

# Conducting a Walk Audit

How to execute an informative, relevant, and  
exhaustive walkability assessment

# Outline

## Pre-audit

- Data and information gathering
- Route mapping
- Discussion of existing conditions
- Getting everyone up-to-speed

## Audit

- Getting Started
- What to look for
- What to measure

## Post-audit

- Discussion of observations and recommendations
- Creating priorities
- Next steps and responsibilities

# Data and Information Gathering

## **Travel surveys and behavior assessments**

Safe Routes to School Travel Tallies and Parent Surveys  
(available online)

Traffic observations

## **Collision data**

Fatalities and pedestrian/bike crashes - TIMS

## **Land use and future development**

## **Policies, standards, and community plans**

## **Other**

Student residence heat map

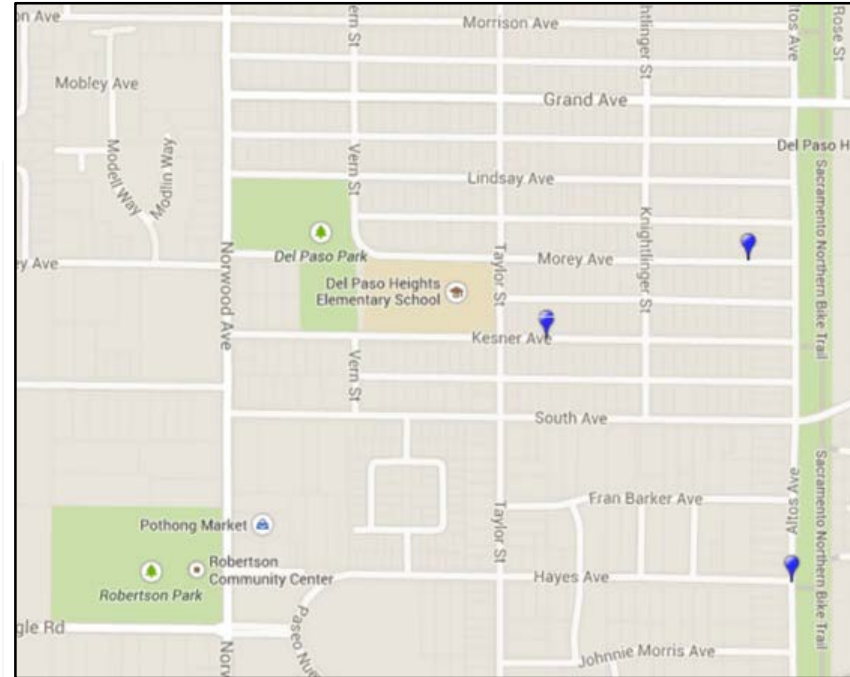
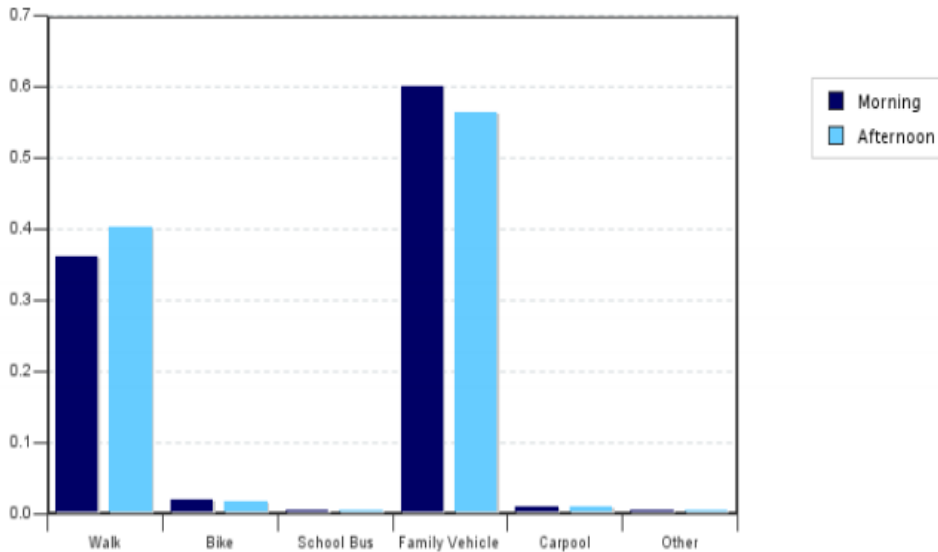
Trash pickup day



# Del Paso Heights Elementary School Travel and Collision Data

This report contains information from your school's classrooms about students' trip to and from school. The data used in this report were collected using the in-class Student Travel Tally questionnaire from the National Center for Safe Routes to School.

Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison



Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison

	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Morning	712	36%	2%	0.6%	60%	1.0%	0%	0.3%
Afternoon	712	40%	2%	0.3%	56%	1.0%	0%	0.3%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

# Route Mapping and Discussion of Existing Conditions

## Conducting a pre-audit meeting

- Discuss existing conditions and issues
- Determine routes using attendance boundaries and discussion of issues.

Be flexible!

*Try to observe key concerns on your walk. Is there a major complaint about pick-up and drop off? Or is the complaint an intersection  $\frac{1}{4}$  a mile away? Speeding cars? Could be a symptom of roadway design...*



# Getting Everyone Up to Speed

## Walking Environment

Make sure that everyone understands what makes a great walking environment and what doesn't

## Walk Audit Purpose

Share your intention for conducting this walk audit

- Overall safety evaluation?
- Prioritizing locations for infrastructure funding?

## Target locations

Mention specific locations and issues that you would like to observe



# Walk Audit Basics

## Equipment

- Safety vests, clipboards, checklists, measuring tapes, etc.

## Procedure

- Try to assess the environment from multiple angles and viewpoints. A motorist sees the road differently than a bicycle or pedestrian.
- Take strategic pictures!
- Put yourself in a student's shoes

## Walk, observe and discuss!

What is the experience like?

What problems are encountered?

What can be done to fix them?





# What to Observe and Measure





# Post – Audit

## Hold a meeting after your audit

- Discuss observations and potential solutions
- Share ideas about infrastructure and non-infrastructure changes

Important to include an engineer or planner during this process

- Work with your assessment team to identify priorities

High-cost

Low-cost

Short/long term

- Develop a next steps plan to ensure that the work done at your audit does not stop there!



# Next Steps

## Be the catalyst for change!

- Create a task force at the school to develop a plan to pursue improvements
- Develop a list of other stakeholders to engage
- Set up a schedule to meet with local DOT, school and law enforcement to share your observations and propose enforcement plans
- Set up a schedule to implement program change
  - Walking school busses and bike trains!
- Get more people walking, create demand for improvements, make a strong case for funding!

