

# Identifying Safe Walking & Biking Routes to School

## Steps to identifying Safe Routes to School

### 1. Know Where Your Students Live.

- Start with a map and look at the area two miles from the school.
- Identify where your students live.
- Younger students typically walk up to 1 mile; older students can walk or bike up to 2 miles.

### 2. Walk and/or Ride a Bicycle Along the Routes.

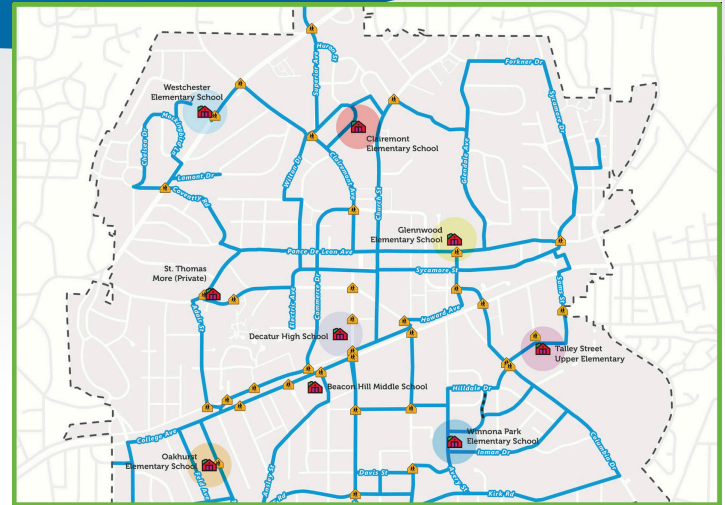
- Take a knee for younger students' perspectives.
- Take notes and pictures.
- Look for cut-throughs or worn paths, sidewalks, crosswalks, traffic signals and signs, and markings.
- Are there barriers to seeing traffic at crossings (e.g., vegetation, parked cars, trash cans)?
- Are there places (e.g., businesses or parks) where groups can meet and walk together for a Park & Walk or walk/bike events?
- Are crossings marked with signs and crosswalks? Could they be better? Are there traffic signals? Are there crossing guards?
- Are routes well-lit in the morning? Are there abandoned buildings, blight, or crime? Are there other safety concerns?

### 3. Report Opportunities.

- Areas for improvement (e.g., trimming trees, trash cans, cars parked too close to crossings, lack of signs, lack of crossings) should be reported to your local public works department. Many of these are easy fixes or safety projects they are happy to help with.
- Safety concerns (like dogs, speeding cars, areas that don't feel safe, and cars not yielding to pedestrians) should be reported to local law enforcement. They are always happy to help keep our students safe.
- Consider a more formal Safety Walk for your community. Contact the Resource Center for support.

### 4. Map Suggested Routes.

- See examples from City of Decatur
- ### 5. Communicate With Students and Their Families.
- Share the routes.
  - Provide pedestrian and bicycle safety tips.
  - Provide the community with arrival and dismissal procedures. Post them on websites and at the school.



Got questions?

Your Safe Routes Coordinator is here to help.  
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