

WL Henry Elementary Safe Routes to School Action Plan Update



WL Henry Elementary

Safe Routes to School Action Plan

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This Action Plan was produced as part of a grant from Oregon Transportation Safety Program

School Information

School Name: WL Henry Elementary

School Address: 1060 SE 24th Avenue Hillsboro, OR 97132-7210

County: Washington County

School District: Hillsboro School District

School Website: <https://www.hsd.k12.or.us/henry>

Enrollment: 361

Enrollment by Grade: K-46; 1st -55; 2nd -51; 3rd -47; 4th -50; 5th -58; 6th -54

Free/Reduced Lunch (2016/2017): All students receive lunch through the Community Eligibility Provision¹

Action Plan Contact: Bernadette Le, Bernadette.le@hillsboro-oregon.gov 503-681-5264

Safe Routes to School Project Team and Key Partners

School District Representatives: Michelle Brady

School Principal: Lisa Aguilar

School Staff: Vanessa Santillan Nieto
Yesenia Carmolinga
Cynthia Cabarloc

City of Hillsboro Safe Routes to School Coordinator: Bernadette Le

¹ 2016-17 Hillsboro School District Annual State Report Card Data Summary, <https://www.hsd.k12.or.us/>

Action Plan History

In 2016, Washington County developed a comprehensive Safe Routes to School Action Plan for WL Henry. The 2016 plan included:

- a walking and bicycling audit of the streets within the attendance area
- findings from a parent survey
- parent, School District, City, County, and Hillsboro Police Department input
- programmatic and infrastructure recommendations

This plan will provide an update on the recommendations from the 2016 plan and will outline additional recommendations at WL Henry Elementary School.

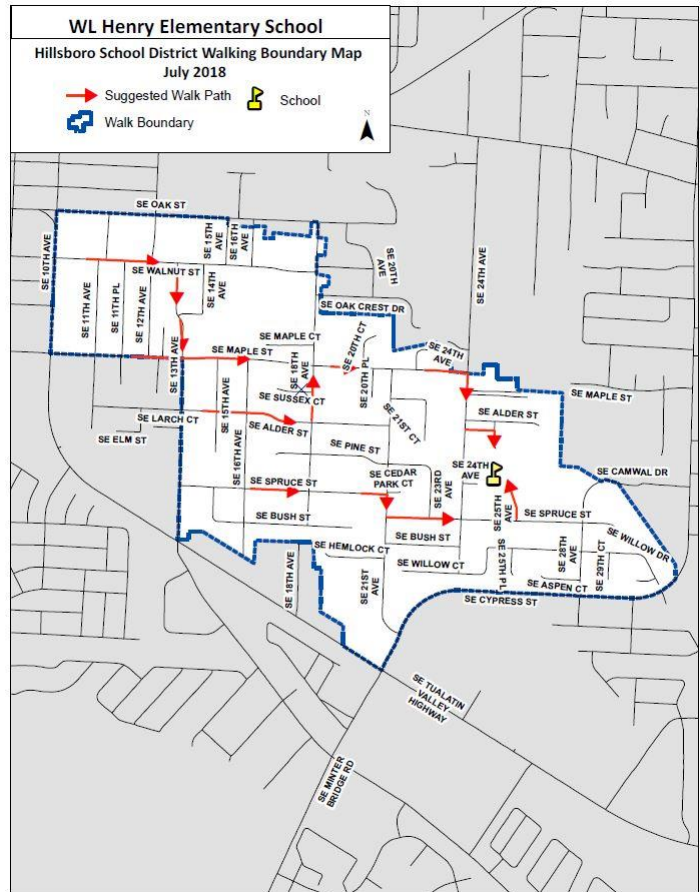
Existing Conditions

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.

WL Henry Walk Boundary and Suggested Walk Paths

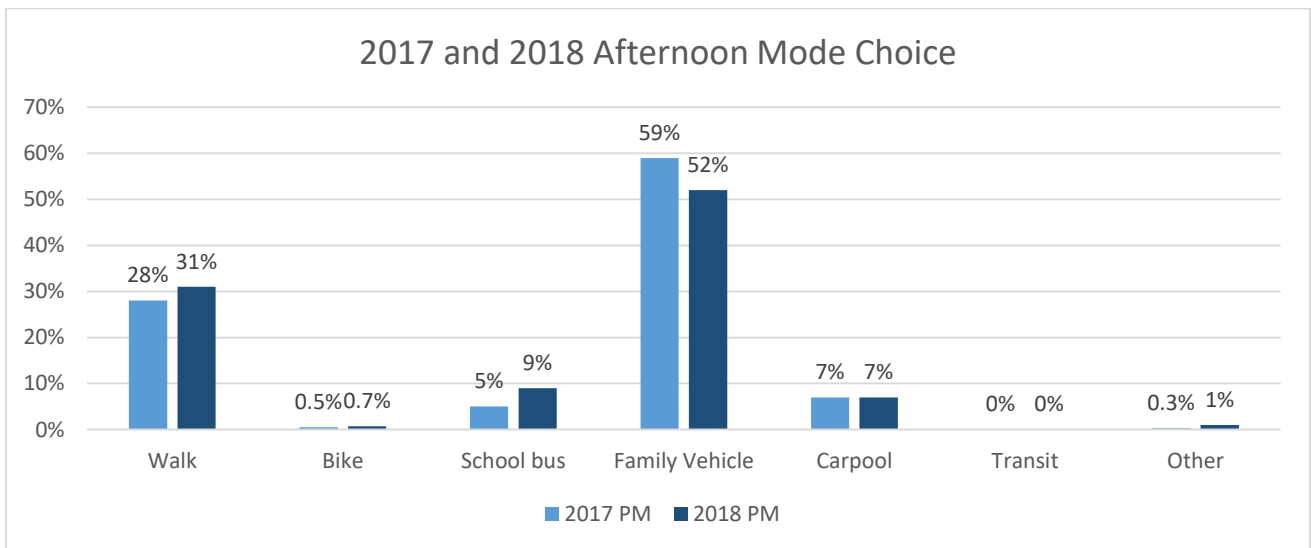
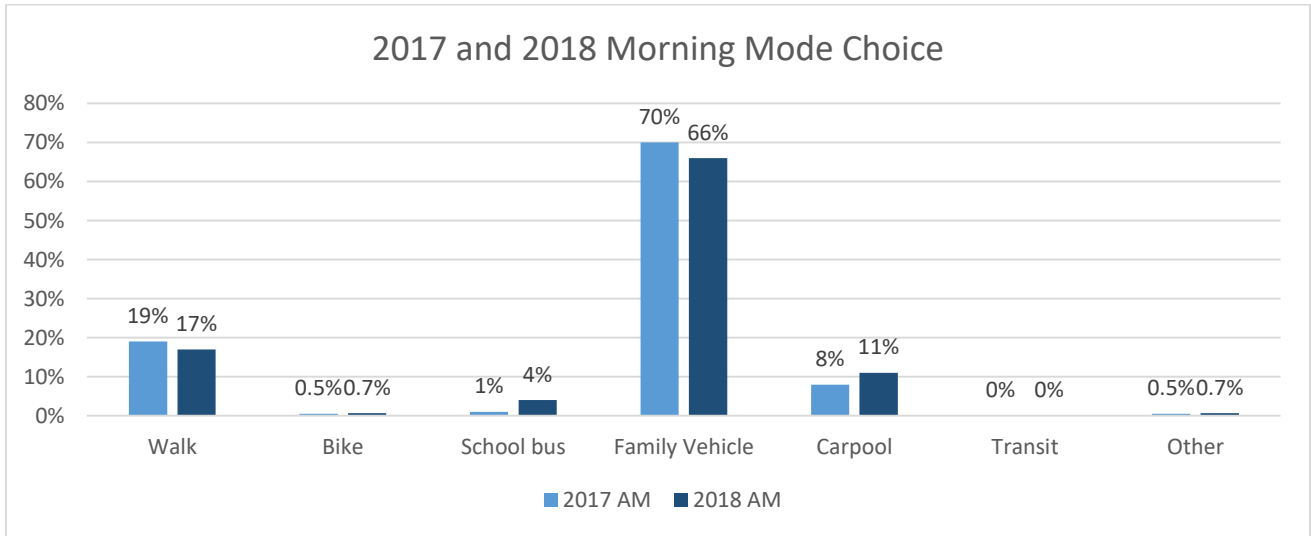
WL Henry is a walking school. The entire attendance boundary falls within the one (1) mile distance used to determine bus service and there are no facilities that limit the walk boundary. Bus service is only provided for WL Henry students with disabilities at. The Walking Paths on this map were identified by the school district, city and county prior to the beginning of this update.



Evaluations and Data

Student Travel Surveys

Student surveys were conducted in 2017 and 2018 to collect information about 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 with a recommendation to repeat the survey in March 2018 for comparison purposes.



Data Observations: Between 2017 and 2018, students walking to school slightly decreased in the morning and slightly increased in the afternoon. A slight increase in students bicycling was also observed between the two years. Staff noted the significant number of students arriving by carpool and family vehicle and believe that these are the most likely targets for conversion to active transportation.

Recommendations

The following table identifies the recommendations listed in WL Henry’s 2016 Action Plan developed by Washington County. The table also indicates the status of these recommendations.

2016 Recommendation Updates			
Program Component	Recommendations from 2016 Plan	High Priority	Status
Encouragement	Participate in yearly Walk + Bike to school event.	Yes	Participated in Walk and Roll to School Day in 2016.
Education	Distribute Safe Routes to School maps with students on first day of school.	Yes	Safe Routes to School Coordinator directed school staff to HSD website with Suggested Walking Path maps. School will print and distribute in 2018.
	Distribute pedestrian, scooter, and bike safety information on first day of school.	Yes	This information is distributed every year.
	Increase parent volunteers by utilizing them on Walking School Bus program.	No	School has begun discussing the development of a Walking School Bus program.
	Educate students with pedestrian and bicycle safety videos.	No	Pedestrian Safety class was taught to some students in Spring 2018 PE class.
Enforcement	Move the crossing guard from SE 24 th /Alder to SE 21 st /Spruce	No	Complete.
	Consider utilizing the city’s Neighborhood Speed Watch (<i>updated from “Calming”</i>) Program on SE Maple Street to address speeding concerns.	No	This program no longer exists. Collected traffic speeds are reasonable (Appendix A) and parents are encourage to contact PD when they observe speeding behavior.
	Continue City of Hillsboro Enforcement	No	School Resource Officer conducted enforcement along 24 th Avenue.
Engineering	Install RRFB at SE Spruce Street/21 st Avenue.	Yes	RRFB was installed in 2017.
	Consider sustainable treatment at walkway along schools main access point.	No	Suggested walking route map encourages students to enter school property from SE 25 th Ct from the north and SE 25 th Ave from the south.

The following recommendations are new recommendations made for WL Henry Elementary should the school administration choose to implement a Safe Routes to School Program. Note that some of the 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. Using the six Es that guide the SRTS program, City of Hillsboro staff make the following recommendations based on the 2016 Action Plan, existing conditions, and conversations with Hillsboro School District Staff.

New Recommendations			
Program Component	Existing Condition	Recommendation	Lead/Partners
Overall Program Implementation	WL Henry Elementary had a SRTS Action Plan written in 2016 by Washington County.	WL Henry Elementary should identify a program champion to facilitate the Safe Routes to School program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WL Henry Elementary Staff • Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Coordinator
Encouragement	A significant number of parents drive their children to school.	Organize a walking school bus weekly or monthly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WL Henry Elementary Staff • SRTS Coordinator
	Parents stated that weather or climate was a barrier to walking/biking to school.	Distribute umbrellas to families that walk to school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WL Henry Elementary Staff • SRTS coordinator
		Explore opportunities to assist and encourage students walking in wet weather.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WL Henry Elementary Staff • SRTS Coordinator • HSD
Education	Pedestrian education was taught to some grades during Spring 2018 physical education class.	Teach pedestrian education annually to all grades.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WL Henry Elementary Staff
	Parents have told school staff that weather or climate was a barrier to walking/biking to school.	Include SRTS safety and encouragement reminders in parent outreach materials throughout the school year such as information about how long it takes to walk a mile and packing extra clothes or wearing rain gear on wet weather days.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hillsboro School District (HSD) • SRTS coordinator • WL Henry Elementary Staff

New Recommendations (continued)

Program Component	Existing Condition	Recommendation	Lead/Partners
Education (continued)	Parents have told school staff that weather or climate was a barrier to walking/biking to school. (continued)	Identify location for storage of wet clothes and communicate resource to parents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WL Henry Elementary Staff
	School staff expressed concern that icy conditions become a barrier to children walking to school during winter months.	Conduct neighborhood and citywide outreach to inform residents about the importance of maintaining clear sidewalks during icy conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Hillsboro
	Suggested walk routes display a route for students along SE Spruce Street and SE 25 th Avenue. Students enter the school grounds from the entrance at SE 25 th Avenue. Currently the doors are locked on the south side of the building and school staff are not located in this area during arrival or departure.	Develop on-campus suggested walk map to communicate how to access the building from the school ground entrance on SE 25 th Avenue and SE 25 th Court.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WL Henry Elementary Staff
Enforcement	Parents use 25 th Court to pick up children. Residents have complained that parents' park in travel lane. Staff and SRO have observed parents waiting in their cars for students.	School staff members and SRO continue to monitor situation and educate parents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WL Henry Elementary Staff • School Resource Officer (SRO)
	School staff expressed concern that icy conditions become a barrier to children walking to school during winter months.	Communicate to Hillsboro Police Department locations where sidewalks are icy and ice is not removed after 8 hours of daylight after ice has formed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WL Henry Elementary parents • WL Henry Elementary staff
		Communicate with home owners the requirement to remove snow and ice from sidewalks per City of Hillsboro Code 6.16.070.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HPD

New Recommendations (continued)

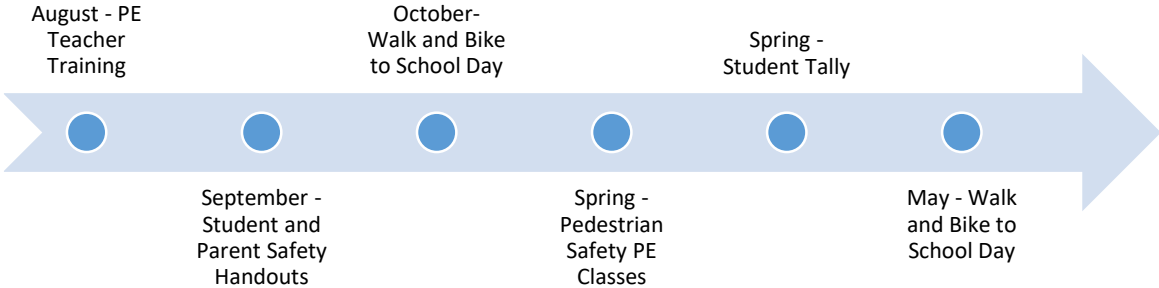
Program Component	Existing Condition	Recommendation	Lead/Partners
Engineering	The walking routes suggest that students walk down SE Spruce Street and SE 25 th Avenue to enter the school property from the south.	SE Spruce Street and SE 25 th Avenue will be added to the BPCIP (Appendix B) and will be prioritized along with other projects in the City.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Hillsboro
		Construct a bark chip surface from SE 25 th Avenue to the school entry point per the conditions of the new modular building land use approval.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSD
		Construct sidewalk along new HSD bond funded bus driveway to provide an all-season route for students accessing the school from the south.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSD
	School zone signs were observed and will be further evaluated.	Evaluate school zone signage for state and federal requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Hillsboro
		Evaluate school zones to determine if flashing beacons are appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Hillsboro
Evaluation	Students' travel mode was assessed spring 2017 and 2018. A survey was also conducted by Washington County in 2016 to collect information on parents' opinions and concerns about allowing their children to walk and bike to school.	Repeat evaluations annually.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WL Henry Elementary Staff

New Recommendations (continued)			
Program Component	Existing Condition	Recommendation	Lead/Partners
Equity	WL Henry has a part-time Latino Family and Community Outreach Liaison to engage Latino parents on a variety of topics. WL Henry delivers electronic and written communication in English and Spanish. WL Henry routinely provides translators at parent meetings.	Continue with established conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WL Henry Elementary Staff • HSD
	Staff expressed concern that some students do not have bikes, scooters, skateboards or helmets. Storage space may be a challenge for students living in apartments.	Identify grant and donation opportunities to increase bicycle, scooter, skateboard, and helmet ownership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRTS Coordinator

Next Steps

The City of Hillsboro Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Coordinator will continue to support activities that encourage safe, active transportation for the families at WL Henry Elementary. The SRTS coordinator will lead an effort to activate a WL Henry SRTS Stakeholder group which would include champions and supporters among parents, WL Henry staff, Hillsboro School District staff, Hillsboro Police Department and other community members. The City of Hillsboro SRTS coordinator will host meetings of the stakeholder group to address recommendations made in this action plan.

Additionally, staff will provide city wide encouragement and education events open to all families in the community.



Appendix

Appendix A

Annual Speed and Traffic Counts

The city conducts annual traffic volume counts and speed monitoring on streets throughout the city. Four of the annual counts fall in the walk zone for WL Henry Elementary.

Road Classification and Average Daily Totals

SE Maple Street, 18th Avenue, and SE 21st Avenue are classified as a collector roads at the location where the data was collected (See Table 1) which means that higher levels of traffic are expected on these roads. Traffic volumes observed are within the range of expected traffic volumes for a collector road.

SE 13th Avenue is classified as a Neighborhood Route which means that it provides connectivity between local residential streets and larger collector streets. Traffic volumes observed are within the range of expected traffic volumes for a collector road.

Table 1 lists the Average Daily Totals for each location and the date the data was collected.

**Table 1: Average Daily Totals (ADT)
WL Henry Elementary Attendance Area**

Street	ADT	Date Collected
SE 13 th Avenue (between SE Spruce Street and SE Alder Street)	3870	8/24/2017
SE 18 th Avenue (between SE Maple Street and SE Oak Crest Drive)	2040	8/3/2017
SE 21 st Avenue (between SE Bush Street and SE Spruce Street)	5655	9/12/2017
SE Maple (between SE 13 th Avenue and SE 15 th Avenue)	3088	10/4/2017

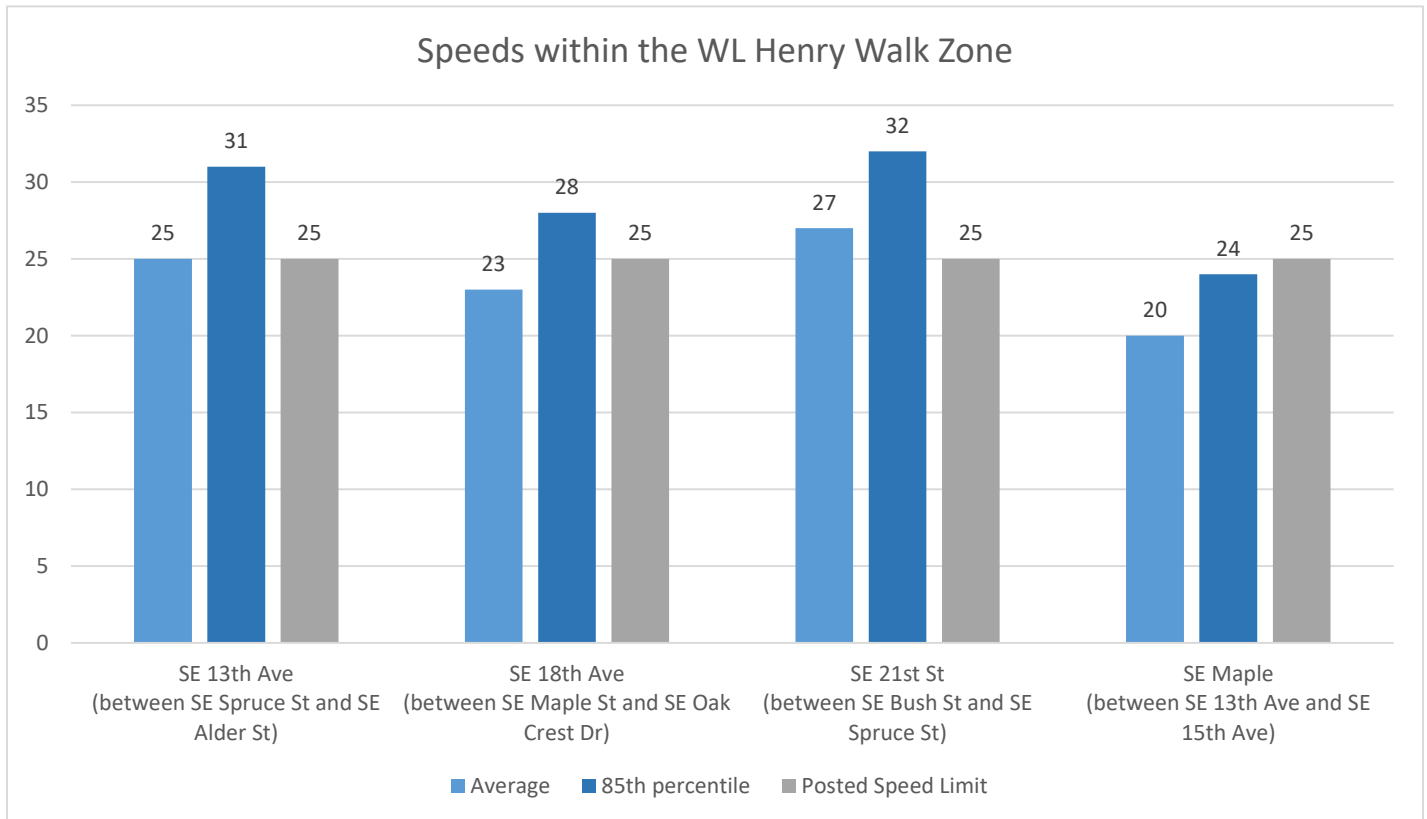
Speed Limits and School Zones

The speed limits along Cypress Street from SE Willow Court to SE Tualatin Valley Highway is 30 miles per hour (MPH) and along SE 10th Avenue between SE Oak Street and SE Maple Street is 35 MPH. Although these streets are within the WL Henry walk zone, neither of these streets are residential. All other streets within the walk zone have a 25 MPH speed limit.

A school zone is located along SE 21st Street (south of SE Alder Street to south of SE Hemlock Street), SE 24th Avenue (from south of SE Alder Street to SE Spruce Street), and SE Spruce Street (SE 23rd Avenue to west of SE 25th Avenue). All school zones in the WL Henry walk zone direct drivers to slow to 20 MPH "When Children Are Present".

Observed Speeds

The tables below compares the average and 85th percentile speeds² observed at the four data collection locations within the WL Henry walk zone to the 25 MPH speed limit. Although the SE 21st Avenue location is within the school zone, the average and 85th percentile speeds were compared to the 25 MPH as the reduced speed is only required when children are present.



Special Speed and Traffic Count

In 2016, the city conducted a special traffic volume and speed count on SE 24th Avenue. City staff expect volumes and speeds to be consistent as there have been no significant changes within the neighborhood that would suggest a change in traffic conditions.

² The 85th percentile speed means that 85% of vehicles are driving at or below the listed speed.

Road Classification and Average Daily Totals

The portion of SE 24th Avenue within the WL Henry Walk Boundary is classified as a local street. The level of traffic observed is aligned with the traffic volumes expected on a street of this classification. Table 1 lists the Average Daily Totals for the two locations along SE 24th Avenue where this data was collected.

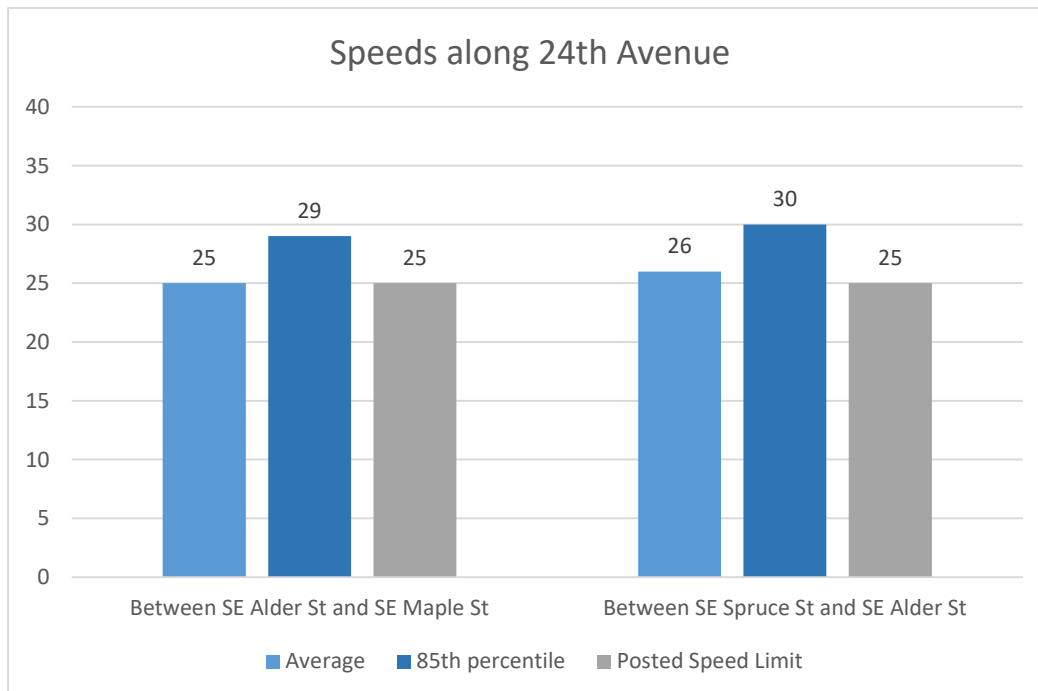
Street	ADT
Between SE Alder Street and SE Maple Street	1226
Between SE Spruce Street and SE Alder Street	1300

Speed Limits and School Zones

A school zone is located along SE 24th Avenue from south of SE Alder Street to SE Spruce Street. The school zone directs drivers to slow to 20 MPH “When Children Are Present”.

Observed Speeds

The table below compares the average and 85th percentile speeds³ observed at two data collection sites along SE 24th Avenue. The data is compared to the 25 MPH speed limit as the reduced school zone speed is only required when children are present. City staff reviewed the detailed speed data and found that most cars slowed to between 20 and 25 MPH during arrival and departure times showing the majority of drivers are complying with the school speed limit.



³ The 85th percentile speed means that 85% of vehicles are driving at or below the listed speed.

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.

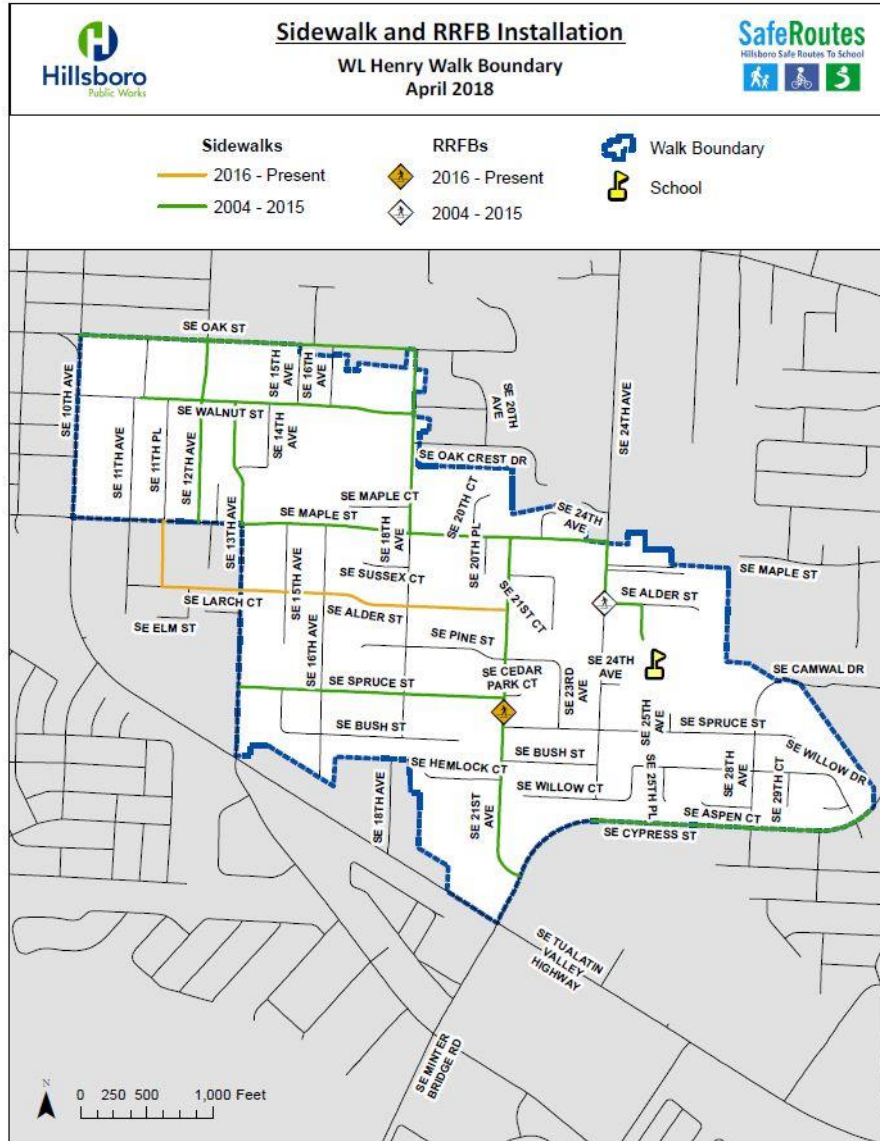
A list of evaluated projects for the update were collected from citizen requests (2007 – 2017), the Transportation System Plan, and locations requested by Hillsboro School District. Staff developed a point system to evaluate and rank each project using criteria including the roadway functional classification, 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

Projects Scheduled and Completed in Neighborhood

In September 2015, the city made \$0.3 million in improvements on SE 24th Avenue which included sidewalks and the installation of an RRFB at SE 24th Street and SE Alder. A sidewalk project totaling \$1 million was completed in December 2016 on SE Alder from SE 11th Avenue to SE 21st Avenue.



The Hillsboro School District is also planning on redeveloping the WL Henry parking lot in 2020 as part of the bond approved by voters in 2017. In preliminary design, the bus entrance is relocated from the general parking lot off 24th Ave to a new driveway off of SE 25th Ave.

Appendix E

Staff Input

On September 10, 2018, the City of Hillsboro’s Safe Routes to School Coordinator met with WL Henry Elementary staff members to discuss the 2016 Safe Routes to School Plan and potential recommendations to be included in the Action Plan Update.

Staff comments included:

- The school staff members are interested in having more events.
- The school staff members are interested in technical assistance to start a walking school bus program. The Latino Family and Community Outreach Liaison expressed interest in attending another school’s walking school bus to observe. Starting points could be park near SE 13th Avenue and SE Walnut St or in front of the Amberwood Apartments at SE 13th Avenue and SE Maple St.
- The door on the south side of the building is locked and there is currently is not supervision on that side of the building. The staff member was not aware of students who live south west of the school walking up Spruce to SE 25th Avenue.
- School has been contacted by parents expressing concern about children walking in the rain. Students arrive at school with wet feet, socks and clothes. Staff member was aware of parents that have chosen to keep their students at home. Getting wet while walking to school is a major barrier during winter months.
- Parents have also communicated with the school concerns about walking with their children when the roads are icy.
- School staff person is aware of parents pulling into SE 25th Ct during departure time. She directs parents to use the school parking lot and arrive at 7-10 minutes later to avoid the congestion. The City staff person encouraged the staff to remind people to park if they are choosing to drive to SE 25th Ct.
- The school staff person requested flashing beacons at the school zones.
- The parents have spoken with their state legislators to request bussing for students living more than a ½ mile from the school.
 - The school staff members and the safe routes to school coordinator discussed other options such as bicycle, scooter, and skateboard if families feel like 1 mile is too long to walk.
 - The school staff members expressed interest in expanding ownership of bicycles, scooters, skateboards, and helmets.

City of Hillsboro Feedback on Engineering Input – 9/19/2018

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

Proposed Improvement	Staff Feedback
<p>Flashing beacons in school zones.</p>	<p>There are three school zones within the WL Henry walking boundary. School speed zone beacons are used to help increase awareness of school zones and school areas and can increase driver compliance. However, they should only be used when engineering studies show a genuine need for them as studies have found that when installed improperly they can often confuse drivers, decrease driver compliance, and create an unsafe environment.</p> <p>The installation of a school speed zone beacon was analyzed for each location.</p> <p>SE 21st Avenue – Due to the existence of an RRFB along 21st Avenue and the distance from the school, a school speed zone beacon is not recommended at this location. Additional flashing lights near an RRFB can distract and confuse drivers and driver compliance can decrease due to distance from school.</p> <p>SE Spruce Street – Due to the 25 MPH speed limit and low traffic volume, a school speed zone beacon is not recommended at this location. These beacons are more appropriate in locations where the speed limit is 35 MPH or higher. City staff has monitored the speeds at this location and found speeds to be consistent with the posted speed.</p> <p>24th - Due to the 25 MPH speed limit, the low traffic volume, and the slowing of traffic during school arrival and dismissal times, a flashing beacon is not recommended at this location. These beacons are more appropriate in locations where the speed limit is 35 MPH or higher.. See Appendix A for traffic volumes and speeds along SE 24th Avenue.</p>