



Safe Routes to School: The Walk-About

A neighborhood walk-about helps to identify and understand the safety issues around the school through direct observation of the problems.

The Task Force should consider the following during the walk-about:

School Site

- Sidewalks leading to the school building
- Location of pedestrian and vehicle access points to the school property
- Potential for pedestrian conflict with vehicles
- Alternate school grounds access routes
- Parking and driving behavior of driving parents
- Bike racks
- Potential for bicyclist conflict with vehicles

Areas Surrounding School Site

- volume and speed of traffic on surrounding streets - perceived and real
- sidewalks - how far do they extend around the school and surrounding community, are they continuous?
- pedestrian crossing devices - are they present? are they utilized?
- sight distances and visibility, especially for pedestrians under 5 ft. tall
- number and position of adult crossing guards
- placement of school crossings in relation to driveways and bus loading zones
- timing of traffic lights
- on-street signs and pavement markings
- turning radii at intersections
- motorist, pedestrian and bicyclist behaviors

Non-Traffic Related Items to Consider

- location of other public spaces near school (parks, community centers, etc.)
- number of shade trees on streets
- green space vs. concrete space
- physical state of sidewalks - size, obstructions, etc.
- Block parent or Neighborhood watch groups

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