



# Beaverton School District

## Safe Routes to School Program

### 2016-2017 Annual Report

Beaverton School District's Safe Routes to School program has completed the 2016-17 school year with more schools doing more exciting activities to increase the number of student's walking and rolling (biking, skating, scooting, busing) to school.

When more people walk and roll to school, the routes are safer and easier to use for everyone.

The 2016- 2017 Annual Report highlights our accomplishments and reflects on the challenges and plans to continue to support and promote healthy, safe and active transportation use to and from school.

#### Events

Regular events, like Walk and/or Bike to School Days and the Challenge Month, generates enthusiasm for the program with students, parents, staff and surrounding community.

- Twenty-seven schools participated in Oregon's Walk+Bike to School Day in October.
- Seven schools hosted monthly Walk+Bike events throughout the year.
- One school, Sexton Mountain, hosted weekly walk to school events.

#### Education

Teaching children and families about the broad range of transportation choices available and how to use all modes safely and with respect is important.

- Pedestrian and Bicycle safety taught to all Bethany Elementary students during PE class.
- Twice monthly active transportation articles to families through district's Bulletin and Briefs.
- Bike Rodeo at Oak Hills Elementary.
- Lunch time safety chat and promotion at Bethany Elementary.

#### Engineering

One goal of our SRTS program is for all schools to have an Action Plan with preferred route and arrival/ departure maps. City and County partners know what improvements can be made, short and long term.

- Arrival/ Departure strategies analyzed and altered at Bonny Slope, McKinley, Rock Creek and Cooper Mountain schools.
- Candlestick barriers installed on Saltzman for Findley and on Brugger for Springville to separate vehicles from pedestrians.

# School Teams and Action Plans

Individual school Safe Routes to School Teams have been shown to be valuable in creating a community where walking and biking to school is accepted, safe, normal and fun. Bethany Elementary has the most active school team, members are from the PTO and Green Team. Their Action Plan identifies education, encouragement, engineering projects and who will be responsible for them.

School Teams work with the district's SRTS Coordinator to develop Action Plans to identify programmatic and engineering projects and prioritizes what a school or program needs and who can help. Action Plans can be very persuasive evidence of the need for a project to enhance the safety of students walking to the school site. Sixteen schools now have Action Plans.

The identified engineering/ enforcement barriers from these plans have been given to Washington County and/or City of Beaverton so projects to help schools are on the respective project lists. Example: two school projects that were identified in Action Plans will be funded by Washington County's URMDAC program for 2017 build season.

## Bethany Elementary's School Team and Action Plan

The SRTS Team developed a plan to offer pedestrian and bike safety classes and encouragement sessions throughout the school year. They organized and promoted walking school bus events and posted safe travel tips and skill reminders in their newsletters. With consistent, frequent messaging, **Bethany's mode split for family vehicles went from 53% to 46% in one year.** Still a long way to go, but the school team has a plan to see permanent change.





## Walk Leader Training



Schools started requesting walk leader and crossing guard training to help with Walking School Buses, walking field trips and to refresh the knowledge and skills of the school crossing guards .

Offered at:

- Ridgewood
- Mountain View
- Cooper Mountain
- Oak Hills
- Sexton Mountain
- Springville
- Bethany

## Partners, Posters and Parking Lots

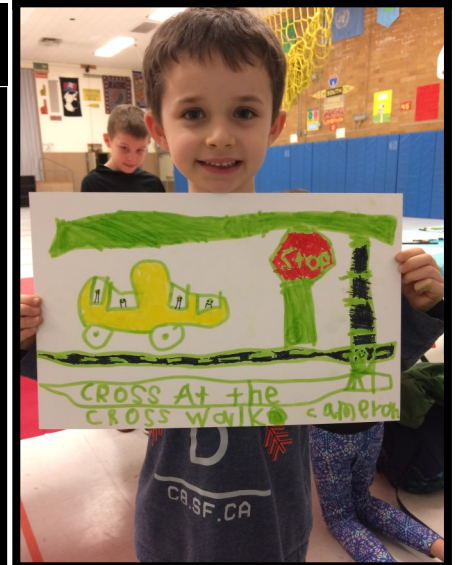
**Parking Lot Flow Options** In response to school team requests, Arrival/ Departure Option InfoSheets were produced for schools to consider to help with site safety needs.

**Poster Contests:** Partnering with Bethany's Green Team, SRTS had a poster making day where students drew what they knew about walking, biking and active transportation. The team is hoping to partner with TriMet for wider distribution.

**Walking Field Trips:** Springville's Kindergarten and Grade One classes learned safe pedestrian skills then took a walking field trip to celebrate the summer.

**Police/ Sheriff Support:** Both City and County Enforcement officers are on our SRTS team and help us identify and promote safe travel for all modes.

**Walk+Roll: *It's the Way to Go*:** The District's SRTS Team worked on a slogan and tag line to help brand their messages and to included promotion of bus use and all active travel modes.



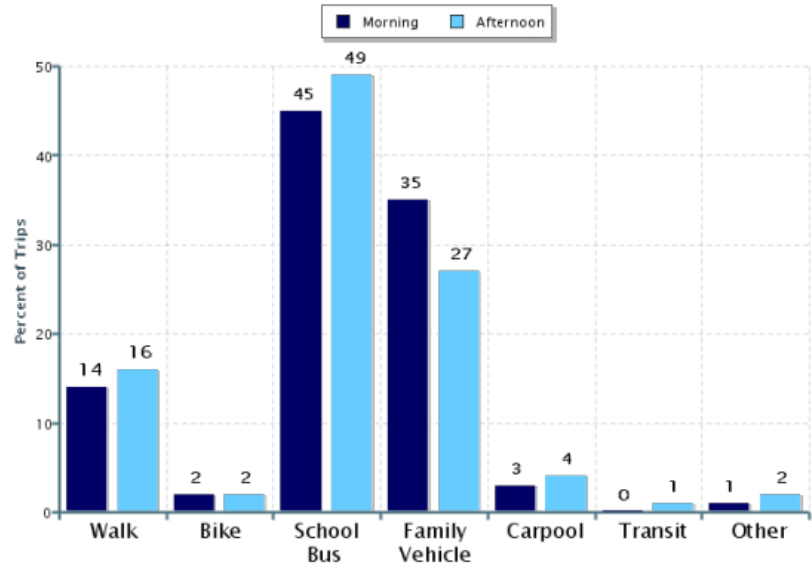


## Year in Review

The Spring 2017 Classroom Tallies received from 92% of k-8 schools showed that the majority of students (45-49% take the school bus and the next most popular is the family vehicle (27-35%). This hasn't changed much district-wide since last year.

	2016	2017	2016	2017
	AM	AM	PM	PM
Walk	15	14	17	16
Bike	2	2	2	2
Bus	44	45	49	49
Family Vehicle	35	35	27	27
Carpool	3	3	4	4
Other	1	1	3	2

## Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison



## Final Thoughts

The majority of parents continue to report increased traffic speed and volume as their main reason for driving their children to school. However, the fact that over **20% of morning and afternoon traffic is from parents driving students to/ from school** only increases this problem. Approximately 14,000 extra vehicles are on our roads, dropping off and picking up our students each day even though the majority of students are in the walk zone or are offered bus service.

Schools that have SRTS Teams are most likely to show positive change in mode split and parent perceptions of walking and biking opportunities. The only school that made a statistically significant change was Bethany where those walking and biking to school went from 32% to 40% in one year. Bethany has a strong, dedicated school team.

Given this, we must continue to encourage and promote more families to find alternatives to driving their students and prioritize walking, biking, taking the bus and carpooling. We must also continue to work with the City of Beaverton and Washington County to advocate for improved conditions on the preferred routes to increase the opportunity to safely walk and roll to school and throughout the community.

