

Mooberry Elementary

Safe Routes to School Action Plan



SafeRoutes

Hillsboro Safe Routes To School



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Introduction

WHAT IS SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL? The City of Hillsboro Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program works to promote and support the use of safe, healthy and active transportation (like walking and biking) to and from school. The benefits of walking and biking include increased daily physical activity, enhanced student alertness and readiness to learn, improved air quality around the school, and reduced vehicle congestion at and around the school. According to a [2009 school travel study](#)¹, almost 50% of students nationally walked or biked to school in 1969. In 2009, approximately 13% of students nationally were using active transportation to get to school. This significant decrease in walking or biking to school occurred in just a generation and a half. The City of Hillsboro SRTS Coordinator is working with each school to develop a comprehensive SRTS Program specific to each school's unique context and environment to help increase the number of students walking and biking to/from school.

The principles of the SRTS Program are outlined nationally by the "Six E's," which include:

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 improvements such as new sidewalks, improved crossings, and other traffic calming devices to enhance students' safety as they walk or bike to school.


Evaluation --Survey parents and students regarding modes of travel to and from school, 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.

This Action Plan identifies barriers or challenges to walking or biking to Mooberry Elementary School and identifies the potential engineering and programmatic strategies to address those barriers. The Action Plan is available for use by the city, the Mooberry SRTS Project Team, (see next page) the

Safe Routes to School Goals

1. Increase the number of students walking or biking to school;
2. Reduce the number of driving trips to schools;
3. Improve traffic and environmental factors around schools;
4. Identify barriers and possible solutions to safe, active commuting.

¹ [http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797\(11\)00263-7/pdf](http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(11)00263-7/pdf)



Hillsboro School District, parents, students and community members as a framework to guide Mooberry's work on SRTS.

School Information

School Name: **Mooberry Elementary**
School Address: **1230 NE 10th Avenue Hillsboro, OR 97124**
County: **Washington County**
School District: **Hillsboro School District**
School Website: **<http://schools.hsd.k12.or.us/mooberry>**
Enrollment: **455**
Enrollment by Grade: **K-61; 1-62; 2-62; 3-60; 4-70; 5-69; 6-69**
Free/ Reduced Lunch
(2016/2017): **All students receive lunch through the Community Eligibility Provision²**
Action Plan Contact: **Bernadette Le, Bernadette.le@hillsboro-oregon.gov, 503-681-5294**

THE PROJECT TEAM:

School Principal: **Peter Muilenburg**
Parent representatives: **Kara and Arron Armstrong**
Mooberry Community Corral
City Safe Routes to
School Coordinator: **Bernadette Le (current), Carolyn Baar (at time plan commenced)**

² 2016-17 Hillsboro School District Annual State Report Card Data Summary, <https://www.hsd.k12.or.us/>

Existing Conditions

District Transportation Policy

Students in grades kindergarten through 6th grade who live less than a mile from the school are encouraged to walk, bike, or carpool to school each day. In cases where the student lives more than 1 mile from the school, the Hillsboro School District's preferred method of travel is by school bus.

District Supplemental Transportation Policy

The Supplemental Transportation Plan provides buses to transport students inside Oregon's unfunded walking distances, which is 1 mile for elementary school students and 1.5 miles for middle school students, because of hazardous conditions. Hazardous conditions are defined as difficult crossings, limited infrastructure, crossing railroad tracks, freeway crossings, and high volume and high speed roadways.

School Attendance Area

Mooberry Elementary is located in central Hillsboro. Its attendance area boundary is displayed in Figure 1 below.

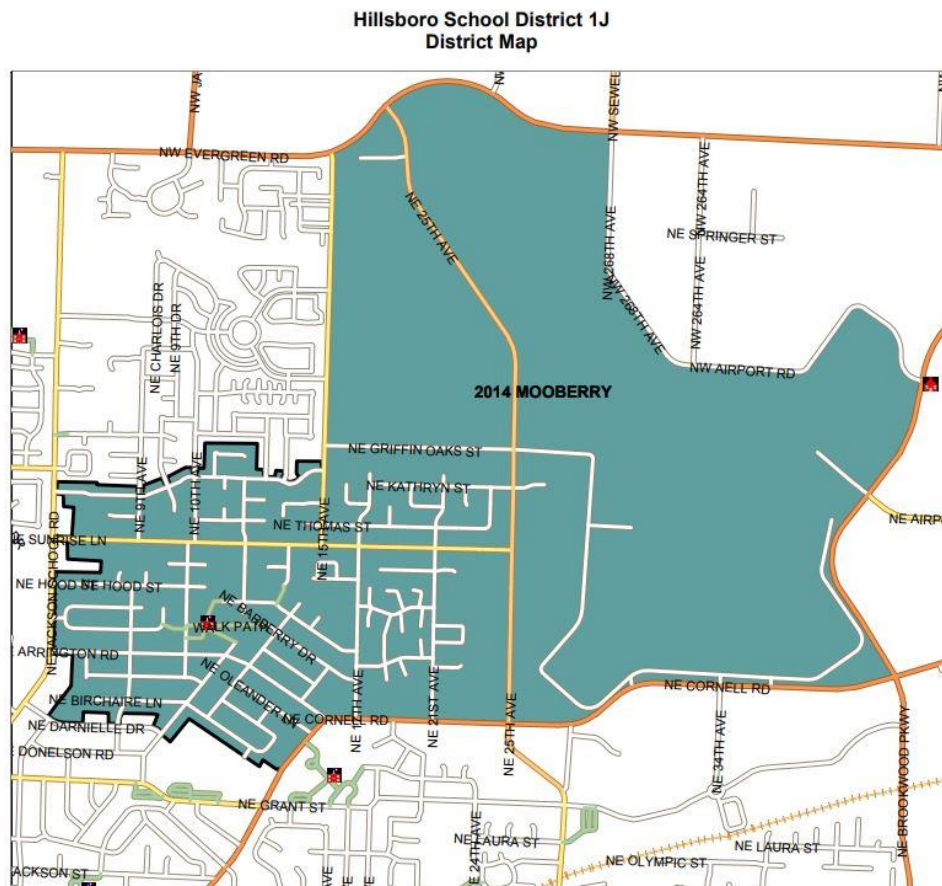


Figure 1: School Attendance Area

Walk Audit

On two different occasions, city staff walked the majority of the routes with parents and students during walk to school hours. Staff also drove all the routes in the walk zone and used the City of Hillsboro sidewalk inventory to evaluate the routes in the Mooberry walk zone.

Approximately 70% of streets in the Mooberry Walk Zone do not have sidewalks. The majority of the walk zone is made up of low volume, neighborhood roads. However, NE Arrington Street is a higher volume street without sidewalk and is used by students walking to school.

NE Arrington Rd is the major east-west road south of the school. It has a daily traffic volume of 4700 and does not have sidewalks between Jackson School Rd and NE Linden. Pooling water was also observed during the walk audit. Approximately 50 homes front this portion of Arrington. The suggested walk path from the Hillsboro School District suggests students use NE Queens Ln and NE Delsey Rd or Baldwin Dr, instead of using Arrington Rd, to access 10th Avenue and the school.

NE Sunrise Rd was also visited during the walk audit as it poses significant concern by parents. NE Sunrise Rd is the major east-west road north of Mooberry Elementary. It is located less than 1000 feet from the school entrance and also does not have sidewalks. It is narrow and has large ditches on either side of the roadway. NE Sunrise is considered a hazard and students living on Sunrise and to the north side of Sunrise receive bus service. Parents in the area often choose to walk because it is much faster than waiting for a bus.

During the walk audit, City staff also observed poor condition sidewalks in many areas where sidewalks are present within the walk boundary.

The Hillsboro School District Suggested Walking Path map identifies NE Hood St, NE Baldwin Dr, and a walking path as the suggested path from the neighborhood west of the school. This route has sidewalks and the walking path joins the sidewalk on NE 10 Ave directly across from the school. There is a crosswalk within 100 feet of where the walking path meets the sidewalk. A map showing sidewalk inventory in the walk zone can be found in Appendix C.

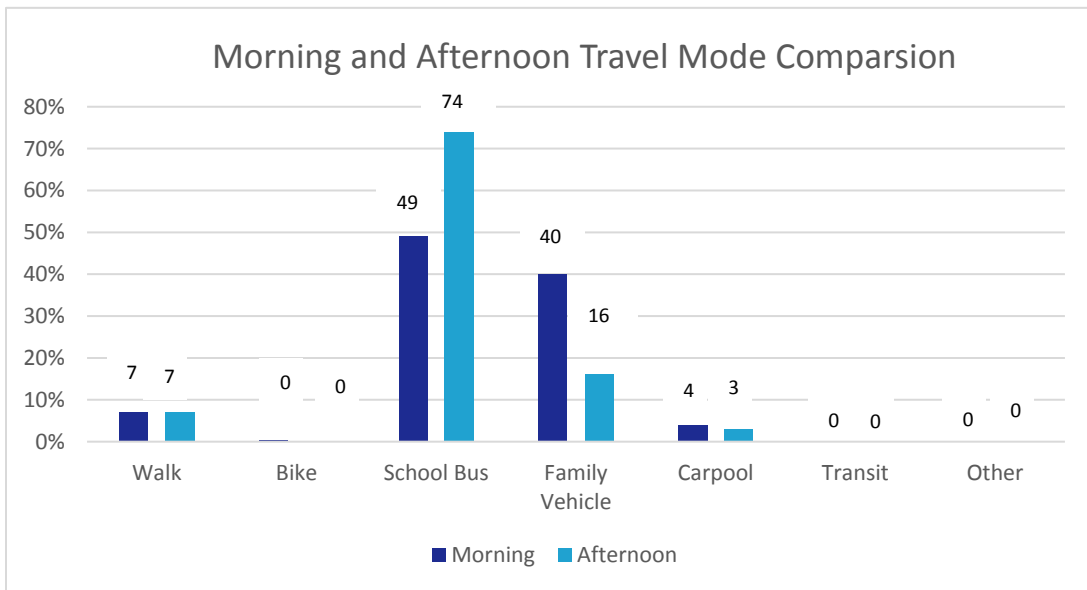


Evaluations and Data

Student Travel Surveys

On February 28 and March 1, 2017 student surveys were conducted regarding student travel modes to and from school using the in-class “hand raise” **Student Travel Tally** questionnaire from the National Center for Safe Routes to School. Teachers asked students each morning how they arrived at school and how they planned to leave school that afternoon. The results of this tally are below. This data will be used as a baseline. City of Hillsboro staff recommends the survey be repeated in April 2018 for comparison purposes.

School Name: Mooberry Elementary School	Set ID: 22794
School Group: City of Hillsboro Pilot Group	Month and Year Collected: February 2017
School Enrollment: 455	Date Report Generated: 03/13/2017
% of Students reached by SRTS survey: 86%	Tags: Arrival and Departure Tally Sheet
Number of Classrooms Included in Report: 16	



Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison

	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Morning	779	7%	0.3%	49%	40%	4%	0%	0%
Afternoon	752	7%	0.1%	74%	16%	3%	0%	0%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

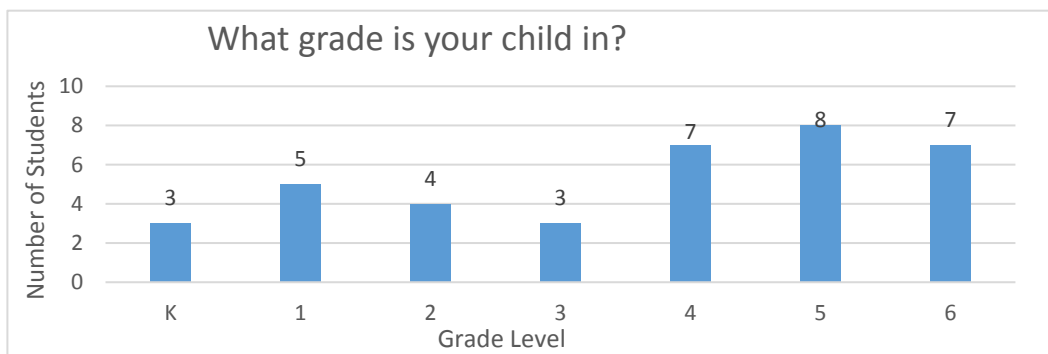
Data Observations

City staff noted the very low number of bike riders. Staff believe that parents walking multiple young children find it easier to manage strollers, children with school supplies and adverse weather conditions on foot rather than on bicycles. Staff also noted the significant number of students arriving by family vehicle and believe that these are the most likely targets for conversion to active transportation. Staff believes that the decrease from family vehicle mode and increase in bus mode in the afternoon is largely due to afterschool programs that offer bus pick up at Mooberry.

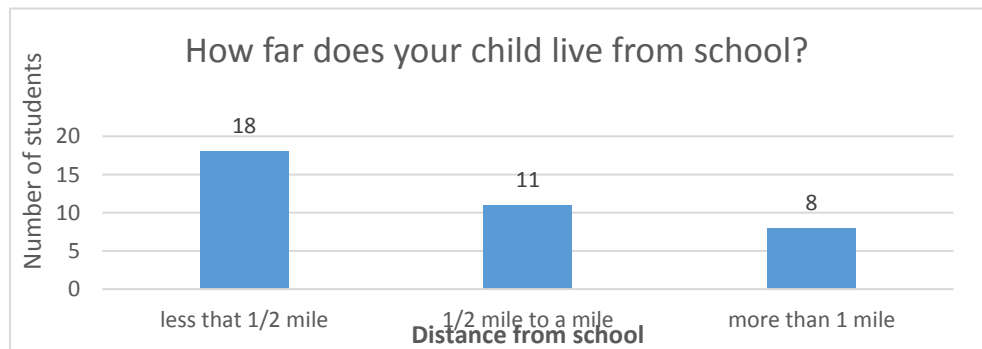
Parent Surveys

The city conducted a Parent Survey to gather information about how students get to and from school and learn about concerns and issues surrounding walking and biking school. The city set up a table at Mooberry’s Math and Science night, an event with strong parent attendance. The city used 8 electronic, hand held devices and offered survey incentives in the form of slap bracelets, pencil toppers and reusable bags. The 5 question survey was presented in both English and Spanish. A total of 37 parents took the survey. Results follow:

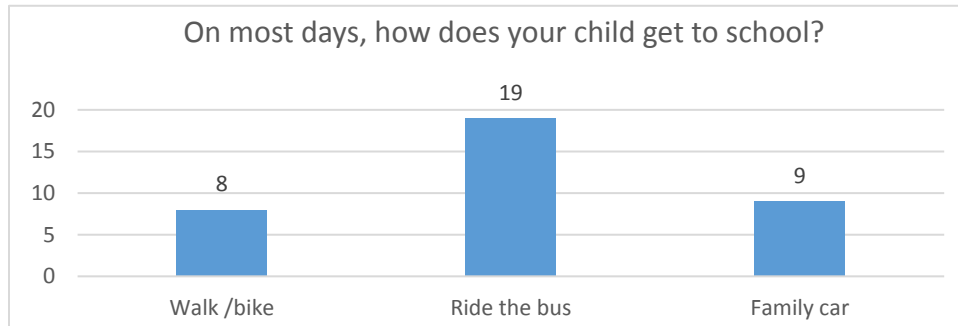
Parents were asked what grade their child was in. Although responses were received from parents representing children from each grade, a higher number of respondents answered children in grades 4-6.



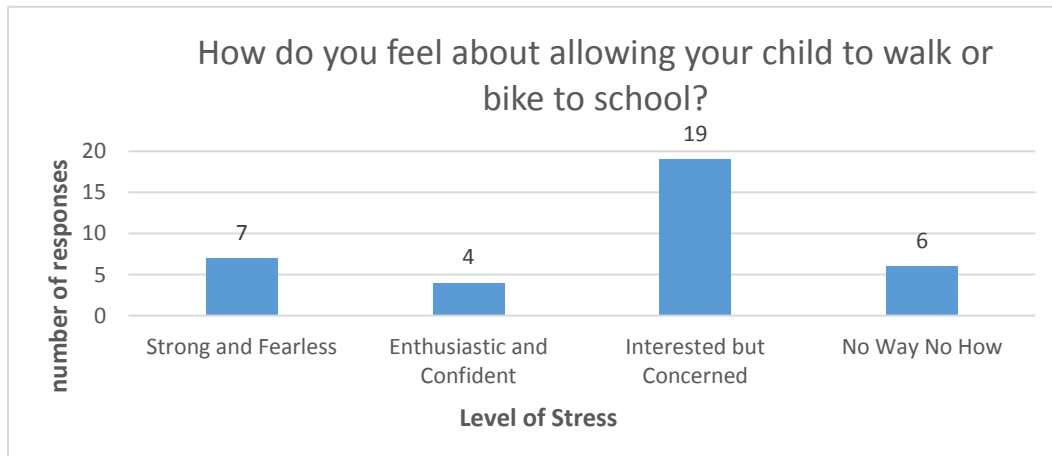
Close to half of parents (49%) participating in the survey indicated that they live less than a half mile from school and an additional 30% live between a half mile and a mile from school.



Parents were asked “On most days how does your child get to school?” The majority of respondents (53%) reported the school bus was the normal mode of travel. Eight of the respondents (22%) indicated that their child walks or bikes to school most days.

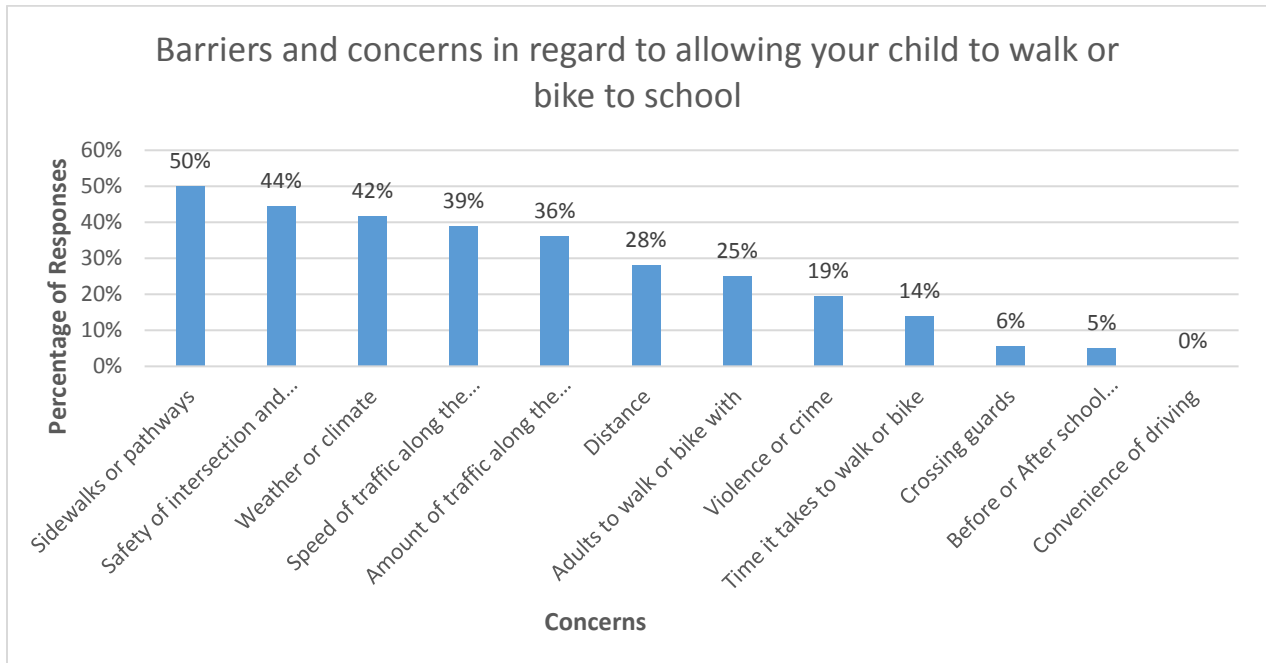


Using a scale called “Level of Stress” parents were asked to identify how they felt about allowing their child to walk or bike to school. The majority (53%) answered that they were “Interested but Concerned.” This category is encouraging as it represents those who might be convinced to walk or bike in the future.



On the final question, parents were asked to identify all the issues that affect their decision to let their child walk or bike to school. Because multiple responses were allowed, the totals are greater than the number of respondents. The top four responses were:

- Sidewalks or pathways
- Safety of intersections and crossings
- Weather or Climate
- Speed of traffic along the route



Recommendations

The following specific recommendations are made for the Mooberry Elementary Safe Routes to School Program. This set of recommendations will require participation by partners, such as parent organizations, the city of Hillsboro SRTS coordinator, the Hillsboro School District and the Hillsboro Police Department. Recommendations are outlined based on the Six E's of the SRTS Program and result from the existing conditions evaluation, walk audits, survey results, and communication with Eastwood parents and staff (see Appendix E), Hillsboro School district representatives and the Hillsboro Police Department.

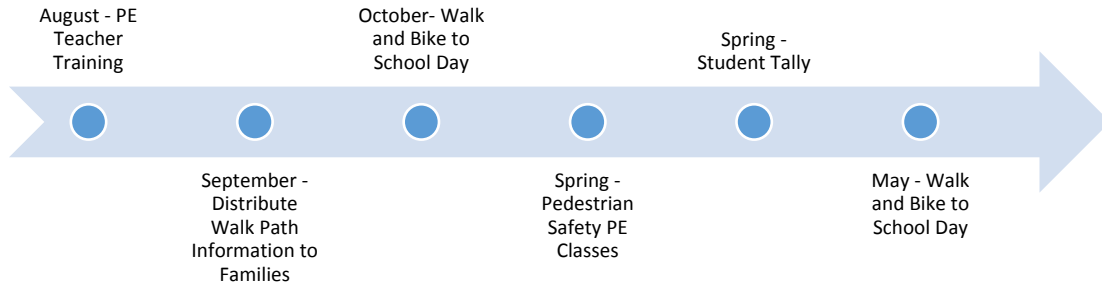
Program Component	Existing Condition	Recommendation	Lead/Partners
Overall Program Implementation	Mooberry does not have an existing SRTS program in place.	The school should identify a staff member or volunteer to act as program champion to work in conjunction with the City of Hillsboro SRTS coordinator to facilitate the initiation of a Safe Routes to School program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mooberry Staff •SRTS Coordinator
Encouragement	Currently Mooberry does not participate in any encouragement events	Participate in the Fall Walk and Bike to School day October 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •SRTS Coordinator •Parent Organization •Mooberry Staff
Education	Pedestrian safety education classes will be taught Spring 2018 during Physical Education.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mooberry Staff

Enforcement	<p>Parent identified several areas high concern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Speed on 17th from Sunrise to Cornell. •Speed at 17th and Barberry specifically. •Speed at Cornell and Arrington. •Speed at 15th South from Kathryn to Sunrise. •Drivers not stopping for sign at Berkshire and 15th. •Drivers not stopping for crossing guard at 10th and Arrington. 	Work with Hillsboro Police Department to development a systematic approach to monitoring school zones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hillsboro Police Department •Mooberry Staff •Mooberry Parent Group
	Speed data identified drivers speeding at Speed along Arrington from 9 th to Cornell.	Work with Hillsboro Police Department for targeted enforcement.	•Hillsboro Police Department
Engineering	Parents have requested sidewalks along NE Arrington and NE Sunrise.	These routes have been put into the Bicycle and Pedestrian Capital Improvement Program Sidewalk Prioritization Matrix (see Appendix B) and are under review.	•City of Hillsboro
	Parents expressed concerns about the 10 th Avenue crossing in front of the school.	City of Hillsboro staff will evaluate potential crossing enhancements.	•City of Hillsboro
	Parking lot markings appear to not be consistent with usage.	Review parking lot signage, painting, and traffic patterns to ensure clear directions are provided to users.	•HSD Transportation and Safety Department
Evaluation	Students and Parents were surveyed in the Spring of 2017. Student travel mode was assessed and parents' attitudes regarding their opinions and concerns about allowing their children to walk and	Repeat these evaluations yearly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •SRTS Coordinator •School Staff

	bike to school were assessed.		
Equity	Mooberry is a bilingual school and delivers electronic and written communication in English and Spanish. Eastwood routinely provides translators at parent meetings.	Continue with established conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mooberry Staff •HSD Transportation and Safety Department
	Suggested Walk Path maps are available online. There is a concern that parents without internet access or internet skills are not able to access these maps.	<p>Make sure all information is available in both English and Spanish for parents and students who do not have internet access.</p> <p>Post large, laminated Suggested Walk Path map on the community/parent board. The map will include a link to the map on the website.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mooberry Staff •HSD Transportation and Safety Department

Next Steps

Mooberry Elementary should work to identify a parent or staff champion to help coordinate ongoing efforts with the City of Hillsboro SRST Program Coordinator. Additionally, City staff will provide city wide encouragement and education events open to all families in the community.



Appendix

Appendix A

Speed and Traffic Counts

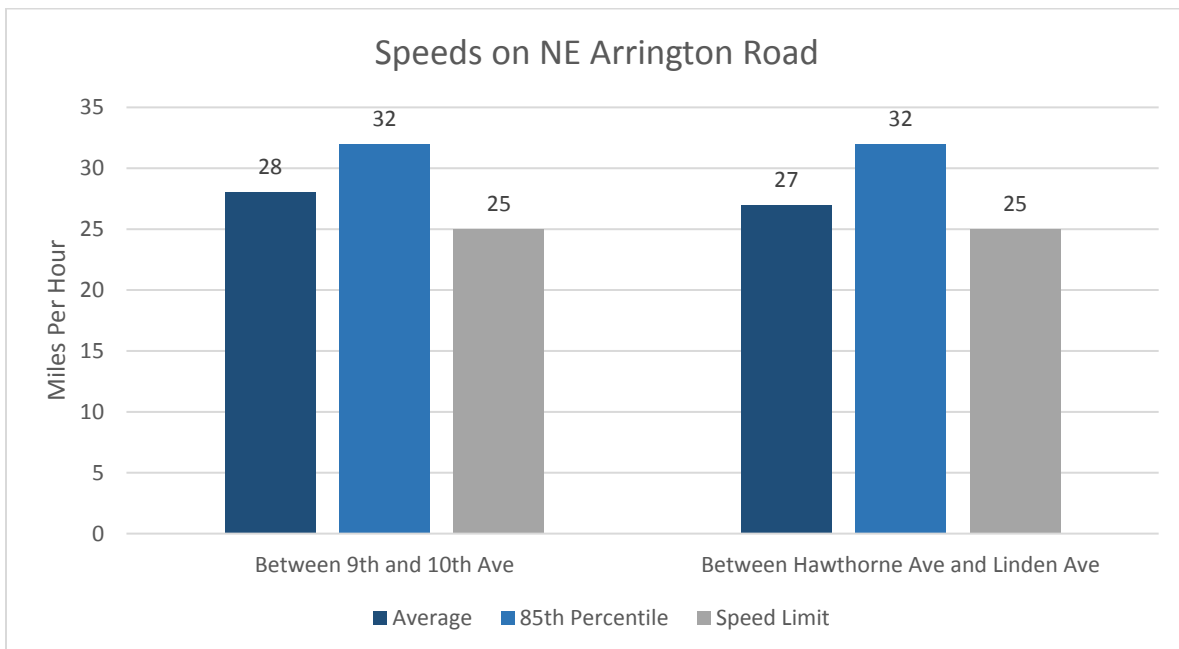
The city conducts annual traffic volume counts and speed monitoring on streets throughout the city. Two of the annual counts fall in the walk zone for Mooberry Elementary. They are located at NE Arrington Road between 9th and 10th Avenues and at NE Arrington between Hawthorne Avenue and Linden Avenue.

Average Daily Totals (ADT) and Data Collection Dates Mooberry Walking Zone

Street	ADT	Date Collected	Road Classification
Arrington Road (between 9 th and 10 th)	3000	9/18/2017	Neighborhood Route
Arrington Road (between Hawthorne and Linden)	4433	9/18/2017	Neighborhood Route

The speed limit along NE Arrington Road is 25 MPH. A school zone is located around the 10th Avenue intersection and directs drivers to reduce their speed to 20 MPH when children are present. A flashing beacon is located near the intersection of NE Arrington Road and NE Cornell and directs drivers to reduce their speed to 20 MPH when the beacon is on. Both data collection sites along Arrington are located outside of the school zones.

Arrington Road is classified as a Neighborhood Route which means that it provides connectivity between local residential streets and larger collector streets. These levels of use are appropriate as NE Arrington Road connects the neighborhood and two schools to the larger transportation network.



Appendix B

Crosswalk and Sidewalk Prioritization Review

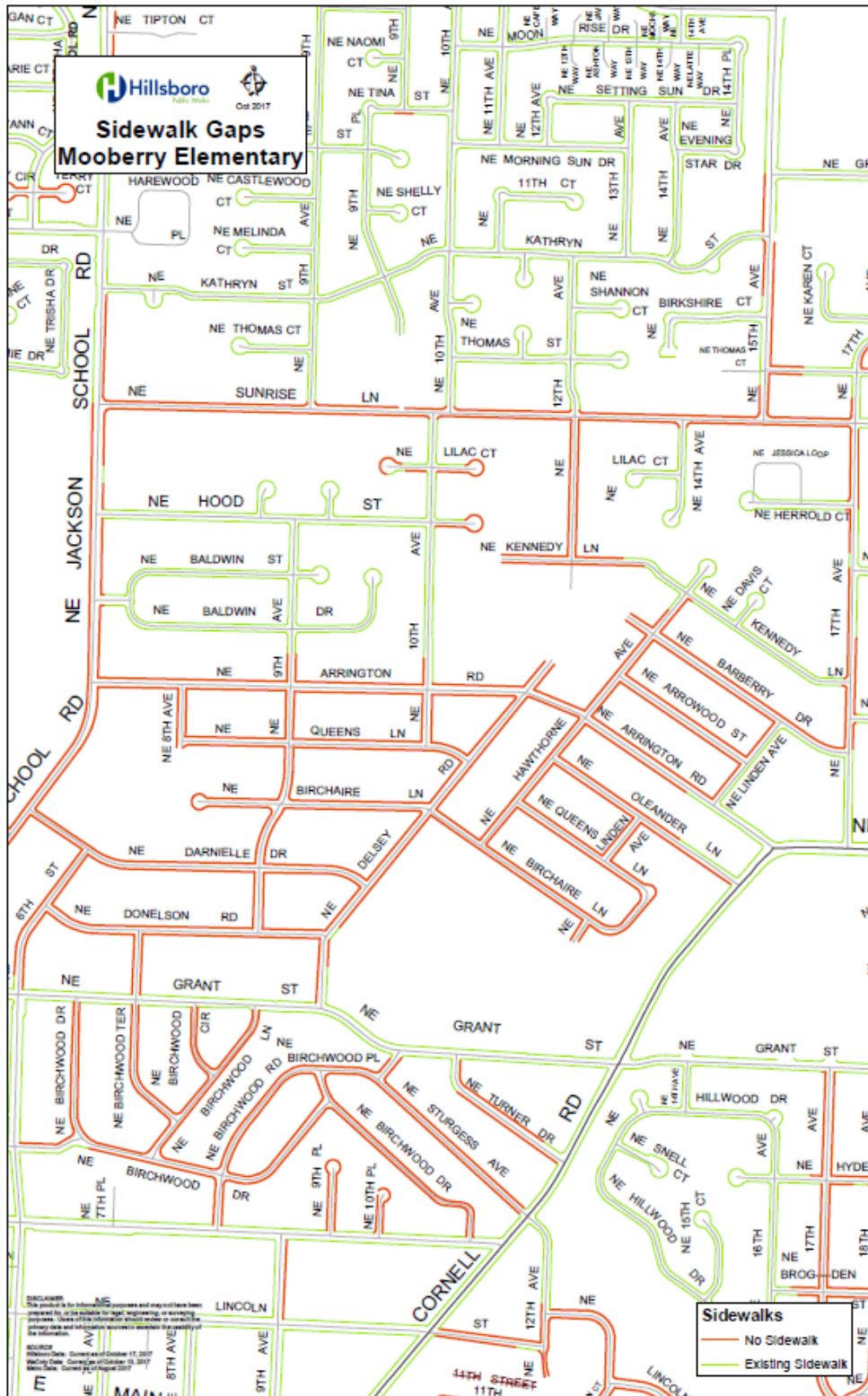
The Public Works department maintains the Bicycle and Pedestrian Capital Improvement Program (BPCIP), which is a prioritized work program of sidewalk, bike lane, and enhanced crossing projects. The list was last updated in 2007, and resulted in the 2010-2019 BPCIP. As Public Works is in the design phase of the final project on the 2010-2019 BPCIP it is time to develop the 2020-2029 BPCIP. In developing the 2020-2029 BPCIP, staff sought to create a system that:

- Met the Transportation Committee priorities for improvements that benefit school walk routes and serve as access within one quarter of a mile of a transit stop
- Would be transparent to the community on how projects are selected
- Aligned with goals outlined in the Transportation System Plan, Transportation Safety Action Plan, and Safe Routes to School program.

A list of evaluated projects for the update were collected from citizen requests (2007 – 2017), the Transportation System Plan, and locations requested by Hillsboro School District. Staff developed a point system to evaluate and rank each project using criteria including the roadway functional classification, average daily traffic counts, speed, whether the project was in a walk boundary for an elementary, middle or high school and if the project overlapped with the Transportation System Plan Bike Project.

During the end of 2017 and early 2018, the draft evaluation criteria and scores were presented to the Transportation Committee and the public was invited to comment on the evaluation criteria and project list. The next steps for this project will be to present the final evaluation criteria and Tier 1 project list to the Transportation committee, prepare cost estimate for the Tier 1 projects, and present a final 2020-2029 BPCIP for adoption.

Appendix C



Appendix D

Mooberry Elementary Parent/Staff input May 18, 2017

There was a very good representation of parents and staff, a total of 18, representing a wide demographic.

Equity

- The group felt that Mooberry does a very good job addressing equity issues. Mooberry is a dual language school. The principal, Pete Muilenburg, is bi-lingual and translates at parents meetings. Other staff are also available for translation. There was a balanced mix of ethnicities in attendance at the meeting where this input was gathered telling us that the communication with all parents is effective.

Evaluation

- Student surveys were conducted February 28 and March 1. Parent Surveys were conducted at the Science Fair night. Both methods of evaluations went very well and will be repeated at the same time next year.

Education

- Currently there is no formal walking and biking safety education at Mooberry. The principal is open to looking at the available curriculum and seeing if it would be something Mooberry would consider adding to the health curriculum.
- Suggestion is to use the K-3 curriculum with the lower grades before their walking field trip.
- Currently there is no formal education for parents regarding pick up /drop off procedures and proper pedestrian behavior in the walking zone. Suggestion is to have Parent Education flyers as part of Back to School packets.

Encouragement

- Currently Ann Schott is working with her classes to encourage more active lifestyles and Willow Grossen has a successful running program. Principal Muilenburg is interested in continuing to encourage this active lifestyle programs.
- There did not seem to be much interest in promoting Walk and Bike to school day events at this point.

Engineering

- #1 Priority is a sidewalk on Sunrise
- #2 Priority is a sidewalk on Arrington
- Big, Deep Ditches were noted as problems all along Sunrise but were noted particularly in the vicinity of Sunrise between 12th and 17th.
- RRFB was suggested for crossing at front of school and driveway where busses pull out onto 10th.
- RRFB was requested at Cornell and Arrington.
- Instructions for Drop off and Pick Up painted on the driveway in front of school need to be reviewed.

- Crossing at 17th and Barberry was a concern. This is in an area of several multifamily complexes and is on the border of the walk boundary.

Enforcement

- Areas of High Concern to ask for attention from law enforcement:
 - Speed on 17th from Sunrise to Cornell
 - Speed at 17th and Barberry specifically
 - Speed at Cornell and Arrington
 - 15th South from Kathryn to Sunrise
 - Drivers not stopping for sign at Berkshire and 15th
 - Drivers not stopping for crossing guard at 10th and Arrington

City of Hillsboro Feedback on Engineering Input – 3/28/2018

City of Hillsboro staff reviewed the parent input for potential engineering improvements in the Mooberry walk boundary. The following table provides an update on the proposed improvements that were recommended by parents but were not included in the recommendations table.

Proposed Improvement	Staff Feedback
RRFB was requested at Cornell and Arrington.	This intersection is signalized.

Appendix E

Projects Scheduled and Completed in Neighborhood

Transportation and storm water improvements are planned along NE Jackson School Road between NE Grant St and NW Evergreen Rd. Pedestrian and bicycle improvements include cycle track, sidewalks, and street lighting. The construction on this project is planned to begin in the summer of 2020 and is estimated to be completed spring 2022. The Mooberry Elementary walk boundary includes NE Jackson School Road between NE Darnielle St and NE Sunrise Ln. This project could potentially assist students residing in this area.