



## Safe Routes to School Results *Clear Lake Elementary*

### Purpose of the Safe Routes to School Evaluation

- To gather information on the self transport patterns and issues for Bethel elementary students.
- To use information to apply for federal Safe Routes to School educational and infrastructure funding to help increase safe, active child transport to and from schools.

### Overall Participation

- Data were collected during October/November 2008.
- *Teacher Tallies*: 80% of teachers completed classroom tallies (12 of 15 classrooms).
- *Parent Surveys*: 51% of Clear Lake families completed the parent survey (162 of 316 households).

### Results of Teacher Tally

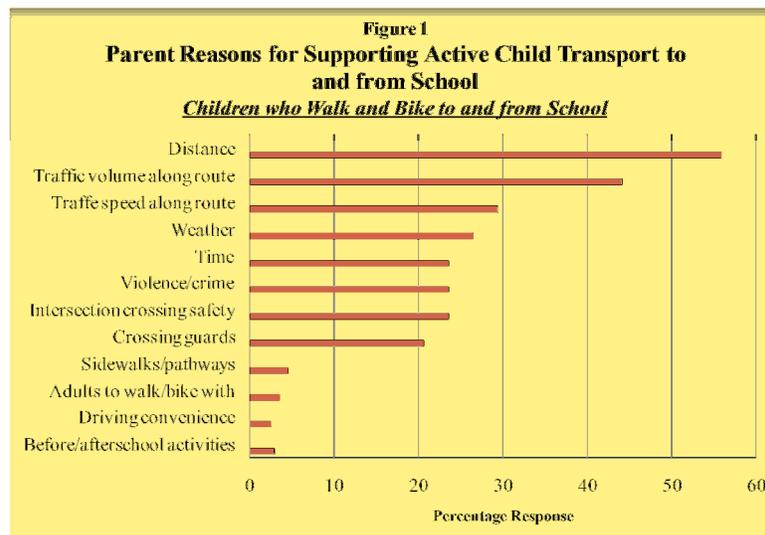
- 70% of Clear Lake students arrived and departed from school by motor vehicle (37% by families, 29% by school bus).
- 26% of children actively self-transported both to and from school.

### Results of Parent Survey

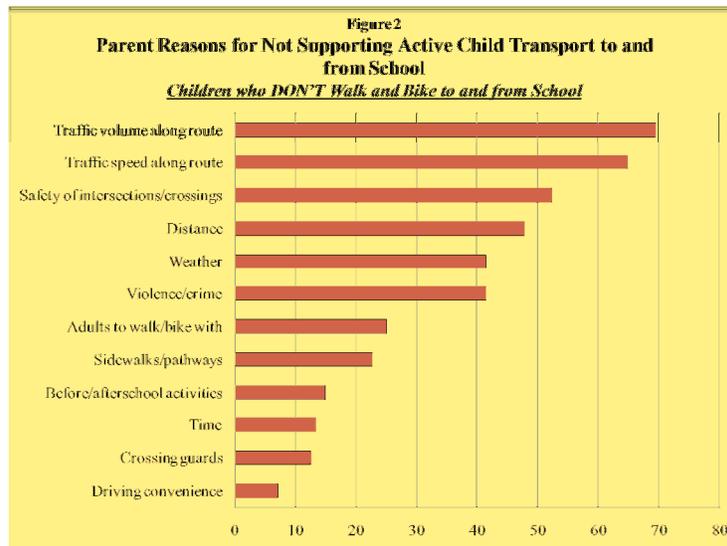
#### *Active transport by students*

- For students who lived within a quarter mile of school 57% actively transported themselves to school and 57% from school.
- Parents commented they were comfortable with children walking or biking to school by grades 3-5.

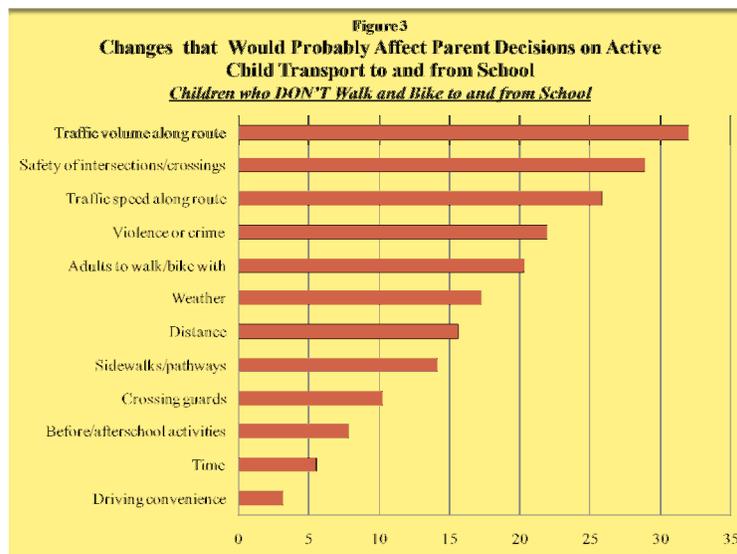
Issues which affect parents' decisions to allow or not allow their children to actively transport themselves to school, for children who walk or bike to and from school were: distance to school, comfort with the traffic volume along their child's route, and comfort with car traffic speeds (Figure 1).



Issues which affect parents' decisions to allow or not allow their children to actively transport themselves to school, for children who DON'T walk or bike to and from school were: concerns for traffic volume and speed along child's route and safety of intersections and crossings (Figure 2).



Changes parents indicated **WOULD PROBABLY** allow children to walk/bike to and from school: traffic volume, speed and safety at intersections and crossings, violence and crime (including harassment from older children), and having adults present with children (Figure 3).



**Summary**

The Safe Routes to School assessment highlighted important areas Clear Lake could address to promote active child transport to and from school. Most parents who completed surveys indicated they felt the school took a neutral role on this child activity. The most important changes for increasing student walking and biking to and from school were reducing traffic volume and speed along routes to school, increasing safety of intersections and crossings, reducing violence, and having more adults willing and able to accompany students in along school routes.