About WALKSacramento

“WALKSacramento is a nonprofit community organization working to achieve safe, walkable communities throughout the Sacramento region.”
What is a walk audit?

For the purpose of today’s event, we’re going to focus on walk audits at school locations.

• Assess barriers to walking and biking to school
• Identify deficiencies in pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure
• Develop infrastructure and non-infrastructure recommendations
• Identify safer routes for children
Why perform a walk audit?

*Improve community walkability*

- PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
- AIR QUALITY
- SOCIAL WELLBEING
Planning a walk audit

1. Choose a school
2. Gather background information
3. Secure a meeting place and time
4. Outreach to (the right) stakeholders
5. Prepare materials
6. Perform walk audit!
Choosing a school

- Evaluate recent concerns
- Build off of existing programs
- Consider grant requirements
- Start talking!
  - Reach out to community members, neighborhood associations, school districts, city staff
Gather background information
National Safe Routes to School Surveys

Parent Survey About Walking and Biking to School

Dear Parent or Caregiver:

Your child’s school wants to learn your thoughts about children walking and biking to school. This survey will take about 5 – 10 minutes to complete. We ask that each family complete only one survey per school your children attend. If more than one child from a school brings a survey home, please fill out the survey for the child with the next birthday from today’s date.

After you have completed this survey, send it back to the school with your child or give it to the teacher. Your responses will be kept confidential and neither your name nor your child’s name will be associated with any results.

Thank you for participating in this survey!

School Name:

1. What is the grade of the child who brought back this survey?  
   □ Grade (K, K, L, 2, 3, 4, 5)

2. Is the child who brought back this survey male or female?
   □ Male □ Female

3. How many children do you have in Kindergarten through 8th grade? (Do not count children who walked or biked to school today.)

4. What is the street intersection nearest your home? (Provide the name of two intersecting streets.)

   and

Place a clear ‘X’ inside box. If you make a mistake, fill the entire box, and then mark the correct box.

5. How far does your child live from school? (Select one choice per column, mark box with ‘X’)
   □ Less than ¼ mile
   □ ¼ mile to ½ mile
   □ ½ mile to 1 mile
   □ 1 mile to 2 miles
   □ More than 2 miles
   □ Don’t know

Place a clear ‘X’ inside box. If you make a mistake, fill the entire box, and then mark the correct box.

6. On most days, how does your child arrive and leave for school? (Select one choice per column, mark box with ‘X’)
   □ Walk
   □ Bike
   □ School Bus
   □ Family vehicle (only children in your family)
   □ Carpool (Children from other families)
   □ Transit (city bus, subway, etc.)
   □ Other (skateboard, scooter, inline skates, etc.)

Place a clear ‘X’ inside box. If you make a mistake, fill the entire box, and then mark the correct box.

Travel time to school

less than 5 minutes
5 – 10 minutes
10 – 20 minutes
More than 20 minutes
Don’t know / Not sure

Travel time from school

less than 5 minutes
5 – 10 minutes
10 – 20 minutes
More than 20 minutes
Don’t know / Not sure

Safe Routes to School Students Arrival and Departure Tally Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade: (K, K, L, 2, 3, 4, 5)</th>
<th>Monday’s Date (Week count was conducted)</th>
<th>Number of Students Enrolled in Class:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
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Key

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<tr>
<th>Weather</th>
<th>Student tally</th>
<th>Walk</th>
<th>Bike</th>
<th>School bus</th>
<th>Family vehicle</th>
<th>Carpool</th>
<th>Transit</th>
<th>Other</th>
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Additional Information:

- Please conduct this survey on two of the following three days: Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. (Three days would provide better data if counted)
- Please do not conduct this survey on Mondays or Fridays.
- Before asking your students to raise their hands, please read through all possible answer choices so they will know their choices. Each student may only answer once.
- Ask your students as a group the question “How do you plan to leave for school today?”
- Then, re우 each answer choice and record the number of students that raised their hands for each. Place just one character or number in each box.
- Follow the same procedure for the question “How do you plan to leave for home after school?”
- You can conduct the counts once per day but during the count please ask students both the school arrival and departure questions.
- Please conduct this count regardless of weather conditions (i.e., ask these questions or rainy days, too).

Sample AM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AM – How did you arrive at school today?</th>
<th>PM – How do you plan to leave for home after school?</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
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<tr>
<td>Walk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bike</td>
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<td>Family vehicle</td>
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WALKSacramento
School Enrollment Boundary
School Enrollment Distribution
Collision Data

- Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (**SWITRS**)
- Traffic Injury Mapping System (**TIMS**)

Report run on: 9/9/2004

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<tr>
<td>Primary Coll Factor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weather1</td>
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<th>Sobriety2</th>
<th>Make</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sp Info</th>
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<th>OAF2 Safety Equip</th>
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Choose a meeting place and time

• Think about a meeting room on the school campus or nearby (ie: library, multi-purpose room, community center)
  – The location should be within the school walk zone

• Consider a time convenient for most stakeholders
  – Right before or after school works well
  – Avoid walking at dawn or dusk
  – During school pick-up and/or drop-off
Outreach to stakeholders

**SCHOOL**
- Principal
- Parents/guardians
- Students
- PTA/PTO members
- School administration
- Teachers
- After school program leaders
- School district staff – Safe Schools Manager, Facilities Department
- Other school staff

**COMMUNITY**
- Neighborhood association members
- Neighbors
- Local business owners
- Pedestrian advocates
- Bicycle advocates
- Parks and Recreation staff
- Health department
- Grants programs manager

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**
- Planning staff
- Public Works Department
- Elected officials and city staff
- Law enforcement (City of Sacramento Police Department, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol)
Prepare materials

- Aerial maps
- Clipboards
- Checklists
- Individual maps
- Writing utensils
- Cameras
- Safety vests
- *Refreshments*
Plan routes

• Have an idea of your walking routes
• Think about what you want to accomplish on the assessment
  – Is the major complaint pick-up and drop-off? Or is it an intersection ¼ mile away?
• Aim for a 30-45 minute walk
• Defining the routes ahead of time helps things stay more organized, but...
  – Be flexible!
Perform your audit!

Time to hit the streets
Thank you!

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Twitter.com/WALKSacramento
www.walksacramento.org