



Sexton Mountain Elementary

Safe Routes to School Action Plan



Spring 2020

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INTRODUCTION

What is Safe Routes To School?

The Beaverton Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program is all about creating safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for youth to walk and roll (bike, scooter, skateboard and bus) to and from schools. This is important for the health and safety of our kids and to foster livable, vibrant communities. SRTS programs increase physical activity and improve unsafe walking and bicycling conditions on routes to and from school and throughout the community.

The majority of students attending Beaverton School District (BSD) schools are either within a safe walk/bike zone or are offered bus service. BSD's SRTS Program encourages students to walk and bike to school where it's possible and take the bus provided by the school district when it's not.

Why is SRTS Needed?

A generation and a half ago, nationally, over 50% of students walked or biked to school; now only 13% of students use active transportation to get to school. Since the mid 1970s the number of children who are overweight has roughly tripled from 7% to almost 20%. Health concerns related to sedentary lifestyles, including diabetes, high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease, have become the focus of statewide and national efforts to reduce health risks associated with being overweight. Additionally, on average, 30% of students are being driven to BSD schools every day. That's an extra 12,000 cars on the road and around 23,500 pounds of carbon emissions daily. Safe, active transportation is important for the health of our students, our community and our planet.

Beaverton School District would like to be part of the solution. SRTS Coordinators are working with each school to develop a comprehensive SRTS Action Plan. Integrated into each plan are the "Six E's":

Education – Students learn lifelong safety behaviors and skills, while parents can learn about the benefits of active transportation and safe travel for students to school.

Encouragement – Parents and students are invited to engage in biking and walking events and activities that promote healthy and active transportation options.

Enforcement – Promote safe walking and biking through consistent enforcement of traffic laws around and on the routes to schools.

Engineering – Implement engineering changes such as new sidewalks, improved crossings, and other traffic calming measures to enhance safety of the walk or bike to school.

Evaluation – Assess the neighborhood travel routes, and drop-off and pick-up processes at the school; as well as evaluate the success of the SRTS Program as a whole and throughout the district.

Equity – Reduce health and wealth disparities by providing equitable services in all school communities.

School Information

School Name:	Sexton Mountain Elementary School https://sextonmountain.beaverton.k12.or.us/
Address:	15645 SW Sexton Mountain Dr, Beaverton, OR 97007
County:	Washington
School District:	Beaverton School District www.beaverton.k12.or.us
Enrollment:	550
Title 1	No
Action Plan Contact:	Leah Biado-Luis leah_biado-luis@beaverton.k12.or.us 503-356-4274

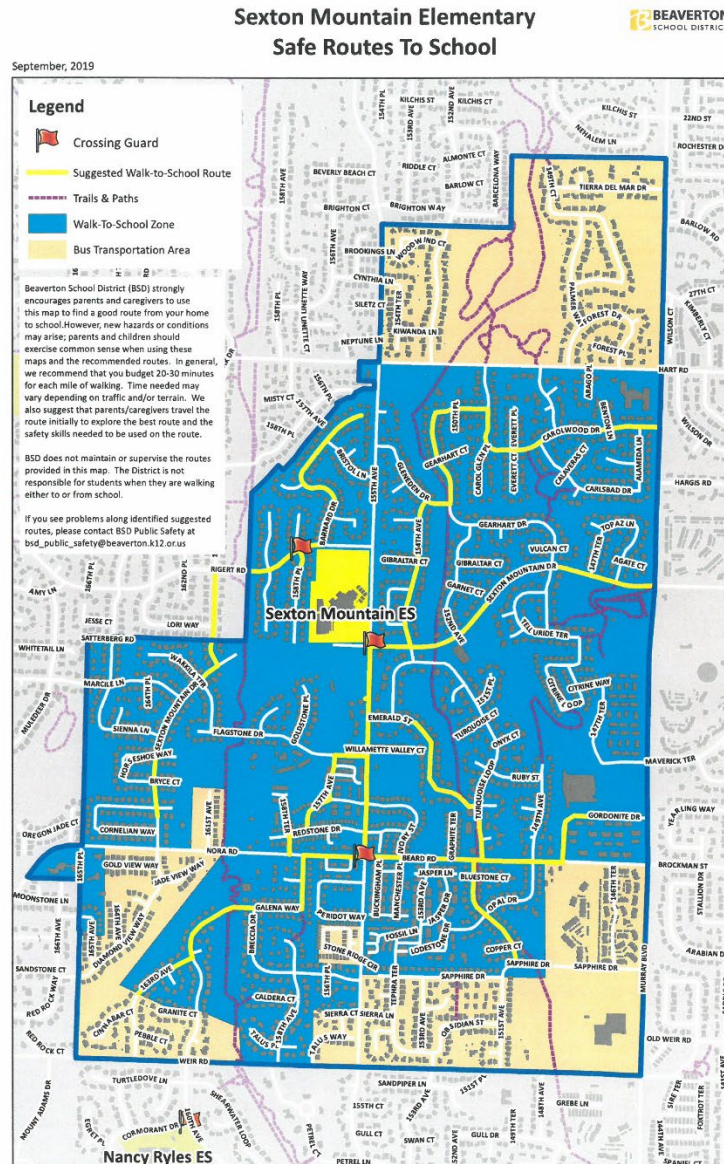
The Project Team

School Principal:	Cherie Reese cherie_reese@beaverton.k12.or.us
Parent/ Staff Representatives:	Cassandra Buyserie cassandra.buyserie@gmail.com Adria Brenner adriabrenner@yahoo.com
Local Traffic Safety Representative	Sergeant Kevin McDonald kmcdonald@beavertonoregon.gov
City or County Representative:	Stacy Revay srevay@beavertonoregon.gov
Community Representative:	Jen Fife-Adams jen4sextonmountainnac@gmail.com
School District Representative:	Rick Puente rick_puente@beaverton.k12.or.us
BSD Safe Routes to School Coordinator:	Leah Biado-Luis leah_biado-luis@beaverton.k12.or.us

EXISTING CONDITIONS

School Attendance Area

Sexton Mountain Elementary School is bound by residential neighborhoods on all sides. SW 155th St is the main north/south arterial with three east/west arterials bisecting the attendance area. Students come from all directions with the majority coming from the south on both sides of 155th St. Many students live within the walk zone and most cross at 155th and Sexton Mountain Dr entrance.



District Transportation Policy

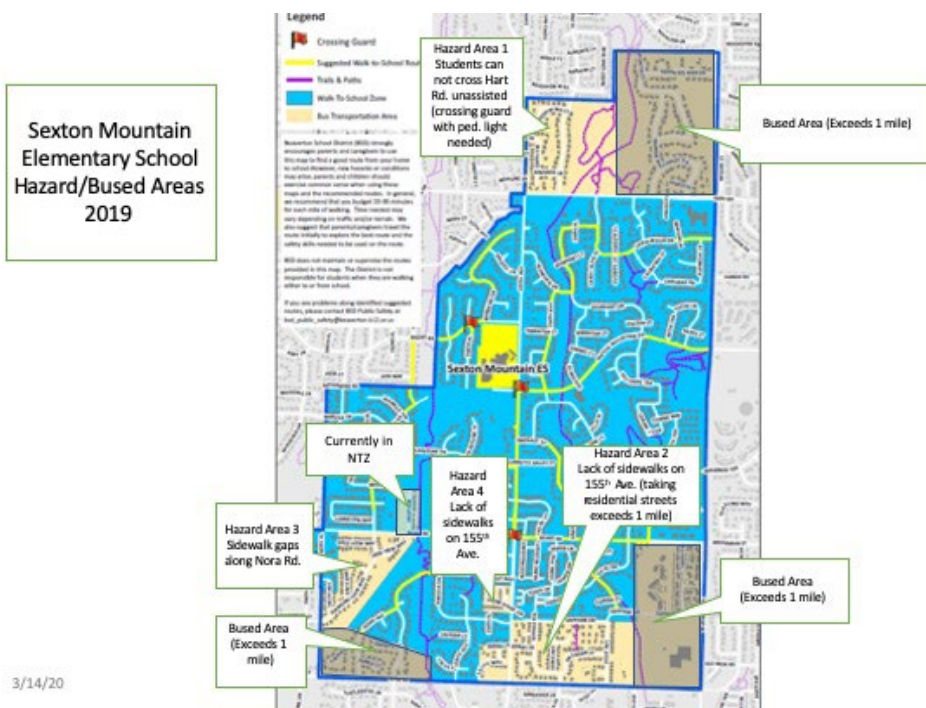
Walking and biking are the preferred methods for students traveling to and from school if students live within one mile from the school property. For those living beyond one mile, busing is the preferred mode.

Students are eligible to ride the bus if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- They are a primary student who resides more than one mile from school.
- They are a primary student who resides less than one mile from the school, but within a hazardous area, that has been approved by the State Board of Education and the Beaverton School District School Board for Transportation.
- They are a middle or secondary student who resides more than one and one-half miles from school.
- They are a middle or secondary student who resides less than 1 ½ mile from the school, but within a hazardous area, that has been approved by the State Board of Education and the Beaverton School District School Board for Transportation.

School Supplemental Transportation Area

Sexton Mountain Elementary has one supplemental transportation plan in place which includes four hazard areas: North of Hart Rd, South of Sapphire Dr, Stone Ridge Circle and South of Nora Road on Diamond View Way. All four hazard areas are due to lack of sidewalks. These students are encouraged to ride the bus.



Walk and Bike Audit Evaluation

There are marked crosswalks on 155th St at both ends of the school zone with crossing guards at Sexton Mountain Drive and 155th, Nora/ Beard and 155th and Rigert and 158th Place. Sidewalks are in good condition on many of the preferred routes but are lacking in some key areas:

- on south side of Nora from Galena Way to 155th
- on west side of 155th from Nora to Weir
- on east side of 155th from Nora to Weir

There is also a concern regarding the off-set intersection of 155th and Flagstone Dr. Several parents have expressed concern that motorists attempting to turn left onto 155th must pull past the stop line in order to see past the overgrown shrubs, which then blocks the crossing path for pedestrians.

Multiple requests have been made by parents for a walking path from the powerline trail on the west side of campus to 155th (THPRD 155th Ave Trail). This trail would increase walking/biking access for many families living on the west side of Sexton Mountain Elementary.

Several parents use both sides of 155th by the school as a drop-off/ pick-up zone. Parents also frequently park in the non-parking areas of 155th near the median. These illegally parked cars narrow the through traffic lanes and create a safety hazard. Non-school related traffic using 155th, which is an arterial, get frustrated with the congestion and we have seen many unsafe passing situations. There are sidewalks, which are wide, but often students (and parents) make unsafe crossing in the middle of 155th to enter or exit their parents' vehicle. The congestion makes the route challenging for walking and biking.

With a very active student community, on warm Fall or Spring days, there is not an adequate amount of bicycle/scooter parking. Additionally, more students would be encouraged to roll to school if the racks were sheltered.

Active Transportation Support

Sexton Mountain Elementary School actively promotes walking to school. They have a regular walking school bus that meets every Tuesday and Thursday which is led by both teachers and parent volunteers. Non-event days have between 20-40 students meeting and walking to school and on publicized event days, like International Walk + Roll to School Day there can be over 300!

The school community is very active. The school PTC has dedicated funds to support their Walk + Roll efforts. Administration and the PTC regularly include pedestrian and bike safety messages in communications with families. Parents favor more opportunities to walk and bike to school.

Beaverton School District and the school's Safe Routes to School Team know that students who are active while traveling to school arrive better prepared to learn and are more likely to get the CDC's recommended 60 minutes of daily exercise. Increased walking and biking in and around the school neighborhood also helps reduce pollution and congestion for our students and staff and teaches safe, healthy and active skills that can last a lifetime.

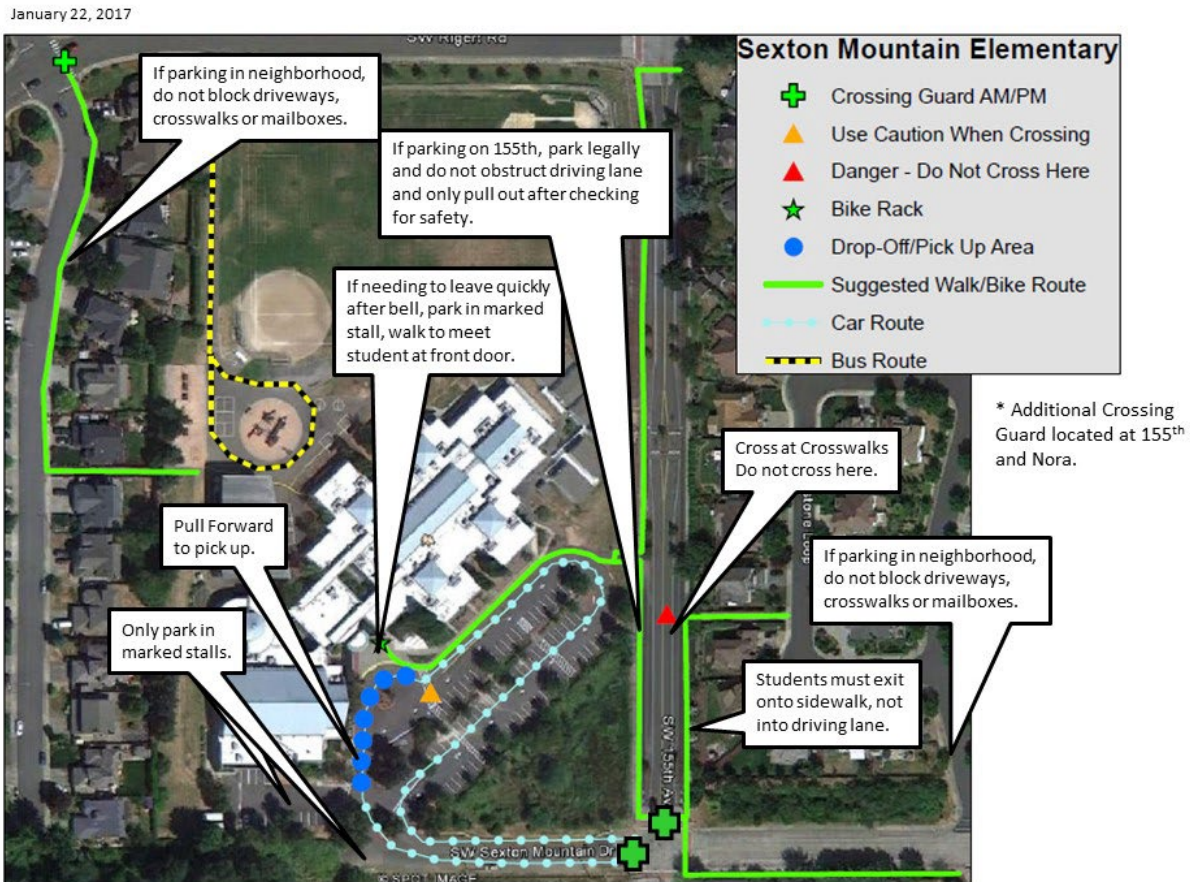


Arrival/Departure Procedure

Approximately 37% of students were driven to school in the morning according to Spring 2019 Student Travel Mode Surveys. This is a significant reduction over time compared with 55% of students being driven to school in the morning in 2015. The majority of Sexton Mountain ES students are either within the designated walk/bike area or have bus service provided.

The parking lot is a good size for the size of school and number of staff. Vehicular, bus and pedestrian/bike routes to get to entrance of school are separated. The Arrival/Departure procedure works well when single occupancy vehicle use is low on Walk + Roll event days or when the weather is warmer. On non-event days and in bad weather, traffic is very congested both on school grounds and on SW 155th St during arrival and departure times.

Students are well-trained and follow procedures on school campus. They adhere to the yellow stand-back lines, stay on sidewalks and paths, walk their bikes and scooters until they have exited campus and wear helmets when riding. Students who need access to the bike racks should exit through the main school entry. While Sexton Mountain ES has procedure maps for parents, there is less adherence to both local procedures, as well as basic traffic laws.



The following reminders would be helpful to include in regular messaging to parents, day car van drivers or other care givers who drive in and around school campus:

1. Children must exit towards the sidewalks and walk to a designated crossing to ensure safety.
2. Parents who are dropping off students curbside should remain at the wheel and turn off engines while waiting during departure time.
3. Parents in the drop off/pick up lane should pull all the way forward and remain in their lane until merging with through traffic at the south end of the building next to the staff parking lot.
4. Parents are not to utilize the staff parking lot for parking, u-turns, or as a drop off/pick up site.
5. Parents must yield to Crossing Guards and pedestrians.
6. U-turns, double parking and blocking crosswalks and intersections is illegal and creates a dangerous situation for others.

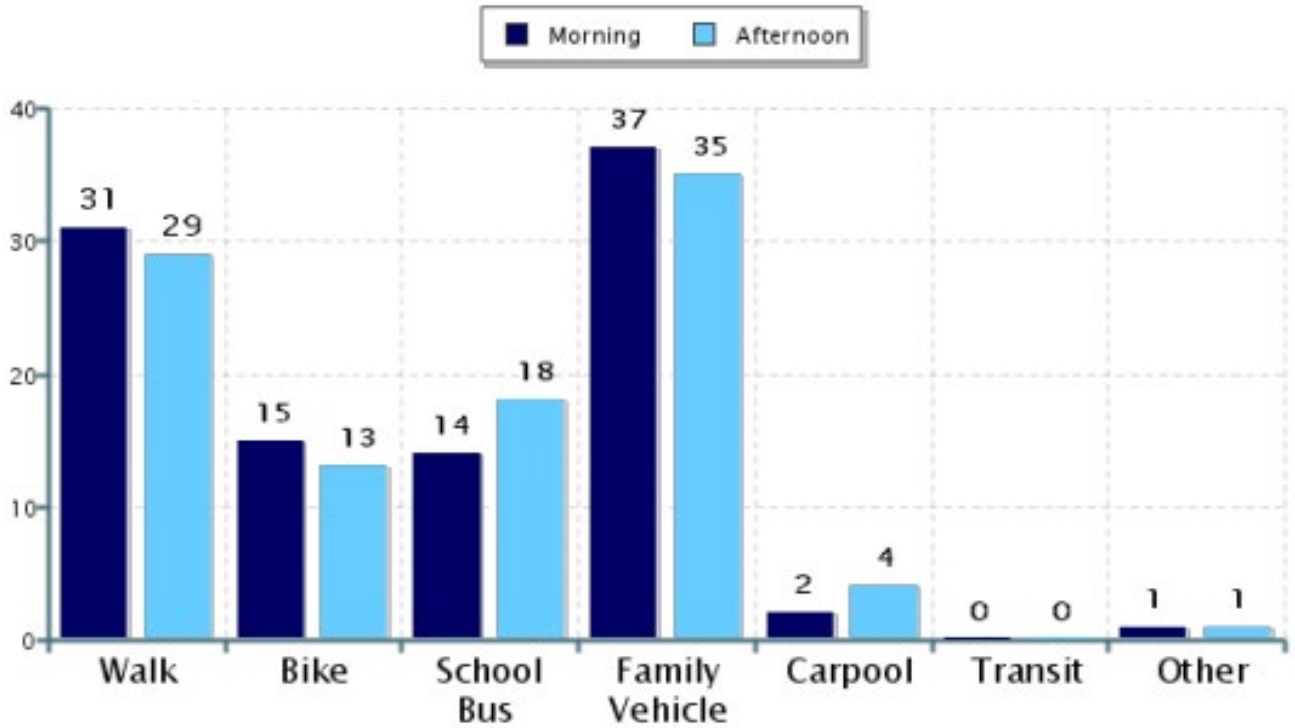


EVALUATION AND DATA-MAY 2019

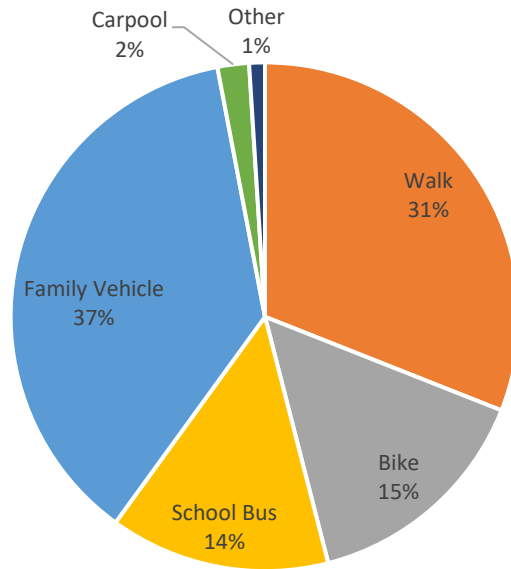
Student Travel Data

We conducted In-Class Student Tallies and this is how our students travel to and from school.

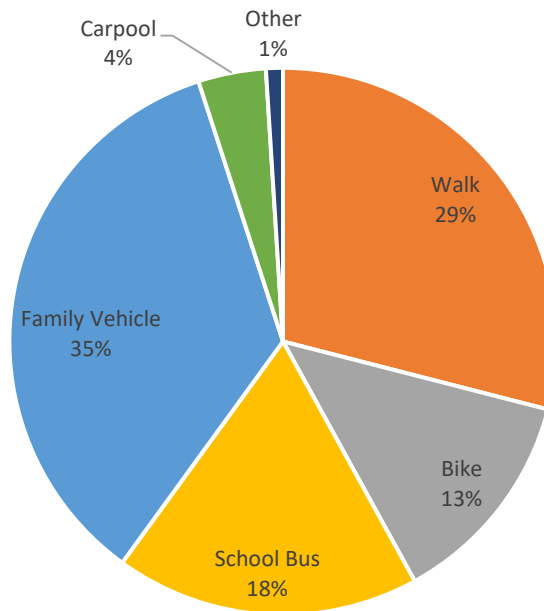
Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison



How Students Travel to School - AM

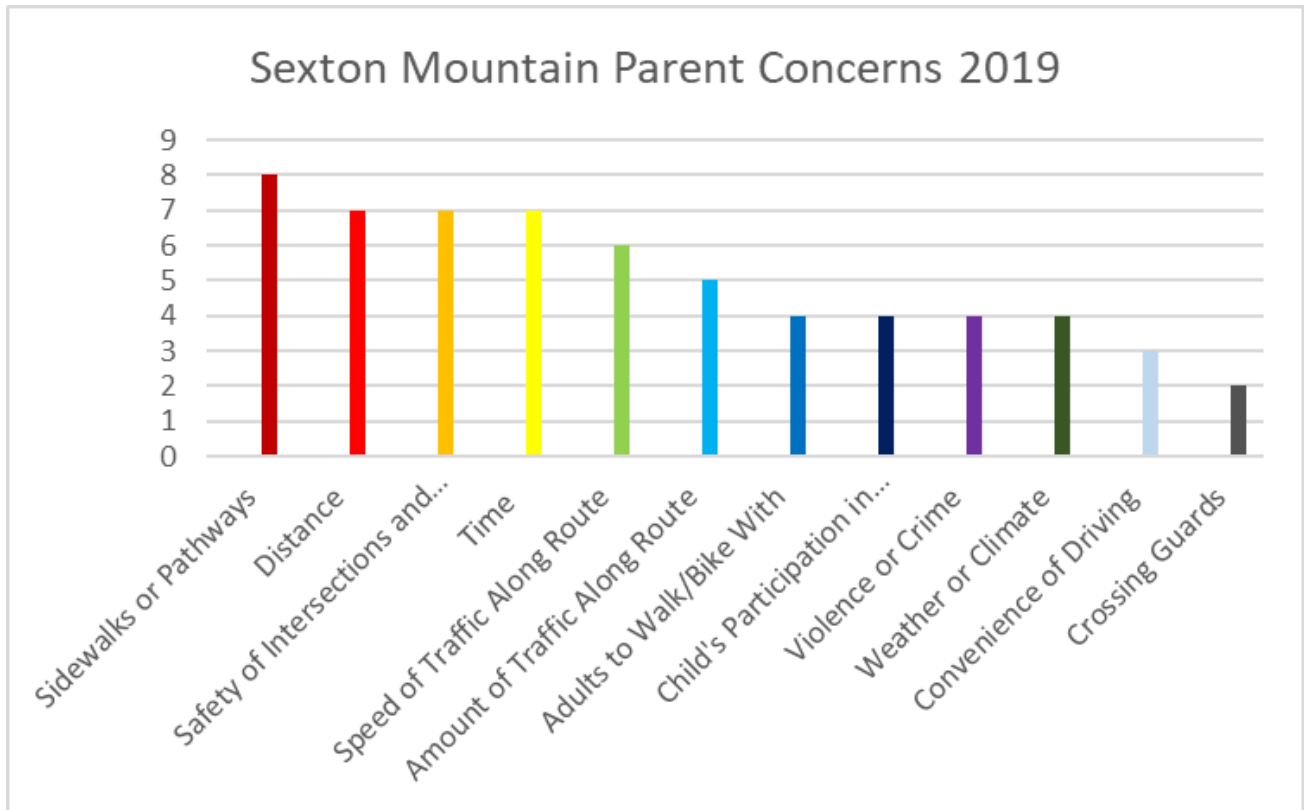


How Students Travel to School - PM



Parent Survey Data

We conducted a Parent Survey to gather information about how students get to and from school and learn about concerns and issues surrounding the walk or bike to school.



RECOMMENDATIONS AND PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

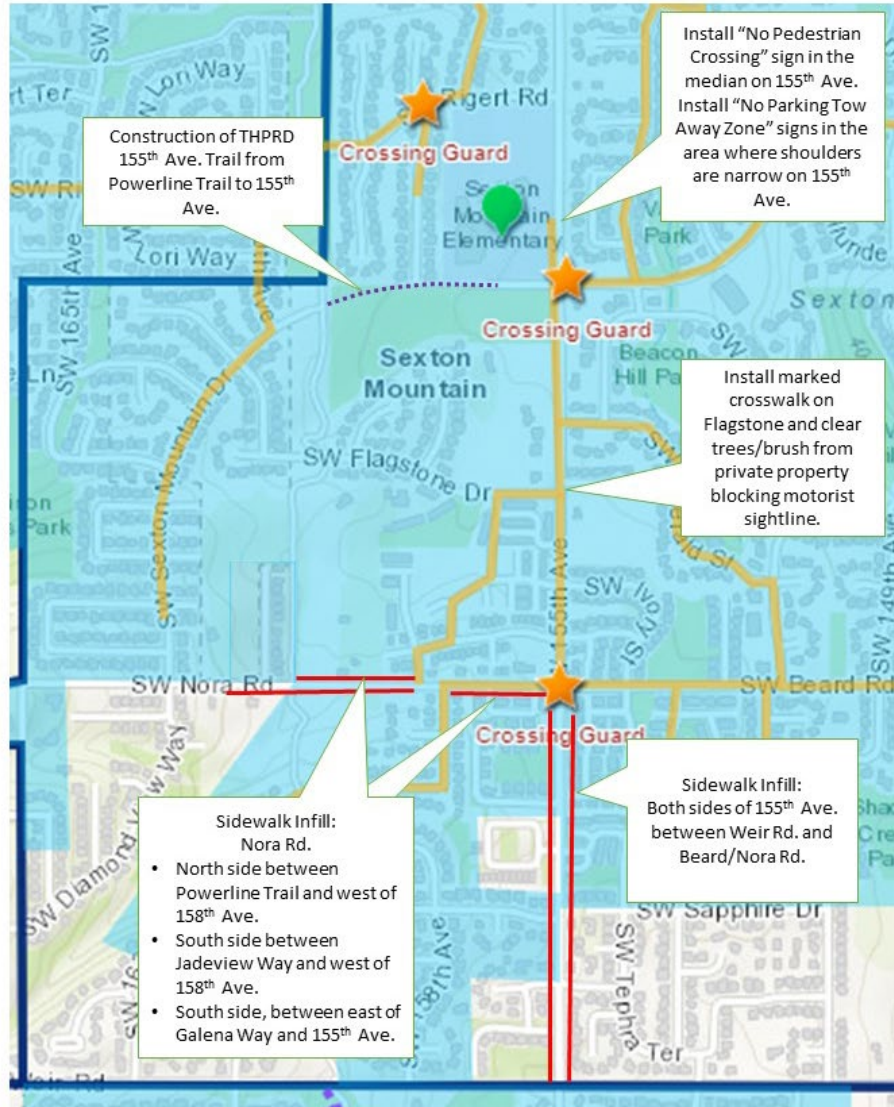
Infrastructure Options

- Sidewalk infill north side of Nora between Powerline Trail and just west of 158th.
- Sidewalk infill south side of Nora between 155th and just east of Galena and between Jadeview Way and west of 158th.
- Sidewalk on both sides of 155th from Weir to Beard/Nora.
- Replenish bark chips along walking paths on both sides of 155th from Weir to Beard/Nora as an interim measure while awaiting sidewalk infill.
- Install “No Pedestrian Crossing” sign in the median on 155th where the speed bump is located.
- Install “No Parking Tow Away Zone” signs in the area where the shoulders are narrow on 155th Ave.
- Install marked crosswalk on Flagstone to define the pedestrian path to ensure drivers will stop at stop line before pulling forward and clear trees/brush from private property on the corner which is blocking the sightline for cars turning left onto 155th Ave.
- Construction of THPRD 155th Ave. Trail from Powerline Trail to 155th Ave.
- Extend the yellow stand-back line in the parking lot along the path at the north side of lot.
- Install additional “No Idle” signs along front curb
- Refresh paint in the parking lot.
- Install additional bike/scooter parking, ideally sheltered.

Please note, all infrastructure and enforcement projects are coordinated through City Beaverton.



Sexton Mountain Elementary School Infrastructure Options 2020



Campus Infrastructure Options:

- Extend yellow stand-back line in the parking lot along the path at the north side of the lot.
- Install additional "No Idle" signs along front curb.
- Refresh paint in the parking lot.
- Install additional bike/scooter parking, ideally sheltered

Programmatic Options



Education: Introduce, inform and promote SRTS program to students, staff and community.

- Post procedures poster and preferred routes map inside school building and on school's webpage.
- Distribute procedures map, safe driver tips, basic Pedestrian and Biking safety information and walk map at back to school and after spring break.
- Bike/ Pedestrian Safety in PE classes every three years.
- Annual bicycle education rodeo in the spring.
- Earth Day anti-idle and active transportation campaign.
- School team to promote encouragement days and weekly walking school bus.

Encouragement

- Encourage students, staff and community to participate in walking and rolling to school with the first Walk + Roll event each year.
- Continue 2x weekly walking school bus
- Walk + Roll Challenge Month in May
- Bike Fairy visits every month
- Regular SRTS safety tips and updates in monthly school newsletter.

Evaluation

- Parent survey in May 2020.
- Student Tally in May 2020.

Enforcement

- Traffic reduction: examine and enforce rules at school level
 - Staff or sandwich board signs encouraging parents to pull forward
 - Handouts and messaging at Back to School and throughout the year on safe driving practices and campus traffic procedures.
- 155th speed reduction, ask for enforcement at Back to School time
- Include procedures on pick up and drop off along 155th Ave.
- Note: enforcement requests are best made [here](#).



Prioritization

- Continue to recruit and maintain established Safe Routes School Team to promote and host weekly Walking School Bus and Walk+Roll to School Days (October and May).
- Regular SRTS safety tips and updates in monthly school newsletter
- Distribute procedures map, safe driver tips, basic Pedestrian and Biking safety information and walk map at back to school and after spring break.
- Post procedures poster and preferred routes map inside school building and on school's webpage.
- Fund and install covered bike rack.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Thank you for your interest in making the trips to school safe, healthy and fun! This Action Plan is to be updated annually to continue to make it easier for parents, guardians and students to choose to take the bus, walk or bike to school. We need to continue to work to make the active choice the easy choice for the health and safety of our students and community.

The success of this plan will require students, parents, school staff, City of Beaverton, Beaverton School District, Sexton Mountain Neighborhood Association and the community to work together to ensure students are able to walk, bike or roll to school safely.

We need people to help us with this on-going project. If you would like to be more involved in Sexton Mountain School's SRTS Program, please reach out to Ms. Reese or the PTC.

