



Safety Walks help identify needed improvements and respond to changing school travel conditions.

What's A Safety Walk?

Safety Walks involve observing how drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists interact with each other and the built environment (e.g., roads, sidewalks, intersections) and documenting unsafe behaviors or conditions. Sometimes safety walks are divided into two parts, one focused on observing driver, pedestrian, and bicyclist behaviors at school arrival and dismissal times and the other focused on inventorying existing and missing infrastructure.

Who To Invite:

Safety walks enable key stakeholders to experience pedestrian and bicycle conditions, share perspectives, and build consensus around potential solutions. Invite SRTS team members, school administrators, local government officials, police officers, elected representatives and anyone else with influence over SRTS program implementation.

Safety Walk

What To Bring:

- A pen, pencil, or marker to write with
- A clipboard or notebook for observations
- A map of the school area for location-specific notations
- A measuring wheel, a clicker, and a level
- A camera (because a picture is worth a thousand words!)
- Reflective safety vests so drivers can see you

What To Do:

- Arrive at school at least 15 minutes before students start arriving to school or dismissing from school. Make sure to check in at the front desk beforehand.
- While on campus, walk in a loop so you have a chance to observe all locations and forms of behavior.
- While off campus, walk along key student walking and bicycling routes.
- On your map and/or notebook mark:
 - Key student walking and bicycling routes.
 - Existing pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.
 - Missing or inadequate pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.
 - Locations where drivers, pedestrians, and/or bicyclists behave in ways that are unsafe.
- Take photographs of good conditions or behaviors as well as those that need improvement. (Note: Make sure you understand the school's photo taking policy before taking pictures of children.)
- Ask participants to share perspectives and discuss potential solutions while you walk. Hold a post-walk "debrief" session to collect additional feedback.

What To Look For: On Campus

- Are there convenient and continuous sidewalks or paths between school entrances and adjacent streets?
- Is there anything about the sidewalks or paths that would make them challenging for a person with a disability to use, e.g., uneven surface, too narrow, steep grade?
- Are the pathways separated from the roadway by a curb, landscaped buffer, or parking lane?
- Are the pathways wide enough?
- Are the pathways well-lit?
- Are the pathways well maintained (i.e., free of debris, cracks, and holes)
- Are there crosswalks and curb ramps with tactile warning strips where the pathways cross on-campus drives and parking lots?
- Are there bicycle racks? Are they in good repair? Do they have enough space? Are they in a secure location? Are they covered? Are they being used?

Got questions?

Your Safe Routes Coordinator is here to help.
info@saferoutesga.org saferoutesga.org



Safety Walk



**Walk audit and dismissal at Susie Dasher Elementary School in Dublin.*



In the School Zone

- Are the edges of the school zone marked by school advanced warning signs, school pavement markings, or flashing beacons?
- Is there a school zone speed limit? Is the speed limit appropriate for a school zone?
- Are there school crossing signs at key student crossing locations?
- Are traffic calming measures, such as curb extensions, speed humps, chicanes, and narrower general purpose travel lanes, used to slow motor vehicle speeds?
- Are the existing school zone signs discolored, faded, damaged, or outdated (e.g., not the fluorescent yellow-green specified by the current Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices)?

Along Student Walking and Bicycling Routes

- Are there convenient and continuous sidewalks or paths?
- Is there anything about the sidewalks or paths that would make them challenging for a person with a disability to use, e.g., uneven surface, too narrow, steep grade?
- Are the sidewalks separated from the roadway by a curb, landscaped buffer, bicycle lane, and/or parking lane?
- Are the sidewalks and pathways wide enough?
- Are bicycle lanes or shared lane markings present?
- Are the sidewalks, paths, and/or bicycle lanes well-lit?
- Are the sidewalks, paths, and/or bicycle lanes well-maintained and free of obstructions?
- Are there personal security concerns, e.g., abandoned buildings, areas of known (or suspected) crime, loose dogs, or places that feel unsafe?



Intersections

- Are there crosswalks and curb ramps with tactile warning strips at each intersection crossing location?
- Are movements at the intersection controlled by stop signs or traffic signals?
- If there is a traffic signal, are there also pedestrian countdown signals for all pedestrian crossings?
- How long is the crossing? Do pedestrians have enough time to cross? If the road has more than one travel lane in each direction, is there a median refuge island to facilitate two-stage crossings?
- Do turning motor vehicles conflict with crossing pedestrians (e.g., because of right turn on red)?
- Are there good sight lines between pedestrians and motor vehicle drivers (i.e., sight lines between pedestrians and motor vehicles are not obstructed by parked vehicles, vegetation, fences, walls, signs, or other obstacles)?

Motorists Behaviors

- Do they yield to pedestrians?
- Are they obeying speed limits?
- Are they distracted, e.g., by using a cell phone while driving?
- Do they follow arrival and dismissal procedures?
- Are they parked legally?



Pedestrian and Bicyclist Behaviors

- How many kids are walking and bicycling? Are they walking and bicycling with adults? With older siblings?
- Are kids crossing the street safely, e.g., do they look left-right-left, use marked crosswalks when available, and obey traffic signals and crossing guards?
- Are there places where kids must walk in the road? If so, do they walk facing traffic?
- Do bicyclists wear helmets? Do they follow the rules of the road?

Crossing Guards

- Does the school have a crossing guard?
- Do they have safety equipment?
- Are they in the needed locations?
- Are they helping students cross safely?
- Are there additional locations where crossing guards would be helpful?



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