

# Dos Rios Elementary School Walking and Biking Audit



**October 19, 2016**

## Dos Rios Elementary School Audit for Walking and Biking

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### **Audit Team Members:**

Jessica Carlson, Safe Routes to School, Mesa County  
Jennifer Fox-Colwell, Safe Routes to School, Mesa County  
Callie Fronczak, Safe Routes to School, Mesa County  
Cody Martin, Transportation Engineering Assistant, City of Grand Junction  
Matt Surad, Safety and Security Officer, School District 51  
Terri Wenzlaff, Safe Routes to School, Mesa County

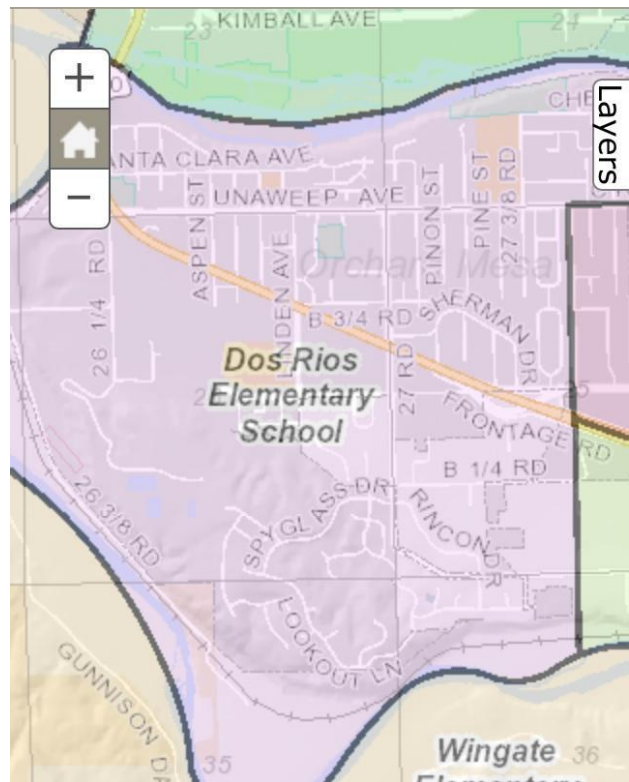
### **Discussion:**

The Dos Rios Elementary School walking and biking audit took place on Wednesday, October 19, at 1:50 pm. The day was fairly typical in terms of weather and activities that would change the number of walking and biking students, though the weekly “early release” meant there was no preschool pickup. The principal estimated that there are about 25 more cars on non-early release weekdays.

The audit team observed:

- The pick-up and drop-off zone
- The bus loop
- The school exit on Linden
- The crosswalk on Linden
- A point past the school entrance on Linden, where pedestrians frequently cross (though there is no crosswalk), so a school staff member is stationed there

Dos Rios Elementary School has about 360 students, 92.2% of whom qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch. According to the principal, not many students walk or ride to school on a typical day. There are two bike racks, and each has 52 spots. On this day, the bike rack on the south side of the school held six bikes and one scooter. The bike rack on the north side was empty. With 52 spots for 360 students, the



*Figure 1: The Dos Rios attendance boundary includes a large residential area on the other side of Highway 50, which the orange line*

number of spaces in the bike racks do not meet the standard of one spot for every five students. However, there were many empty spots on this day.

The school does not have a formal Traffic Safety Team, but administrators and members of the school community have met to improve conditions in the parking lot.

Most students arrive and leave Dos Rios Elementary by car and bus. There are four buses and two ADA buses. No problems were observed in the bus area.



As Principal Vernann Raney wrote in the survey, “Our school is on the south side of Highway 50, which is not pedestrian-friendly.” In fact, kids who live on the other side of the highway are bussed across Highway 50 to go to school, no matter how close they live “as the crow flies”. School secretaries estimate that about 70% of the student body (which would be about 250 students) is bussed across Highway 50. A safe way for these students to walk or bike across Highway 50 would make walking and biking to school feasible for approximately 250 more students. This would be healthier for the students, and would save District 51 significant spending on bussing. If funding were no object, the principal would like an overpass over Highway 50, which would be the safest way for kids who live on the other side of Highway 50 to walk and bike to school.

*Figure 2: Crosswalk and ramp in parking lot.*

Other students live in the Green Acres Mobile Home Park west-northwest of the school and do walk to school. An easement and gate in the school’s fence that would formally allow kids to walk along the school’s property to the mobile home park was discussed.



*Figure 3: Location of walk paths.*

Some students live east of Dos Rios, across Linden. Walkers and bikers from this area cross Linden to go home. To do that, they have the option of one crosswalk, which is north of the school's driveway, and requires many of them to detour from the shortest route between the school's entrance and their homes. This probably explains why many parents and kids try to cross at a point near a pump-house south of the school.

The audit team member observing near this pump-house counted three cyclists headed home there -

- none of them wearing helmets, and 18 kids walking home. Though there is no crosswalk, a school staff member is there to make sure that walkers and bikers are safe when they inevitably jaywalk there. Perhaps a second crosswalk on Linden would be well-used. PE teacher Mike LyBarger suggested a survey of parents to determine who would use such a crosswalk.

The school's only crosswalk (other than the one in the parking lot) is south of the bus loop and north of the school's driveway. A paved walkway in good condition leads pedestrians safely from the school's doors there, where a crossing guard is stationed. However, on this day, the crossing guard did not arrive until 1:57, seven minutes after school let out. Students are to wait until an adult is there to cross them safely. Perhaps Dos Rios could use the Best Practice of gathering the crosswalk users at the school to wait for the faculty member to meet them and walk them safely across. Twenty-six pedestrians, three cyclists, and three scooter-riders were observed crossing here. No helmets were seen.

### Observations/Comments:

The following observations and comments regarding the afternoon pick-up and departure were made by members of the audit team and members of the school community.

#### Walkers/Bikers:

- There are no bike routes around the school.
- Stop sign at parking lot exit is not standard.
- Neighbors park in No Parking Zones adjacent to crosswalk.
- Curb painting inconsistent around No Parking Zones on Linden. Maybe paint curbs red for no parking sections.
- Arrows on new "no-parking" signs east of entrance point away from road confusingly. (See photo.)



*Figure 4: New "No Parking" sign.*

#### Drop-off/Pick-up Area in parking lot in front of school:

- Crosswalk painted in parking lot is faded.
- Flow of traffic in parking lot unclear to unfamiliar users. Improve signs and pavement markings and add arrows in lane close to the building.
- Parents drive slowly in the parking lot.
- Parents use the crosswalk when they park in the parking lot and walk to the front of the school to get their kids.
- Staff report that, on a normal day, there is pick-up congestion at the right of way on the southwest corner of Linden and Highway 50, as cars are trying to pull out to turn left onto or to cross Highway 50.
- "Many staff are highly involved and do a really good job."
- Drivers had a heated verbal argument when one car stopped in the parking lot and blocked others from proceeding.

#### Bus Zone:

- Bus loop is a very well-maintained area.
- Staff supervision is great! 6 people (including principal) just for buses.

## 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, PE teacher, Health Assistant
General	Students who walk and wheel to school do not use helmets.	Promote the acquisition and use of helmets.	School Administration, PE teacher, Health Assistant
NW of school	Kids walk along dirt road north of school property to get to Green Acres Mobile Home Park.	Consider opening up the fence if necessary so kids may easily pass to walk home. If necessary, seek an easement from property owners.	School Administration, District 51
Linden Ave.	Parking in No Parking Zone on Linden hinders visibility.	Review the parking signs and markings on Linden for clarity and consistency	City of Grand Junction
Linden/ Hwy 50 & 27 ¾ Rd & Hwy 50	Trees and bushes obscured vision for drivers.	RESOLVED: Trees and bushes trimmed.	City of Grand Junction - RESOLVED
Exit from school parking lot	Drivers do not always obey parking lot stop sign. Uncertainty about whether current stop sign was enforceable.	RESOLVED: Stop sign coming out of parking lot is enforceable per law of yielding to traffic when exiting driveway.	GJ Police; City of Grand Junction - RESOLVED
Linden Ave.	There was uncertainty about whether current No Parking signs were enforceable.	RESOLVED: No Parking signs were replaced with city standard signs and are now enforceable.	City of Grand Junction - RESOLVED
Parking lot	Handicap ramps not ADA compliant.	Update ramps.	City of Grand Junction - PENDING

## 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



## Dos Rios Elementary School Walk Route Map Summary

	1-Mile Radius ~ 224 street crossings		2-Mile Radius ~257 street crossings	
	Length	Percent	Length	Percent
<b>Least Favored - 4</b>	7.1	16%	7.6	15%
<b>Not Favored - 3</b>	21.1	48%	24.1	49%
<b>Favored - 2</b>	13.0	30%	14.3	29%
<b>Most Favored - 1</b>	2.9	7%	3.0	6%
	44.1	100%	49.0	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

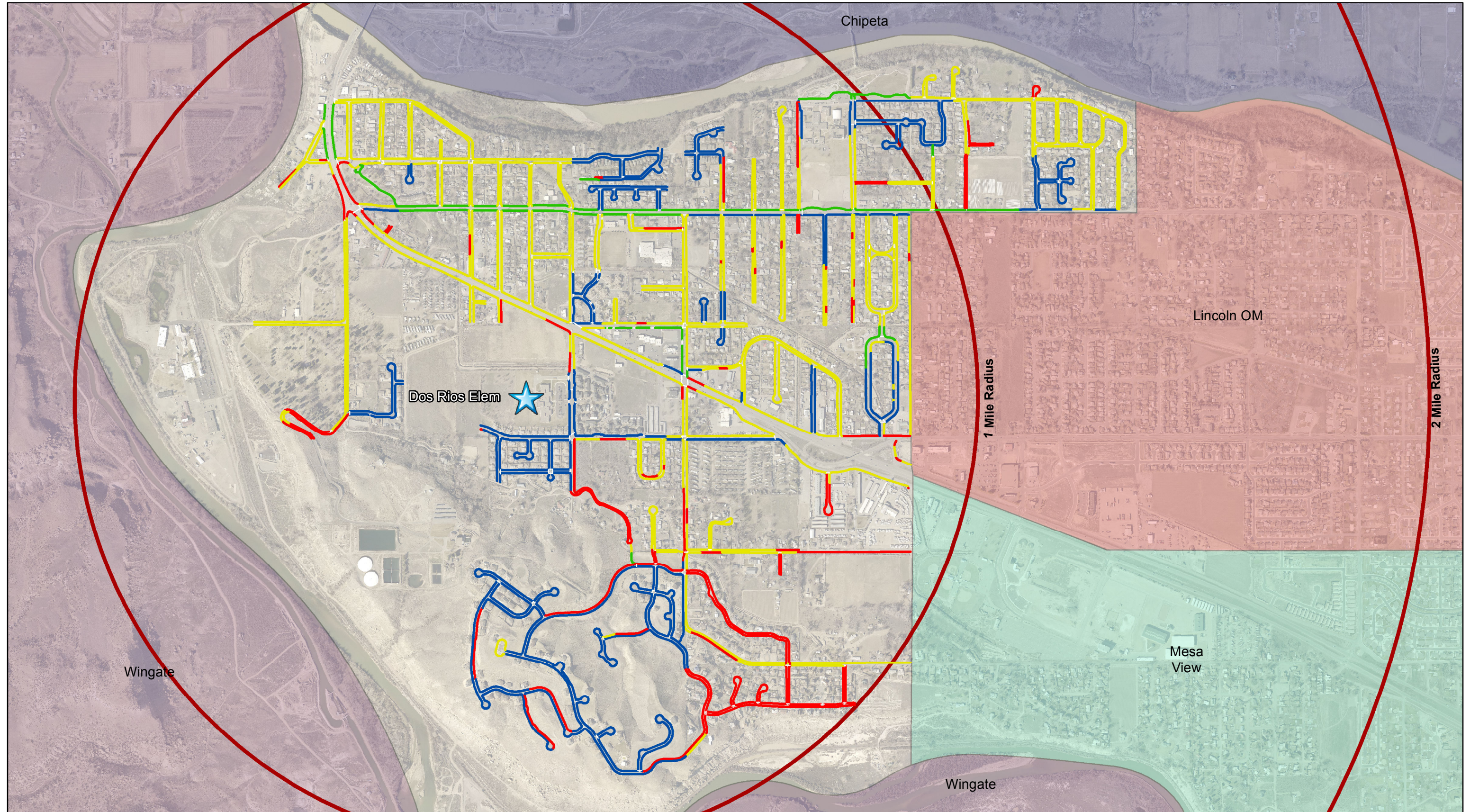
Least favored route. Pedestrians and bicyclists must use the vehicle lanes to walk or ride. (No sidewalk and little or no space beyond the white edge line on the side of the road.)

# SRTS 2016 - Dos Rios Elementary Path Ratings within 1 & 2 Mile Radii

## Legend

- Most favored
- Favored
- Not favored
- Least favored

- Crosswalk
- 2 Mile Radius
- 1 Mile Radius



# Classroom Tallies

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

**School Name:** Dos Rios Elementary School

**Set ID:** 22434

**School Group:** Mesa County Valley School District 51

**Month and Year Collected:** October 2016

**School Enrollment:** 0

**Date Report Generated:** 01/03/2017

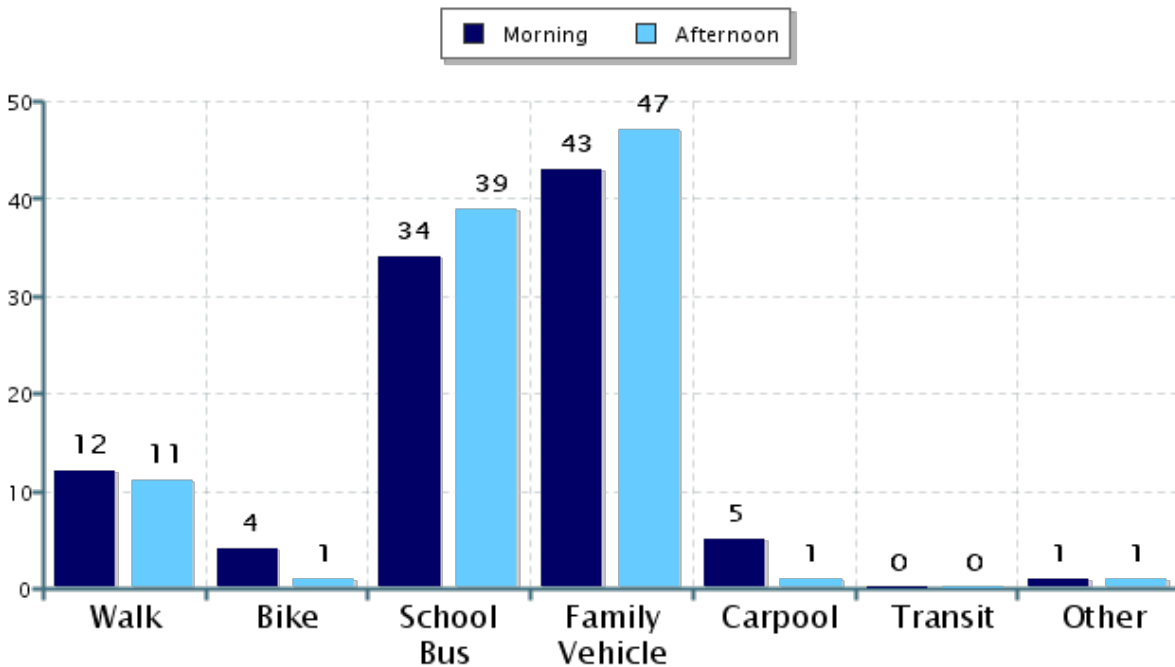
**% of Students reached by SRTS activities:**

**Tags:** Safe Routes To School

**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



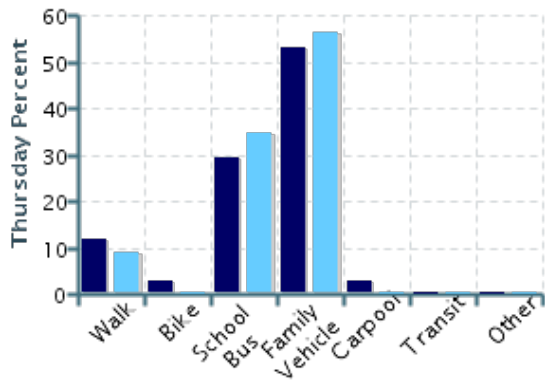
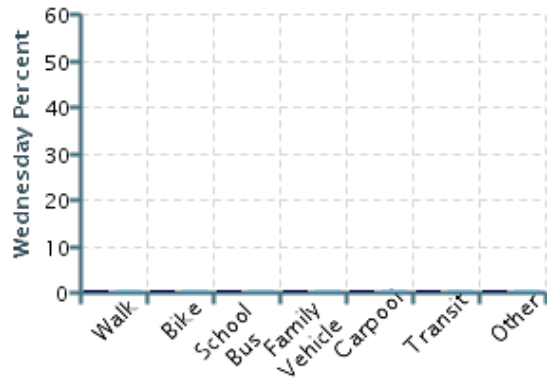
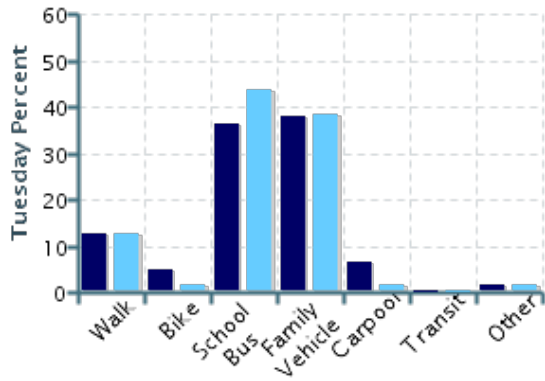
## Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison

	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Morning	97	12%	4%	34%	43%	5%	0%	1%
Afternoon	110	11%	0.9%	39%	47%	0.9%	0%	0.9%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

## Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison by Day

■ Morning      ■ Afternoon

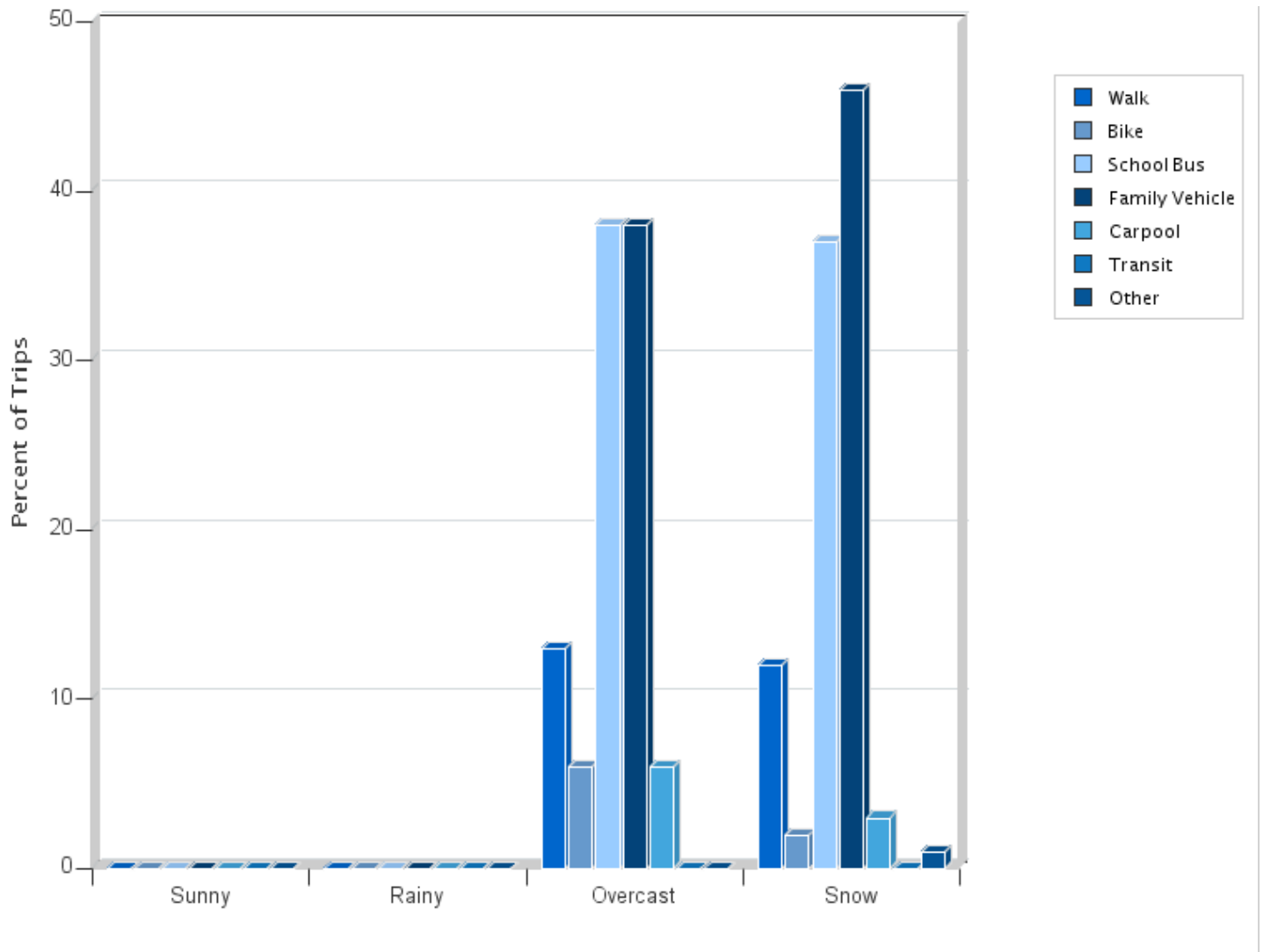


## Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison by Day

	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Tuesday AM	63	13%	5%	37%	38%	6%	0%	2%
Tuesday PM	55	13%	2%	44%	38%	2%	0%	2%
Wednesday AM		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Wednesday PM		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Thursday AM	34	12%	3%	29%	53%	3%	0%	0%
Thursday PM	55	9%	0%	35%	56%	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	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Rainy	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Overcast	16	13%	6%	38%	38%	6%	0%	0%
Snow	191	12%	2%	37%	46%	3%	0%	1%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

# Parent Surveys

# Parent Survey Report: One School in One Data Collection Period

**School Name:** Dos Rios Elementary School

**Set ID:** 15659

**School Group:** Mesa County Valley School District 51

**Month and Year Collected:** October 2016

**School Enrollment:** 0

**Date Report Generated:** 12/12/2016

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

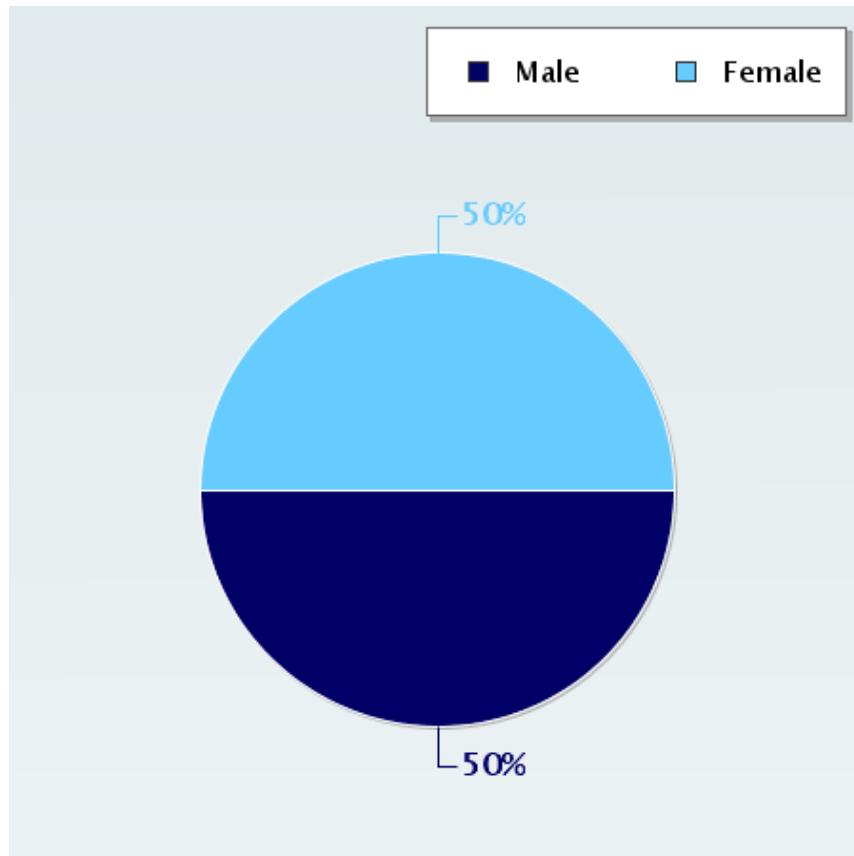
**Tags:** Safe Routes To School

**Number of Questionnaires Distributed:** 0

**Number of Questionnaires Analyzed for Report:** 118

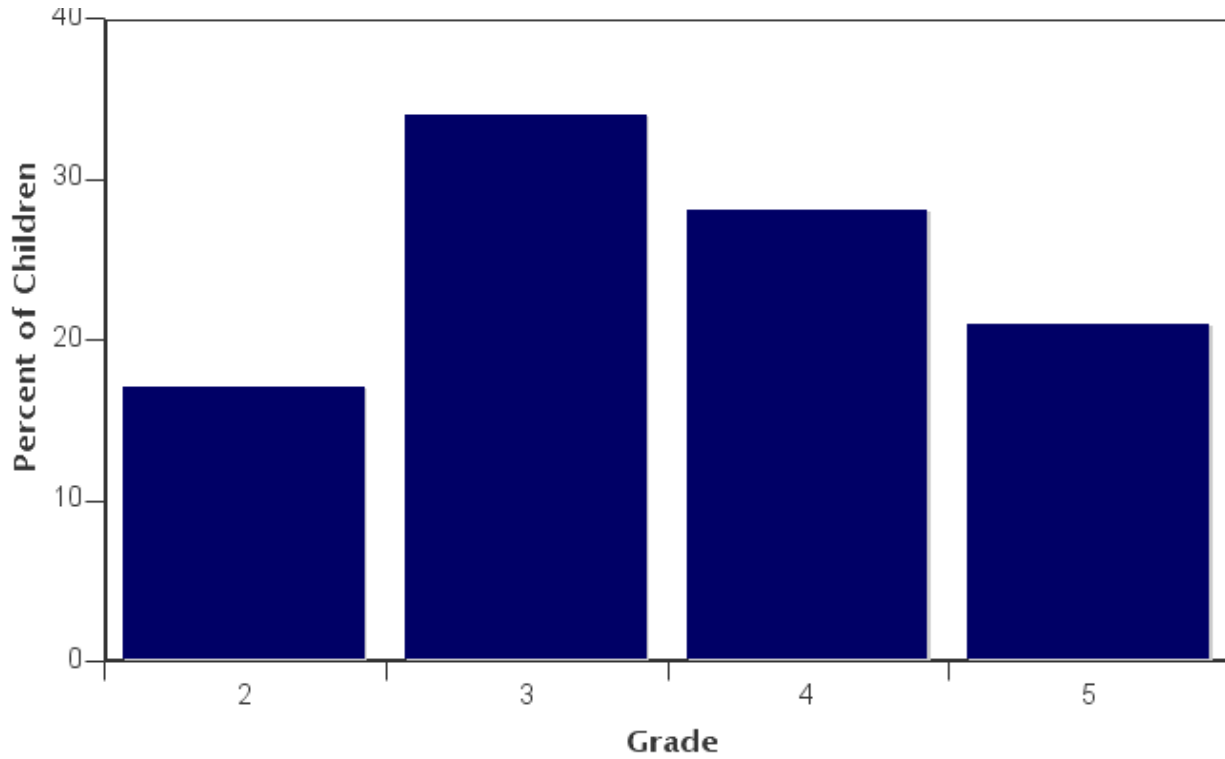
This report contains information from parents about their children's trip to and from school. The report also reflects parents' perceptions regarding whether walking and bicycling to school is appropriate for their child. The data used in this report were collected using the Survey about Walking and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



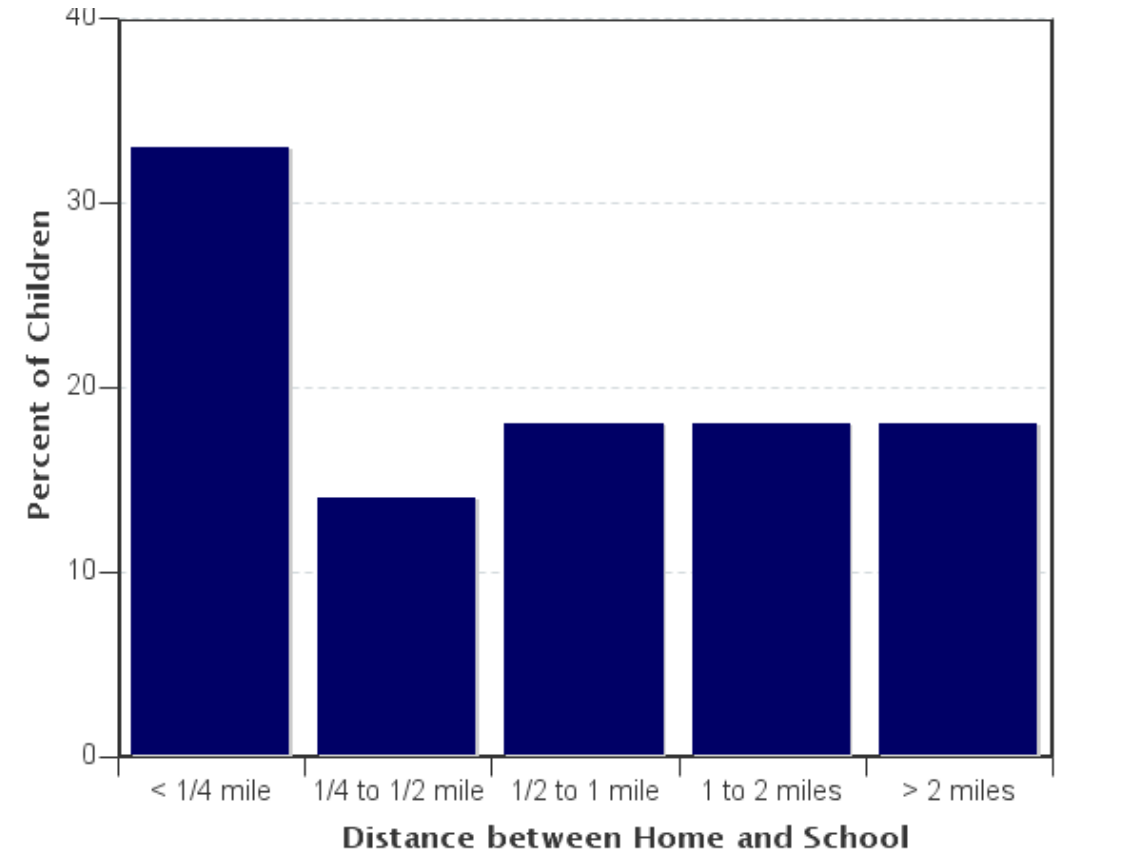
Grade levels of children represented in survey

Grade in School	Responses per grade	
	Number	Percent
2	20	17%
3	40	34%
4	33	28%
5	25	21%

No response: 0

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Parent estimate of distance from child's home to school

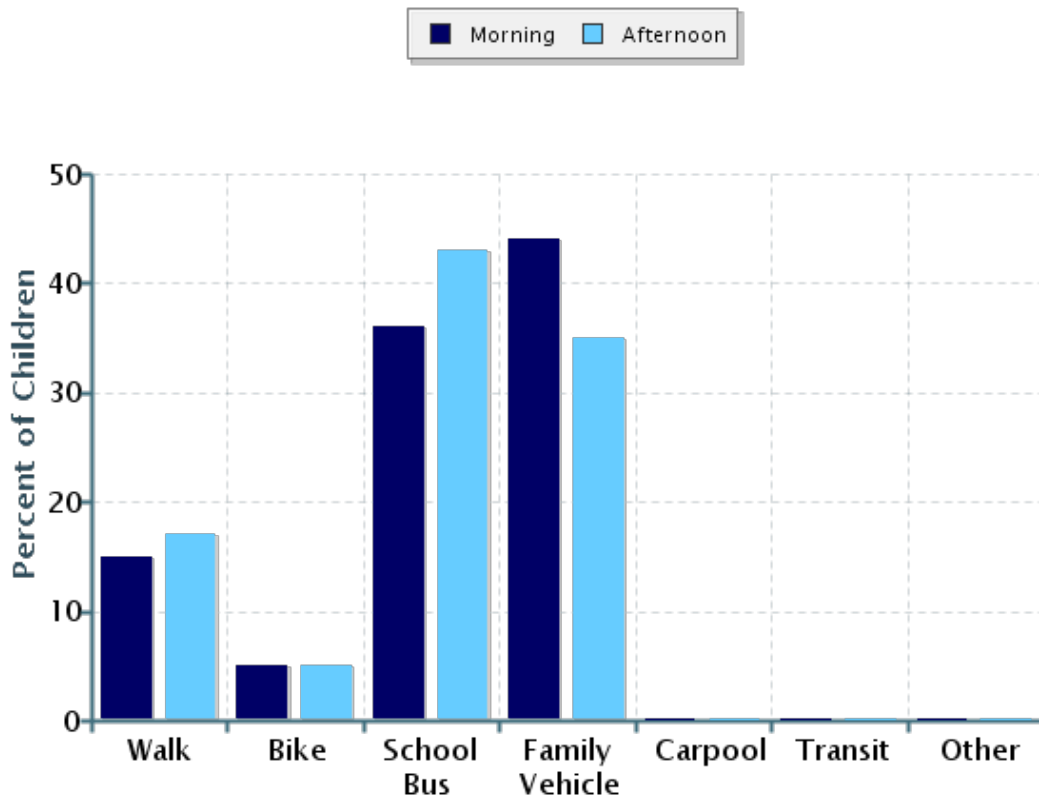


Parent estimate of distance from child's home to school

Distance between home and school	Number of children	Percent
Less than 1/4 mile	38	33%
1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	16	14%
1/2 mile up to 1 mile	20	18%
1 mile up to 2 miles	20	18%
More than 2 miles	20	18%

Don't know or No response: 4  
 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	117	15%	5%	36%	44%	0%	0%	0%
Afternoon	115	17%	5%	43%	35%	0%	0%	0%

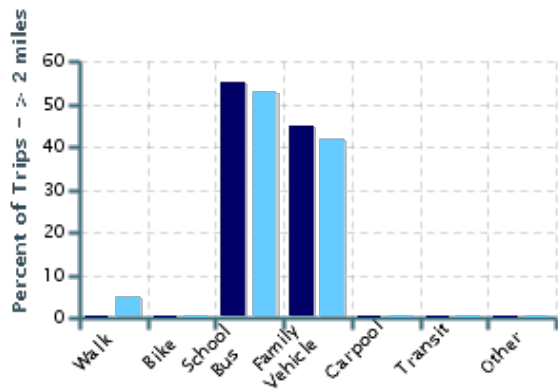
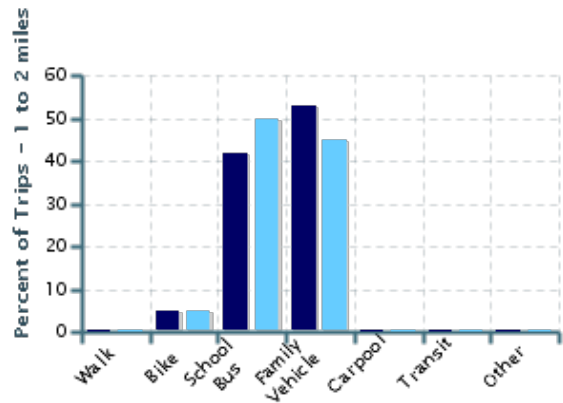
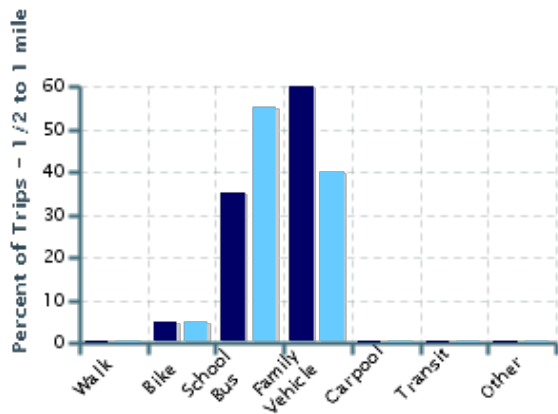
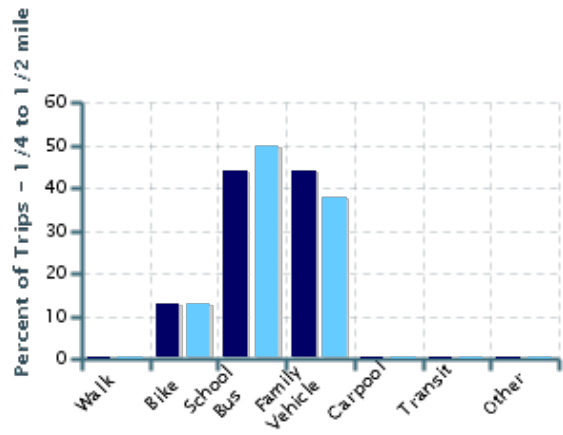
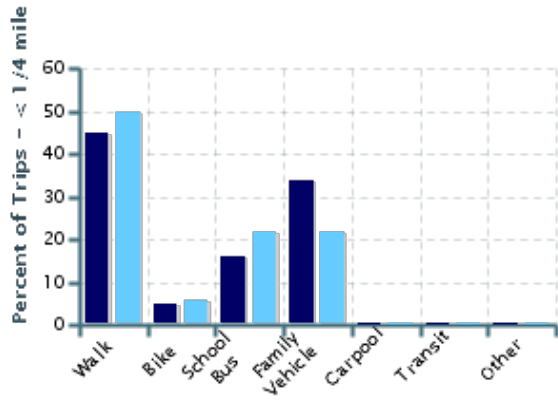
No Response Morning: 1

No Response Afternoon: 3

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	38	45%	5%	16%	34%	0%	0%	0%
1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	16	0%	13%	44%	44%	0%	0%	0%
1/2 mile up to 1 mile	20	0%	5%	35%	60%	0%	0%	0%
1 mile up to 2 miles	19	0%	5%	42%	53%	0%	0%	0%
More than 2 miles	20	0%	0%	55%	45%	0%	0%	0%

Don't know or No response: 5

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

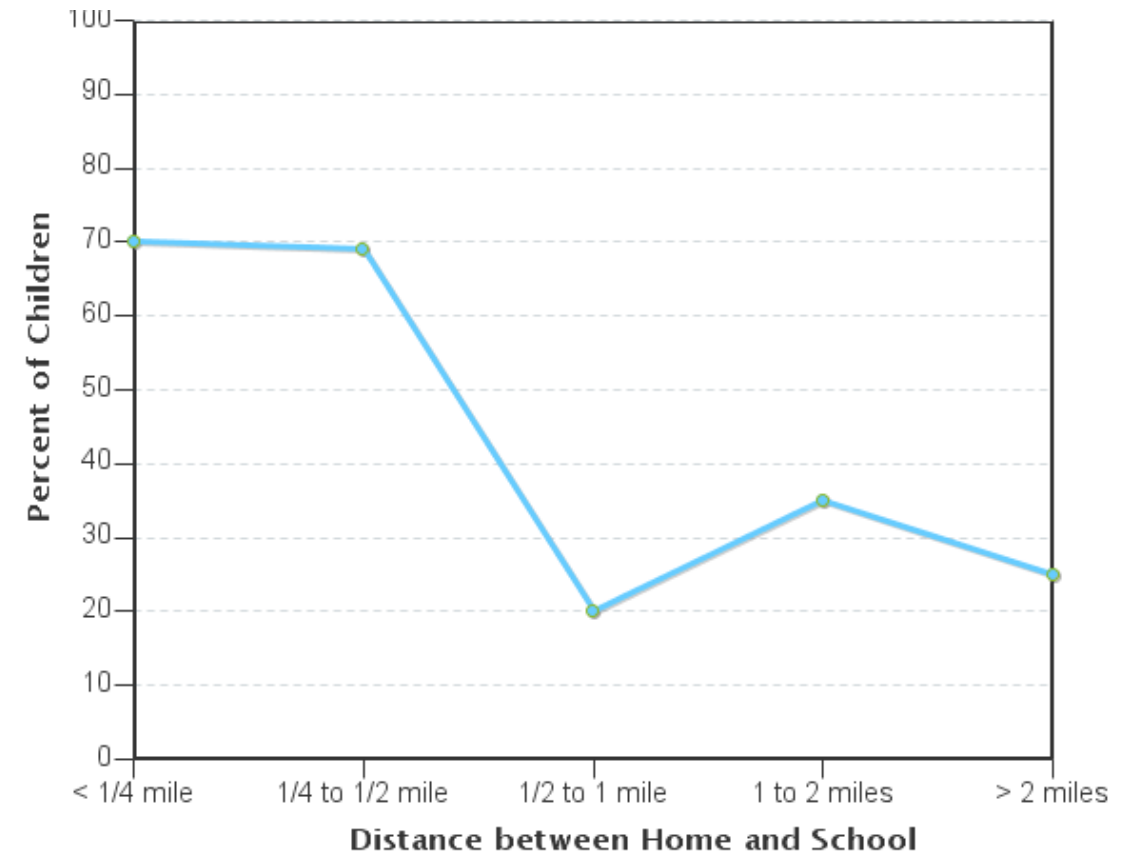
### School Departure

Distance	Number within Distance	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Less than 1/4 mile	36	50%	6%	22%	22%	0%	0%	0%
1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	16	0%	13%	50%	38%	0%	0%	0%
1/2 mile up to 1 mile	20	0%	5%	55%	40%	0%	0%	0%
1 mile up to 2 miles	20	0%	5%	50%	45%	0%	0%	0%
More than 2 miles	19	5%	0%	53%	42%	0%	0%	0%

Don't know or No response: 7

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

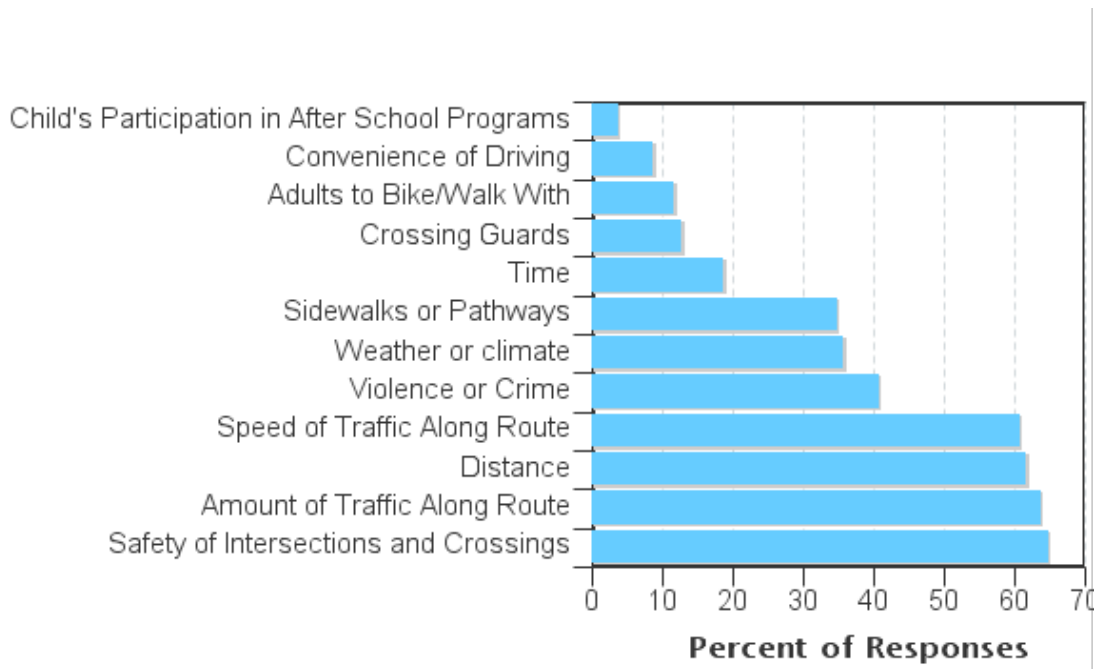


Percent of children who have asked for permission to walk or bike to/from school by distance they live from school

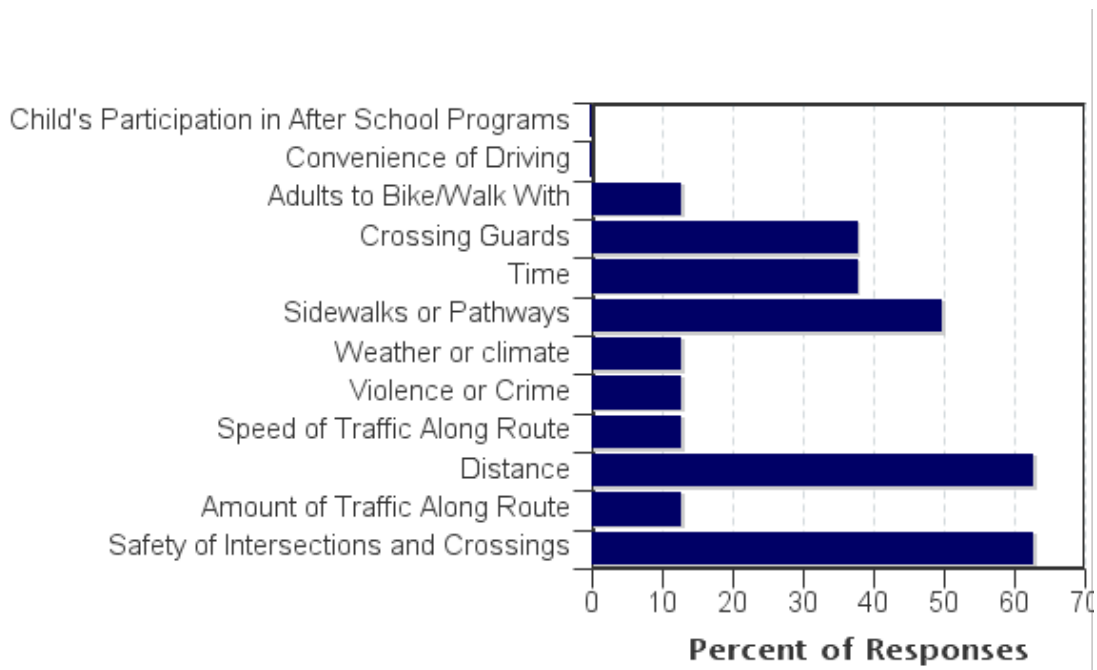
Asked Permission?	Number of Children	Less than 1/4 mile	1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	1/2 mile up to 1 mile	1 mile up to 2 miles	More than 2 miles
Yes	53	70%	69%	20%	35%	25%
No	60	30%	31%	80%	65%	75%

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
Safety of Intersections and Crossings	65%	63%
Amount of Traffic Along Route	64%	13%
Distance	62%	63%
Speed of Traffic Along Route	61%	13%
Violence or Crime	41%	13%
Weather or climate	36%	13%
Sidewalks or Pathways	35%	50%
Time	19%	38%
Crossing Guards	13%	38%
Adults to Bike/Walk With	12%	13%
Convenience of Driving	9%	0%
Child's Participation in After School Programs	4%	0%
<b>Number of Respondents per Category</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>8</b>

No response: 41

Note:

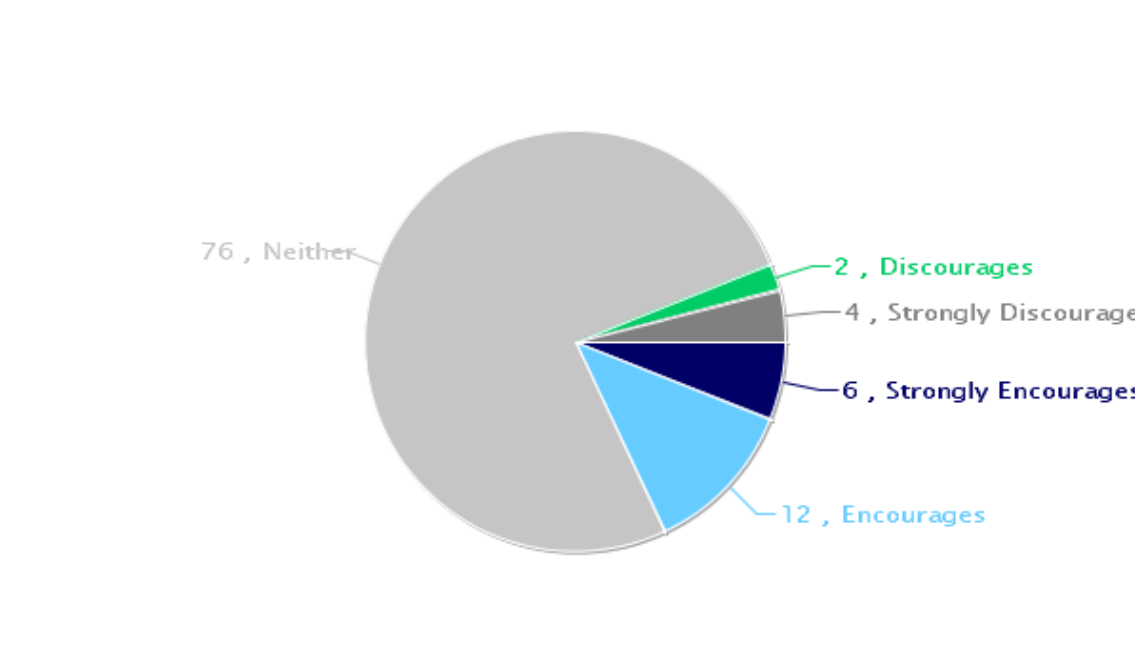
--Factors are listed from most to least influential for the 'Child does not walk/bike to school' group.

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

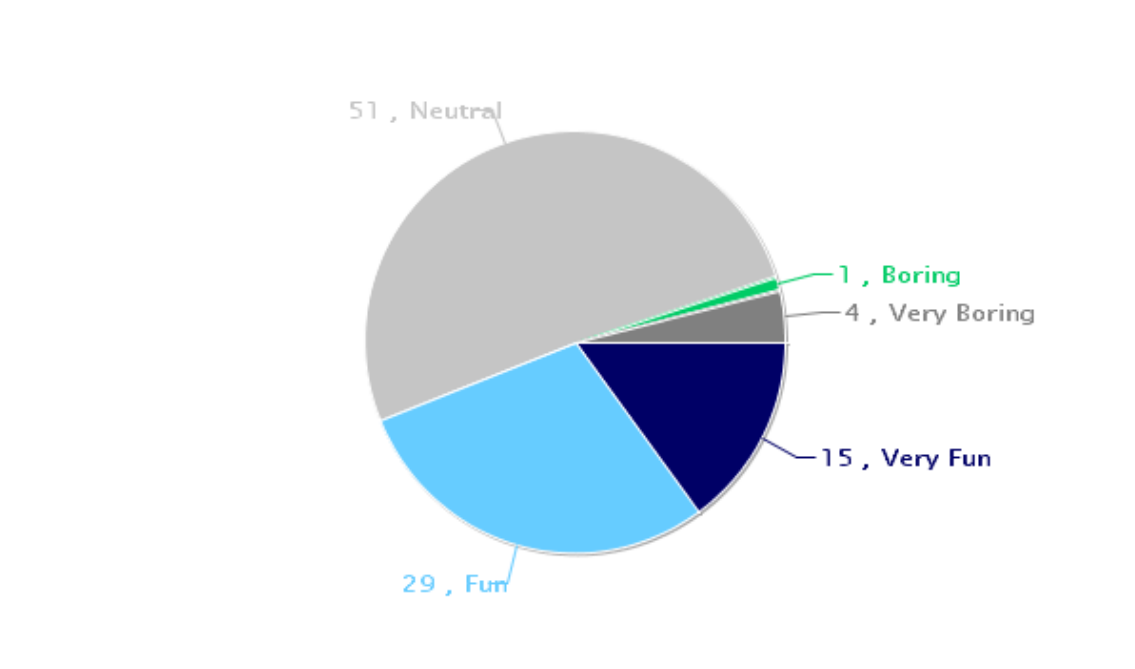
--The calculation used to determine the percentage for each issue is based on the 'Number of Respondents per Category' within the respective columns (Child does not walk/bike to school and Child walks/bikes to school.) If comparing percentages between the two columns, please pay particular attention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



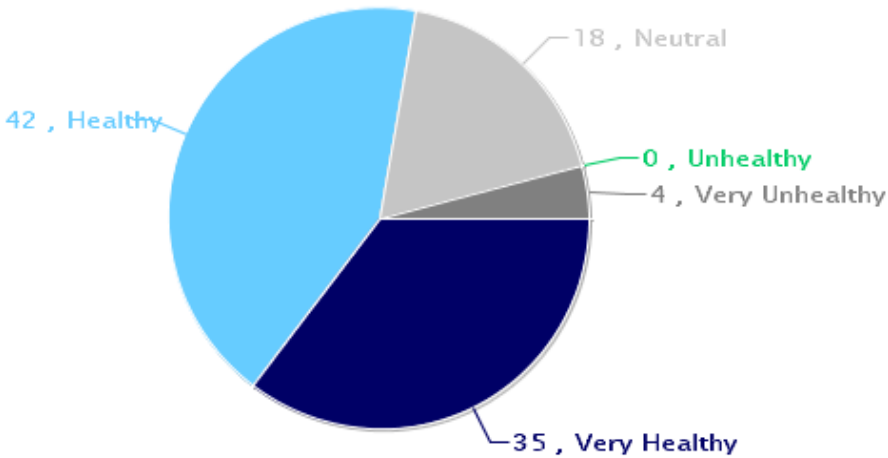
Parents' opinions about how much their child's school encourages or discourages walking and biking to/from school



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
1484999	In my opinion, sad to say but these days children aren't safe on the streets alone. The crime rate is higher than ever and bad people are robbing our children of their right to enjoy the outdoors alone! :(
1485004	I would not allow my child to walk or bike to school at her current school due to the highway and the danger of crossing until she was of middle school age. By then she wouldn't need to.
1485036	If my child walks to school an adult or high school age sibling has to walk with her. People drive way over the speed limit. There is a trailer park, low income apartments and part of the route is a frontage road. She should be bused.
1485085	It would be helpful to have a crosswalk at Linden & B 1/2 for kids who live on this side of the school.
1486465	Letting children walk to school (if it's close enough) I believe starts them on a healthy track to independence and responsibility.
1486529	Get rid of all drugs including marijuana. Get rid of pedophiles. Too many pedophiles live in a 200 mile range of Schools. Too many drunks.
1486579	There are no sidewalks along 27 Rd or B Rd. And that would be the route from Dos Rios Elem.
1484941	He will not walk/bike because there is a busy highway with no crossing signals.
1484974	4 year trade school.
1484985	We live across the highway or we would walk. There is a lot of traffic and not a cross way at the intersection by where we live.
1485019	The Hwy 50 is between our house and the school. I wouldn't feel safe having my child(ren) cross a highway alone.
1485062	Donovan does not have the option of walking or riding bike.
1485082	My 6th grade child walks to school everyday. Distance is better and sidewalks the entire way.
1486631	I like to walk to school alone.
1486655	We run everyday after school. He is a beast! Superfast!
1484896	Also feel very unsafe due to the amount of sexual offenders living in the area. Having two females going to school. Let alone walking!!
1485017	I think as long as the kids are in large groups little kids like kindergarteners can walk with them to be safer and convientant
1485039	We live four miles away and have two major highways to cross to get to school.
1485083	Graduate w/certificate and AAS.
1486488	I think if the kids were walking in large groups, it may be beneficial to walk to school by themselves.

1486525	I, as a parent would like to see more teachers in the morning to help students across the street.
1486568	With living on the north side of Hwy 50 & Dos Rios on the other side, I wouldn't let them cross walking or biking
1486603	In order for my child to walk we have to cross the highway so for her safety I prefer not to have her walk to school.
1484928	Yo, en mi opinion, desde hace ya muchos anos he pensado que hace mucha falta que pongan luces de trafico en la calle de la escuela y el Highway 50. Esto faucitaria mucho a salir de la (Linden Ave) escuela a la hora de salida y seria much mas seguro para los padres que llevan a sus ninos en carro a la escuela como tambien para los que cruzan el highway en bicicleta o caminando. Seria mas rapido salir.
1484994	Because of a lack of sidewalk from Talbott Drive towards Linden Ave we do not feel it is safe for our children to walk by themselves to school. Too much police activity at apts. and loose dogs in area.
1484996	With living north side of Hwy 50 & Dos Rios is on the south side, I wouldn't let my children walk or bike.
1485030	We try to walk to the bus stop as much as possible depending on the weather and the schedule of the household.
1486471	We live only 2 blocks from school, however in K, he was not allowed to bike home alone. This was very inconvenient for us - his dad is disabled, but had to come meet him daily! This should be the parents' decision!
1486505	We live across the Hwy, he will never walk.
1486546	I would never let my elementary student walk with someone or alone to school on Highway 50.
1485078	I just don't feel comfortable letting my child cross the highway.
1486489	I don't trust other drivers/people for my child to walk to school.
1486508	I feel that the school district is wanting to do away with buses and go to all students have to walk to school.
1486486	I do not feel it is safe at all to have children, even through high school to be walking to school alone. I feel schools not providing transportation are allowing the threat of abduction, injury, or death.
1485060	Get an overpass over Hwy 50 and my son will cross it. But until then it is not going to happen!
1486520	Difficult to answer some of these questions because my daughter lives on the other side of the Hwy and will never walk or ride bike and can't be improved.