



Walk n' Roll to School Day 2021 Report

Champaign-Urbana Safe Routes to School Project (C-U SRTS)

Cynthia Hoyle, Chair

Thomas Valencia, Intern

Tuesday, February 15, 2022





Overview

- Walk n' Roll to School Day is an international event that encourages students to walk and bike to school safely
- The C-U SRTS Project hosted our local event on Wednesday, October 6th, 2021, in partnership with Urbana School District 116, the two cities, and Champaign Unit 4 School District
- A total of 8 elementary schools across Urbana-Champaign participated
- U of I student athletes, public officials and other community volunteers joined the students at several schools for events
- Urbana Mayor Diane Marlin read a proclamation declaring Walk n' Roll to School Day in the City of Urbana at Dr. Williams Elementary in Urbana



WALK 'N ROLL 2021



Walk 'N Roll 2021



Highlights

Data Collection

- The C-U SRTS team used Walk n' Roll to School Day to collect data and input from parents about walkability in their neighborhoods
- Two methods were use:
 1. Students were given **walkability checklist packets** that included a safe walking route map for the respective school, safety tip sheets, and a questionnaire
 2. Schools were provided links to **electronic parent surveys** to send out to families through the National Center for Safe Routes to School's data collection system
- For method 1, Leal submitted 3 responses, King submitted 4 responses, and Yankee Ridge submitted 1 response
- For method 2, Leal submitted 16 surveys, Thomas Paine submitted 2 surveys, and Yankee Ridge submitted 1 survey

Walkability Checklist Questionnaire

Take a walk and use this checklist to rate your neighborhood's walkability.

How walkable is your community?

Location of walk

Rating Scale: 1 2 3 4 5 6
awful many problems some problems good very good excellent

1. Did you have room to walk?

☐ Yes ☐ Some problems:

- ☐ Sidewalks or paths started and stopped
- ☐ Sidewalks were broken or cracked
- ☐ Sidewalks were blocked with poles, signs, shrubbery, dumpsters, etc.
- ☐ No sidewalks, paths, or shoulders
- ☐ Too much traffic
- ☐ Something else _____

Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6 **Locations of problems:** _____

2. Was it easy to cross streets?

☐ Yes ☐ Some problems:

- ☐ Road was too wide
- ☐ Traffic signals made us wait too long or did not give us enough time to cross
- ☐ Needed striped crosswalks or traffic signals
- ☐ Parked cars blocked our view of traffic
- ☐ Trees or plants blocked our view of traffic
- ☐ Needed curb ramps or ramps needed repair
- ☐ Something else _____

Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6 **Locations of problems:** _____

3. Did drivers behave well?

☐ Yes ☐ Some problems: Drivers ...

- ☐ Backed out of driveways without looking
- ☐ Did not yield to people crossing the street
- ☐ Turned into people crossing the street
- ☐ Drove too fast
- ☐ Sped up to make it through traffic lights or drove through traffic lights?
- ☐ Something else _____

Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6 **Locations of problems:** _____

4. Was it easy to follow safety rules? Could you and your child...

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ No

- ☐ No Cross at crosswalks or where you could see and be seen by drivers?
- ☐ No Stop and look left, right and then left again before crossing streets?
- ☐ No Walk on sidewalks or shoulders facing traffic where there were no sidewalks?
- ☐ No Cross with the light?

Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6 **Locations of problems:** _____

5. Was your walk pleasant?

☐ Yes ☐ Some problems:

- ☐ Needed more grass, flowers, or trees
- ☐ Scary dogs
- ☐ Scary people
- ☐ Not well lighted
- ☐ Dirty, lots of litter or trash
- ☐ Dirty air due to automobile exhaust
- ☐ Something else _____

Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6 **Locations of problems:** _____

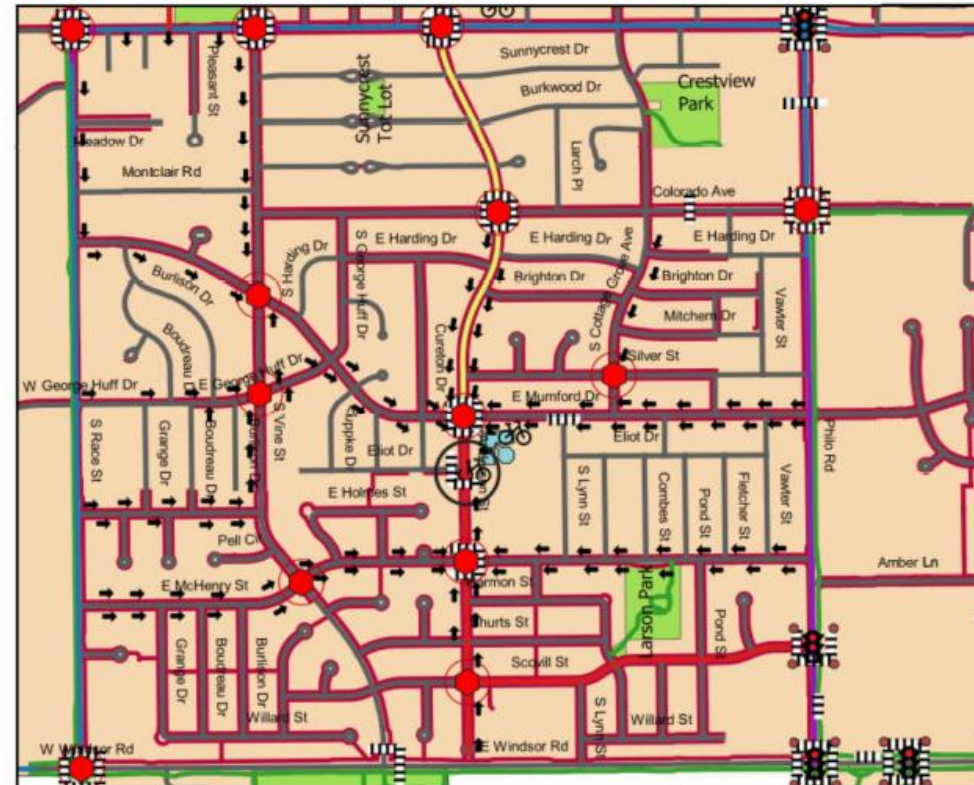
How does your neighborhood stack up? Add up your ratings and decide.

1. _____	26-30	Celebrate! You have a great neighborhood for walking.
2. _____		
3. _____	21-25	Celebrate a little. Your neighborhood is pretty good.
4. _____		
5. _____	16-20	Okay, but it needs work.
	11-15	It needs lots of work. You deserve better than that.
Total: _____	5-10	It's a disaster for walking!

Now that you've identified the problems, go to the next page to find out how to fix them.

Safe Walking Route Map Example

Safe Walking Route Map



0 0.25 0.5 mi



Yankee Ridge School

2102 South Anderson Street
Urbana, IL 61801

Legend

- Safe Routes
- Yankee Ridge Elementary School
- Crossing Guards
- All-Way Stop
- Traffic Signal
- Pedestrian Pushbutton
- Bike Racks
- Crosswalks
- Bike Lanes
- Bike Route
- Shared Bike/Parking Lanes
- Shared-Use Path
- Sharrows
- Streets
- Sidewalks
- Public Park
- School Footprint
- Urbana



Walkability Checklist Response Highlights

Leal

- **Survey 1:** high rating, pointed out that it was **difficult to view traffic at California/McCullough due to tree blockage. Called for curb ramp repairs.**
- **Survey 2:** lower rating, reported the presence of scary dogs and broken sidewalk.
- **Survey 3:** most critical, **called for the installation of crosswalks along McCullough at Springfield, Main, and Illinois.** Also reported that parked cars blocked the view of traffic.

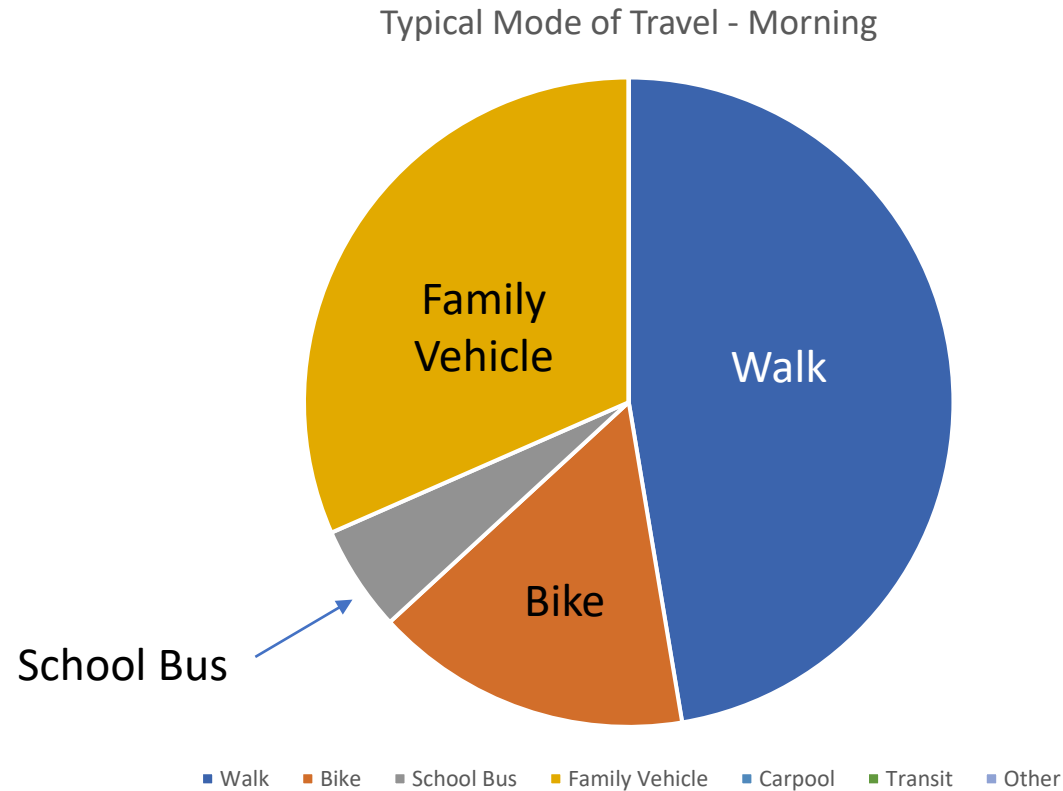
King

- All 4 respondents believe that there is a high degree of walkability safety
- Consensus that it is easy for their children to follow the safety rules.
- Only negative comment was the report of scary dogs along the walking route, but no specific location was indicated

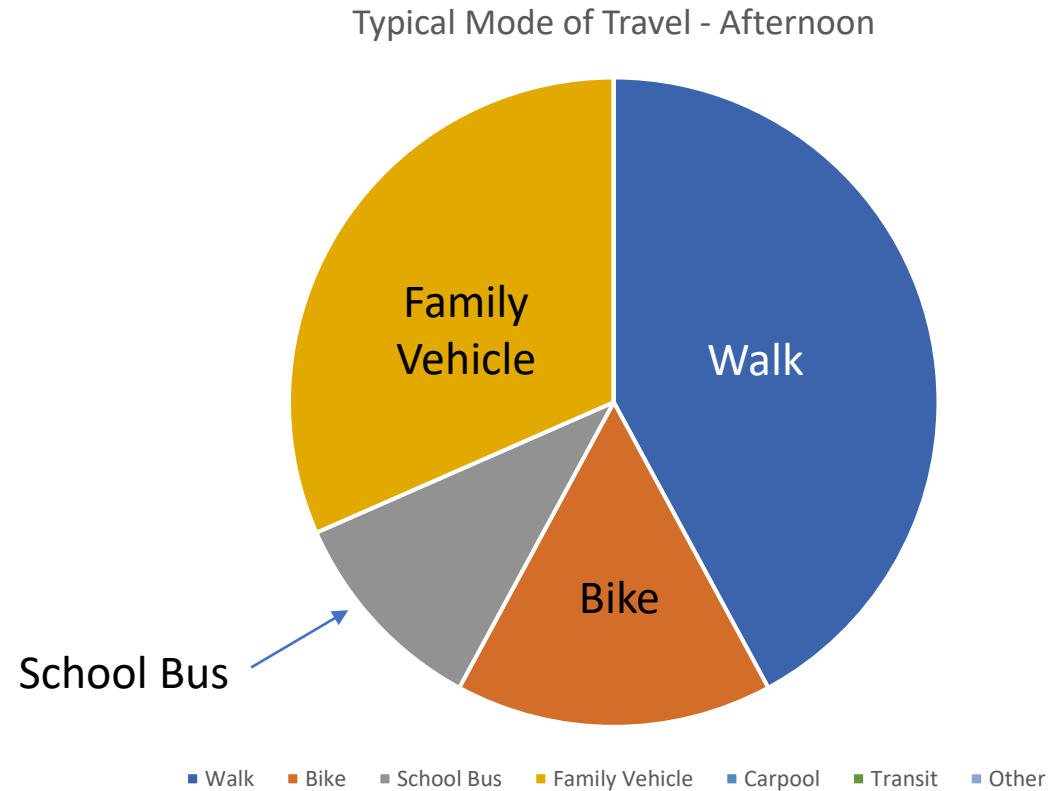
Yankee Ridge

- Compliant that there was no room to walk due to **blockage from shrubs along Scoville Street.**
- **Vine/Scoville was highlighted as a location where a crosswalk and other improvements are needed** due to lack of visibility of oncoming traffic on Vine and the presence of big cracks on the sidewalks.
- Overall, fair ranking, but more work is needed

Electronic Parent Survey: Typical Travel Mode by Time of Day – Morning



Electronic Parent Survey: Typical Travel Mode by Time of Day - Afternoon



Electronic
Parent Survey:
Issues That
Affect Travel
Behavior

Issue	Child does not walk/bike to school	Child walks/bikes to school
Amount of Traffic Along Route	10	3
Safety of Intersections and Crossings	9	3
Distance	7	3
Speed of Traffic Along Route	7	3
Weather or climate	6	2
Time	5	3
Adults to Bike/Walk With	5	3
Sidewalks or Pathways	5	3
Convenience of Driving	4	2
Crossing Guards	4	2
Violence or Crime	4	2
Child's Participation in After School Programs	2	2
Number of Respondents per Category	12	3

No response: 4

Electronic
Parent Survey:
Parent
Estimate of
Home-School
Distance

Distance between home and school	Number of children
Less than 1/4 mile	4
1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	4
1/2 mile up to 1 mile	7
1 mile up to 2 miles	3
More than 2 miles	1

Electronic Parent Survey: Parent Comments

School	SurveyID	Comment
Leal Elementary School	1713979	I'm fine with him walking to school alone at a young age, but I feel as though it is not culturally acceptable and other parents would judge me. But, when I was a kid you would do more things on your own without parent supervision. Even in elementary school.
Leal Elementary School	1713981	In my hometown, the school set up a walking school bus, where some of the school staff walk by each student's house picking each one up, and the students all walk together. But it allows students who live close to the school who don't have great parental support to get to school safely.
Leal Elementary School	1713986	I witnessed a shooting outside of our home less than two months ago and I am concerned for my children's safety. Additionally, Illinois Street has no stop sign at the intersection of Illinois and Birch and drivers drive way too fast down Illinois street for me to feel comfortable
Leal Elementary School	1714038	Walking/biking is very important in our house. It's not an option-it's a way to combat climate change. This is a value that is critical for us to instill in our child.
Thomas Paine Elementary School	1713808	Having two special needs children who struggle or have struggled with safety and elopement is the biggest factor.
Thomas Paine Elementary School	1713867	Another reason that makes walking or biking to school harder or not possible is having working parents and younger siblings.
Yankee Ridge Elementary School	1714582	I bike to school with my daughter most days. The intersection of Vine and Scovill is not safe for elementary school children to cross. There is no stop sign or cross walk. Visibility is poor and drivers sometimes speed. The ramps to the sidewalks are also difficult to navigate with a stroller. I have filled out this survey every year since 2016 but nothing has changed - maybe this will be the year :0)

Thank You!

- Upcoming events:
 - Bike n' Roll to School Day 2022 is Wednesday, May 4th!

