



To: Marisa Lee, City of Los Altos  
From: Courtney Wood & Andre-Anne Cadieux, Alta Planning + Design  
Date: February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022  
Re: Los Altos Safe Routes to School | Fall 2021 Evaluation Data Analysis

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## Introduction

In fall 2021, the City of Los Altos Safe Routes to School Program collected information through student hand tallies and parent/caregiver surveys to provide insight on how families travel to and from school and what challenges students face as they walk and bike to school in Los Altos. The two types of surveys collected are as follows:

- **Parent/caregiver surveys.** Parent surveys are distributed to understand the concerns and motives for caregivers to consider walking or biking with their children. The parent surveys were collected through an online survey form.
- **Student travel tallies.** These capture how students travel to and from school and provide a snapshot of student travel behavior at each school, as well as contribute to tracking larger trends across the county and over time.

## Student Travel Tally Results

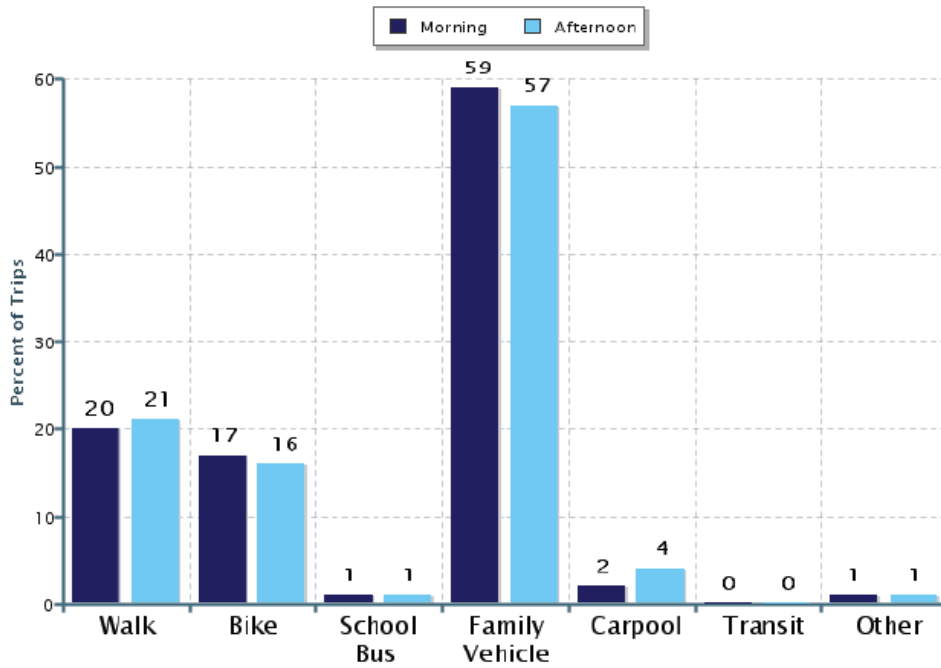
In October, elementary and middle schools from the Los Altos School District (LASD) and the Cupertino Union School District (CUSD) were encouraged to conduct student hand tallies. The results were collected by teachers who each provided a breakdown of the number of students traveling by different modes at school arrival and dismissal. Seven schools from the two school districts collected tallies. A total of 4,632 morning student trips and 4,149 afternoon student trips were recorded. The participating schools were:

- Covington Elementary School, Los Altos School District (585 students)
- Egan Junior High School, Los Altos School District (585 students)
- Loyola Elementary School, Los Altos School District (404 students)
- Montclair Elementary School, Cupertino Union School District (428 students)
- Oak Avenue Elementary School, Los Altos School District (387 students)
- Santa Rita Elementary School, Los Altos School District (524 students)
- Springer Elementary School, Los Altos School District (468 students)

For all the schools where hand tallies were conducted, the most typical travel mode was by family vehicle. The school with the greatest mode share for “walking” was Springer Elementary, while the school with the lowest was Egan Junior High with an average walk mode share of 13.5 between the morning and afternoon tallies. Egan Junior High was the school with the greatest mode share for “biking” while Montclair Elementary had the lowest percentage of students biking to school.

**Mode Share (%) for the Los Altos School District**

Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison



Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison

	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Morning	3950	20%	17%	1%	59%	2%	0.0%	0.7%
Afternoon	3596	21%	16%	1%	57%	4%	0.0%	0.7%

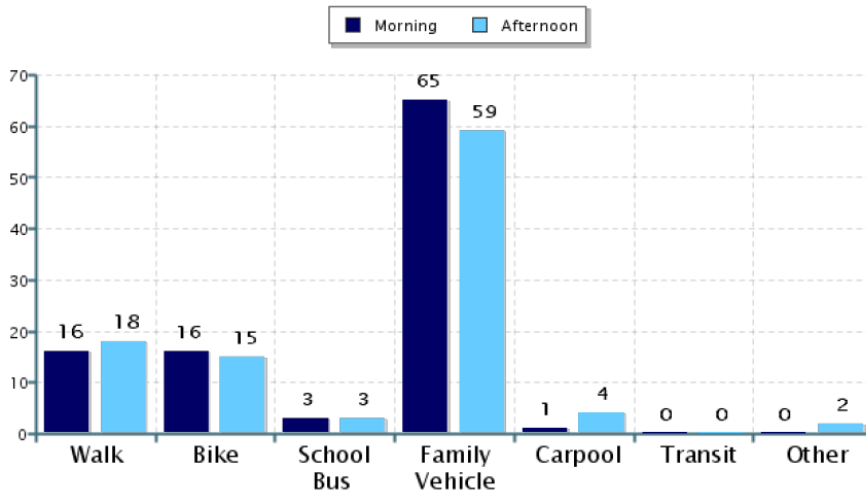
Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

### Mode Share (%) per Individual Schools

#### Loyola Elementary School (LASD)

Total of 586 trips (morning and afternoon)

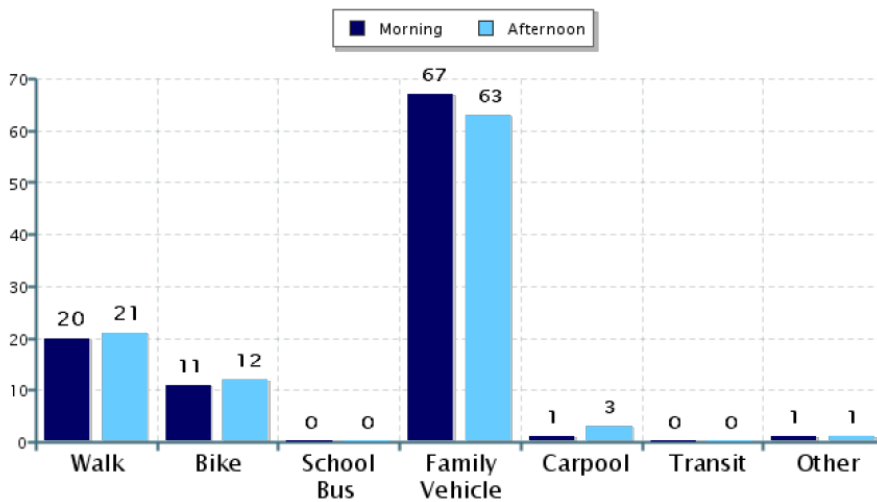
Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison



#### Santa Rita Elementary School (LASD)

Total of 617 trips in the morning and 618 in the afternoon

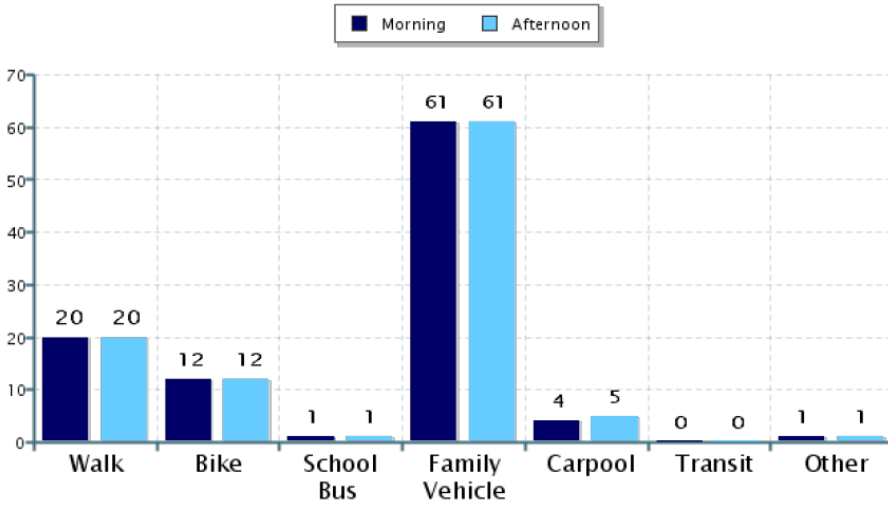
Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison



**Covington Elementary School (LASD)**

Total of 815 trips in the morning and 782 in the afternoon

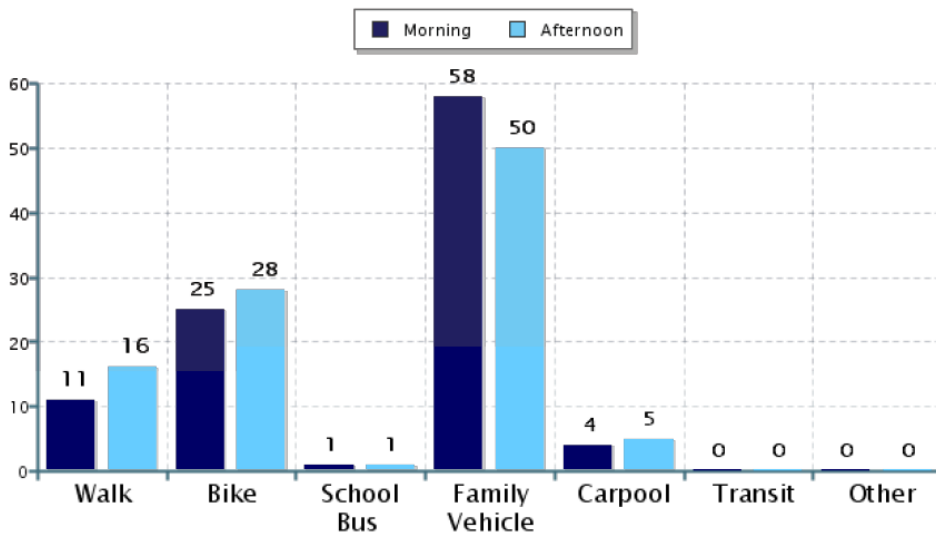
Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison



**Egan Junior High School (LASD)**

Total of 799 trips in the morning and 614 trips in the afternoon

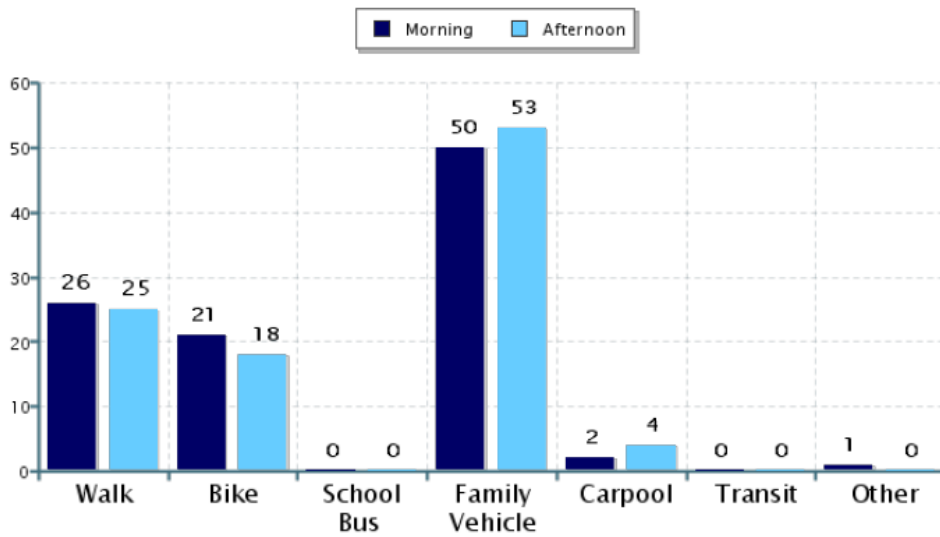
Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison



**Oak Avenue Elementary School (LASD)**

Total of 609 trips in the morning and 534 trips in the afternoon

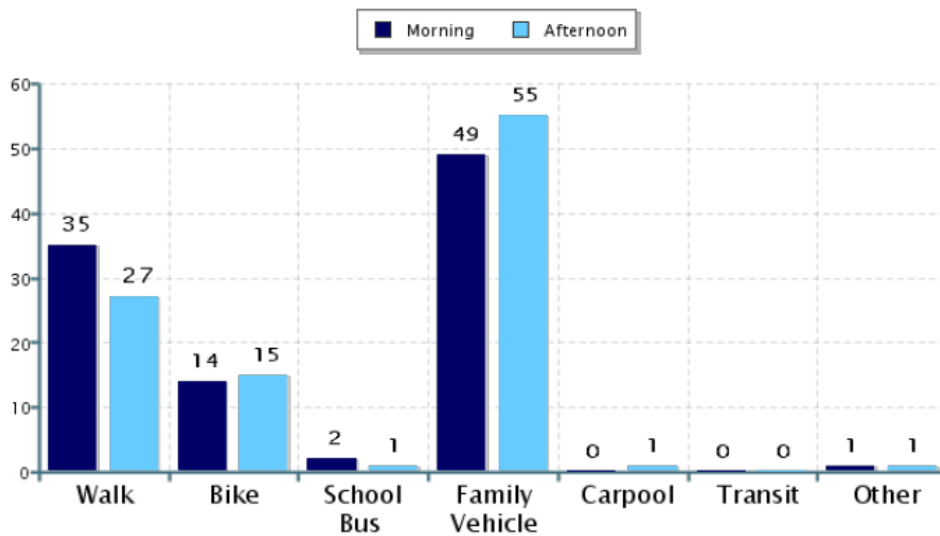
Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison



**Springer Elementary School (LASD)**

Total of 524 trips in the morning and 462 trips in the afternoon

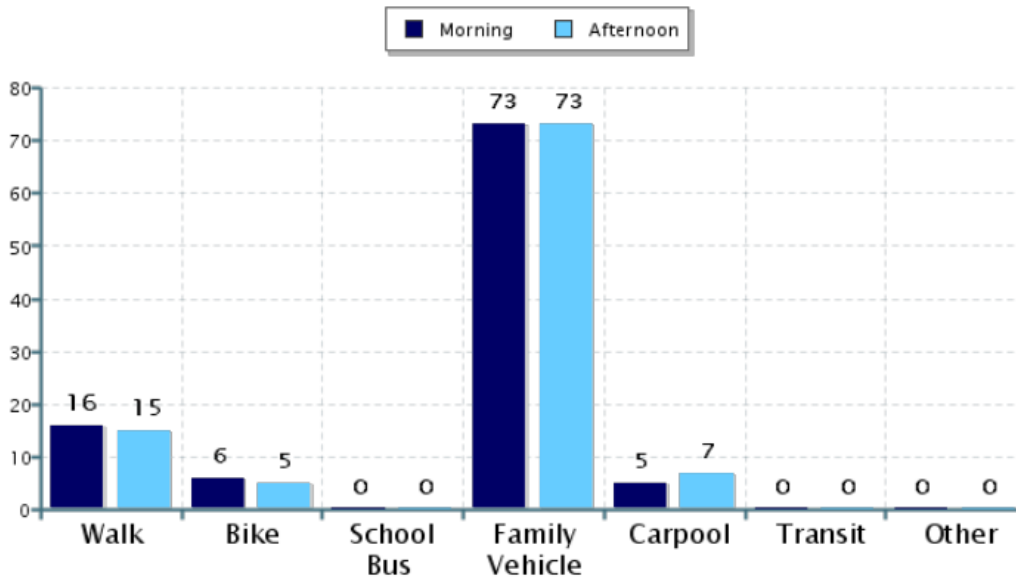
Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison



Montclair Elementary School (CUSD)

Total of 682 trips in the morning and 553 trips in the afternoon

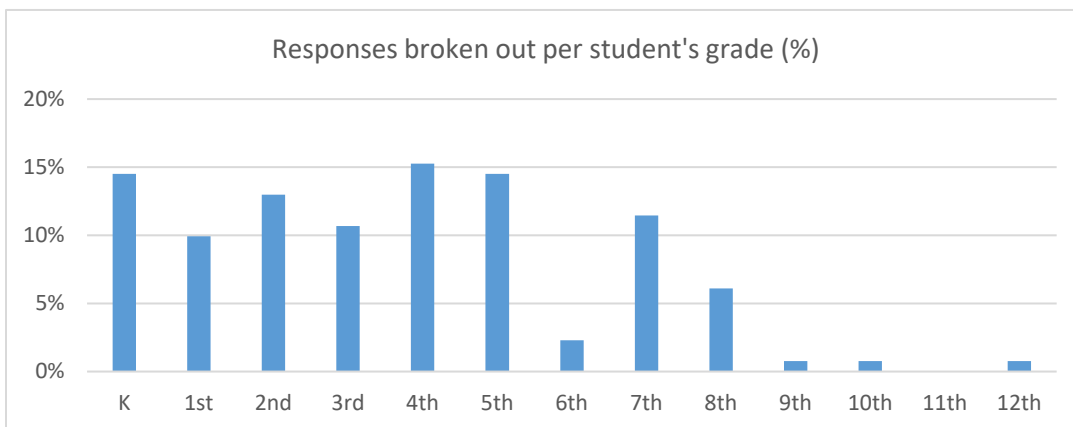
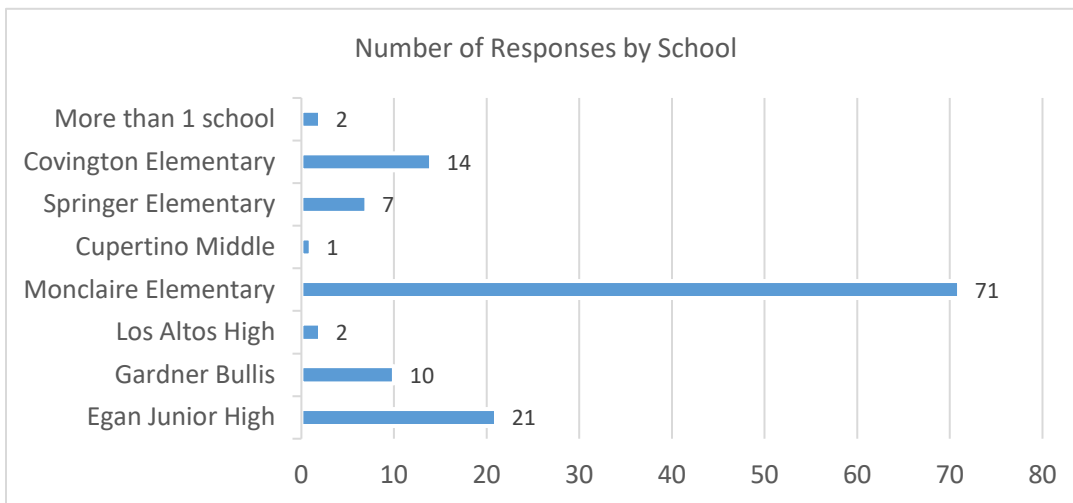
Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison



## Parent/Caregiver Survey Results

The parent and caregiver survey was disseminated in October and November 2021 and received 126 responses. All public schools serving Los Altos families were encouraged to promote the survey. Families from seven schools in Los Altos School District (41% of the responses), Cupertino Union School District (57% of the responses) and Mountain View-Los Altos School District (2%) completed the survey. The following is the breakdown of respondents by school and their students' grade levels:

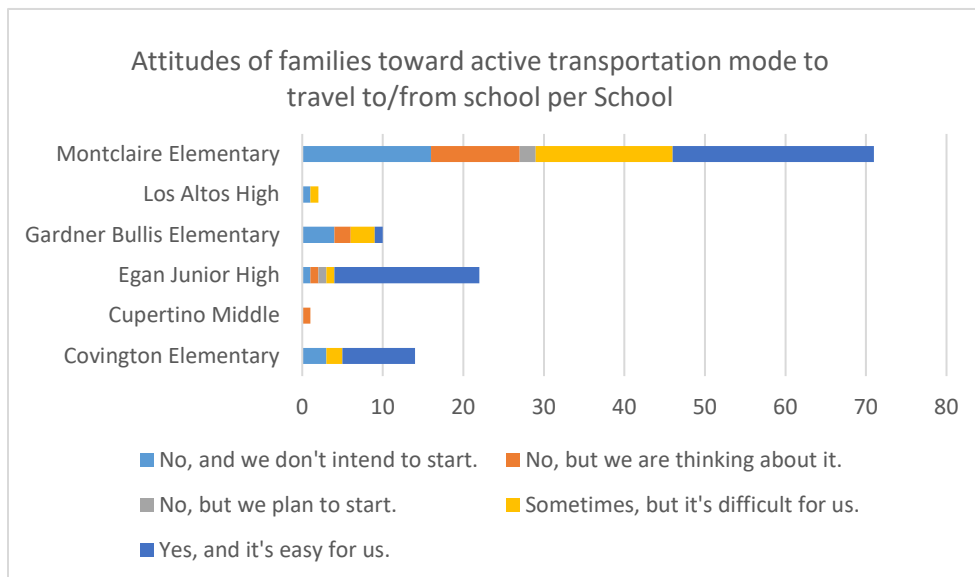
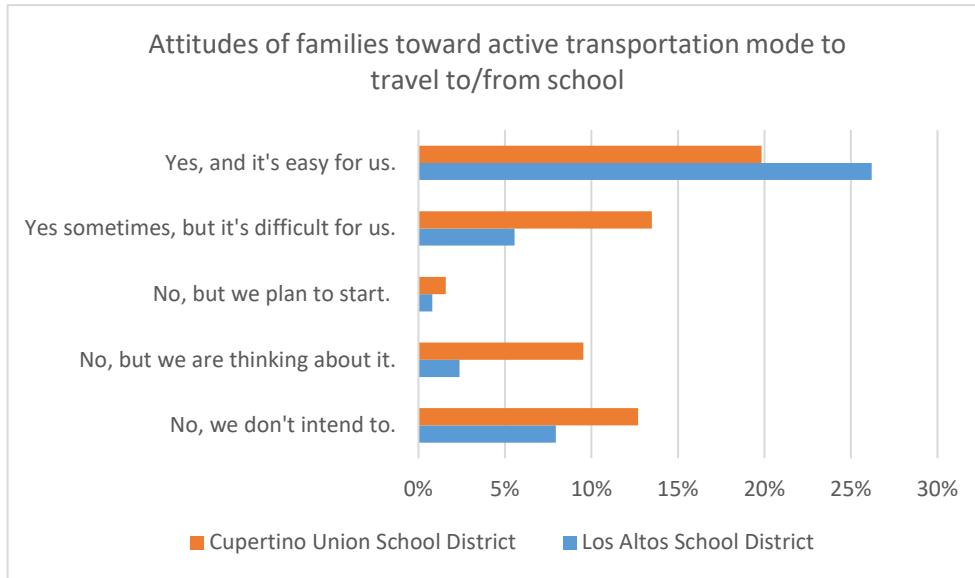
- Covington Elementary School, Los Altos School District – 11%
- Cupertino Middle School, Cupertino Union School District- <1%
- Egan Middle School, Los Altos School District – 17%
- Gardner Bullis Elementary School, Los Altos School District – 8%
- Los Altos High School, Mountain View-Los Altos School District – <2%
- Montclair Elementary School, Cupertino Union School District – 56%
- Springer Elementary School, Los Altos School District – 6%



### 1. Attitudes Towards Walking and Biking

The survey responses show that:

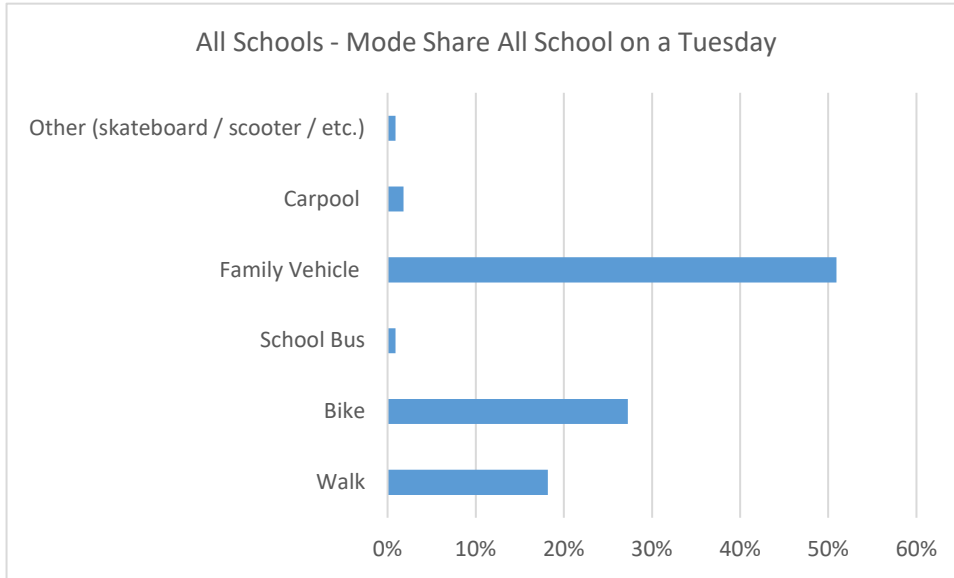
- 27% of the respondents live within ½ mile of their school
- 76% of all families who live less than 1/2 mile of their school walk or bike to/from school and 15% walk or bike sometimes.
- 46% of families who live more than ½ mile from their school walk or bike to/from school, and it is easy for them



The data above are in numbers instead of percentages because some schools have a very low number of respondents (less than five).



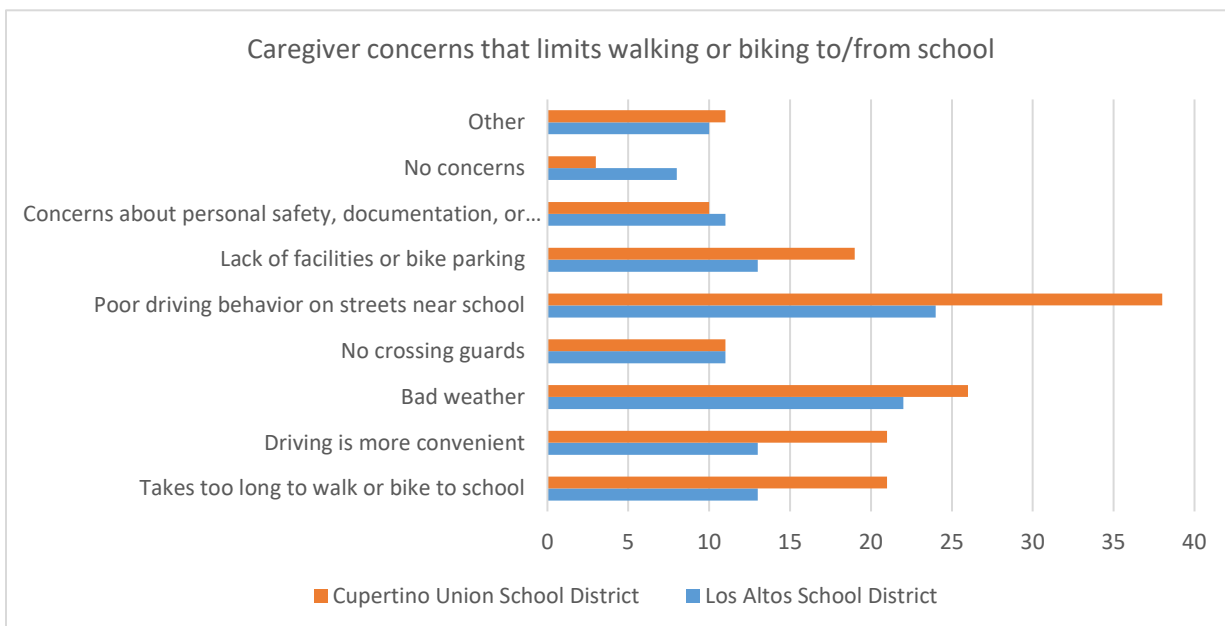
The survey responses to the question “How did this student travel to school last week?” are consistent with the student travel tally data showing that the family vehicle is the main transportation mode.



## 2. Top 3 concerns that limit student’s ability to walk/bike to/from school

The top three concerns reported by parents in both school districts were:

- Poor driving behavior on streets near school (50%)
- Bad weather (38%)
- Taking too long to walk or bike to school and Driving is more convenient (27%)

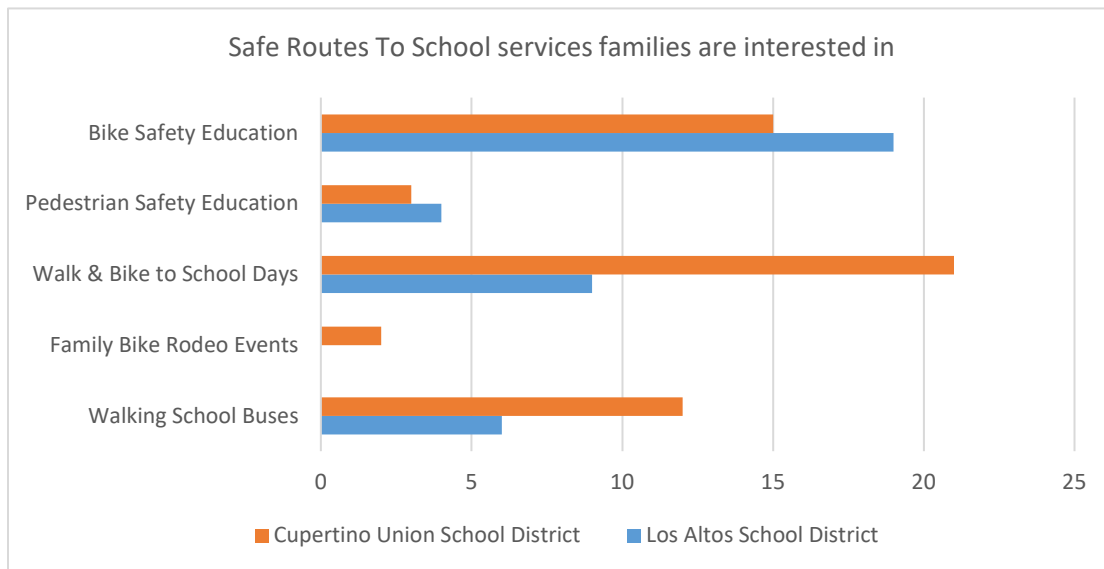


Nearly 20% of the respondents indicated they had another concern, some of which included:

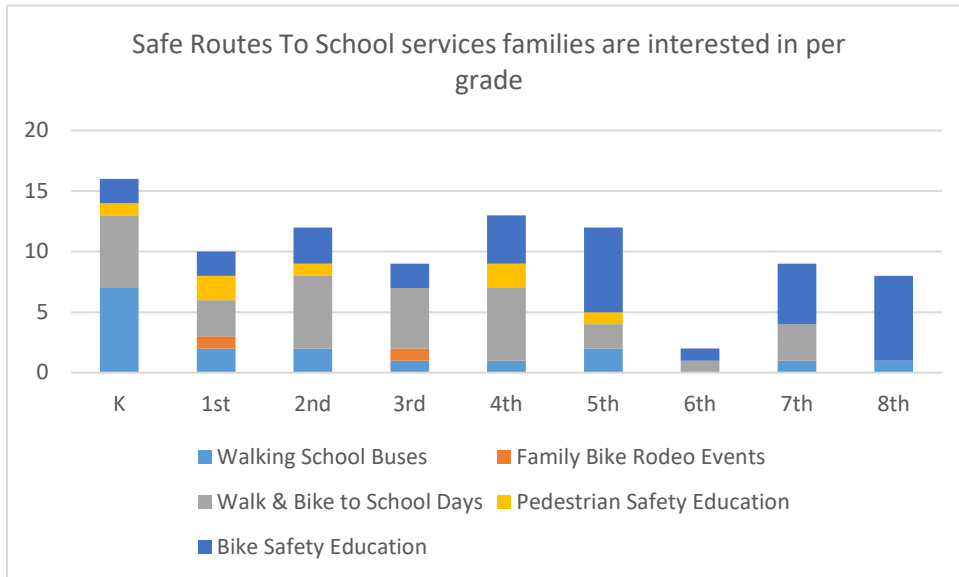
- Distance and number of busy/large roads to cross
- Child's energy level at the end of school
- Siblings that attend school/ preschool at different location
- Heavily trafficked roads
- Too many hills

### 3. Services that parents are interested in

This section shows what services interest families in Los Altos and can help identify priorities regarding encouragement and education activities. In LASD, bike safety education got the most responses while in CUSD, Walk & Roll to School days got the highest number of responses, followed by bike safety education.



Families with students in grade 4 and older are more interested in bike safety education activities while Walk & Roll to School days are more popular among caregivers of younger students. Parents of kindergarten students are the most interested in walking school buses.



Over 15% of the respondents indicated they had another service they were interested in, some of which included:

- Improving bike lanes and traffic calming measures
- Crossing guard program and training
- School bus (Grant Park)
- Teen driving safety education
- Enforcement activities, e.g., drivers being ticketed for illegal actions, officials (staff, crossing guards or police) at crosswalk, police presence to educate unsafe drivers
- Parent/driver education regarding bike lanes laws and designated bike routes
- Road improvement to increase safety around Expressway crossing

#### 4. Other Comments on Walking and Biking to/from School

There were 32 comments on walking and biking to/from school, including:

- Suggested routes to school are not adequately safe to walk or bike to/from school
- Need for greater police enforcement
- Education for drivers that are not compliant with traffic laws
- Lack of sidewalks and bicycle facilities
- Concerns about specific locations such as Granger Avenue, Deodara Drive, St. Joseph Avenue, S Clark Avenue & El Monte Avenue, Rosita Avenue, Fremont Avenue and San Antonio Road

## Appendix 1. Data Collection Instruments

### *Elementary and Middle School Tally Instructions*

#### Fall 2021 Student Travel Tally Elementary and Middle School Instructions



Thank you for participating in the City of Los Altos Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program! These hand tallies give the City and school community valuable information about how students travel to school, and they also help us offer more effective biking, walking, carpooling, and transit programming in coming years.

Conduct the travel tallies by following these easy steps:

1. **Receive the intake questionnaire:** The week of September 27<sup>th</sup>, your SRTS coordinator will send an email to your school with the intake questionnaire.
2. **Fill out and submit the questionnaire by October 4<sup>th</sup>:** Fill out and submit the intake questionnaire, selecting one day between October 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> for your school's classrooms to complete the travel tallies. (Conducting all tallies on your selected day minimizes differences in weather and other factors.) Important: Do not select a Monday or any day with a special event or programming. Please fill out and submit the survey by October 4, 2021.
3. **Schedule tallies:** If students at the school do not change rooms during the day, teachers can choose a time of day that works best for them to conduct the tallies during the selected day. If you have a period schedule (if students change rooms), be sure to designate one school period to conduct the tallies on the date you previously selected to ensure students are not counted twice as they change classes.
4. **Inform staff about incentives:** Let your staff know that if they conduct the hand tallies with their class, they will be entered into a raffle to win one of twelve \$25 school supply gift cards! Note: Teachers must complete their tallies, and they must have been returned by October 25<sup>th</sup> to qualify for participation in the gift card drawing.
5. **Conduct the tallies:** On your selected day, please ensure that at least two classrooms per grade conduct the 5-minute student travel tally. To conduct the tally, follow the instructions on the Student Travel Tally form.
6. **Submit the tallies:** Collect all hand tallies from teachers (if applicable), and return them to the SRTS Coordinator PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE STUDENT TRAVEL TALLIES BY OCTOBER 25<sup>th</sup>.

**THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!**

Elementary and Middle School Student Travel Tally Form

## Student Travel Tally



School District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Students Enrolled in Class: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Please note the weather.
2. Read all choices aloud before asking students to raise their hands, providing age-appropriate explanations where needed. (For example, please explain the difference between “family vehicle” and “carpool”.) Please ask your students how they arrived at school yesterday and how they got home yesterday. Then please ask your students how they arrived at school today and how they plan to get home.
3. Check to confirm that the total for each row matches the total number of students enrolled.

	Weather S= Sunny R= Rainy O= Overcast F= Frost	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool (with children from outside their household)	Public Transit (bus, train, etc.)	Other (skateboard, scooter, etc.)	#Absent	Total
Yesterday AM										
Yesterday PM										
Today AM										
Today PM										

List any disruptions, scheduled activities, or unusual travel conditions before or after school that may impact these

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Please complete survey and return to the City of Los Altos SR2S Program. Thanks for your participation!

## Parent/Caregiver Survey

### Parent/Caregiver Survey



Thank you for participating in this brief survey to share information about your student’s travel behavior and your perceptions of transportation safety. Safe Routes to School helps create safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to walk, bike and roll to and from school.

If you have multiple students at the same school, complete the survey for the child that brought the survey home or your oldest child at the school that contacted you.

Please return this survey to your school office. If you would prefer to take the survey online, it is available here: [[Insert Link to Online Survey Here](#)]

1. What city do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What school does this student attend? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What grade is this student in? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is this student’s gender? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How far does this student live from school? (circle the response)
 

Less than ¼ mile	¼ - ½ mile	½ - 1 mile	1-2 miles	More than 2 miles: _____ miles
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6. Does your child walk/bike to/from school?
  - Our child doesn’t walk/bike to/from school, and we don’t intend to start.
  - Our child doesn’t walk/bike to/from school, but we are thinking about it.
  - Our child doesn’t walk/bike to/from school, but we plan to start.
  - Our child does walk/bike to/from school sometimes, but it’s difficult for us.
  - Our child does walk/bike to/from school, and it’s easy for us.

7. How did this student travel TO school last week? Mark the mode this student used for each day of the week.
 

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Walk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bike	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
School bus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family vehicle (with your children only)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carpool (with children from other families)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public transit (bus/train)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (skateboard/scooter/etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. How did this student travel FROM school last week? Mark the mode this student used for each day of the week.
 

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Walk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bike	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
School bus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family vehicle (with your children only)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carpool (with children from other families)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public transit (bus/train)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (skateboard/scooter/etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



9. Do you allow this student to travel to school in the following ways? Mark your response for each mode.

	No	Yes, by themselves	Yes, with a friend or sibling	Yes, with a trusted adult
Walk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bike	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
School bus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family vehicle (with your children only)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carpool (with children from other families)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public transit (bus/train)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

<i>Walking/biking to school is...</i>	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
...fun for my student	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...healthy for my student	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...encouraged by my student's school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...something I wish we did more often	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. What concerns limit this student's ability to walk or bike to/from school? (please select up to three concerns)

- Takes too long to walk or bike to school
- Driving is more convenient due to parent(s) work schedules, household routines/schedules (sibling activities, dual households), child's before or after school activities
- Bad weather
- No crossing guards
- Poor driving behavior on streets near school (distracted driving, speeding, not yielding at crosswalks)
- Lack of facilities or bike parking (no sidewalks, bike paths or routes; sidewalks/bike routes are in disrepair; street crossings are unsafe)
- Concerns about personal safety, documentation, or criminal activity
- No concerns
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

12. What Safe Routes to School services are you interested in?

- Walking School Buses
- Family Bike Rodeos
- Walk & Roll Days
- Pedestrian safety education
- Bike safety education
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

13. What is your race/ethnicity? *Note: This is only used to track who we're reaching with this survey.*

\_\_\_\_\_

14. Are you interested in learning more about volunteering with Safe Routes to School or becoming a SRTS Champion?

Yes      No

15. Would you like to be entered into a drawing to win a safety-oriented prize?

Yes      No

16. If you replied yes to either of the above questions, please provide your name and contact information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_



17. Do you have any other comments or feedback on transportation to your school?

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!