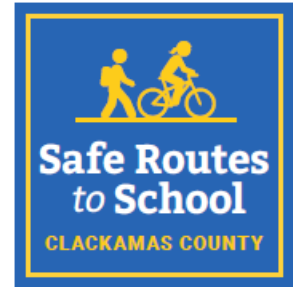

School Action Plan for View Acres Elementary School



Principal: Jessica Son
Enrollment: 380
First bell: 7:45 a.m.
Last bell: 2:00 p.m.

Grades: K-5
Address: 4828 SE View Acres Rd.
Milwaukie, OR 97267

This report summarizes existing conditions, observations, and recommended improvements and programs for View Acres Elementary School resulting from the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) walk audit conducted on April 6, 2023. Maps on pages 9-11 illustrate the school location, area characteristics, and locations of infrastructure recommendations. This action plan supports the county-wide SRTS efforts of Clackamas County. For more information on the program, visit: www.clackamas.us/engineering/srts.html.

What is Safe Routes to School (SRTS)?

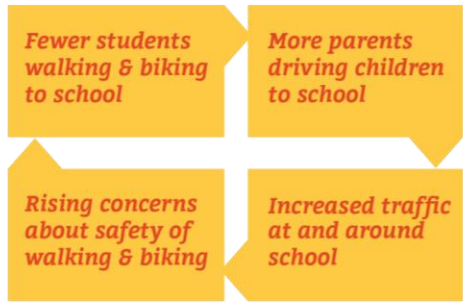
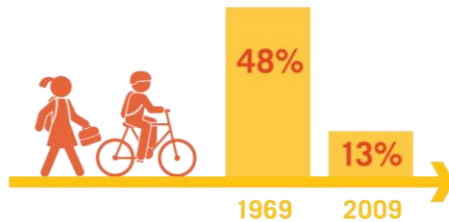
SRTS is a comprehensive program to make school communities safer by combining engineering tools and enforcement with education about safety and activities to enable and encourage students to walk and bicycle to school. SRTS programs typically involve partnerships among municipalities, school districts, 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 for more information.

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!

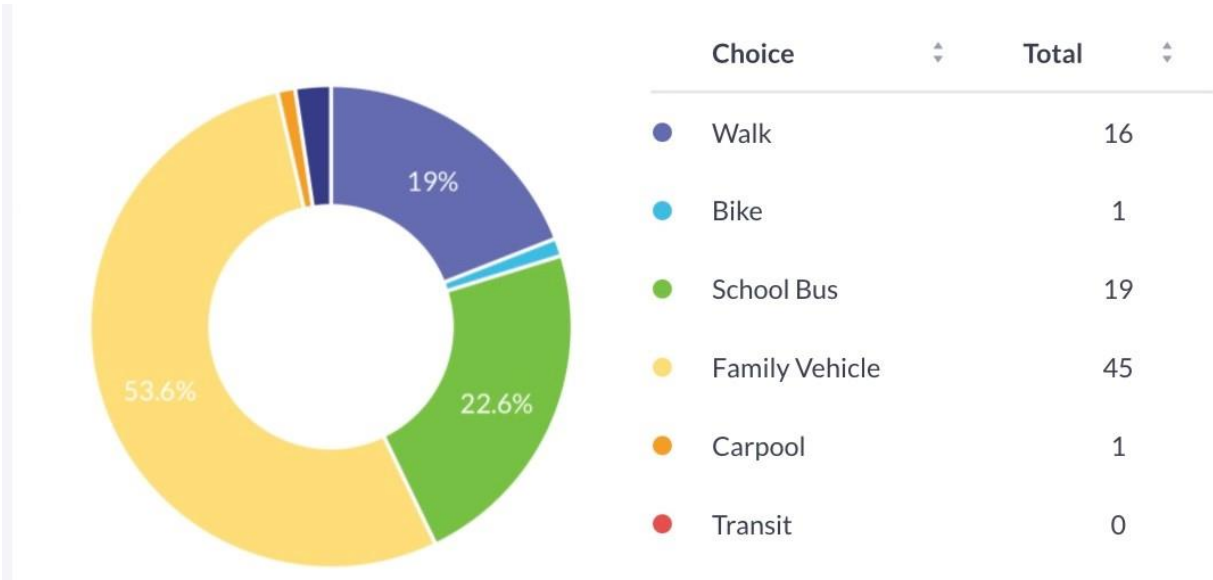
- Healthy Living**
- Less Traffic**
- Better Educational Achievement**
- Increased Social Interactions**
- Cleaner Air and Water**
- Cost-Effective**

How Do Students Get to School Now?

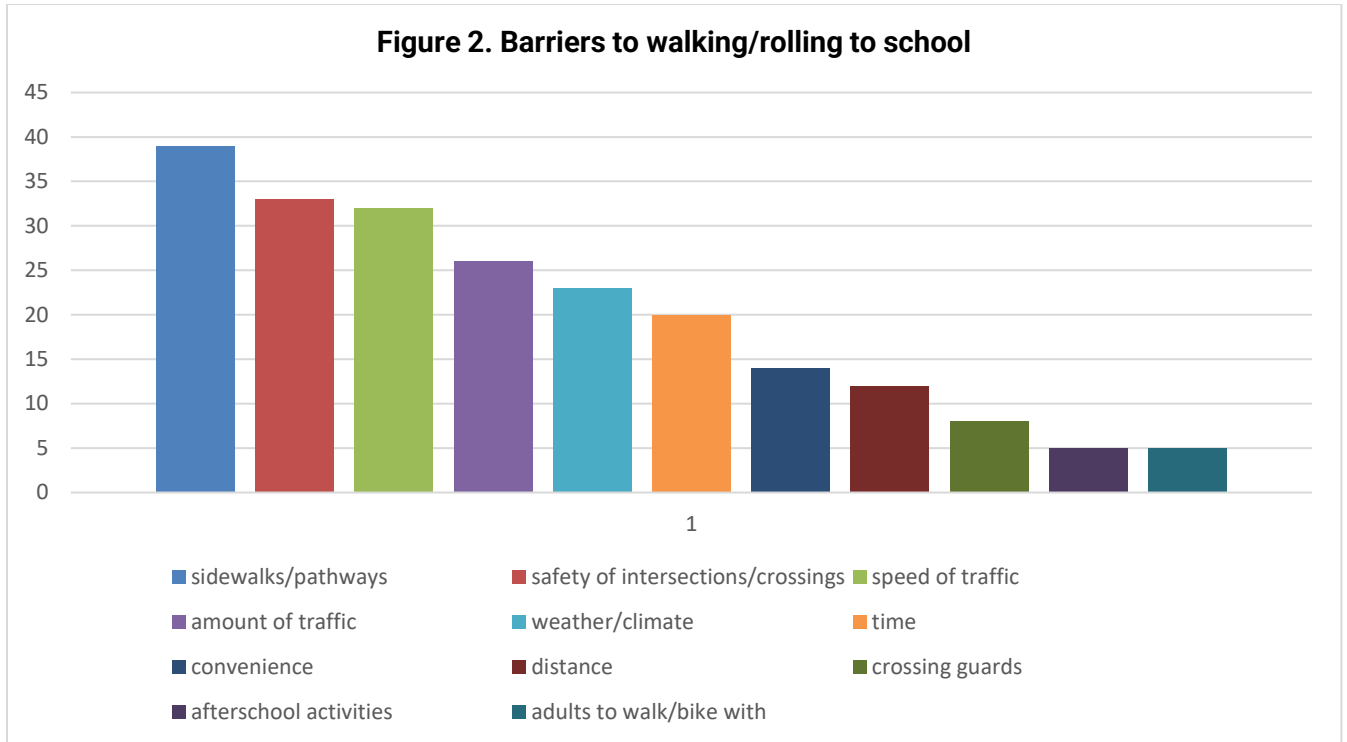
Student Hand Tallies and Caregiver Surveys

Hand tallies are a standard way of tracking the different ways (modes) students used to get to school. And surveys can collect concerns families have regarding why they will or will not allow students to walk or roll to school. The Oregon SRTS website provides [evaluation resources](#) and these can be used as is or recreated into a unique survey as a parent champion did at View Acres. Table 1 shows the results from the questions, how does your child get to school? The most common way, according to respondents, is by family vehicle with school bus being the next most common mode.

Figure 1. How students get to school



Regarding the barriers families face no matter how they get to school, top issues were sidewalks and pathways leading to school and the safety of intersections and crossings. Other highly rated barriers included the speed and amount of traffic along the routes to school. See figure 2 for responses to this topic from surveys.



Walk Audit Summary

Date: April 6, 2023
Day of Week: Wednesday

Meeting Time: 7:30-9am
Weather: Cloudy

Attendees:

- Scott Hoelscher, Clackamas County
- Christian Snuffin, Clackamas County
- Carl Olson, Clackamas County
- Nicole Perry, The Street Trust
- Jessica Son, View Acres Principal
- Kayla Sowerby, View Acres Parent

Existing Conditions

School Layout

View Acres Elementary School is located on SE View Acres Road and adjacent to SE Hill Road. Buses and vehicles utilize a driveway in which all enter from View Acres Road and exit onto Hill Road. People not utilizing vehicles enter campus from either of these driveways or other access points via gates.

SITE CIRCULATION

Vehicles: Student drop-off occurs in the parking lot in a vehicle lane. Vehicles turn into the parking lot from View Acres Road and students exit vehicles at the sidewalk leading to the main entrance. A staff person is at this crossing to support the process. After the student departs, the vehicle continues through the parking lot to the exit on Hill Road. For student pick-up, vehicles follow the same routine of looping through the existing lot to retrieve students. Some caregivers that pick up park in the parking lot and wait near the front door for students.

School Buses: Buses load and unload students in the driveway in a lane nearest to the building.

Pedestrians: Students and families enter the school campus from either of the driveways, an entrance to a field with access to the school off of Hill Road, or a gated entry leading to the neighborhood immediately east of the school.

Bicyclists: There is outdated bike parking that is covered.

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 11. The party responsible for implementing each recommendation is in parentheses (i.e., Clackamas County or North Clackamas School District).

1. School Parking Lot and Grounds

Student drop-off and pick-up operate in a fair manner. Vehicles enter the school parking lot from SE View Acres Road and stay in a vehicle lane, pausing near the entrance to drop students off. Four school buses use a separate driveway (nearest to the building) to deliver students to the school. There is a staff member that serves as support at the crossing from the vehicle lane across the bus lane and another at the main entrance to the parking lot drop off area. Some families park in the lot and walk students to the front door. Others park along Hill Road and cross the street, especially in the afternoon.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Provide crossing guard training for staff or volunteer guards (North Clackamas School District)
- b. Upgrade bike rack parking (North Clackamas School District)

2. SE Hill Rd.

This street is east of the school property and provides much of the border and traffic to the school. There are only sidewalks in front of new development adjacent to the school.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Reduce posted speed limit (Clackamas County)
- b. Fill sidewalk gaps on north side of street (Clackamas County)
- c. Fill sidewalk gaps on south side of street (Clackamas County)
- d. Upgrade school zone signage (larger signs, better retro reflectivity, additional signs), portable option be In-street crossing sign set out in morning and afternoon (Clackamas County and North Clackamas School District)
- e. Upgrade all ramps to be ADA compliant (Clackamas County)
- f. Upgrade existing bike facility with protected bike lane 25mph (Clackamas County)
- g. Upgrade crosswalk at SE Bramble Ct. with new pavement markings and signage (Clackamas County)

3. SE View Acres Rd.

View Acres Road is a residential side street which serves as the vehicle/bus entrance to the parking lot of the school. There is a crosswalk at the school driveway entrance that does not have a connection. This could be a Shared Streets candidate..

RECOMMENDATION

- a. Construct “shared street” design between SE Hill Rd and SE Oatfield (Clackamas County)
- b. Reduce posted speed limit (Clackamas County)
- c. Upgrade existing crosswalk at SE View Acres Road and school driveway with flashers and new pavement striping (Clackamas County)

4. General

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Install street lighting on SE Hill Rd (Clackamas County)
- b. Add rear facing flashing beacon to school zone beacons, located on Hill Rd as additional notification of school zone (Clackamas County)
- c. Upgrade ADA compliant ramps throughout the walk zone (Clackamas County)
- d. Add end school zone signage on Hill Rd (Clackamas County)

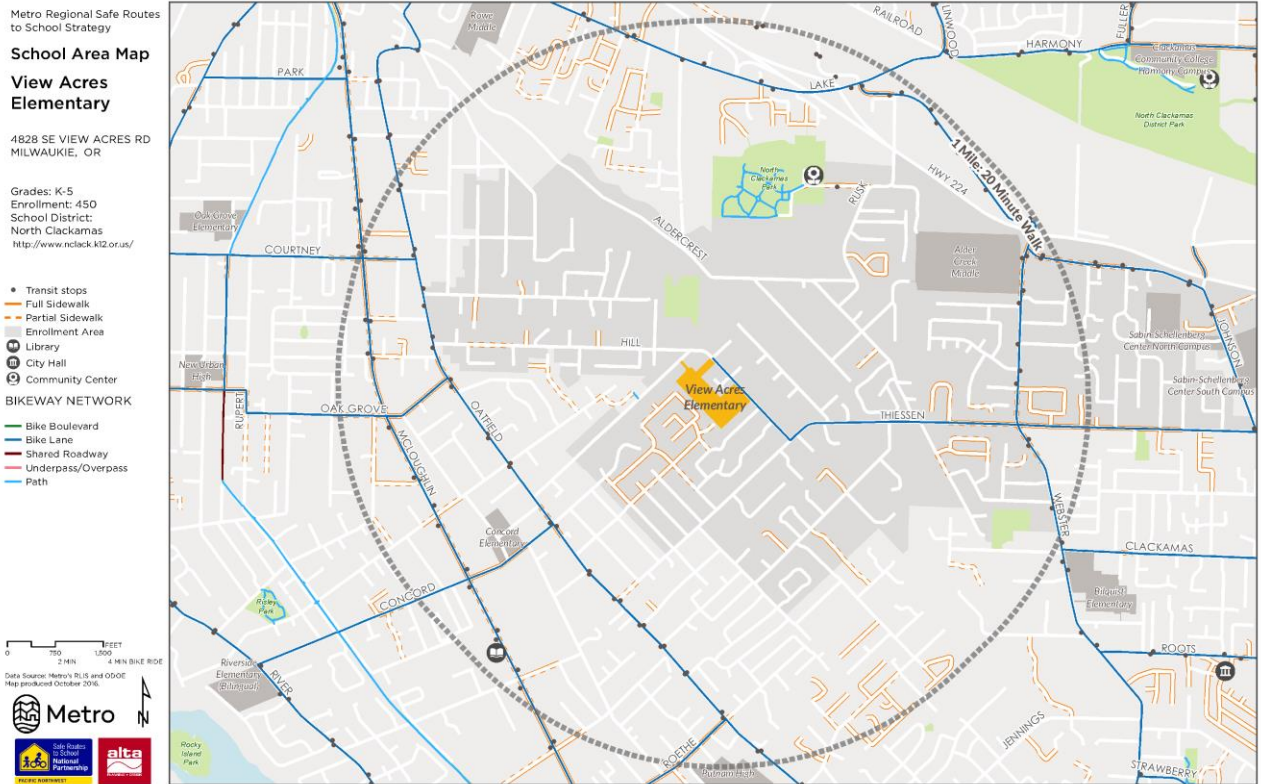
Cost Estimates

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

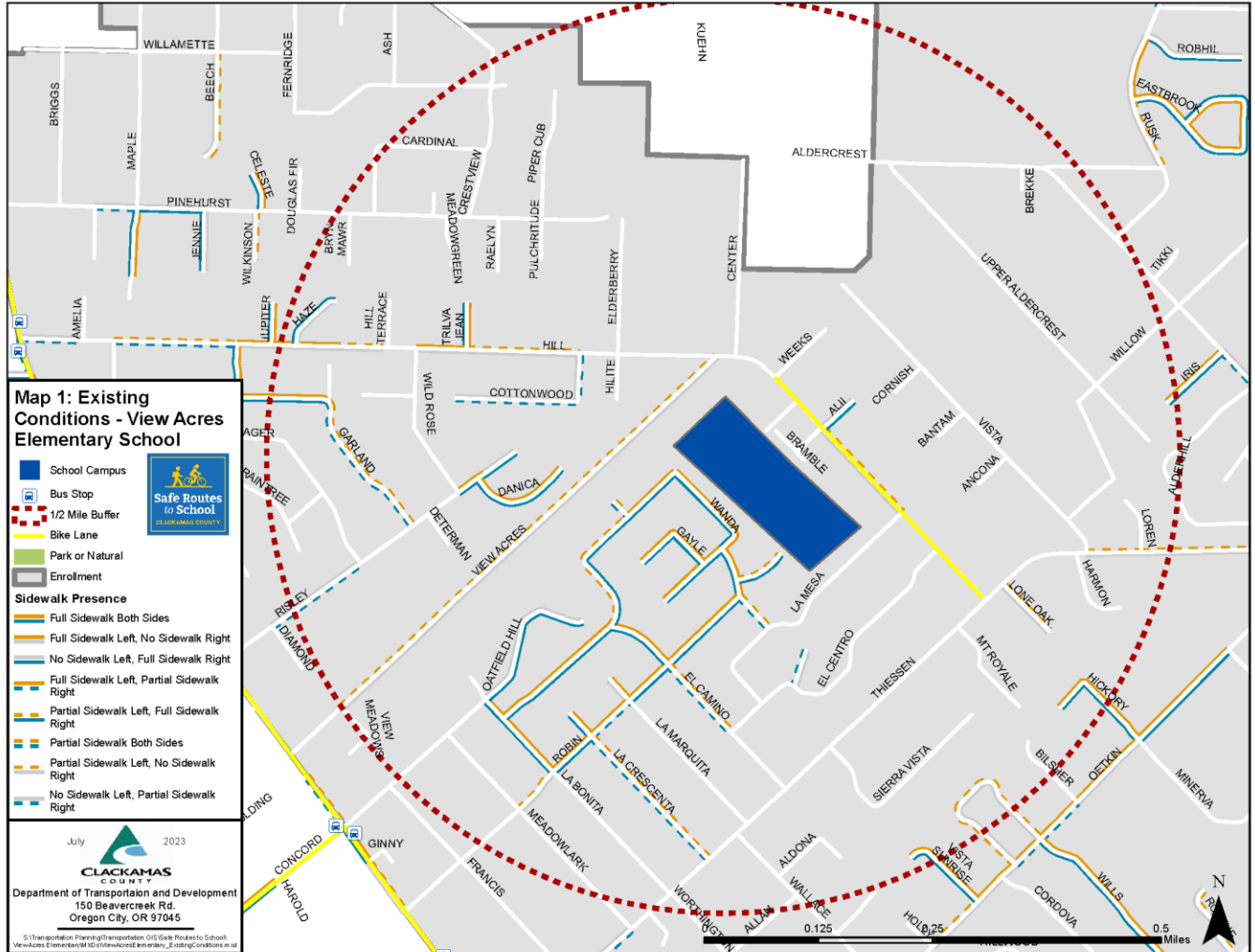
Table 1. View Acres Elementary School Recommended Improvements

RECOMMENDATIONS	LEAD AGENCY	PLANNING – LEVEL COST	PRIORITY
1. School Parking Lot and Grounds			
a. Provide crossing guard training for staff or volunteer guards	North Clackamas School District	\$	Low
b. Replace “wheel bending” bike parking with new bike racks.	North Clackamas School District	\$	Low
2. SE Hill Road			
a. Reduce posted speed limit	Clackamas County	\$	Medium
b. Fill sidewalk gaps on north side of street	Clackamas County	\$\$\$	High
c. Fill sidewalk gaps on south side of street	Clackamas County	\$\$\$	High
d. Upgrade school zone signage	Clackamas County	\$	Medium
e. Upgrade all ramps to be ADA compliant	Clackamas County	\$\$	Medium
f. Upgrade existing bike facility with protected bike lane.	Clackamas County	SSS	Low
g. Upgrade crosswalk at SE Bramble Ct. – new pavement markings and signage	Clackamas County	\$\$	Medium
3. SE View Acres Road			
a. Construct “shared street” design between SE Hill Rd and SE Oatfield Rd	Clackamas County	\$ \$	High
b. Reduce posted speed limit	Clackamas County	S	High
c. Upgrade existing crosswalk at SE View Acres Road and school driveway with flashers and new pavement striping.	Clackamas County	SS	Medium
4. General			
a) Install street lighting on SE Hill Road	Clackamas County	\$\$	Low
b) Add rear facing flashing beacon to school zone beacons located on Hill Road as additional notification of school zone.	Clackamas County	\$	Medium
c) Upgrade ADA compliant ramps throughout walk zone	Clackamas County	\$\$	Medium
d) Add end school zone signage on Hill Rd.	Clackamas County	\$	Low

Map 1: Attendance Area & One Mile Radius Map



Map 2: Existing Conditions Map



Map 3: Recommended Infrastructure Improvement Map



Programmatic Recommendations

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

View Acres Elementary School currently promotes transportation safety by sending information to parents about student drop-off and pick-up patterns, as well as reminders about driving safely.

The activities below are recommended for View Acres 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.

- ◆ [Educational guides](#) are available from Oregon SRTS that address a variety of modes and safety issues involved with student travel to and from school.
- ◆ Oregon SRTS curriculum [Neighborhood Navigators](#) includes series of lesson plans grouped for grade levels that can be taught in a variety of settings in school communities.
- ◆ The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration offers [pedestrian safety](#) and [bicycle safety](#) resources.



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:

- ◆ Clackamas County's SRT program has a [guidebook, brochure, and safety tip sheets](#), as well as other information about efforts
- ◆ [Oregon SRTS](#) provides materials, handouts, and theme ideas for monthly themes, year-long events, messages.
- ◆ [Metro's SRTS collaboration page](#) contains a variety of resources and toolkits.



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. There are also other encouragement event options throughout the school year, including Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in November, Winter Walk to School Day, and Earth Month (April). Volunteers 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 snacks 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.

STUDENT CLUBS AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Clubs and leadership programs allow 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, 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:

- ◆ [Eco-school network](#) started as a project of the Center for Earth Leadership and is an organization that aims to promote sustainable practices and raise ecological awareness.
- ◆ [Oregon Green Schools](#) is a nonprofit organization that supports school in establishing and sustaining practices that shape the next generation of environmental leaders, including an active transportation track of certification.



Enforcement Programs

SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL

Safety patrol programs vary by school and district. 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:

- ◆ The Oregon Department of Education published an [Oregon Traffic Patrol Manual](#) that describes the roles of patrols and operational guidelines.
- ◆ AAA has [School Safety Patrol membership information](#) and descriptions of student, teacher, and parent roles.

