



Safe Routes to School Results *Fairfield 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:* 93% of teachers completed classroom tallies (14 of 15 classrooms).
- *Parent Surveys:* 48% of Fairfield parent surveys were completed on enrolled students (163 of 337 surveys distributed).

Results of Teacher Tally

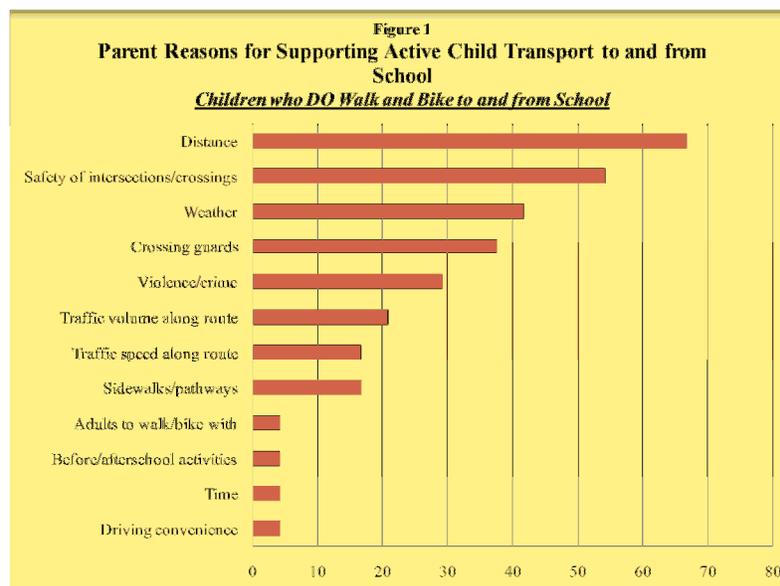
- 79% of Fairfield students arrived and departed from school by motor vehicle (19% by families, 58% by school bus).
- 21% of Fairfield students actively self-transported to and from school.

Results of Parent Survey

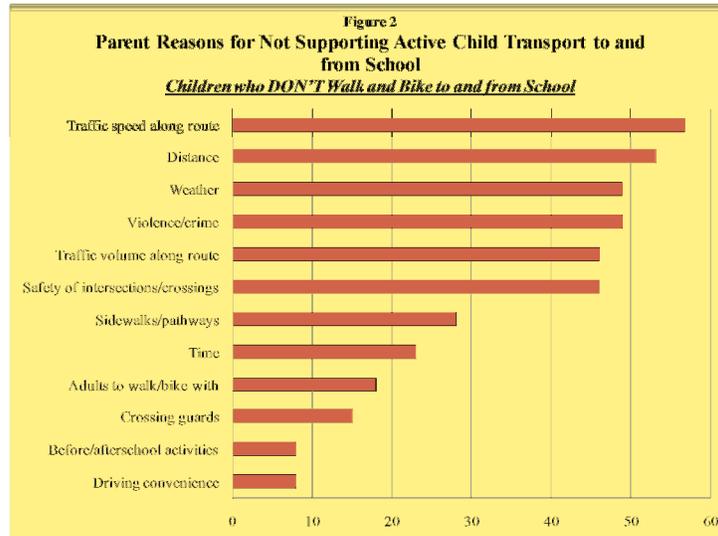
Active transport by students

- For students who lived within a quarter mile of school 48% actively transported themselves to school and 53% from school.
- Parents indicated they were more comfortable with children walking or biking to school by grades 3-5.

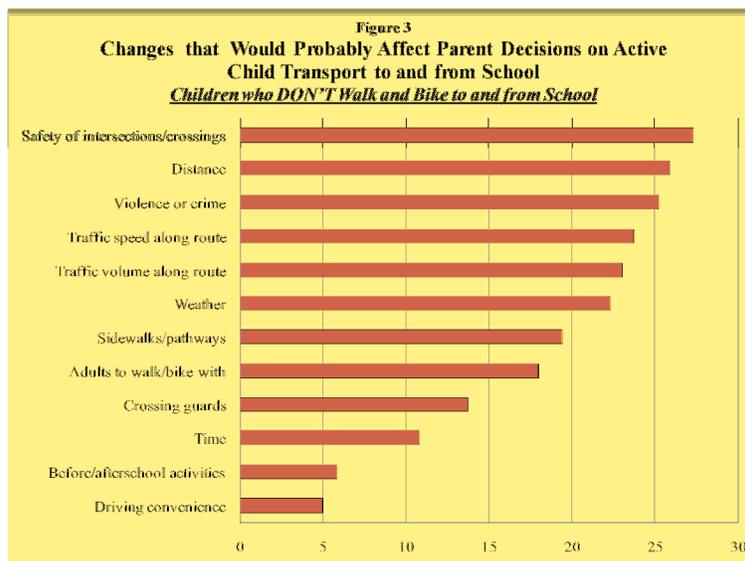
Issues which affect parents' decisions to allow or not allow their children to actively transport themselves to school, for children who walk or bike to and from school were: distance to school, safety of intersections/crossing, and crossing guards (Figure 1).



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: traffic speed along the route, distance to school, and violence and crime (including harassment from older children) (Figure 2).



Changes parents indicated **WOULD PROBABLY** allow children to walk/bike to and from school were: safety of intersections/crossings, distance from school, and 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 Fairfield could address to promote active child transport to and from school. The most important changes for increasing student walking and biking to and from school were safety of intersections and crossings, reducing violence, reducing traffic volume and speed along routes to school.