



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Task Force Meeting

December 12th, 2024



SRTS TASK FORCE'S OBJECTIVES

SRTS Task Force is a space to share information/ideas on SRTS, engage the community around SRTS, partner on events and activities, and support schools and school districts in the implementation of the strategy.

Roles

- Define and collaborate on objectives, goals, and milestones for the Menlo Park SRTS program;
- Help organize or support different tasks and activities; and
- Be a liaison to share information and market the program to your school community.

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. School Updates and Priorities
3. Student Travel Tally Data
4. Citywide SRTS Program Goals
5. Traffic and Safety Updates
6. Public Works Project Updates
7. Announcements
8. Next Meetings



1) INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions

- Name
- Agency / Organization
- Where will you walk or roll during the winter break?

Introductions

Casandra Cortez, Associate Transportation Planner at Menlo Park

- City project manager for SRTS program
- cncortez@menlopark.gov
- (650) 330-6708



2) SCHOOL UPDATES AND PRIORITIES



School updates and Priorities



- Encouragement and education activities?
- Priorities related to school travels and transportation safety for the school year?
- Other announcements?



3) STUDENT TRAVEL DATA

School Travel Tally Results

Survey Purpose

- Menlo Park SRTS Program collects data on how student travel to and from school since 2019. San Mateo County Office of Education SRTS Program has been collecting student travel data pre-2019.
- Data helps to better understand citywide student transportation trends.
- Data collected using an in-class survey, online or paper forms.
- We recommend collecting tallies in a minimum of two classrooms per grade per school.

School Travel Tally Results

Data collected in October 2024

NEW: individual online survey for high school students

8 participating schools (*Thank you!*)

- *Belle Haven*
- *Encinal*
- *Hillview*
- *Las Lomas*
- *Laurel Upper*
- *Laurel Lower*
- *Oak Knoll*
- *TIDE Academy*

6,473 trips tallied

AM and PM trips over a two-day period



School Travel Tally Results

Fall 2024 Travel Modes

	Walk	Roll (bike, skateboard, scooter)	School bus	Carpool	Dropped off/ Drove self	Public transit	Taxi-type service
Elementary	11%	16%	15%	3%	54%	0%	n/a
Middle	7%	43%	9%	6%	25%	9%	n/a
High	6%	10%	0%	6%	58%	19%	1%
Citywide	8%	23%	8%	5%	46%	10%	0%



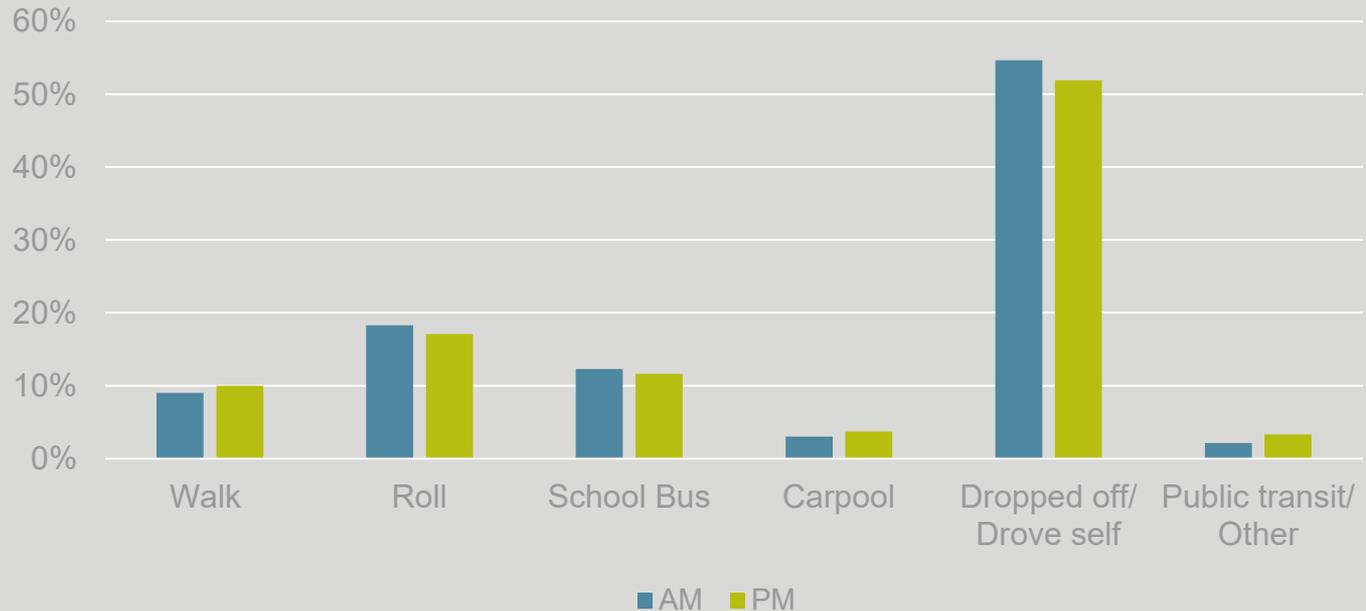
School Travel Tally Results

Fall 2024 Travel Modes

	Active transportation <i>(Walk, Roll)</i>	Motorized vehicle <i>(Dropped off/Drove self, Carpool, Taxi-type service)</i>	Sustainable transportation <i>(Walk, Roll, School bus, Public transit)</i>
Elementary	27%	57%	42%
Middle	50%	31%	69%
High	16%	65%	35%
Citywide	31%	51%	49%

School Travel Tally Results

Fall 2024 travel modes citywide (morning and afternoon trips)



School Travel Tally Results



Fall 2024 Key observations

- **More than half (54%)** of the **Menlo Park students** commute to school using a **mode other than the family vehicle** (dropped off or drove self).
- **Rolling (16%)** and taking the **school bus (15%)** are the most popular sustainable transportation modes with **elementary school** students.
- **Rolling** is the most popular sustainable transportation mode with **middle school students (43%)**.
- **Public transit** is a considerable transportation option for **middle (9%)** and **high (20%)** students.



School Travel Tally Results

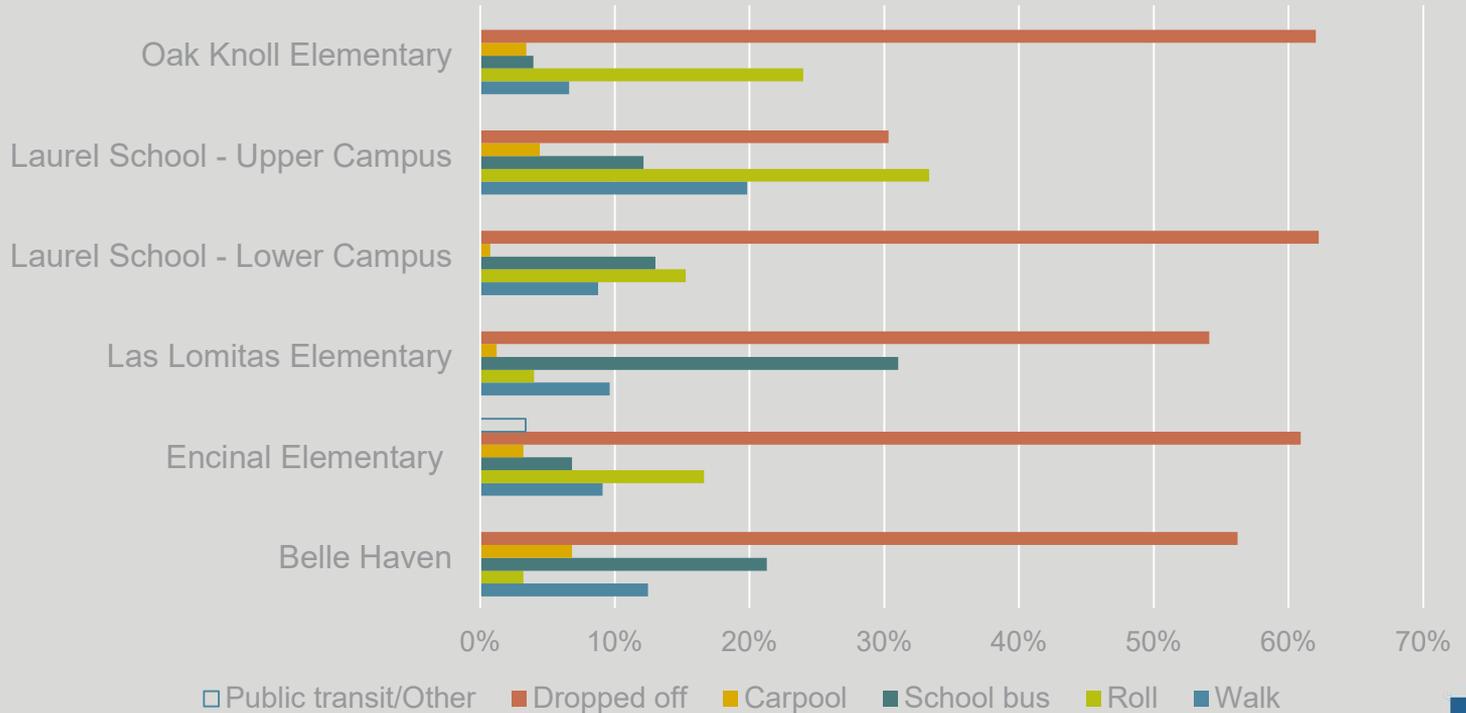


Fall 2024 Survey Disruptions and Caveats

- Teacher strike at Las Lomas Elementary School District impacting data collection for Las Lomas Elementary and La Entrada Middle.
- School bus drivers out sick at Las Lomas during the tally period.
- The "School Bus" option was missing in the high school survey. Sequoia Union High School District provides a school bus service. Between 30-35 (15%) TIDE Academy students take the school bus daily.

School Travel Tally Results

Fall 2024 Mode Shares per Elementary School





School Travel Tally Results

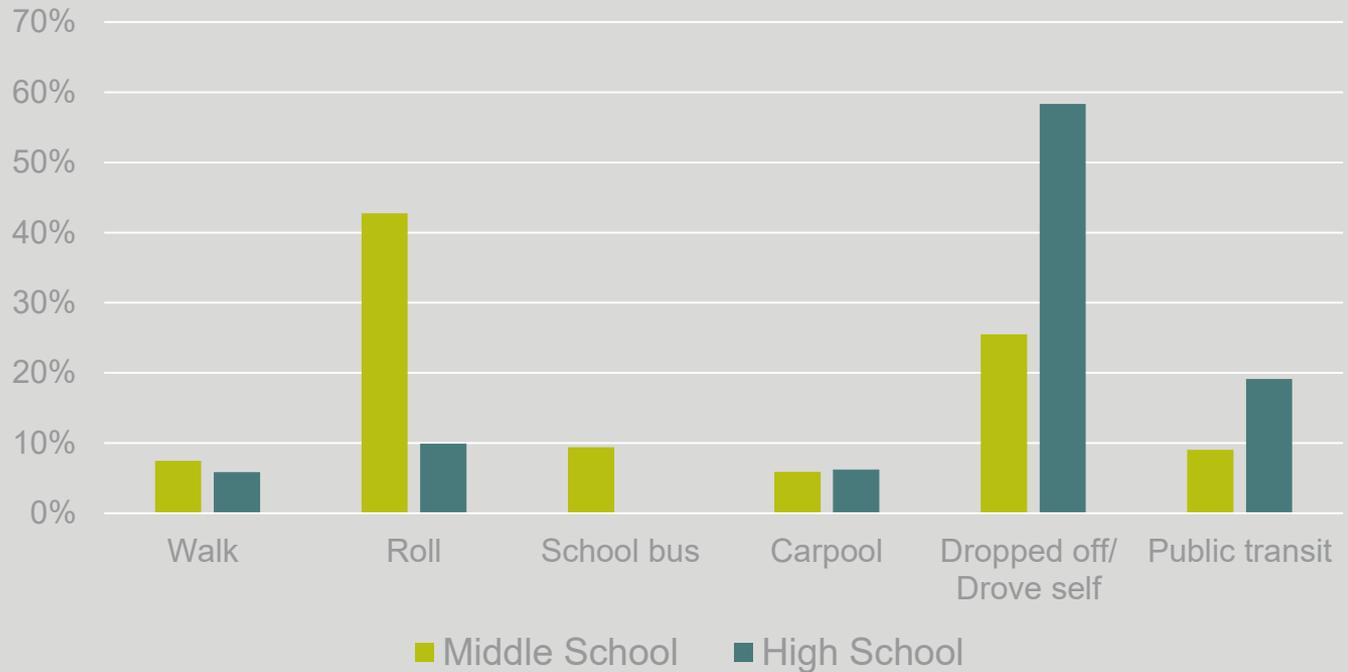
Fall 2024 Key Observations – Elementary Schools

- **Dropped off or drove self** are the most popular transportation mode for all elementary school students.
- **Laurel Upper (33%)** and **Oak Knoll (24%)** have the highest proportions of students who **roll to school**.
- **Encinal** has the highest proportions of students using **public transit (3%)** to travel to school.



School Travel Tally Results

Fall 2024 Travel Mode Shares for Middle and High School Students





School Travel Tally Results



Previous years mode share data citywide

	Before 2020	Fall 2021	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Fall 2024
Walk	15%	17%	17%	15%	8%
Roll	12%	12%	8%	17%	23%
School bus	16%	21%	12%	13%	8%
Carpool	4%	3%	2%	3%	5%
Public transit/Taxi-type/ Other	9%	2%	1%	4%	20%
Dropped off/Drove self	52%	47%	60%	46%	46%

School Travel Tally Results



Data will be shared with SMCOE so it can be added to their school travel tally database.



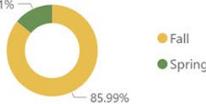
San Mateo County Safe Routes to School Travel Tally Data Summary

Tally Survey Summary | Tally Comparison and Trends | Parent/Caregiver Survey

Select a School Year: 2023-2024

Select a District: All | Select a School: All | Select a Grade: All Grades

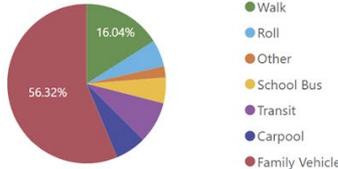
Travel Tally Period



Time of Day

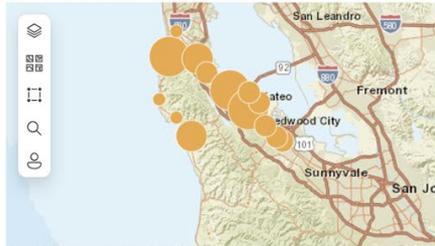


Travel Modes



Time of Day: All | Travel Tally Period: All

Travel Count by City



Esri, HERE, Garmin, NGA, USGS, NPS | Powered by Esri

San Mateo County Safe Routes to School collects travel tallies on annually each school year. Schools submit travel tally data in the during the Fall. The travel tallies are collected on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday for one week. Tallies can be used to count the number of children traveling to and from school using different modes of travel, such as walking, bicycling, bus, private vehicle, etc. Travel behavior enables a program to measure changes after SRTS activities and better understand a school environment through travel patterns.

By default, the map below displays the total travel tally counts by city for all school years. Making district, school, and/or school year selections using the filters on the upper left will alter what the map displays.

Clicking on a city's bubble will also impact what tally counts are displayed in the charts on the left.



4) CITYWIDE SRTS PROGRAM GOALS

Citywide SRTS Program Goals

September Goal Setting Workshop:

Task force brainstormed using the SOAR analysis framework

SRTS Coordinator and city staff drafted measureable goals for the SRTS Program

December Task Force Meeting:

Task Force to provide feedback the goals.

Citywide SRTS Program Goals

Background

In 2023, the CSC is tasked to evaluate the SRTS Program.



Administrator and stakeholder survey conducted in spring 2023.



CSC and Task Force recommended to identify goals to measure the success of the SRTS program.



Goal Setting Workshop on September 5, 2024

Citywide SRTS Program Goals

S

Strengths

- Task Force
- SRTS community
- Collaborations between schools

O

Opportunities

- School bus program
- Suggested routes maps
- Increase use of e-bikes
- Data collection
- Existing ongoing efforts at the schools

A

Aspirations

- Stronger incentives to use sustainable transportation
- Ambitious encouragement events

R

Results

- Increase of the mode share of active transportation
- Active families in the community
- Safe infrastructures
- Robust data collection



Citywide SRTS Program Goals

Goal 1: Understand student, caregiver, and school staff transportation challenges to work toward sustainable solutions.

Objective	Metric
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Collect data on how families travel to and from school each year and at all public schoolsCollect data on families' experiences and concerns around active and shared transportation and infrastructurePromote and collaborate with existing crowdsourcing platforms to collect data on Menlo Park streets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Number of student tallies and participating schoolsNumber of responses to parent surveysNumber of entries for Menlo Park on crowdsourcing platforms



Goal 2: Increase the number of families safely using sustainable transportation for school commutes through education and encouragement.

Objective	Metric
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Increase the number of families walking and biking that live less than a mile from school· Continue to promote Suggested Routes to School Maps and update them with new routes and infrastructures· Standardize back-to-school communications to caregivers, including information on active and shared transportation options, pledge to travel ABC, school commute safety tips, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Mode share of families walking and biking in student tallies· Number of communications to caregivers digitally or at school events· Additional potential metrics: bike counts in bike racks, numbers of cars in drop-off lines



Goal 3: Increase the visibility, awareness, and engagement in the SRTS program.

Objective	Metric
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Increase families' engagement in the SRTS programs at their school· Build volunteer capacity by supporting champion recruitment and training· Communicate on SRTS successes and challenges· Explore new and ambitious ways to increase the visibility and the reach of encouragement events· Continue and enhance the SRTS program technical assistance to school-led events· Think of incentives to increase participation and awareness in encouragement events· Include SRTS in existing citywide events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Number of SRTS volunteers and champions· Number of encouragement events held· Number of participants at encouragement events



Goal 4: Continue and expand the collaboration between schools and community partners to integrate SRTS into new and existing programs, initiatives, and events.

Objective

Build and maintain strong community partnerships through consistent communication and outreach

Maintain collaboration between the schools

Create Task Force subcommittees to address transportation challenge identified

Work with the school districts, the City, and SamTrans to enhance the shared transportation options (bus and shuttle schedules and services)

Metric

- Number of participants at Task Force meetings
- Number of participants in the subcommittees
- Number of meetings between partners (e.g., City, schools, SamTrans, etc.)



Goal 5: Encourage schools to host encouragement and education events throughout the school year.

Objective

Schedule SRTS encouragement and education events and promote them in the school community throughout the year

Continue to provide and expand, school and community-based SRTS education and encouragement programs and materials

Facilitate and increase the use of shared resources by the schools and SRTS champions for school-led activities and events

Metric

- Number of encouragement and education events
- Number of participating schools

Goal 6: Equitable distribution of STRS resources and support between all schools and districts.

Objective	Metric
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide additional support to schools with no designated SRTS championsProactively engage with schools that serve students from MTC Equity Priority Communities and with a high proportion of students eligible to Free and Reduced Price Meal, in neighborhoods disadvantaged in health, pollution and safety areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Number of encouragement and education events and participants in identified schools

Goal 7: Improve safety and comfort along safe routes to school.

Objective	Metric
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue the collaboration and coordination between SRTS program and the city departments and commissions• Coordinate with the City's Vision Zero efforts• Support advocacy for SRTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of residents advocating for SRTS in public meetings• Number of collisions involving a vehicle and a bicycle/pedestrian• Number of near misses



5) TRAFFIC AND SAFETY UPDATES



6) CITY PROJECT UPDATES



CITY PROJECT UPDATES

- Lower speed limits implemented on Menlo Park streets City of Menlo Park
 - Business activities districts
 - Safety corridors/high collision corridors
- Nealon Park
- Coleman and Ringwood Avenues Study



7) ANNOUNCEMENTS



8) NEXT MEETING

SAVE THE DATES!

- Thursday, March 13th, 9 am (virtual)
- Thursday, June 5th, 9 am (hybrid or virtual)



THANK YOU!