires Distributed: 0

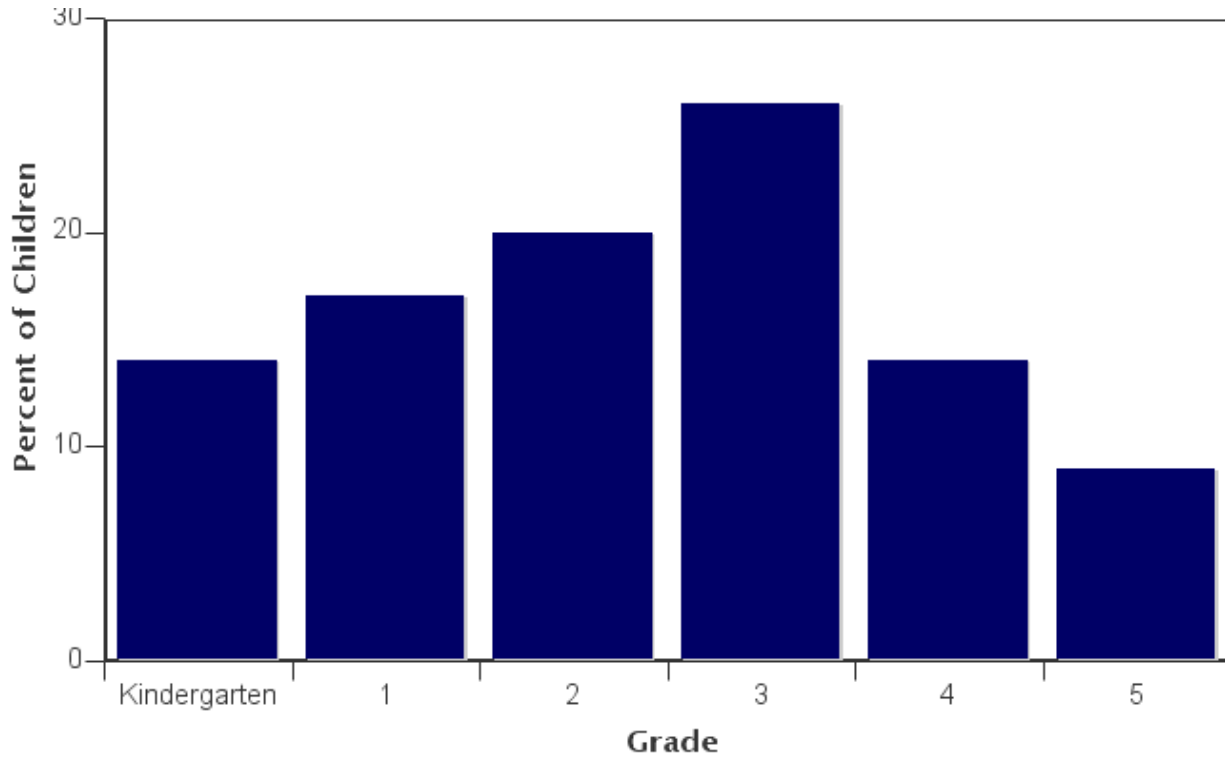
Number of Questionnaires Analyzed for Report: 114

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



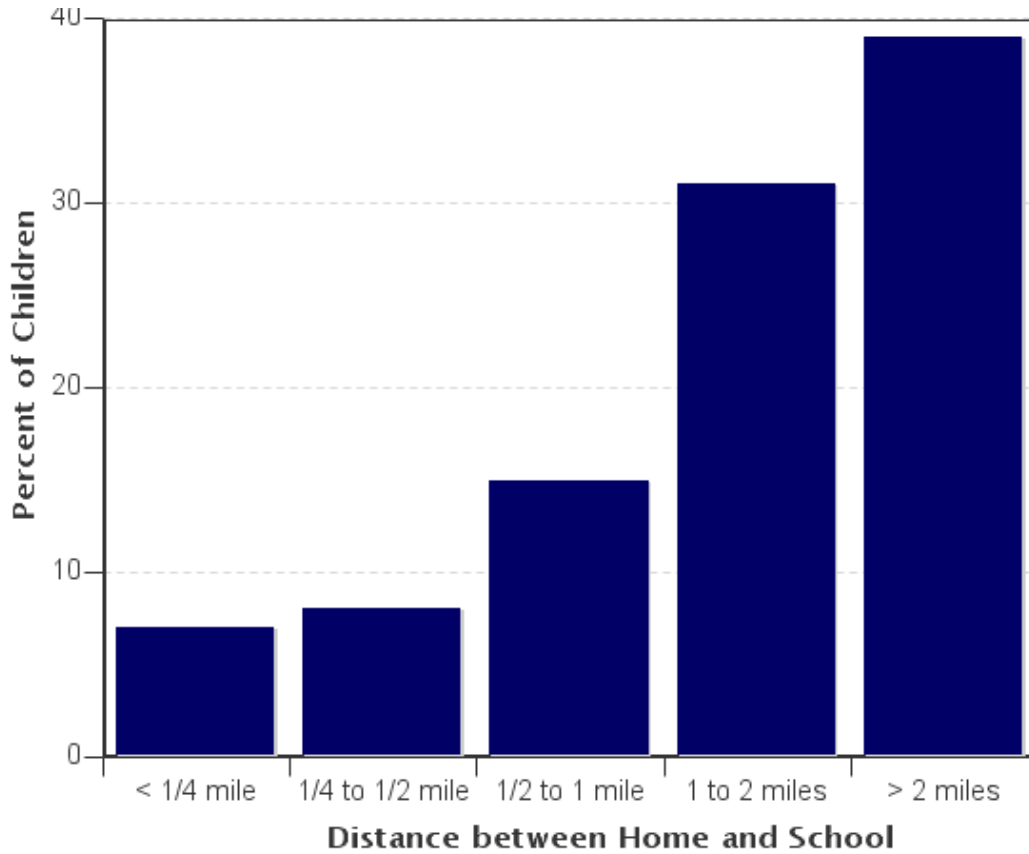
Grade levels of children represented in survey

Grade in School	Responses per grade	
	Number	Percent
Kindergarten	15	14%
1	19	17%
2	22	20%
3	28	26%
4	15	14%
5	10	9%

No response: 0

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Parent estimate of distance from child's home to school



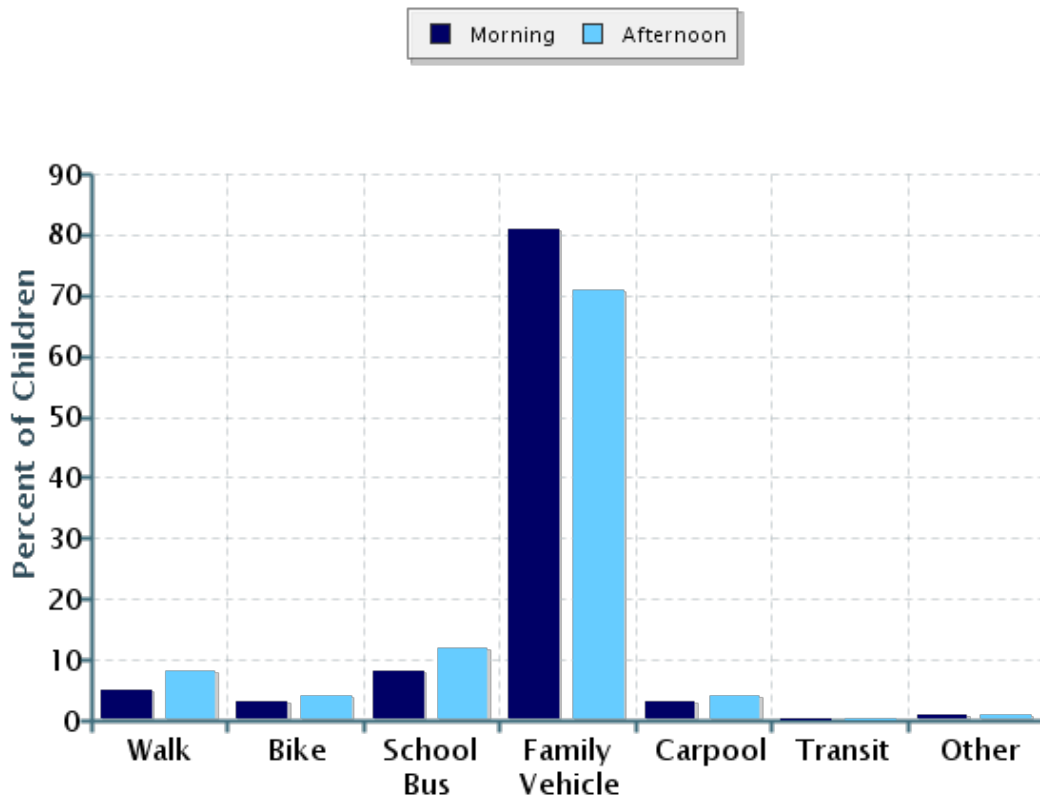
Parent estimate of distance from child's home to school

Distance between home and school	Number of children	Percent
Less than 1/4 mile	8	7%
1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	9	8%
1/2 mile up to 1 mile	17	15%
1 mile up to 2 miles	34	31%
More than 2 miles	43	39%

Don't know or No response: 3

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	114	5%	3%	8%	81%	3%	0%	0.9%
Afternoon	114	8%	4%	12%	71%	4%	0%	0.9%

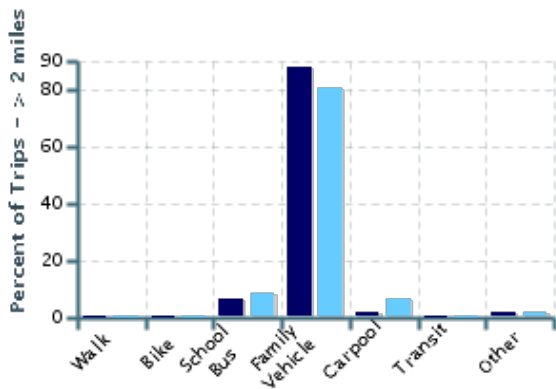
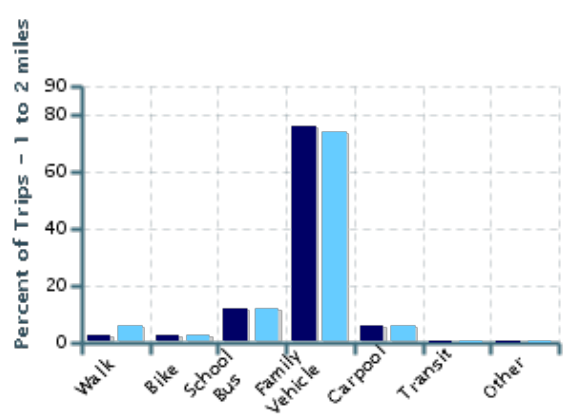
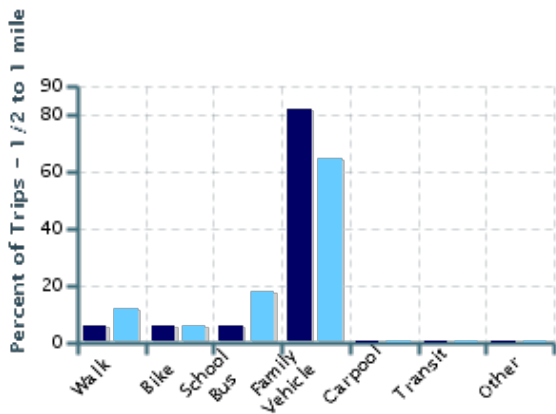
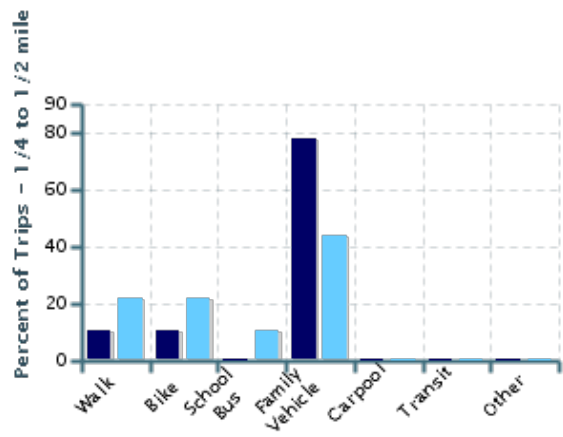
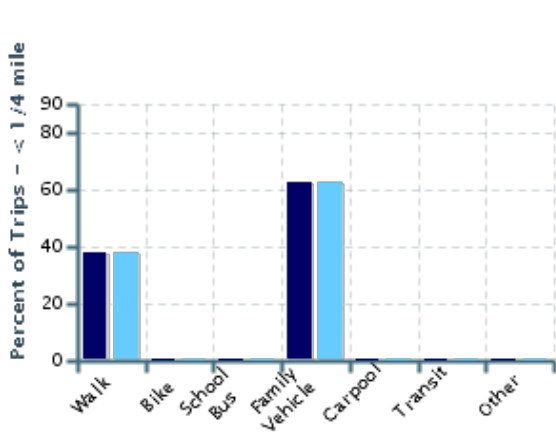
No Response Morning: 0

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	8	38%	0%	0%	63%	0%	0%	0%
1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	9	11%	11%	0%	78%	0%	0%	0%
1/2 mile up to 1 mile	17	6%	6%	6%	82%	0%	0%	0%
1 mile up to 2 miles	34	3%	3%	12%	76%	6%	0%	0%
More than 2 miles	43	0%	0%	7%	88%	2%	0%	2%

Don't know or No response: 3

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

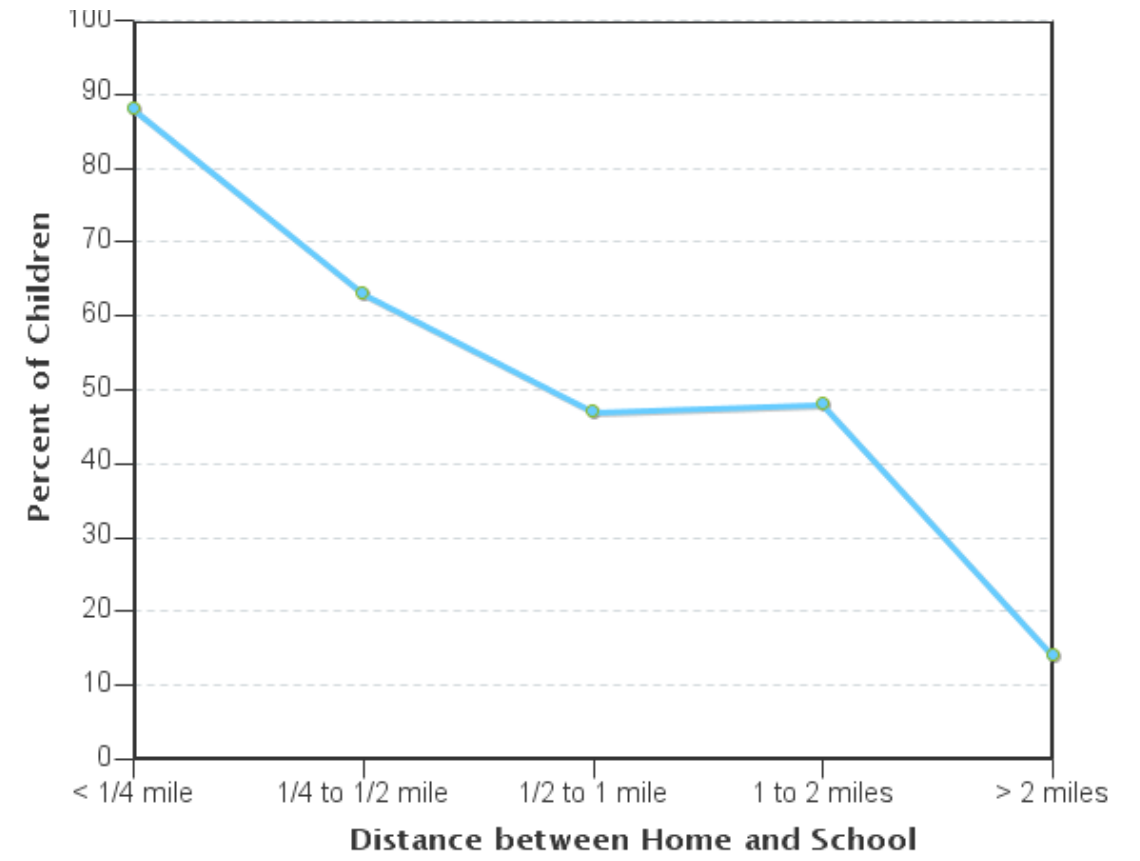
School Departure

Distance	Number within Distance	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Less than 1/4 mile	8	38%	0%	0%	63%	0%	0%	0%
1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	9	22%	22%	11%	44%	0%	0%	0%
1/2 mile up to 1 mile	17	12%	6%	18%	65%	0%	0%	0%
1 mile up to 2 miles	34	6%	3%	12%	74%	6%	0%	0%
More than 2 miles	43	0%	0%	9%	81%	7%	0%	2%

Don't know or No response: 3

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

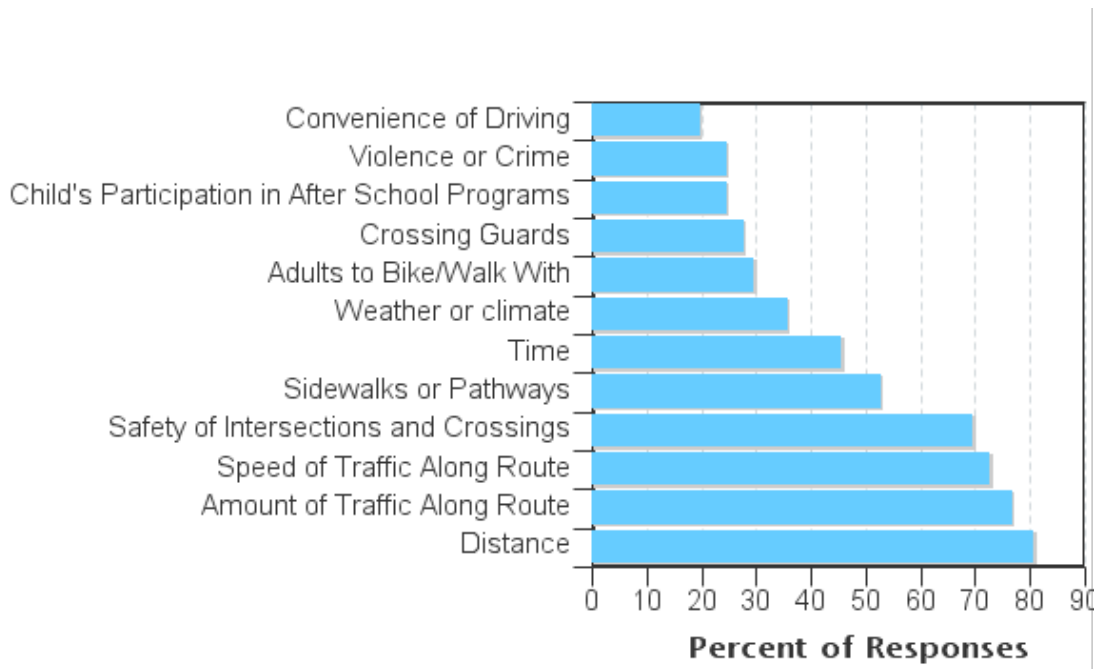


Percent of children who have asked for permission to walk or bike to/from school by distance they live from school

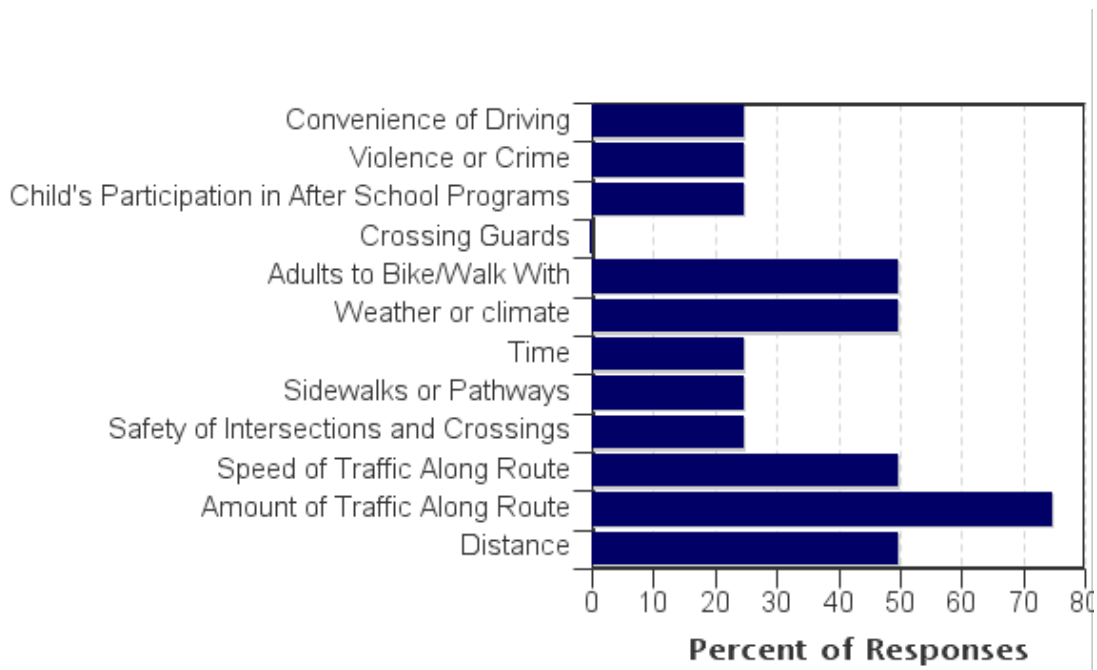
Asked Permission?	Number of Children	Less than 1/4 mile	1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	1/2 mile up to 1 mile	1 mile up to 2 miles	More than 2 miles
Yes	42	88%	63%	47%	48%	14%
No	67	13%	38%	53%	52%	86%

Don't know or No response: 5
 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	81%	50%
Amount of Traffic Along Route	77%	75%
Speed of Traffic Along Route	73%	50%
Safety of Intersections and Crossings	70%	25%
Sidewalks or Pathways	53%	25%
Time	46%	25%
Weather or climate	36%	50%
Adults to Bike/Walk With	30%	50%
Crossing Guards	28%	0%
Child's Participation in After School Programs	25%	25%
Violence or Crime	25%	25%
Convenience of Driving	20%	25%
Number of Respondents per Category	83	4

No response: 27

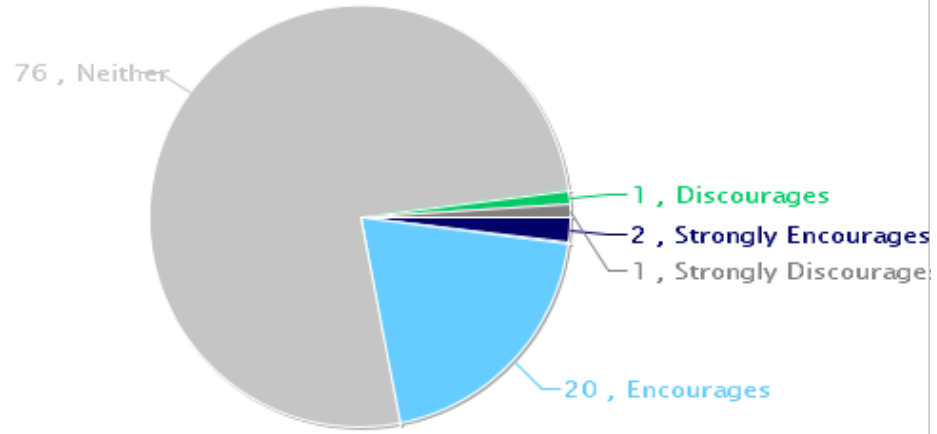
Note:

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

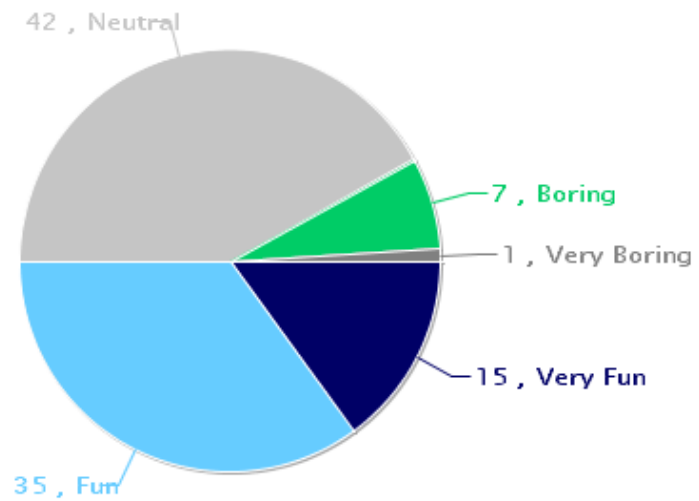
--Each column may sum to > 100% because respondent could select more than issue

--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.

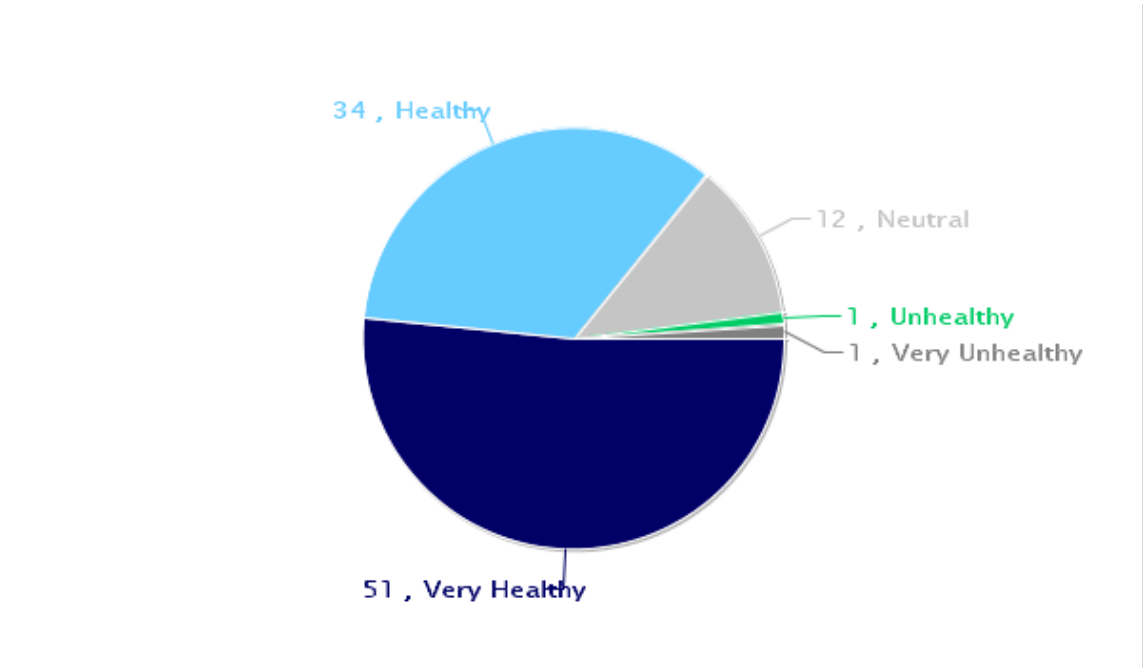
Parents' opinions about how much their child's school encourages or discourages walking and biking to/from school



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
1490853	Speeding traffic, as well as no crosswalk or bike path make walking or riding a bicycle an unsafe choice for our family.
1490839	The older my daughter gets the more capable she is of navigating the challenge facing her walk. Including older kids who bully!
1490844	We walk for the exercise as well as to avoid traffic. It would take longer to drive due to traffic flow than to walk to/from.
1490850	11-20 minutes when going to/from glade park. less than 5 minutes when dad picks her up from friends house.
1490888	The children on the south side of Broadway do not have a safe way to cross Broadway. There is a minimal sight distance and traffic goes much too fast to cross.
1490900	We are a transfer family. We are 6-7 miles away.
1490903	I am mostly concerned about my student crossing Broadway.
1490914	We are at scenic on school of choice, we are hoping to move closer to the school soon to start some walking/biking to school.
1490938	We would LOVE to walk from our house in the Ridges to Scenic Elementary, and/or walk to a bus stop. The trouble with walking is the danger and chaos of crossing Broadway. The trouble with walking to a bus stop is that no bus serves our neighborhood!
1492180	In the crazy world we live in, unless I was able to escort my daughter via walking or bike - I'd never feel comfortable with her going alone. It's not safe.
1492196	We wish more kiddos and teachers biked in. Our daughter's bike looks so lonely in the rack by itself. Parents leaving the school drive very fast and, sadly, are often distracted. We've seen many texting/on phones.
1492242	I would not allow my elementary school child to walk or bike to school even if improvements were made unless she was accompanied by myself or a trusted adult.
1492269	When we were not school of choice my children would walk to and from school as long as weather permitted. Now we live 10+ miles and just not feasible.
1492276	When we were not school of choice my children would walk to and from school as long as weather permitted. Now we live 10+ miles and just not feasible.
1490842	I don't think he is mature enough to get there on his own, he complains its too far.
1490856	Broadway is too busy!
1490857	We live too far away from my child's school for him to be able to ever walk or ride his bike.

1490863	My child bikes and walks to school but there is no safe way for my child to enter the school and be blocked from traffic (ie a sidewalk along the driveway into school). He has to cut across a private yard to stay clear of traffic.
1490867	We live 1.3 miles from school, down a very busy street. I think my kids would like to ride their bikes but I don't think it's safe for them to ride alone.
1490892	Broadway needs a crosswalk for scenic, Broadway Redlands schools. People drive too fast. Also no sidewalks. *Rural "like" for pedestrians, but people drive like in the city.
1490911	Safety is my biggest concert. If there were crossing guards at every intersection on the way AND sidewalks the whole way, I would feel comfortable, maybe.
1490913	If there was a crosswalk on Broadway with a crossing guard, we would bike to school as much as possible.
1490927	Last year at Taylor Elementary we rode our bikes to school almost everyday - we live 2 blocks away and didn't have to cross a busy road like Broadway.
1492260	We live on W Scenic Drive. There are no sidewalks in the direction my child walks. Cars do not stop for the kids trying to cross and the cars speed. Lots of kids hang a left out of the parking lot and head North on W Scenic Drive Going around the corner to East scenic Drive
1490865	We live too far for her to walk to school.
1490922	Cars drive way too fast around the corners of West scenic drive and East scenic drive.
1490932	Ridges Blvd and W scenic drive both need stop lights. If traffic is busy, it is difficult and dangerous to turn left. Broadway is simply too busy and dangerous for young children to be biking and walking to school.
1490941	We are a 1 vehicle family, without school bus transportation my kids would not make it to school when my husband works. The highway traffic and lack of sidewalks is not safe.
1492220	We are school-of-choice and live 20 minutes away so this survey really doesn't pertain to us.
1492222	Another main concern is Mr.s Green's dogs.
1492232	We are school of choice - too far to walk. However, if we lived close I would be concerned about lack of sidewalks near Scenic.
1490907	Buses should still be offered even though you are within 2 miles of school. Every child should get the option to be bused.
1490940	We did school of choice so we are pretty far away.
1490908	It is very difficult for us to walk/bike to school even as a family because we have 5 children, two under school age.
1490872	School buses NEED to be provided for children living a mile or more away or for unsafely exposed to traffic on Broadway.
1490864	My daughter likes the bus. I would not be ok with her crossing Broadway alone.

1490910	Problems in 10 are not one or the other, rather they are all of the checked boxes would need to be improved before we let the kids ride their bikes. They would bike/cross a major highway so we would never allow them to bike.
1490912	No answer for 12-14 as N/A. We live across town which is why my child doesn't walk.
1492202	We live in Loma, which is 30 min away.