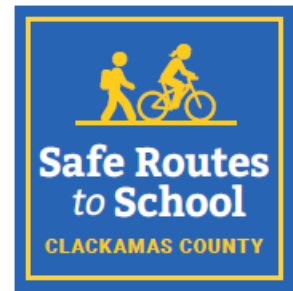


---

# School Action Plan for Mt Scott Elementary School



**Principal:** Cameron Kitchen  
**Enrollment:** 380  
**First bell:** 7:45 a.m.  
**Last bell:** 2:00 p.m.

**Grades:** K-5  
**Address:** 11201 SE Stevens Rd  
Happy Valley, OR 97086

This report summarizes existing conditions, observations, and recommended improvements and programs for Mt Scott Elementary School resulting from the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) walk audit conducted on September 26, 2018. A summary map, on page 10, illustrates the audit location, area characteristics, and locations of infrastructure recommendations.

This audit supports the county-wide SRTS efforts of Clackamas County. For more information on the program, visit: [www.clackamas.us/engineering/srts.html](http://www.clackamas.us/engineering/srts.html).

## What is Safe Routes to School (SRTS)?

SRTS is a comprehensive program to **make school communities safer** by combining engineering tools and enforcement with education about safety and activities to enable and encourage students to **walk and bicycle to school**. SRTS programs typically involve partnerships among municipalities, school districts, community members, parent volunteers, and law enforcement.

Although most students in the United States walked or biked to school before the 1980s, the number of students walking or bicycling to school since has sharply declined in both urban and suburban areas.

The benefits of implementing a SRTS plan are far-reaching and include improving safety, encouraging physical activity, and reducing traffic congestion and motor vehicle emissions near schools. Implementing SRTS programs and projects benefit adjacent neighborhoods as well as students and their families.

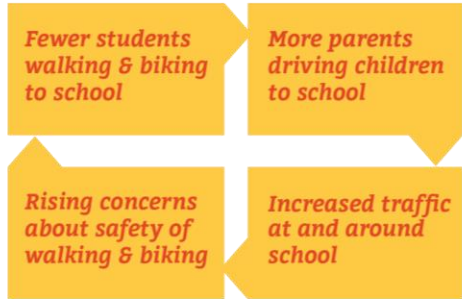
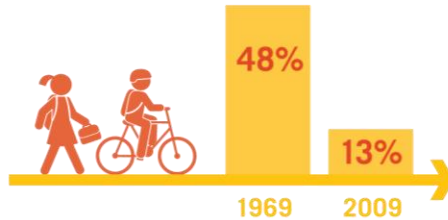
Clackamas County SRTS has a Program Handbook that outlines activities and local resources that school and community members can use to encourage walking and biking and promote traffic safety in school areas.

See [www.clackamas.us/engineering/srts.html](http://www.clackamas.us/engineering/srts.html) for a copy of the Program Handbook.



# Why Safe Routes to School for Clackamas County?

Within the span of one generation, the percentage of children walking or bicycling to school has dropped to 13%.



This movement away from active transportation is a self-perpetuating cycle.

SRTS education & encouragement programs can result in a **25%** increase in walking and biking over 5 years.

A comprehensive SRTS program addresses reductions in walking and biking through a multi-pronged approach that uses education, encouragement, engineering and enforcement efforts to develop attitudes, behaviors, and physical infrastructure that improve the walking and biking environment.

## SRTS programs provide many benefits for communities!



**Healthy Living**



**Less Traffic**



**Better Educational Achievement**



**Increased Social Interactions**



**Cleaner Air and Water**



**Cost-Effective**

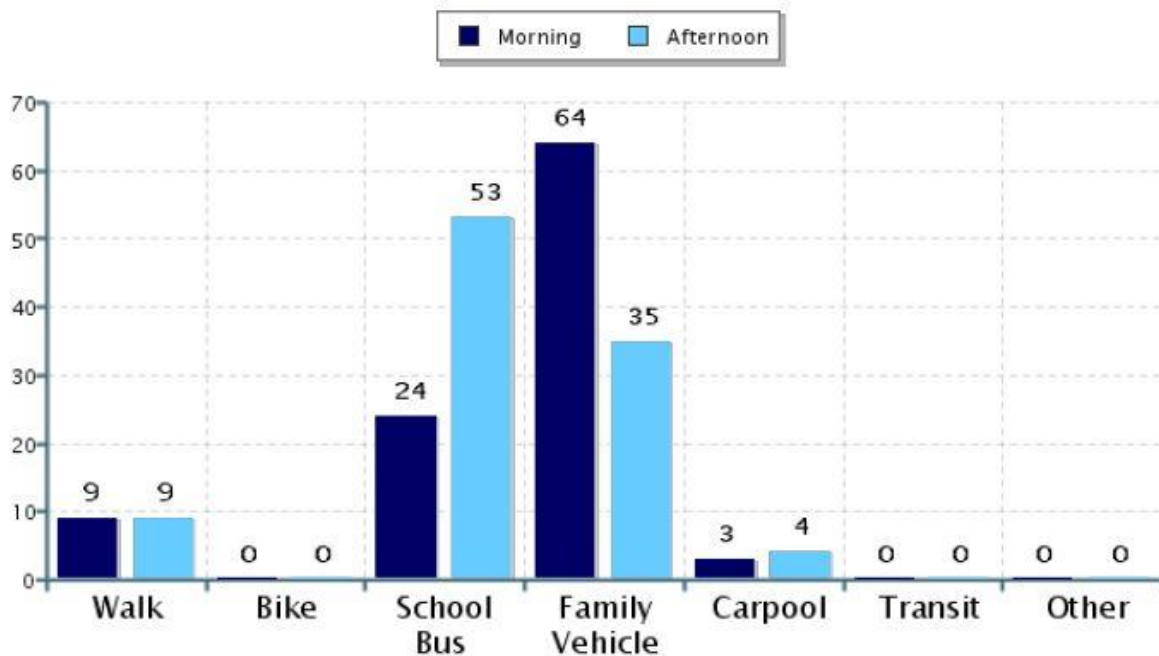
## How Do Students Get to School Now?

As part of the Clackamas SRTS program, Mt Scott Elementary students and families participated in student hand tallies and parent surveys in fall 2018.

### Student Hand Tallies

Hand tallies are a standard way of tracking the different ways (modes) students used to get to school. Students are asked how they traveled to and from school over a 2-3 day period. Students raise their hand when the mode they took is called out, and the teacher or a volunteer records the findings. Seven classrooms' hand tallies are included in this Action Plan.

Figure 1 shows the results of the fall 2018 hand tallies. Most students get dropped off in a family vehicle in the morning and take the school bus home: approximately 65 percent of students arrive in a family vehicle and 53 percent take the bus home. Nine percent of students report walking to school and zero students reported biking to school.



**Figure 1. November 2018 Student Hand Tally Results, Morning and Afternoon Mode Split**

Tracking the change in mode over time can indicate how successful the SRTS program is at addressing concerns and promoting walking and bicycling. Resources and best practice programs for conducting hand tallies include:

- ◆ The Oregon SRTS website provides [evaluation resources](#).
- ◆ The [National Center for SRTS](#) has forms, data collection guidelines, data center, and automatically-generated reports.

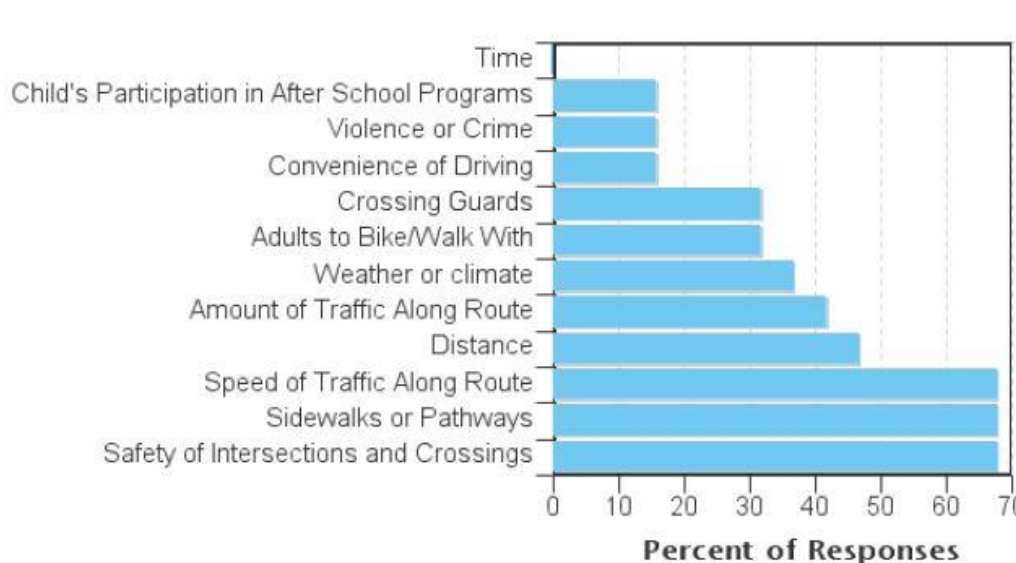
## Parent Surveys

Parent surveys ask families about the barriers to walking or biking to/from school, health information, how children travel to and from school, and perception of crime and other social behaviors.

The Clackamas SRTS program collected 32 parent surveys in November 2018, primarily from families with children in Kindergarten and fifth grade, though at least two parents from each grade submitted surveys.

Most survey respondents live under a mile from the school (61%). Thirty-eight percent of parent survey respondents live between one mile and two miles from the school. No parents who live more than two miles away responded to the survey. Most families who live under a half mile from school walk to and from school. Those living over a half mile away primarily drive or send their student on the bus.

Figure 2 shows the main barriers for parents of students who did not walk or bike. The safety of intersections, lack of sidewalks and speed of traffic along the route are the most common barriers to walking and biking to school. These findings indicate that there is potential for promoting walking and biking among families who live closer to school by making key safety improvements to crossings and adding sidewalks.



**Figure 2. Barriers to Allowing a Child to Walk or Bike to/from School**

Resources and best practice programs for conducting parent surveys include:

- ◆ The Oregon SRTS website provides [evaluation resources](#).
- ◆ The [National Center for SRTS](#) has forms, data collection guidelines, and data center.

## Walk Audit Summary

**Date:** September 26, 2018  
**Day of Week:** Wednesday

**Meeting Time:** 7:10- 8:30am  
**Weather:** Cool and clear

**Attendees:**

- Scott Hoelscher, Clackamas County
- Mallorie McDowell, Clackamas County
- Steve Schroeder, Scott Mountain HOA
- Cam Kitchen, Mt Scott Elementary Principal
- Nicole Perry, The Street Trust
- Hannah Day-Kapell, Alta Planning + Design
- Katie Selin, Alta Planning + Design

## Existing Conditions

### School Layout

Mt Scott Elementary is located on the western edge of the City of Happy Valley in a residential neighborhood, near Interstate 205. The school is adjacent to SE Stevens Rd and SE Causey Ave, two collector roadways. Mt Scott Elementary is on an 8.28-acre property with a walking path, playground, and ball fields west of the building. Students enter through the main door on the northeast corner of the building.

### SITE CIRCULATION

- Vehicles:** The site has three driveways, one with full access on SE Hillcrest Rd, one limited to vehicle entrance only on SE Stevens Rd and one limited to exit only on SE Stevens Rd. Student drop-off occurs in front of the school’s main door. Vehicles queue onto SE Hillcrest Rd at peak times. For student pick-up, parents park on SE Hillcrest Rd and walk to the school to get their student.
- School Buses:** Bus pick-up and drop-off take place at the school main entrance. In the morning, buses wait in the same line of traffic as vehicles, but arrive earlier to reduce congestion. In the afternoon, buses queue in front of the school for students to board.
- Pedestrians:** The school parking lot and driveway was recently remodeled and provides good walking routes once students are on campus. A near-completed staircase will provide direct access from the parking lot to the SE Causey Rd sidewalk. The staircase will be completed in a few weeks, in mid-October. Students walking to Mt Scott Elementary access the school from either SE Stevens Rd or SE Hillcrest Rd. SE Hillcrest Rd lacks sidewalks for a substantial section near the school. SE Stevens Rd has complete sidewalks except for a small gap east of the school. A few crossings could be enhanced to improve access for students walking to school.
- Bicyclists:** Both SE Stevens Rd and SE Causey Rd have painted bike lanes. However, the bike lanes on SE Stevens Way have a short gap north of the SE Hillcrest Rd intersection, forcing cyclists into the vehicle travel lane. New, covered, and lit bike parking is located south of the main entrance.

## Walk Audit Observations and Infrastructure Recommendations

Key locations are described below, including issues identified during audit observations and discussions. Project numbering refers to the Improvements Map on page 10. The organization responsible for implementing each recommendation is in parentheses (i.e., City of Happy Valley, Clackamas County, or North Clackamas School District).

### 1. School Parking Lot and Grounds

Student drop-off and pick-up run fairly smoothly at Mt Scott Elementary. For morning drop-off, parents wait in line to drop off their students in front of the school. Parents primarily drive into the parking lot from SE Hillcrest Rd and pull out onto SE Stevens Rd. However, families trying to avoid the traffic at the main school entrance were observed driving into the southern school parking lot from SE Stevens Rd, first driving the wrong-way in the southbound left turn lane on Causey Ave.



*Mt Scott Elementary bike parking*

During the walk audit, most students walking approached the school from the south, north on SE Stevens Rd. No students were observed biking to school on the day of the walk audit.

#### RECOMMENDATION

- a. Add a narrow-raised median on Stevens Rd between the northbound through lane and the southbound left turn lane between Causey Ave and Top O Scott St to stop illegal left turns into the school parking lot. (City of Happy Valley)

### 2. SE Hillcrest Road

SE Hillcrest Rd is a neighborhood street, with moderate speeds, just north of Mt Scott Elementary. Apart from the segment in front of the school, SE Hillcrest Rd does not have sidewalks. Parents park on SE Hillcrest Rd during pick-up, creating congestion and causing some minor conflicts with neighbors and families walking to school, particularly at the SE Hillcrest Rd and SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Ave intersection.

#### RECOMMENDATION

- a. Construct sidewalks with ADA-compliant curb cuts on the south side of SE Hillcrest Rd, west of the school property to SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Ave. (Clackamas County)

### 3. SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Ave provides access to the school from the northwest. Between SE Idleman Rd and SE Stevens Way SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Ave is a busy collector before transitioning to a neighborhood street between SE Stevens Way and SE Hillcrest Rd. Along this segment, SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Ave is almost completely lacking sidewalks on both sides of the

street and walk audit participants noted that cars have hit mail boxes and the side of a home near the intersection with SE Hillcrest Rd.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Construct sidewalks with ADA-compliant curb cuts on the east and west side of SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Ave between SE Hillcrest Rd and SE Stevens Way. (Clackamas County)
- b. Construct sidewalks with ADA-compliant curb cuts and bike lanes on the east and west side of SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Ave between SE Stevens Way and SE Idleman Rd. (Clackamas County)

## 4. SE Stevens Road

SE Stevens Rd is the main route to the school from the south. It is a busy, winding collector with many residential driveways and bike lanes are striped going in both directions. A new housing development is opening on SE Stevens south of the school. During the walk audit, several groups of students were observed walking to school from the south along SE Stevens Rd. The SE Stevens Rd and SE Causey Ave intersection is 4-way stop controlled, but still busy and difficult to cross. During the walk audit, several groups of pedestrians were observed crossing the intersection. Some parents were observed parking along SE Stevens Rd to walk their students into school.



*SE Stevens Rd and SE Causey Ave intersection is busy during student drop-off.*

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Add an advance school zone warning sign and end school zone sign south of SE Causey. (City of Happy Valley)
- b. Stripe crosswalk across SE Stevens Rd at the south and north legs of the SE Causey intersection. (City of Happy Valley)
- c. Add ADA-compliant curb cut on the east side of the mid-block crossing in front of the school. (City of Happy Valley)
- d. Construct sidewalk to fill gap on the east side of SE Stevens Rd between SE Hillcrest Rd and SE Causey Ave. (City of Happy Valley)
- e. Stripe crosswalk and add ADA-compliant curb cuts on the south leg of SE Hillcrest Rd and SE Stevens Rd intersection. (City of Happy Valley)
- f. Add a raised median pedestrian refuge at the mid-block crossing in front of the school. (City of Happy Valley)

## 5. SE Stevens Way

SE Stevens Way is the continuation of SE Stevens Rd north of the school. Walk audit participants noted that they have previously observed speeding on this busy, winding collector. Existing bike lanes taper just north of the SE Hillcrest Rd intersection. There are no sidewalks along most of SE Stevens Way, so students walk in the narrow bike lanes. Students were observed walking in the bike lane during the walk audit and walk audit participants expressed concern about these students’ safety.



*Bike lane on SE Stevens Way tapers to an end at Mt Scott Elementary.*

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Construct sidewalks along the east side of SE Stevens Way between SE Hillcrest Rd and SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Ave. (Clackamas County)
- b. Add school zone speed limit sign on southbound SE Stevens Way. (Clackamas County)
- c. Fill gaps in existing bikeway between SE Hillcrest Rd and SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Ave. (Clackamas County.)

## Cost Estimates

Table 1 summarizes recommendations for Mt Scott Elementary School, provides order-of-magnitude cost estimates, and places the projects in priority tiers.

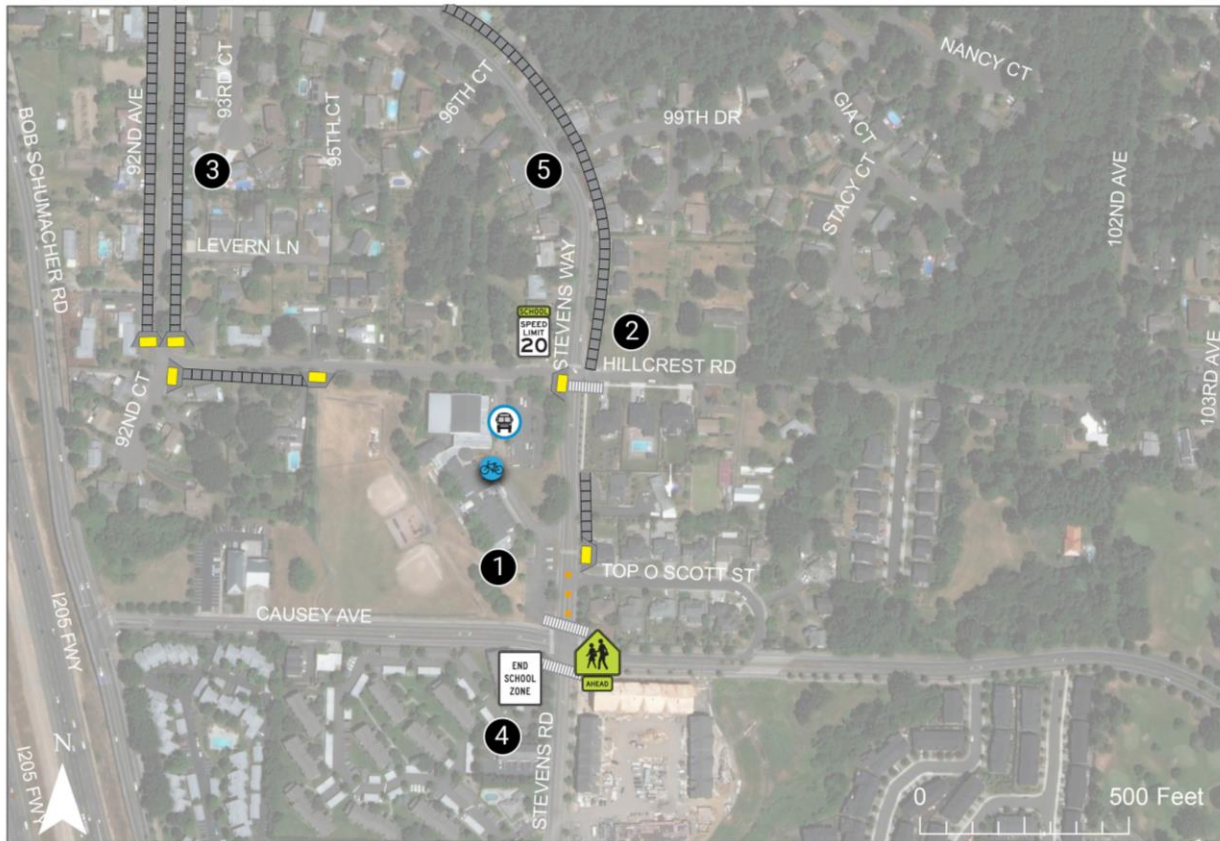
**Table 1. Mt Scott Elementary School Recommended Improvements**

RECOMMENDATIONS	LEAD AGENCY	PLANNING – LEVEL COST	PRIORITY
<b>1. School Parking Lot and Grounds</b>			
a. Add a narrow-raised median on Stevens Rd between the northbound through lane and the southbound left turn lane between Causey Ave and Top O Scott St to stop illegal left turns into the school parking lot.	City of Happy Valley	\$\$	Medium
<b>2. SE Hillcrest Road</b>			
a. Construct sidewalks with ADA-compliant curb cuts on the south side of SE Hillcrest Rd, west of the school property to SE 92 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.	Clackamas County	\$\$\$	Medium
<b>3. SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue</b>			
a. Construct sidewalks with ADA-compliant curb cuts on the east and west side of SE 92 <sup>nd</sup> Ave between SE Hillcrest Rd and SE Stevens Way.	Clackamas County	\$\$\$	Medium
b. Construct sidewalks with ADA-compliant curb cuts and bike lanes on the east and west side of SE 92 <sup>nd</sup> Ave between SE Stevens Way and SE Idleman Rd.	Clackamas County	\$\$\$	Medium



RECOMMENDATIONS	LEAD AGENCY	PLANNING – LEVEL COST	PRIORITY
<b>4. SE Stevens Road</b>			
a. Add an advance school zone warning sign and end school zone sign south of SE Causey.	City of Happy Valley	\$	Medium
b. Stripe crosswalk across SE Stevens Rd at the south and north legs of the SE Causey intersection.	City of Happy Valley	\$	High
c. Add ADA-compliant curb cut on the east side of the mid-block crossing in front of the school.	City of Happy Valley	\$\$	High
d. Construct sidewalk to fill sidewalk gap on the east side of SE Stevens Rd between SE Hillcrest Rd and SE Causey Ave.	City of Happy Valley	\$\$	Low
e. Stripe crosswalk and add ADA-compliant curb cut on the south leg of SE Hillcrest Rd intersection.	City of Happy Valley	\$\$	Medium
f. Add a raised median pedestrian refuge at the mid-block crossing in front of the school.	City of Happy Valley	\$\$	Medium
<b>5. SE Stevens Way</b>			
a. Construct sidewalks along the east side of SE Stevens Way between SE Hillcrest Rd and SE 92 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.	Clackamas County	\$\$\$	High
b. Add school zone speed limit sign on southbound SE Stevens Way.	Clackamas County	\$	High
c. Fill gaps in existing bikeway between SE Hillcrest Rd and SE 92 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.	Clackamas County	\$\$	High

# MT SCOTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT



## Mt Scott Elementary School

### Improvement Recommendations



- 1 School Parking Lot and Grounds**
  - a. Add a narrow-raised median on Stevens Rd between the northbound through lane and the southbound left turn lane between Causey Ave and Top O Scott St to stop illegal left turns into the school parking lot.
- 2 SE Hillcrest Road**
  - a. Construct sidewalks with ADA-compliant curb cuts on the south side of SE Hillcrest Rd, west of the school property to SE 92nd Ave.
- 3 SE 92nd Avenue**
  - a. Construct sidewalks with ADA-compliant curb cuts on the east and west side of SE 92nd Ave between SE Hillcrest Rd and SE Stevens Way.
  - b. Construct sidewalks with ADA-compliant curb cuts and bike lanes on the east and west side of SE 92nd Ave between SE Stevens Way and SE Idleman Rd.
- 4 SE Stevens Road**
  - a. Add an advance school zone warning sign and end school zone sign south of SE Causey.
  - b. Stripe crosswalk across SE Stevens Rd at the south and north legs of the SE Causey intersection.
  - c. Add ADA-compliant curb cut on the east side of the mid-block crossing in front of the school.
  - d. Construct sidewalk to fill sidewalk gap on the east side of SE Stevens Rd between SE Hillcrest Rd and SE Causey Ave.
  - e. Stripe crosswalk and add ADA-compliant curb cut on the south leg of SE Hillcrest Rd intersection.
  - f. Add a raised median pedestrian refuge at the mid-block crossing in front of the school.
- 5 SE Stevens Way**
  - a. Construct sidewalks along the east side of SE Stevens Way between SE Hillcrest Rd and SE 92nd Ave.
  - b. Add school zone speed limit sign on southbound SE Stevens Way.
  - c. Fill gaps in existing bikeway between SE Hillcrest Rd and SE 92nd Ave.

### Legend

- |  |                             |  |   |  |                               |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|--|-------------------------------|
|  | Bike Parking                |  | Proposed School Zone Speed Limit Sign     |  | Proposed End School Zone Sign |
|  | School Bus Loading          |  | Proposed Advance School Zone Warning Sign |  | Proposed Sidewalk             |
|  | Proposed ADA-Compliant Curb |  | Proposed Crosswalk                        |  |                               |
|  | Proposed Raised Median      |  |   |  |                               |



Figure 3. Mt Scott Elementary School Improvements Map



HOW TO USE THIS MAP: This suggested route to school map is intended to encourage adults and students to consider walking or bicycling to school. Adults are responsible for choosing the most appropriate option based on their knowledge of the different routes.

## Mount Scott Elementary School

### LEGEND

- School enrollment boundary
- Park or natural area
- School campus
- Suggested route
- Crosswalk
- 4-Way stop
- Traffic Signal
- Crossing Guard

### Clackamas County Safe Routes to School

Visit our website to learn more about how you can support SRTS at your school:  
[www.clackamas.us/engineering/srts.html](http://www.clackamas.us/engineering/srts.html)

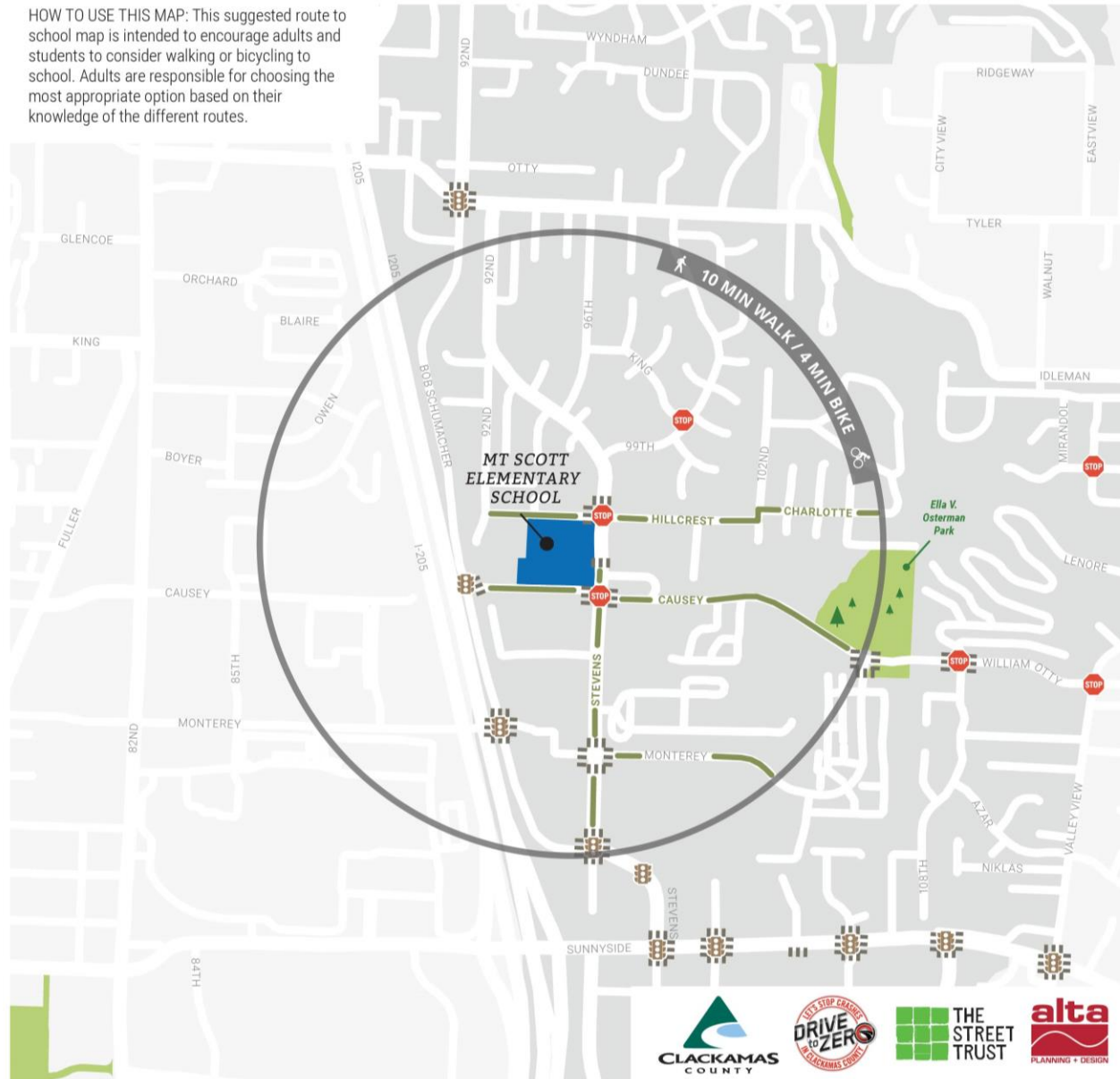
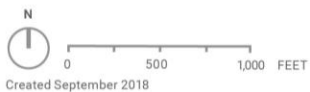


Figure 4: Mt Scott Elementary Suggested Route Map

## Programmatic Recommendations

Programmatic activities and events complement infrastructure improvements by empowering students and their families to try walking and bicycling, and by making it safer for them to do so.

The activities below are recommended for Mt Scott Elementary School to improve and promote safe walking and bicycling to and from school and in the community. They can be implemented by school administrators, teachers, parents, or even school clubs.

### Education Programs

#### BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY EDUCATION

Pedestrian and bicycle safety education teaches students basic traffic laws and safety rules.

Resources and best practice programs for elementary school students include:

- ◆ The Street Trust's [SRTS Curriculum](#) includes a flexible in-class and on-bike curriculum and pedestrian safety lesson plans.
- ◆ Oregon SRTS provides classes and train-the-trainer programs. Oregon-based service providers are listed at: [www.oregonsaferoutes.org/bike-ed-service-providers](http://www.oregonsaferoutes.org/bike-ed-service-providers)
- ◆ The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration offers a [child pedestrian safety curriculum](#) and [Cycling Skills Clinic Guide](#) to help organizations plan bike safety skills events.
- ◆ The [Girls in Gear](#) curriculum is a girls-specific bicycling program designed to empower adolescent girls by creating self-reliance and building confidence. It is also the first program to creatively integrate STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics — activities, physical exercise and nutrition education by way of the bicycle.

#### PARENT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Parents are the primary decision-makers about how their children get to school. Informing parents about their options for walking and bicycling, as well as communicating the benefits of active transportation, can encourage more families to walk and bike. This can occur through school e-news or announcements, and other informational resources. Suggested route maps can show parents the best walking or biking route to the school, overcoming concerns about barriers.



Resources and best practice programs:

- ◆ Oregon SRTS provides materials, handouts, and theme ideas for [Monthly Walk and Bike](#) events as well as [Back to School](#) messages.
- ◆ The National Center for SRTS has several [tip sheets for parents](#) on safe walking and bicycling behaviors.

## Encouragement Programs

### WALK + BIKE TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE

The Oregon Walk + Bike to School Challenge celebrates students walking and bicycling to school. International Walk to School Day is held the first Wednesday in October and Bike to School Day takes place the second week in May. Parents can set up a table on the event day to provide refreshments and small rewards for families who participate, as well as maps, lights, and safety information to encourage more students and families to join in the fun.

Even families who live too far from school to walk and bike can participate by driving to a designated central location and walking together from there. Coffee and breakfast can be provided, and students can dress up or hold posters to make a fun, parent-supervised parade to school.

Resources and best practices:

- ◆ Schools in Oregon can order incentives to support and promote [Walk + Bike Challenge Day and Month](#).
- ◆ [Walk Bike to School](#) suggests event ideas and planning resources for encouraging active transportation at schools.
- ◆ The National Center for SRTS maintains a [national database of walk and bike to school day events](#) as well as event ideas and planning resources.

### STUDENT CLUBS AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Clubs and leadership programs allow older students to form groups to support the causes they care about most. Older elementary school student clubs can host Walk + Bike Challenge events, organize a competition, host a neighborhood clean-up, conduct trail maintenance, or work with their peers to promote walking and bicycling. Student clubs can offer excellent ideas, and provide exceptional energy and drive to get things done.



Resources and best practice programs:

- ◆ Marin County SRTS's [Teens Go Green](#) program partners with teens interested in the environment to bring reduced CO2 and healthy lifestyles to their schools.

## MT SCOTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT

- ◆ Create a cycling league or club. Leagues can introduce student riders to the sport of mountain biking or road racing, with a focus on skills, fun, fitness, and responsibility.

### Enforcement Programs

#### AAA SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL

Older elementary school student volunteers can sign-up to become a certified AAA School Safety Patroller. With support and leadership from school faculty and parents, student patrollers help fellow students develop a better understanding of pedestrian and vehicular traffic hazards.

Resources and best practice programs:

- ◆ AAA has [School Safety Patrol membership information](#) and descriptions of student, teacher, and parent roles.

