



Shaping Tomorrow, Together Committee March 25, 2026 Meeting Summary

Committee members were asked to respond to a number of questions related to boundary and walking maps. Below is a summary.

1. Top Priorities for Families

Thinking about your own children and other families in Lakewood, what matters most to you about students' walks to school? Summary of main themes of responses:

- **Safety First:** The primary concern is protecting children from distracted drivers and busy intersections.
- **Distance:** Walks should be manageable and equitable across the district.
- **Community Connection:** Many parents see walking as a joyful opportunity for students to connect with friends and for families to build neighborhood support.

2. The Trade-off: Railroad Tracks vs. Busy Streets

What concerns or hopes come to mind when you hear about the potential tradeoff between shorter walks with track crossings vs. longer walks with more street crossings? Summary of responses:

- **Preference for Tracks:** Most respondents expressed that train tracks are a lower concern than major street crossings because trains are more predictable (frequency, time) than distracted drivers.
- **Visibility Issues:** Streets like Clifton and Detroit were highlighted as particularly dangerous due to high speeds and poor driver compliance at crosswalks.
- **Familiarity:** Families noted that children are often already "practicing" certain routes; changing these can increase anxiety.

3. Essential Safety Factors

Thinking about your own children and other families in Lakewood, what matters most to you about students' walks to school? Summary of responses:



- **Crossing Guards:** This was the #1 requested safety measure. Respondents noted a need for more guards, more consistent staffing, and better placement at busy intersections like Webb & Detroit or Nicholson & Clifton.
- **Visibility and Signage:** Recommendations include "Hawk" signal systems, expanded school zones (20 mph), flashing crosswalks, and delayed walk signals to give students a head start.
- **Infrastructure Maintenance:** Clear sidewalks (especially snow removal in winter) and well-maintained crosswalk markings are seen as vital.
- **Adult Presence:** There is strong interest in "Walking School Buses" and using elementary school mentors or community volunteers to provide extra sets of eyes on the routes.

4. Information That Could Be Helpful for Families

- **Safety Statistics:** Comparative data on pedestrian accidents at train tracks vs. major intersections.
- **Traffic Studies:** Evidence-based results from safety studies conducted by the city.
- **Operational Details:** Specifics on train schedules, how often they change, and a clear "proactive plan" for new safety measures.
- **Testimonials:** Hearing lived experiences from other parents who have successfully navigated these routes.

5. Creative Solutions Proposed by the Community

- **Safety Town Reboots:** Offering "Safety Town" programs or walking/biking safety classes in August to help kids learn new routes.
- **Volunteer Networks:** Creating a volunteer network at crossings for the beginning of the school year.(Utilize PTA)
- **Grant Research:** Investigating state or national grants specifically for walkability and student safety in "walking districts".