



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Task Force Meeting

December 14, 2023



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 Data
4. SRTS Program Updates
5. Traffic and Safety Updates
6. City Project Updates
7. Spring Planning
8. Announcements
9. Next Meetings



1) INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions

- Name
- Agency / Organization

2) SCHOOL UPDATES AND PRIORITIES

School updates

- Encouragement and education activities
- 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. Schools have been collecting data for longer than that as part of the SMCOE SRTS Program.
- 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 2023

- 7 participating schools (elementary and middle)
- 9,939 trips tallied
- Average participate rate per school: 65%

School Travel Tally Results



Fall 2023 Travel Modes

	Walk	Roll	School Bus	Carpool	Family Vehicle	Other/ Public Transit	Alternative travel	Average Response Rate
Elementary Schools	12%	16%	14%	3%	54%	2%	46%	62%
Middle Schools	24%	21%	12%	5%	29%	9%	71%	75%
Citywide	15%	17%	13%	3%	46%	4%	53%	68%

School Travel Tally Results

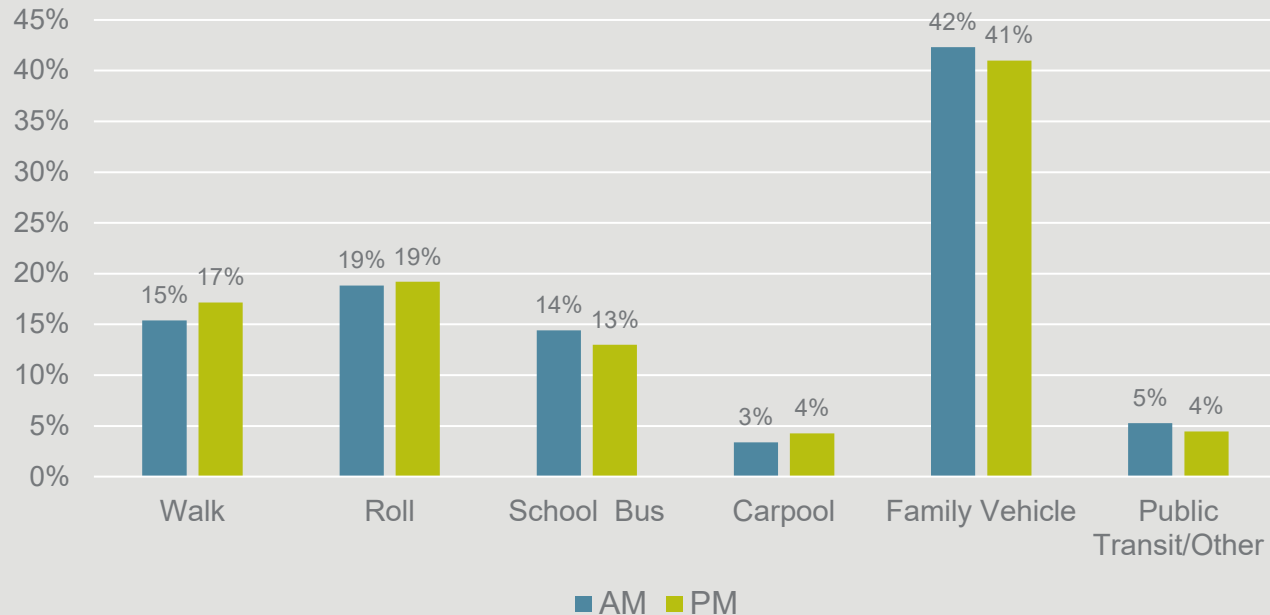
Fall 2023 Key observations

- **More than half of the Menlo Park students** commute to school using a **mode other than the family car**.
- **Biking and taking the school bus** are the most popular alternative transportation modes with **elementary school** students.
- **Walking and biking** are the most popular alternative transportation modes with **middle school** students.
- **Public transit** is a considerable transportation option for **middle school** (almost 10%) students.

School Travel Tally Results

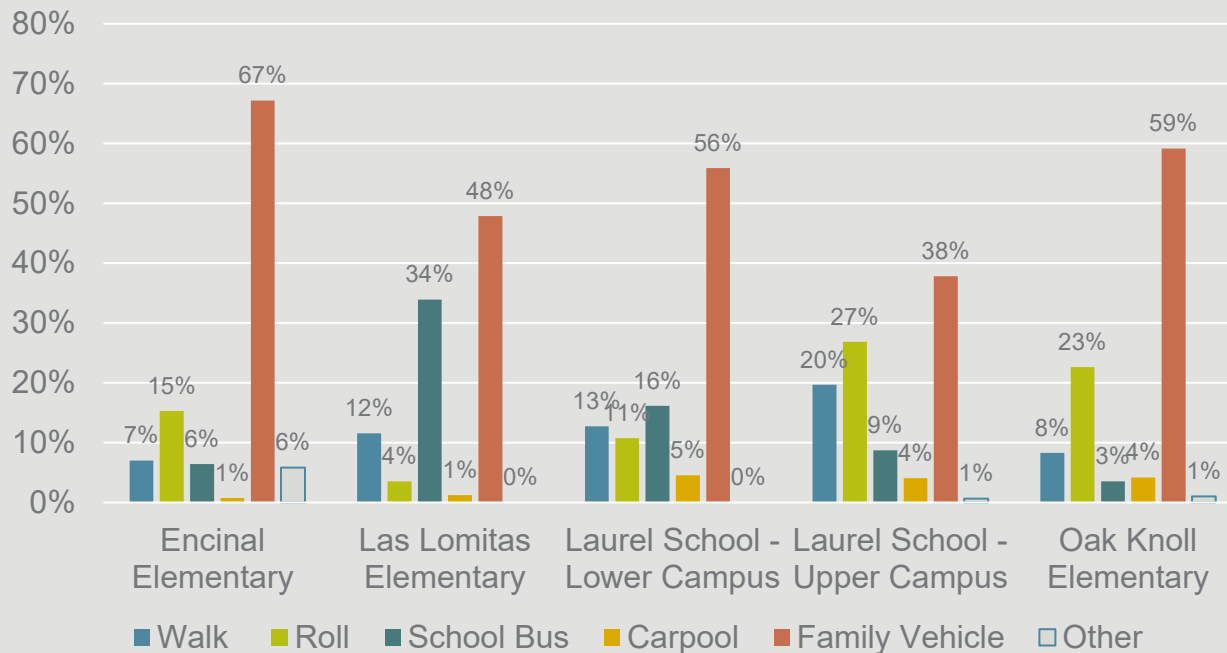
Fall 2023 Travel Modes

Transportation Data Fall 2023 (citywide)



School Travel Tally Results

Fall 2023 Travel Mode Shares per Elementary School



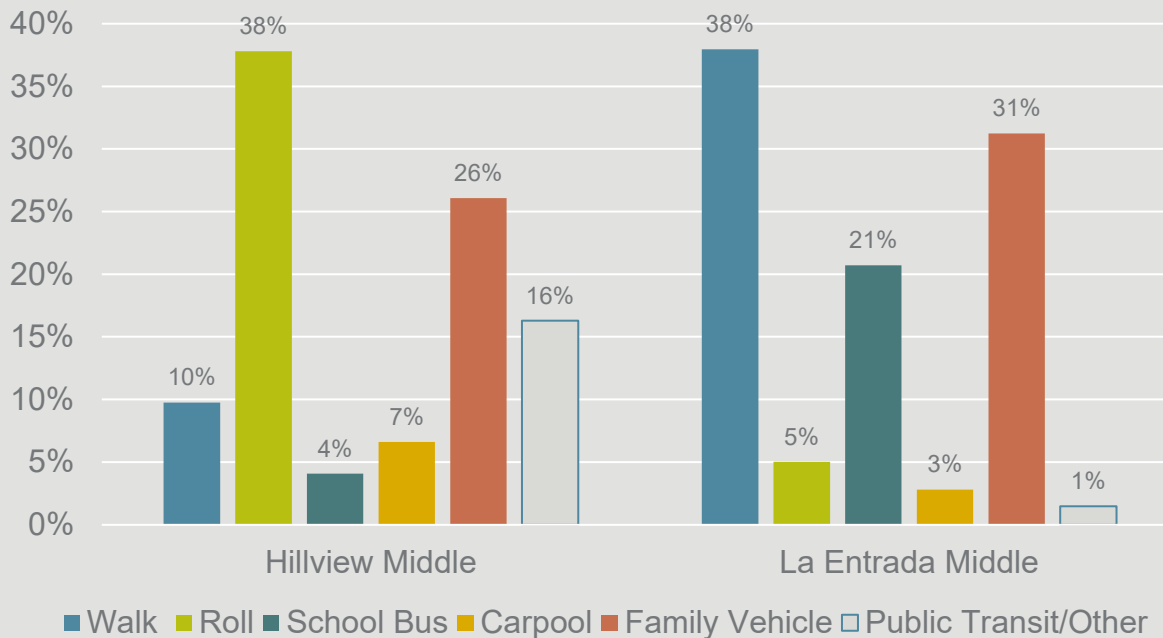
School Travel Tally Results

Fall 2023 Key observations – Elementary Schools

- Students slightly walk and carpool more in the afternoon.
- Taking the **school bus** is the most popular transportation mode at **Las Lomas**.
- **Laurel Upper** and **Las Lomas** have the highest proportions of **alternative transportation** modes to the family vehicle.
- **Laurel Upper** and **Oak Knoll** has the highest proportions of students using **active transportation** to travel to school.

School Travel Tally Results

Fall 2023 Travel Mode Shares per Middle School



School Travel Tally Results

Fall 2023 Key observations – Middle Schools

- Almost **half of Hillview students** (48%) use an **active transportation mode** to travel to and from school.
- **Walking** (38%) and taking the **school bus** (21%) are the most popular transportation modes with **La Entrada** students.
- **Biking** (38%) is the most popular transportation mode for **Hillview** students.
- **Hillview** has the highest proportion of students who take the **public transit** to travel to school (14% in the morning)



School Travel Tally Results

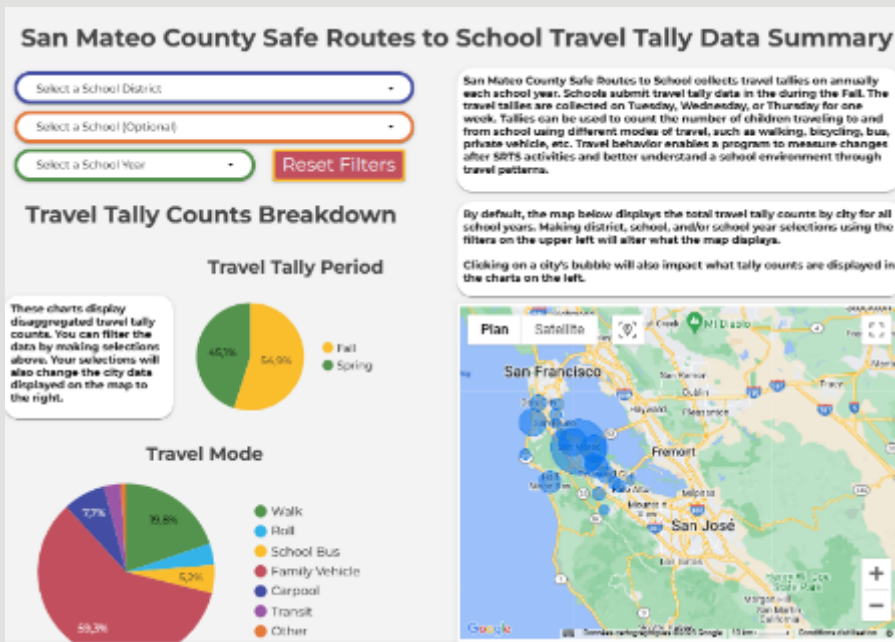


Previous years data

All schools	Before 2020	Fall 2021	Spring 2023	Fall 2023
Walk	15%	17%	17%	15%
Roll	12%	12%	8%	17%
School bus	16%	21%	12%	13%
Carpool	4%	3%	2%	3%
Public transit/ Other	9%	2%	1%	4%
Family Vehicle	52%	47%	60%	46%

School Travel Tally Results

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





4) SRTS PROGRAM UPDATES

SRTS Program Updates

- Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day Recap
- Poster and Video Contest
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Handbook

SRTS Program Updates

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

November 14, 2023

- 5th year of celebrating Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in Menlo Park
- Participating schools
 - Encinal
 - Laurel Lower
 - Laurel Upper
 - Las Lomitas
 - Belle Haven
 - Other?

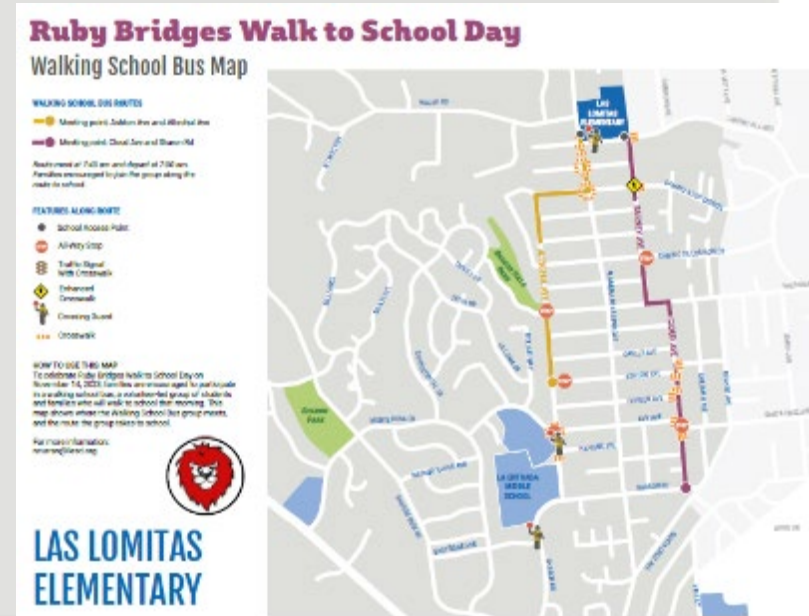


Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023

Technical Assistance from the SRTS team

- AAA's free materials and funding
- Volunteer recruitment and training
- Materials and incentives
- Event planning checklist
- Walking school bus / bike bus support



Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day



Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day at Encinal, participation poster



Las Lomitas families walking with Ruby Bridges flags

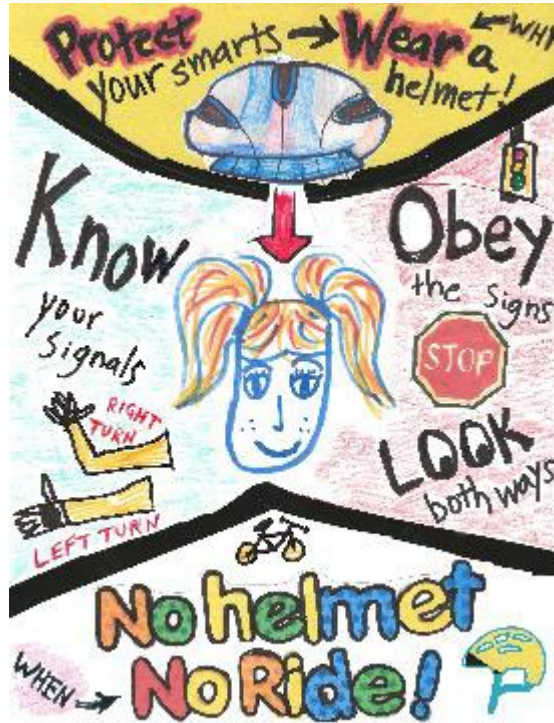
SRTS Program Updates

Poster and Video Contest

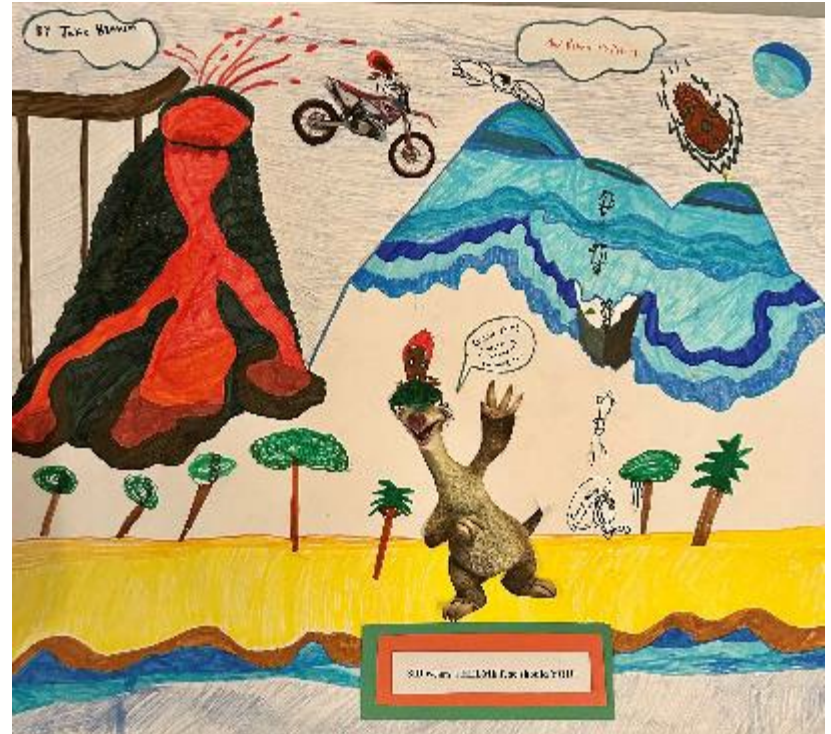
- 2nd edition
- Topic: biking safety and bike etiquette
- Poster contest for elementary students
- Video contest for middle and high school students
- Prizes: gift certificates to Kepler's Books and Sports Basement

SRTS Program Updates

Poster Contest Winners



Sienna and Asha, 2nd graders,
Oak Knoll Elementary



Jake and Rehan, fifth grade at Encinal
Elementary



SRTS Program Updates

Video Contest Winner



SRTS Program Updates

Pedestrian & Bicyclist Safety Handbook

- Walking Safety: street crossing, walking without sidewalk
- Biking Safety: Before you go, California law, avoiding common collision
- Examples specific to Menlo Park streets and schools

- For families: to discuss walking and biking safety at home
- For schools and SRTS champions: provide materials for bike and ped education at the school or language for newsletters, communications with families

SRTS Program Updates

Pedestrian & Bicyclist Safety Handbook

- **For families:** to discuss walking and biking safety at home
- **For schools and SRTS champions:**
 - Provides materials for bike and ped education at the school
 - Provides language for newsletters, communications with families
 - Lots of images and illustrations available to use

Coming early next year: Driver Section

- Awareness of other road users
- “anti-dooring” method or Dutch reach
- Streets markings and treatments (shark teeth, 15 mph school zones)



If you've ever taken a bike ride down Laurel Street, you might have seen intersections with green "boxes" painted between traffic lanes and crosswalks. These are called "bike boxes," a new way of enhancing bicyclist safety at busy intersections. Bike boxes are now installed in many locations across the city

- **What is a bike box?** A bike box is a designated area at the head of a traffic lane, which provides queuing space for bicyclists turning left or traveling straight.
- **How do bicyclists use bike boxes?** Simply proceed into the bike box, stop, and wait for your green light. Position yourself directly in front of cars to increase your visibility. If the bike box is full, wait in the adjacent bike lane.

■ What is a Bike Box

HOW TO SAFELY CROSS RAILROAD TRACKS ON A BICYCLE

If you live near downtown Menlo Park, your children have likely biked across Caltrain tracks on their way to school. These railroad crossings, like those at Ravenswood Avenue, Oak Grove Avenue, Encinal Avenue, and Glenwood Avenue can pose a significant risk for bicycle riders.

Here are some tips to help you and your family safely approach and cross railroad tracks:

- **Approach slowly:** Reduce your speed as you approach the tracks, giving yourself time to assess the crossing and identify the best path across.
- **Be aware of warnings:** Look and listen for trains. Keep an eye out for lowering gates, flashing lights, and ringing bells indicating



RIGHT HOOK

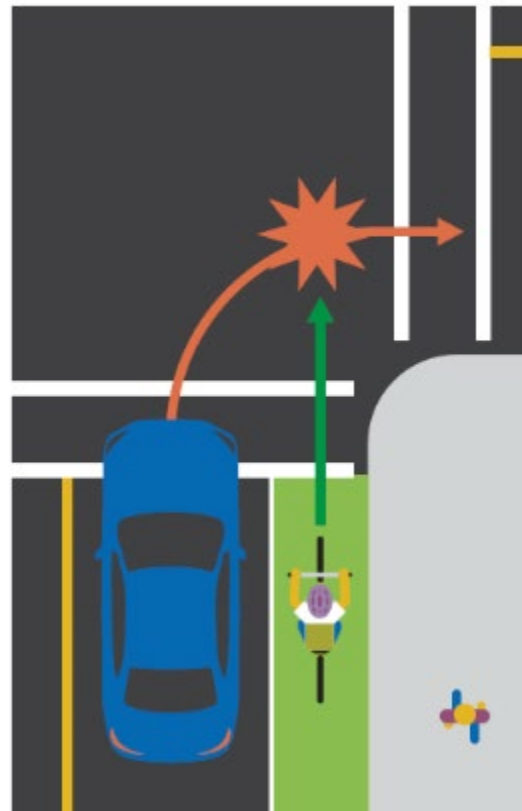
“Right hooks” occur when a cyclist is riding to the right of motor vehicle traffic, and a motor vehicle attempts to make a right turn, crossing the cyclist’s path.

To prevent right hooks, be visible, position yourself, signal your intentions, use non-verbal communication with drivers, and take the lane if necessary.

To minimize right hook collisions, the California Vehicle Code requires drivers to merge into bike lanes prior to turning right at such intersections.

Remember:

- If a driver is approaching the intersection, bicyclists should be on alert for the car’s right-turn signal and avoid traveling in the car’s blind spot.
- If a driver is already merging or in the bike lane ahead of a bicyclist, the bicyclist should either pass the car on the left or wait for it to complete its turn before continuing on.





5) TRAFFIC AND SAFETY UPDATES



6) CITY PROJECT UPDATES

CITY PROJECT UPDATES

- **Middle Avenue Complete Streets**

Bike lane pilot is complete. Will be conducting outreach and data collection starting early next year



- **Belle Haven traffic calming plan**

Currently under construction: new bulb outs and speed humps will be completed this year. Changes to Willow/Newbridge

CITY PROJECT UPDATES

- **Coleman-Ringwood Avenue Study**

Survey on potential pilot options for Coleman Avenue is now open.

- **Vision Zero Action Plan**

Recommended for adoption by the Complete Streets Commissions on 12/13. Final plan at menlopark.gov/visionzero





7) SPRING PLANNING



SPRING PLANNING



- **E-bike safety:** continue the discussion with the schools and community members, explore options to increase e-bike safety with students
- **Spring citywide encouragement event**
- **Focused-area discussions**

SPRING PLANNING

Spring encouragement activities

- Involve more people around the spring activities
- Create a planning committee with parents, school administrator to help shaping the spring outreach events
- Will start meeting in January

SPRING PLANNING

Focused-area discussions

- Identify focused-area challenges and opportunities.
- Set up SRTS shared goals per area.
- Develop customized programs and strategies to address the identified priorities.

8) ANNOUNCEMENTS



ANNOUNCEMENTS





8) NEXT MEETING

SAVE THE DATE!

- Thursday, March 21 at 9 am



THANK YOU!