



CITY OF OAK CREEK
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
ACTION PLAN



Meadowview Elementary School



OAKCREEK
— WISCONSIN —

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ACTION PLAN



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Why Safe Routes to School?

SafeRoutes to School (“SRTS”) is a set of programs and investments that make it safer, more convenient, inviting, and fun for children and their families to walk and bike to school.

SRTS initiatives contribute to our children’s social and academic success, and provide a foundation for life-long healthful habits.

What’s included in this action plan?

This Safe Routes to School Action Plan is one of nine school-level SRTS plans prepared for the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District. The plan includes an inventory and evaluation of **Existing Conditions** for walking and biking around the school, as well as **Recommendations** for both programming and infrastructure improvements.

Programming Recommendations include fun and engaging programs for students and families to increase walking and biking to school. Programs can be relatively easy and inexpensive to implement, and can produce significant results even in the near-term.

Infrastructure Recommendations include a range of physical improvements to a school and its surroundings to improve the safety, comfort, and convenience of walking and biking. This may include upgrading sidewalks or crossings, repairing facilities, filling network gaps, or adding paint, signage, and signals.

The 6 Es of SRTS

Safe Routes to School planning is based on a framework known as the Six Es, which provides a way of thinking about and organizing improvements in and around a school. The 6Es include:



EDUCATION

Education programs and initiatives provide information to children, parents, and community member on safe walking and biking practices.



ENCOURAGEMENT

Encouragement programs inspire families to try walking or biking through fun and inviting activities such as friendly competitions and incentive programs.



ENGINEERING

Engineering includes upgrades to and upkeep of the physical landscape in and around the school such as sidewalks, bikeways, intersections and signs.



ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement programs often include participation from police with a focus on enforcing traffic safety laws, like speed limits, in the vicinity of a school.



EVALUATION

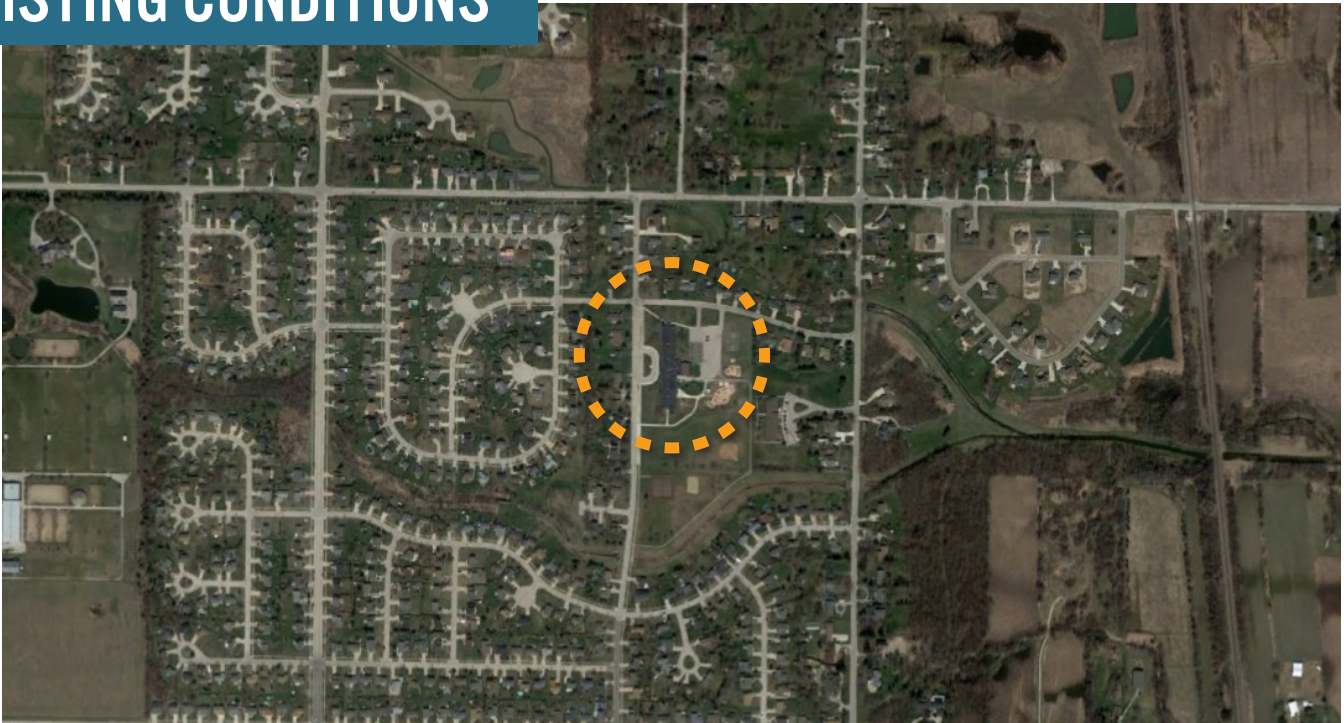
Evaluation measures conditions before, during, and after implementation, helping guide priorities and goals and ensuring efficient use of resources.



EQUITY

Equity focuses on distributing resources fairly throughout a community to ensure all students have equal access to high quality infrastructure and programming.

EXISTING CONDITIONS



CONTEXT

Meadowview Elementary is bounded by Meadowview Drive to the north and South McGraw Drive to the west. Shepard Hills Elementary School is located one mile to the northwest and Oak Creek East Middle School is located about 1.5 miles north. Interstate-94/41 is located two miles to the west, and S Chicago Road is located four blocks to the north. Elizabeth Residence, an elderly care facility, is located adjacent to the school.

Single family residential development is located on the east side of the school with larger neighborhoods to the north, south, and west. The nearest public library is 3.25 miles to the northwest.

Meadowview Elementary Quick Facts:



Principal
Lisa Rezner



Number of Students
374



Health and Physical Education
Terry Nachtigall



Arrival Time
7:50 a.m.



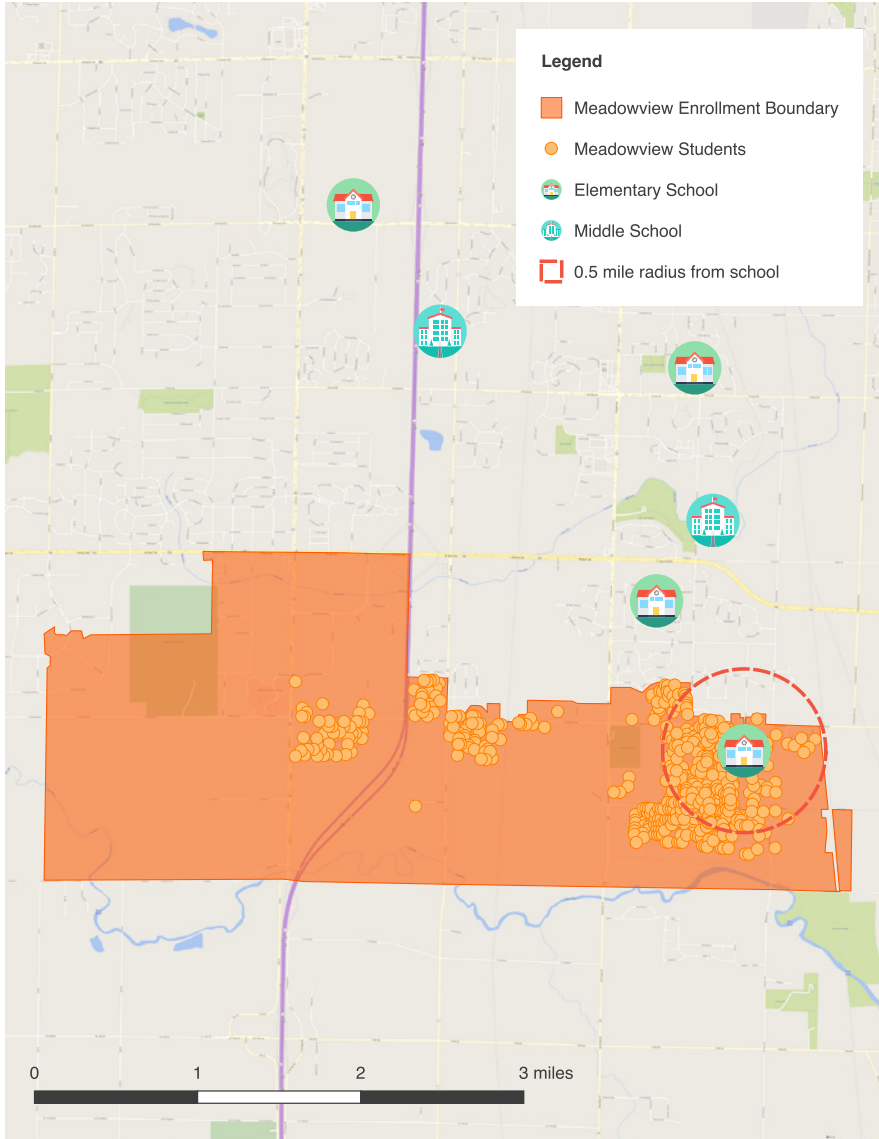
Grades
K-5



Dismissal Time
3:05 p.m.

ENROLLMENT DENSITY

Residential locations for enrolled students cluster throughout the eastern and central portions of the Meadowview Elementary School attendance area. Approximately half of the students live within a half-mile of the school.



WALKING/BIKING POTENTIAL:

Approximately **fifty percent** of all students live within a walkable or bikeable distance from school (that is, one half-mile). The number of students currently doing so is not known.

How might we grow this number?



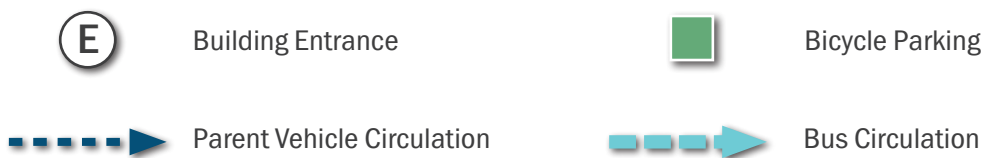
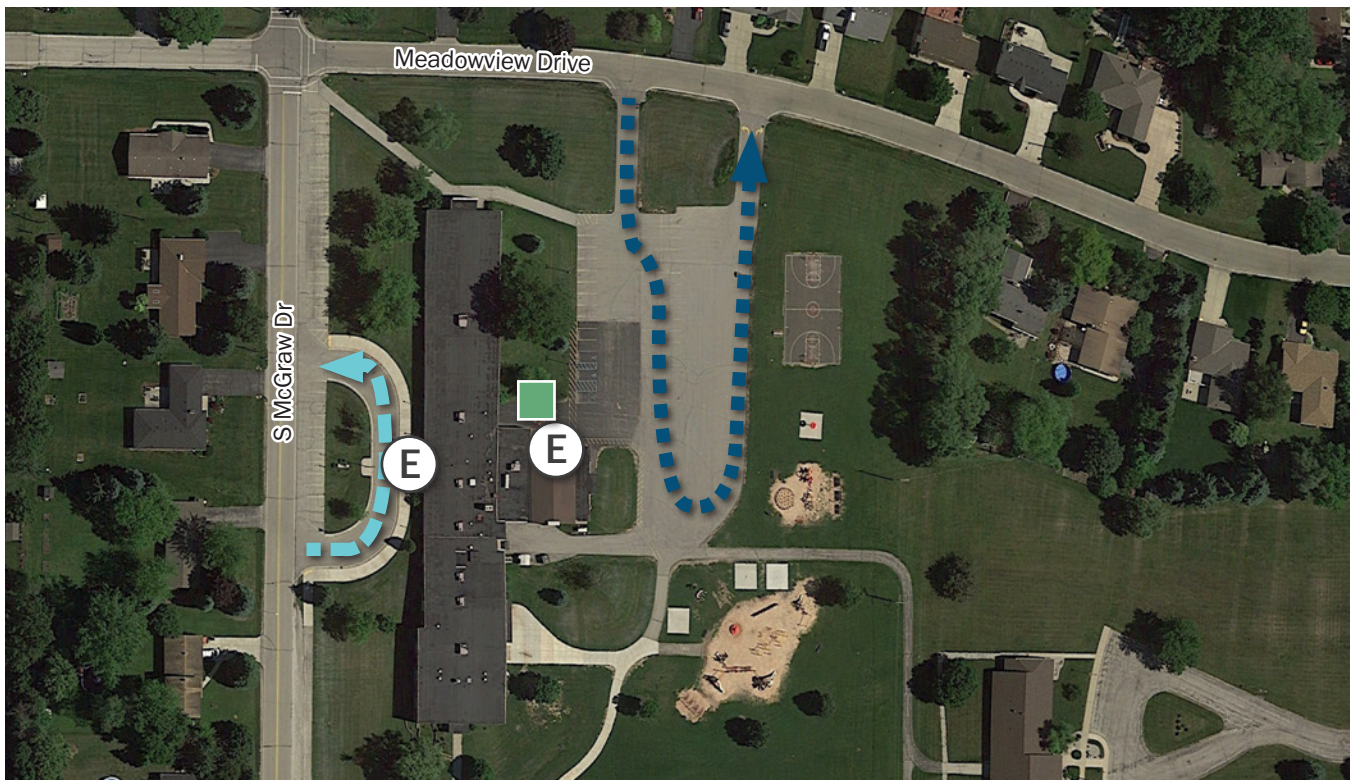
ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

The Meadowview Elementary School main entrance is located on the west side of the building. Buses enter and exit the school parking lot from McGraw Drive and students departing by bus exit from the west side of the building.

Parent vehicles pick students up on the east side of the building in the rear entrance. Parents enter and exit the parking area via Meadowview Drive. Signs and arrows direct cars through the parking lot. Parents are restricted to one

lane of traffic to increase safety and teachers are stationed around the campus to assist in this process.

Bicycle parking is located on the east side of the building. Students who walk may exit from the east or west side of building, choosing the most convenient route.



EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE



A **paved path** runs along athletic fields to the south of the school.



Sidewalks are present on the east side of McGraw Drive and present on at least one side of most neighboring residential streets. E Oakwood Road, Meadowview Drive (east of McGraw), S Nicholson Road, and short north-south streets south of the school do not have sidewalks.



Crosswalks are located at the corner of E Somers Drive and McGraw Drive as well as at the corner of Meadowview Drive and McGraw Drive.



School speed zone signage is present along McGraw Drive and Meadowview Drive indicating a speed limit of 15 miles per hour when children are present.

EXISTING PROGRAMMING

There are no supervised crossings. One teacher and the principal assist with drop-off and pick-up, which occurs on the east side of the school. No other walk/bike related programs occur at the school, or information was not provided to the project team.

OTHER DATA

Student Travel Tallies

No classrooms submitted walk and bike numbers during November 2016. Without this baseline, it is unknown how many students may bike or walk to school out of 374 enrolled students

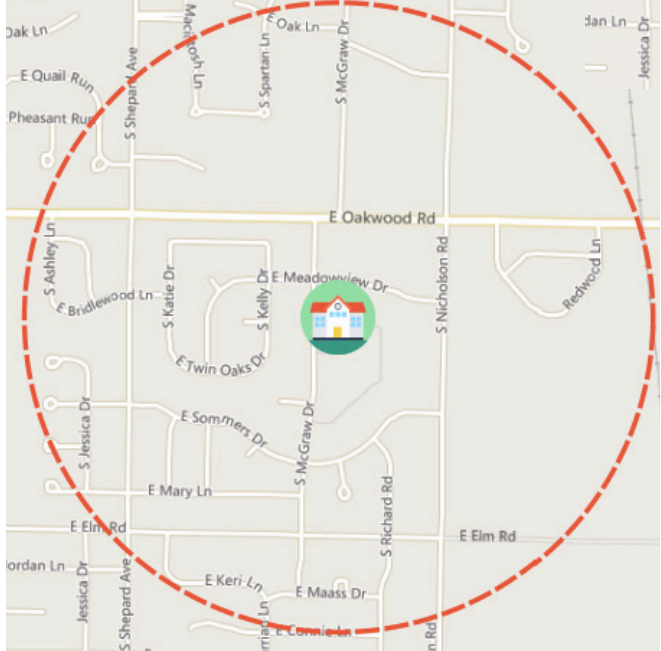
Parent Survey Summary

No data collected.

Crash History

Crash data obtained from the City of Oak Creek was mapped by the location of each incident. The data was analyzed by collision type, including crashes between motor vehicles and bicycles and crashes between motor vehicles and pedestrians. Between 2006 and 2015, there were no reported collisions within a half-mile radius of Meadowview Elementary School.

CRASH DATA (2006-2015):



- Meadowview Elementary School
- Bicycle Crashes
- Pedestrian Crashes
- 0.5 mile radius from school

WALK AUDIT

On 11/15/16 a walk audit and arrival/dismissal observation were completed by the audit team. Several students were observed biking and walking from east and west of campus, some with accompanying parents. Six buses circulated in the front driveway loop during arrival and departed students at 7:50 a.m. Two lines, one for drop-off and one for parking, were designated in the parent drop-off zone in the rear lot. Some parents parked to walk their students into the building. Parents were not supposed to exit the drop-off line out of order, but some did when a staff member was not present.

Students walking home were released from the east side of the building onto the concrete path; a number of students went to the adjacent playground instead. Bus stations were designated by color-coded cones and staff used radios to communicate student release to board each bus. Overlap between pick-up and parking lines created some confusion and conflicts among users.

WALK AUDIT CONDITIONS:

Date: 11/15/2016

Day of the Week: Tuesday

Time: 7:10-9:00 am / 2:20-3:20 pm

Weather: Clear/Cloudy, Cool

Audit Team: Rudy Uumbs,
David Maier, Matt Sullivan



ASSETS AND CHALLENGES

Several assets and challenges in and around the school site were identified. These assets and challenges include both programming and infrastructure and are listed below. Specific programming and infrastructure recommendations are detailed in the following section of this report.

- ### Assets
- > High number of students residing within a walkable and bikeable distance
 - > Well-defined parent drop-off procedure to limit traffic congestion on Meadowview Drive
 - > Well-organized bus loading and departure procedure

- ### Challenges
- > Campus is located at the far eastern side of the school enrollment boundary area
 - > Enrollment boundary area is bisected by I-94
 - > Many existing residences within a half-mile radius of campus are zoned to Shepard Hills Elementary School
 - > Vehicle and pedestrian conflicts in parent drop-off and pick-up zone



RECOMMENDATIONS

OVERVIEW

Effective Safe Routes to School initiatives include both programming and infrastructure components.

The recommendations listed here offer a selection of location-specific ideas that can be implemented in and near the vicinity of the school - please refer to the table below and to the map on the facing page for more details.

ID	TYPE	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY
INFRASTRUCTURE			
A	Intersection	Add high-visibility crosswalks on all three legs of the intersection, RRFB, and curb extensions	High
B	Intersection	Add high-visibility crosswalks at all four legs of the intersections, RRFB, and curb extensions	High
C	Intersection	Create a mid-block crossing across McGraw Drive possibly with an RRFB	Medium
D	Sidewalk	Install a sidewalk along Oakwood Road	Low
E	Sidewalk	Install a sidewalk along the south side of Meadowview Drive to the north of campus	Low
F	Sidewalk	Install a sidewalk along the west side of McGraw Drive to the west of campus	Low
PROGRAMMING			
G	Programming	Install adequate signage to ensure safe crossings and clearly define speed limits and school zones	High
H	Programming	Move a bike rack to the main entrance	High
I	Programming	Potential Park and Walk location for parents to drop students who will engage in a less than 1/4 mile walk	Medium

PROGRAMMING

This plan includes a variety of programming recommendations to grow walking and biking to school and promote the safety of all students arriving and departing from Meadowview Elementary School.

PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEADOWVIEW ELEMENTARY:

Bike Train Programs

A Bike Train is a group of students accompanied by one or more adult who bicycle together on a pre-planned route to school. Routes can originate from a particular neighborhood or from another meeting place to include children who may live too far to bike the entire way. Bike trains address parents' safety concerns while providing a chance for students to be active together in their travel to school.

Crossing Guard Training

The crossing guard patrol should be equipped with safety equipment, including paddles, vests, and high-visibility gear for all weather and/or seasons. Members of the patrol should also be trained on where to be stationed each day and when to allow students to cross.

Park and Walk Programs

Park and walk programs are designed to encourage families to park several blocks from school and walk the rest of the way. Not all students are able to walk or bike the whole distance to their school, as they may live too far away or their route may include hazardous traffic. The program allows students who are unable to walk or bike a chance to participate in the Safe Routes to School program. It also helps reduce traffic congestion at the school as fewer parent vehicles will be circulating in the campus area.



INFRASTRUCTURE

This plan recommends several infrastructure improvements to intersections, sidewalks and signage. Intersection enhancements will make street crossings safer for students, improve ADA-compliance, and resurface and repaint crosswalks that need maintenance and repair.

For a full description of each of these improvement recommendations, please see the **Infrastructure Reference Guide** in Appendix E.

INFRASTRUCTURE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEADOWVIEW ELEMENTARY:



High-Visibility Crosswalks



Curb Radii Reduction



Curb Extensions



Raised Crosswalks



Painted Stop Bars



Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons (RRFB)

Photos 2 and 4 courtesy of Dan Burden from pedbikeimages.org, photo 3 courtesy of emersongarfield.org.

IMPLEMENTATION + NEXT STEPS

Sometimes starting a new project within a busy school can seem like a daunting task. Implementing your Safe Routes to School Action Plan doesn't have to be hard. Here are some ideas to get you started:

Organize

Find your school's champions for Safe Routes - including teachers, parents and students. Start with the teachers who are already helping with departure and arrivals at the school, and bring others who are excited about more kids walking or biking to school. Bring the parents in: work with the school's parents' association to help coordinate support for walking school buses, for volunteer adult crossing guards and other ideas. Work with your city's Public Works and Planning to coordinate and prioritize improvements at your school.

Prioritize + Plan

This one is done already (it's the plan in your hands) - Congratulations! Now all you have to do is work with your team and select a couple of ideas to implement!



Share + Celebrate Success

Success is the best foundation for future success! Don't forget to review your accomplishments every year, and to note the goals you achieved, the people who helped you get there, and the tasks that remain for the coming year!

Start Small

Commit to implementing just one program or initiative in your first year (if you want to do two or more that's great also, but give yourself time and space to organize your team, to identify common priorities, and to get the help and resources that you need to succeed).

Some great ideas for starting small include:

- › Develop a map showing the best routes from surrounding neighborhoods to your school, and distribute it to parents a couple of times in the fall of the school year, and again during spring. Make sure to note the location of crossing guards, traffic signals, and sidewalks and trails.
- › Celebrate international walk and bike to school day - in 2019, it'll be on May 8 - learn more and start planning here: www.walkbiketoschool.org
- › Start a student safety patrol at your school - it's a great way to develop students' leadership skills and build a culture of walking and biking at your school. You can find more resources in the Action Plans' Appendix.
- › Work with your PTA or other involved parents to start a walking school bus route: www.walkingschoolbus.org
- › Establish a yearly school-wide tally of student travel to and from school. This will help provide the baseline of information you will need to determine which programs are yielding the best results for your school, and can help focus your efforts and priorities. They also show potential funders that your school is already making gains and is well-prepared to benefit from more expensive infrastructure improvements. Find out more in the Appendix and here: www.saferoutesdata.org
- › Work with your school's safety officer and other police partners to host a bike rodeo where students learn and practice how to safely ride and interact with traffic.
- › Get your students involved in planning for Safe Routes - ask them for their preferred routes and ideas for making walking and biking to school easier for them!

This Safe Routes to School Action Plan was prepared by Community Design Group for the City of Oak Creek, the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District, and the Carrollton Elementary School community. For more information about Safe Routes to School planning and programming efforts, please contact Matthew Sullivan at the City of Oak Creek or Andrew Chromy at the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District.