



Fowler Middle School Safe Routes to School Action Plan



Fowler Middle School

Safe Routes to School Action Plan

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— INTRODUCTION —

SCHOOL INFORMATION

School Name: **Fowler Middle School**

School Address: **10865 SW Walnut St, Tigard, OR 97223**

County: **Washington County**

School District: **Tigard-Tualatin School District**

School Website: **<http://fowler.ttsdschools.org/pages/FowlerMS>**

Enrollment:

Enrollment by Grade:

Free/ Reduced Lunch:

Action Plan Contact: **Anna Dragovich, annad@tigard-or.gov, 503-718-2708**

THE PROJECT TEAM

School Principal: **Dan Busch**

Parent Representatives:

City Staff
Representative:

City Police/ School
Resource Officer: **Officer Nick Nunn**

School District
Representative: **Phil Wentz**

City Safe Routes to
School Coordinator: **Anna Dragovich**

WHAT IS SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL?

The Tigard Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program works to promote and support the use of safe, healthy and active transportation (like biking and walking) to school. There are so many benefits to walking, biking and rolling to school – from increasing daily physical activity to ensuring students are awake and ready to learn to improving the environment and air quality around the school. A generation and a half ago, over 50% of students walked or biked to school, now only 13% of students use active transportation to get to school. There are a number of reasons for this decline, which is why the Tigard SRTS Coordinator is working with each school to develop a comprehensive SRTS Program specific to each school's unique context and environment.

The Six E's provide the foundation of our SRTS initiatives, ensuring that the safety, active transportation and community aspects are promoted.

Equity – Reduce health and wealth disparities by providing equitable services in all school communities.

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 schools.

Engineering – Implement engineering changes such as new sidewalks, improved crossings, and other traffic calming devices 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 in Tigard.

This Action Plan lists the known barriers to walking, biking or rolling to Fowler Middle School and identifies the potential engineering and programmatic strategies to address those barriers. Some strategies are more geared toward engineering and infrastructure, while others are more programmatic – education, encouragement events, and enforcement. The Action Plan is available for use by the city, the Fowler SRTS Task Force, the Tigard-Tualatin School District, parents, students and community members as a framework to guide Fowler's work on SRTS.

SRTS Program Goals

1. Reduce the number of driving trips to schools.
2. Educate families about the benefits of active transportation.
3. Improve traffic safety and circulation around schools.
4. Identify champions to build the program and sustain activities.

— EXISTING CONDITIONS —

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREA

The Fowler Middle School attendance boundary roughly represents the northern area of the City of Tigard from I-5 on the east and following HWY 99W to Bull Mountain Rd. for the southern border to the eastern border of Roy Rodgers Rd. and the City of Tigard border on the north. (see map on page 4).

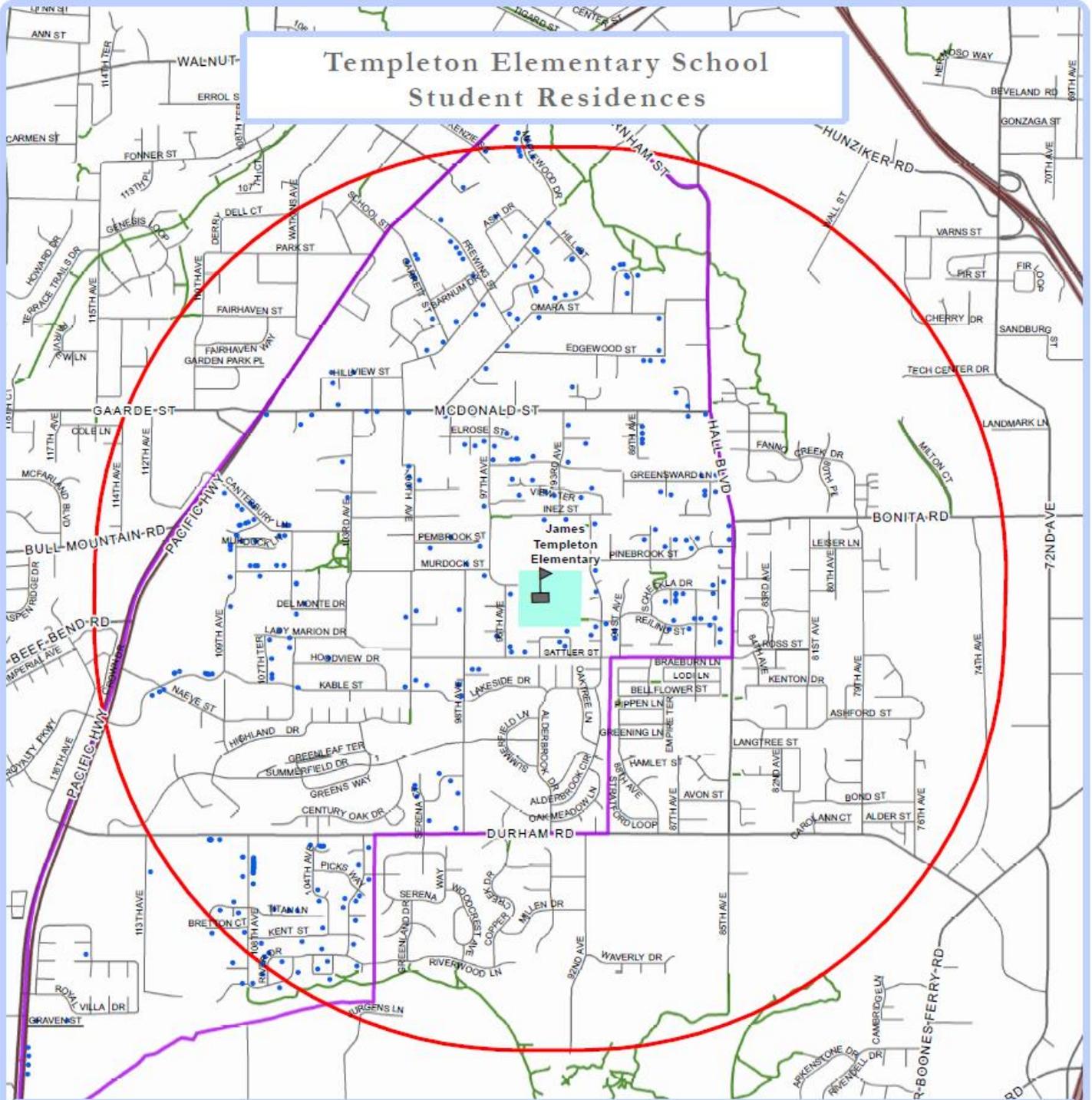
DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION POLICY

The preferred method of travel is by school bus for students in grades kindergarten through 5th who live more than 1 mile from school. Otherwise, students are encouraged to walk, bike, carpool, or be driven to school.

DISTRICT SUPPLEMENTAL TRANSPORTATION POLICY

The Supplemental Transportation Plan provides for buses to transport students inside Oregon's unfunded walking distances – 1 mile for elementary school students and 1.5 miles for middle school students – because of hazardous conditions such as difficult crossings, limited infrastructure, crossing railroad tracks, freeway crossings, and high volume and high speed roadways. The Plan outlines areas that contain these conditions and addresses the reasoning behind the designation (see map on page 5).

Templeton Elementary School Student Residences



-  School
-  Student Residences
-  Trails
-  One-mile Radius Around Templeton Elementary
-  Templeton Elementary Attendance Area
-  Templeton Elementary School Property



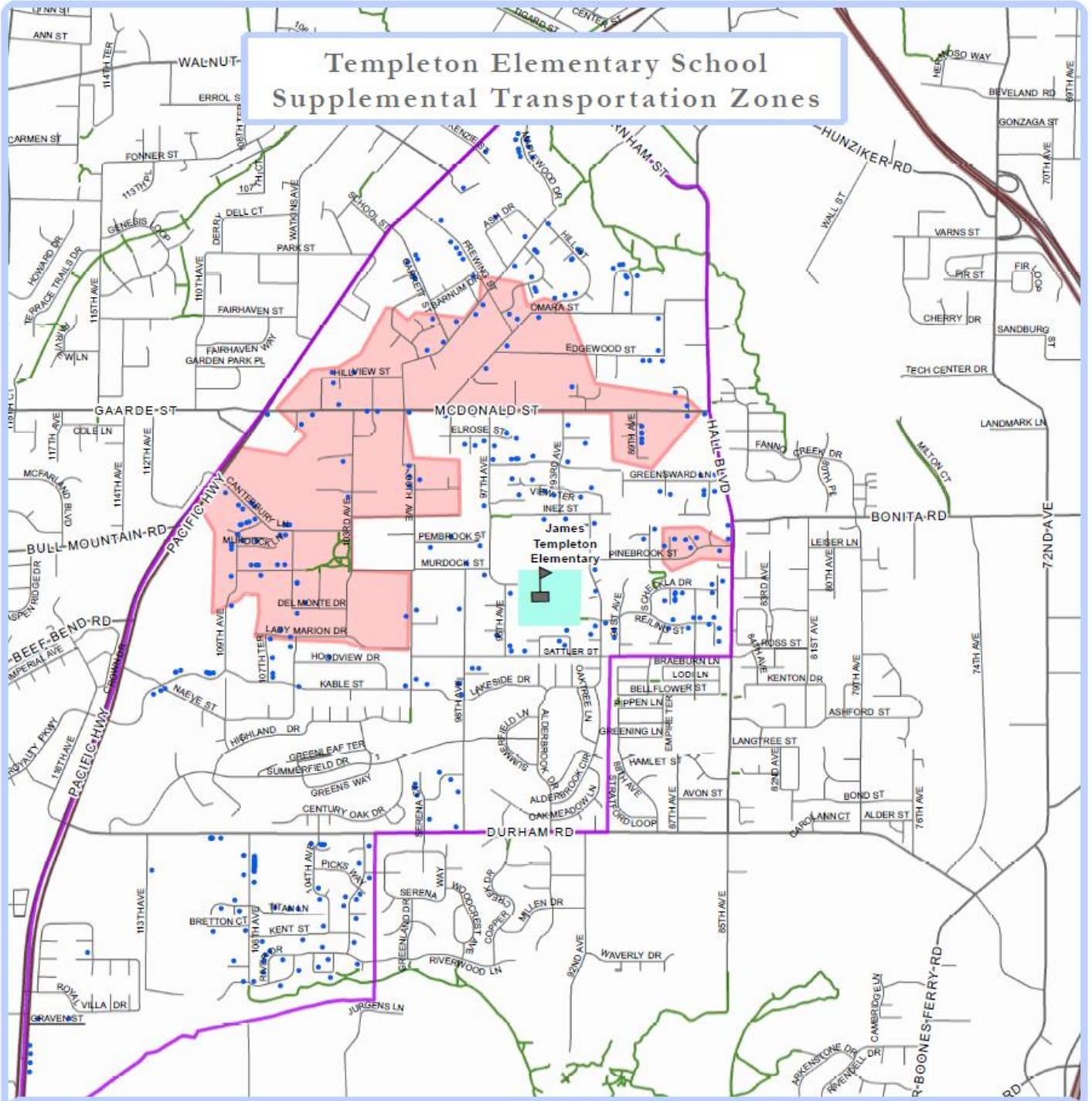
DATA SOURCES:
 City of Tigard
 Metro
 Washington County



DISCLAIMER:

This map was derived from several databases. The City cannot accept responsibility for any errors. Therefore, there are no warranties for this product. However, any notification of errors is appreciated.

Templeton Elementary School Supplemental Transportation Zones



-  School
-  Student Residences
-  Trails
-  Templeton Elementary School Property
-  Templeton Elementary Attendance Area
-  Supplemental Transportation Zone



DATA SOURCES:

City of Tigard
Metro
Washington County



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WALK AND BIKE AUDIT EVALUATION

A walk audit is a tool to identify key issues and barriers to walking and biking to school. This is an interactive event where we go out and walk the areas and routes around the school. An on the ground investigation during the walk to and from school time period is the best way to see key issues, conflict areas, and behaviors of those travelling to and from school.

Physical environment barriers and hazards

- **Roadway/ Infrastructure:** Noncontiguous sidewalks and no bike lanes along Tiedeman St. from Greenburg Rd. to Fanno Creek Trail.
- **Roadway:** High traffic speeds and volumes on Walnut St.
- **Roadway/ Infrastructure:** Noncontiguous sidewalks and no bike lanes along 121st Ave. from Gaarde St. to Scholls Ferry Rd.
- **Crossing:** Railroad tracks to create a crossing issue for students.
- **Roadway/ Infrastructure:** Noncontiguous sidewalks on SW Fonner St. between Walnut St. and 115th Ave.
- **Traffic Circulation:** Congestion and traffic flow issues in the parking lot at Fowler Middle School during drop-off and pick-up times.

Programmatic barriers

- **SRTS Champion:** No designated point person at Fowler Middle School to drive SRTS activities or program.
- **Education:** No formal walking or biking safety education program taught to students.
- **Education:** No designated walking or biking route maps for Twality to post on website or give to parents.
- **Education:** No formal education to parents about safe walking and biking, and how to shift to more walking or biking to school.
- **Enforcement:** Limited capacity for crossing guards.

How does the school already promote pedestrian and bicycle safety?

Fowler Middle School has taken a number of steps to promote pedestrian and bike safety:

- City of Tigard SRTS Coordinator is working with the principal and other interested parents and partners on a comprehensive SRTS Program at Fowler.
- Students and parents participate in annual Walk & Bike to School events – twice a year.
- A monthly SRTS Newsletter Article is sent to parents – topics include pedestrian and bicycle safety.



— EVALUATIONS AND DATA —

STUDENT TRAVEL DATA

We conducted a survey of Fowler students and this is how our students travel to and from school.

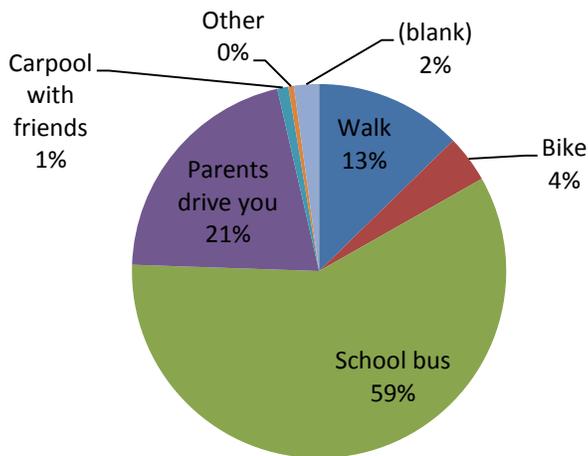
TO SCHOOL

Travel Mode	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Public Transit	Other	Blank
% of Students	13%	4%	59%	21%	1%	0%	0%	2%

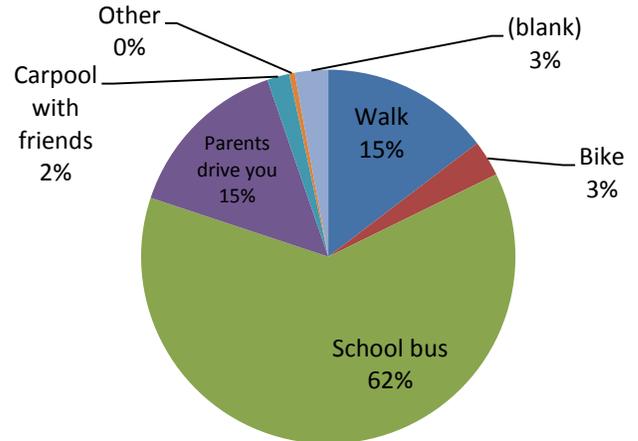
FROM SCHOOL

Travel Mode	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Public Transit	Other	Blank
% of Students	15%	3%	62%	15%	2%	0%	0%	3%

Fowler A.M. Mode Split - how students get to school

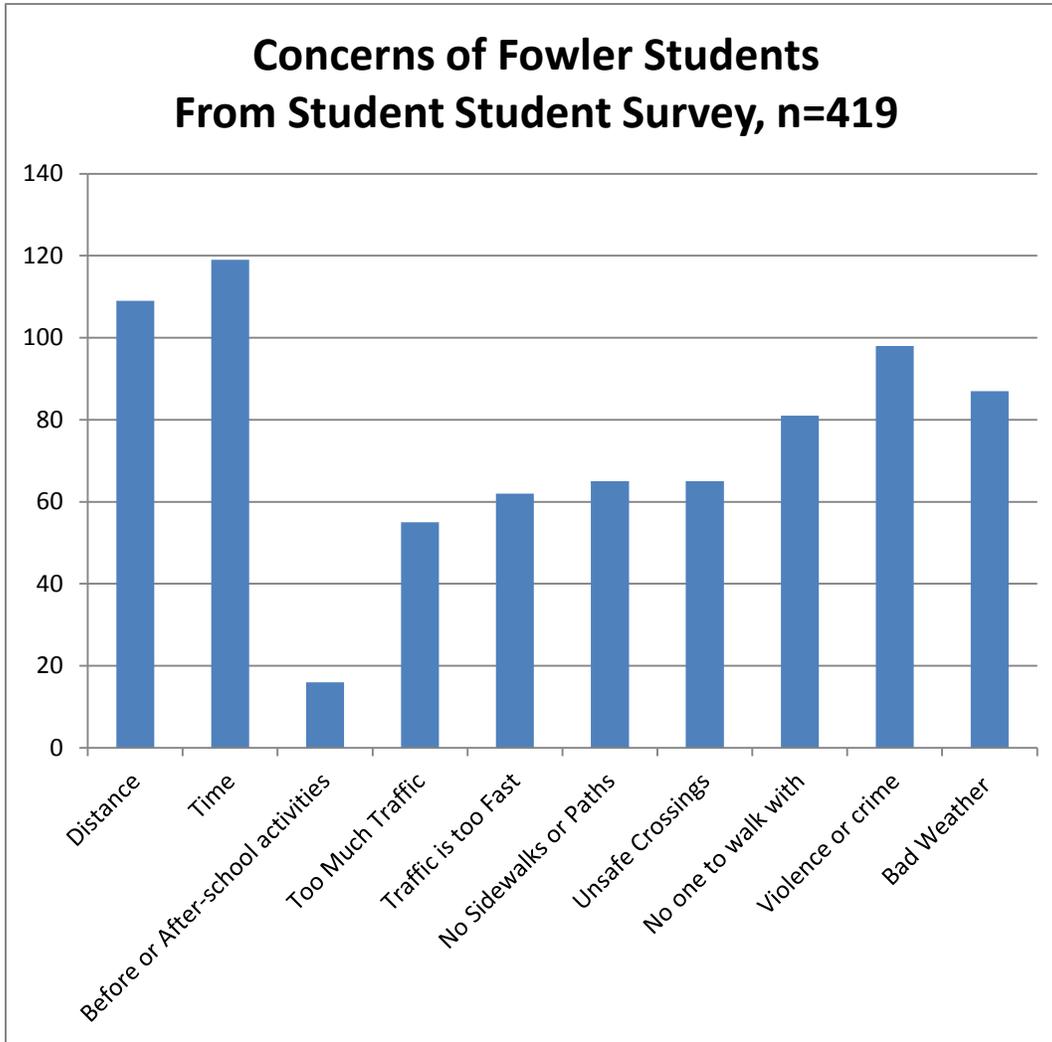


Fowler P.M. Mode Split - how students get home from school



STUDENT SURVEY DATA

We conducted a Student 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.



The top five walkability and bikeability issues for Fowler students are:

1. Time
2. Distance
3. Violence or crime
4. Bad weather
5. No one to walk with

Themes from Fowler Student Survey:

- Walk with friends or find a group to walk with.
- Need sidewalks along Walnut Ave., Tiedeman St., and 121st Ave.
- Safer crossings – crossing guards.
- Adult or police presence along routes to address issues with crime and bullying.

— RECOMMENDATIONS AND PLAN IMPLEMENTATION —

A comprehensive SRTS Program includes engineering/ infrastructure and programmatic strategies. The following sections outline the possible strategies that directly address the identified barriers and hazards. At this time this is simply a list of potential strategies. The Fowler SRTS Task Force, parents, City of Tigard, and others will work to refine the strategies for implementation.

ENGINEERING AND INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIES

Improve drop-off and pick-up circulation and safety:

- Develop a school drop-off and pick-up circulation plan.
- Implement recommendations from the circulation plan.

Sidewalks and bike lanes on Tiedeman St.:

- Prioritize key sidewalk gaps on Tiedeman St. from Greenburg Rd. to the Fanno Creek Trail.
- Fill sidewalk gaps on Tiedeman St.
- Provide continuous bike lanes on Tiedeman St. form Greenburg Rd. to the Fanno Creek Trail.

* The engineering recommendations in this plan are considered “planning level” and may require further engineering analysis, design, or public input to determine if they are appropriate solutions before implementation.



A RRFB is an active warning device used to alert motorists of crossing pedestrians. They remain dark until activated by pedestrians.



Raised pedestrian crosswalks serve as a traffic calming measure that draws more attention to the pedestrian crossing.



Pathways can connect neighborhoods directly with schools.

PROGRAMMATIC STRATEGIES

Education:

- Develop walking and biking route maps.
- Develop Bike Safety Education for all 6th graders.
- Develop and distribute yard signs. Messages geared toward reminding drivers to slow down, watch for students, and designate walking routes.

Encouragement:

- Monthly Walk & Bike to School Day – making walking and biking to school a more regular habit (create themes for every month).
- Form Walking Groups (Walking School Buses) – groups of students who walk to school together.
- SchoolPool (Drive Less Connect) – help parents connect to form walking school buses or carpools.
- Fire Up Your Feet Program – opportunity to increase physical activity and raise money for school.
- Identify a parent or school staff champion to lead SRTS work at Twality Middle School

Enforcement:

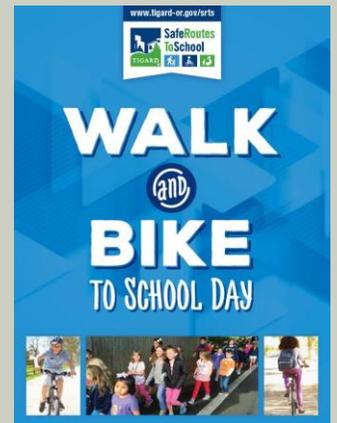
- District-wide crossing guard program:
 -
- Work with Tigard Police Department and School Resource Officer on traffic enforcement around Twality.
- Implement Police enforcement in concert with the installation of traffic calming devices and infrastructure.

Evaluation:

- Annual Parent Survey.
- Annual Student Tally Survey.



A walking school bus/bike train is a group of children walking/ biking to school together.



Make walking and biking to school a regular activity by setting a recurring date for a Walk & Bike to School Day.



Crossing guards aid students crossing the street at the school and at intersections in the surrounding neighborhood.

STRATEGY PRIORITIZATION

All of the strategies outlined in this Action Plan will play an important role in Fowler's SRTS Program. However, the SRTS Task Force has identified a few priorities to guide the work over the next year or so. Since this is the first Action Plan the Task Force recognizes that these priorities may shift and as these projects and programs are implemented new priorities will develop.

- **Identify a SRTS champion to lead program work at Fowler.**
- **Develop Walking & Biking route maps for parents and students.**
- **Sidewalks along Tiedeman St. from Greenburg Rd. to Fanno Creek Trail.**

FINAL THOUGHTS

Thank you for taking the time to read the Fowler SRTS Action Plan. A successful SRTS Program will require students, parents, school staff, the City of Tigard, Tigard-Tualatin School District, and the community to work together to ensure students are able to walk, bike or roll to school safely.

If you would like to be more involved in the Fowler SRTS Program, please reach out to Principal Busch or the SRTS Coordinator, we would love to have you involved!

