



## **Torquay Elementary**

4413 Torquay Drive

Grades: K-5

Number of students:

233

**Principal:** Cindy Harte

## **Survey and Walkabout Summary**

Torquay Elementary participated in the District of Saanich's Active and Safe Routes to School 2017-2018 program. The program provides tools for students to walk, cycle, or otherwise use active transportation for the school journey wherever possible.

Additionally, a neighborhood walkabout was conducted to further support the survey information.

This report provides the results from the surveys and walkabouts. Together the survey and walkabout information gathered will help identify desired active transportation improvements and preferred routes.

## **Survey Results**

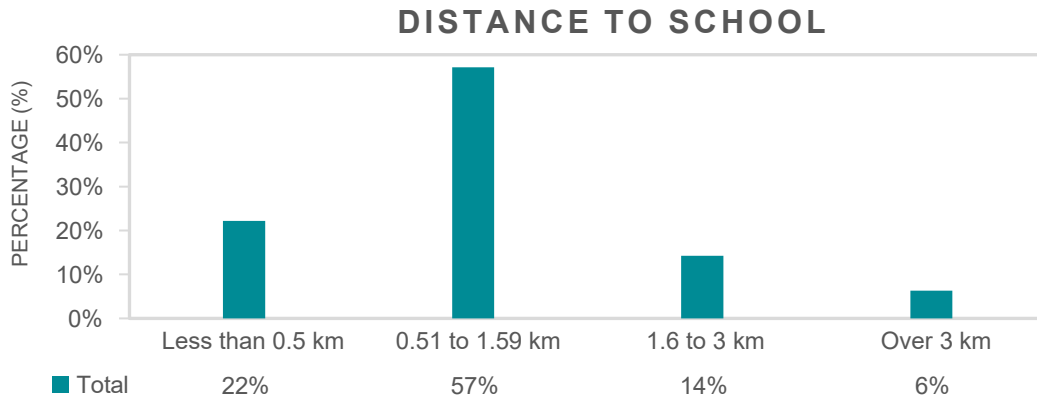
An on-line school travel survey was distributed to parents between October 16-27, 2017. 63 families completed the survey representing 82 children which is approximately 35% of Torquay Elementary's school population. The purpose of the survey was to gain information about the schools travel choices. Below is a summary of the results from the completed surveys.

# Active and Safe Routes to School Survey Summary 2017-2018 Program

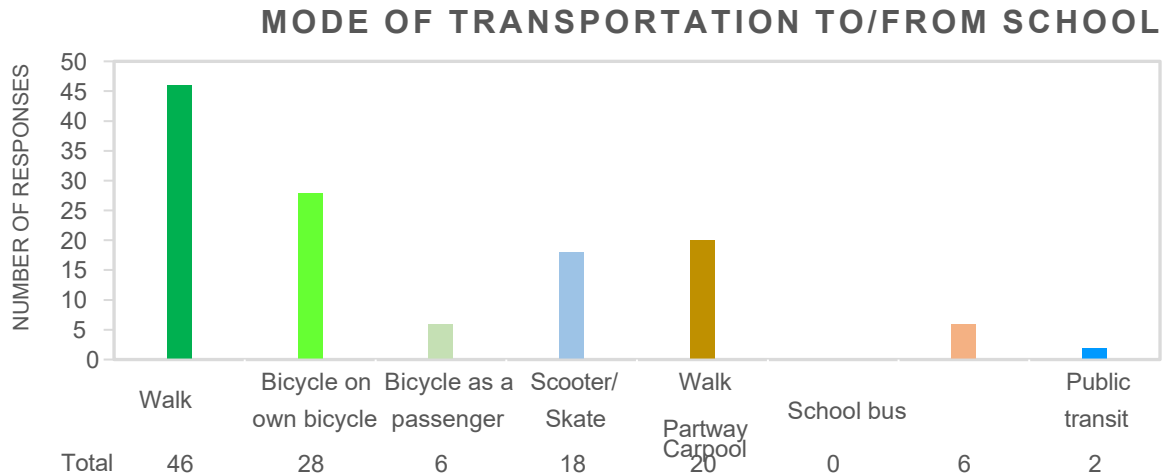
## Distance

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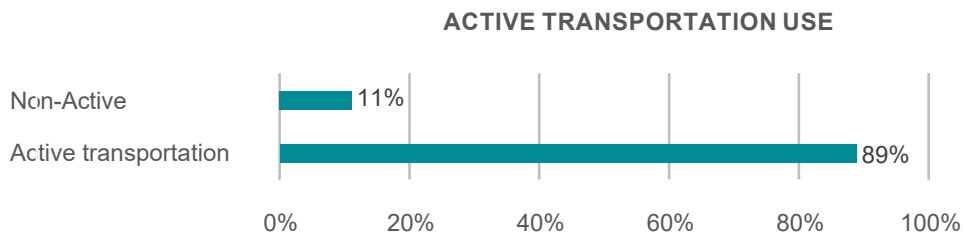
How far away from the school do you live?



During the 2016/2017 school year, did your eldest child travel to/from school at least once by: (select all that apply)



Students that used at least one form of active transportation to travel to/from school in the last year

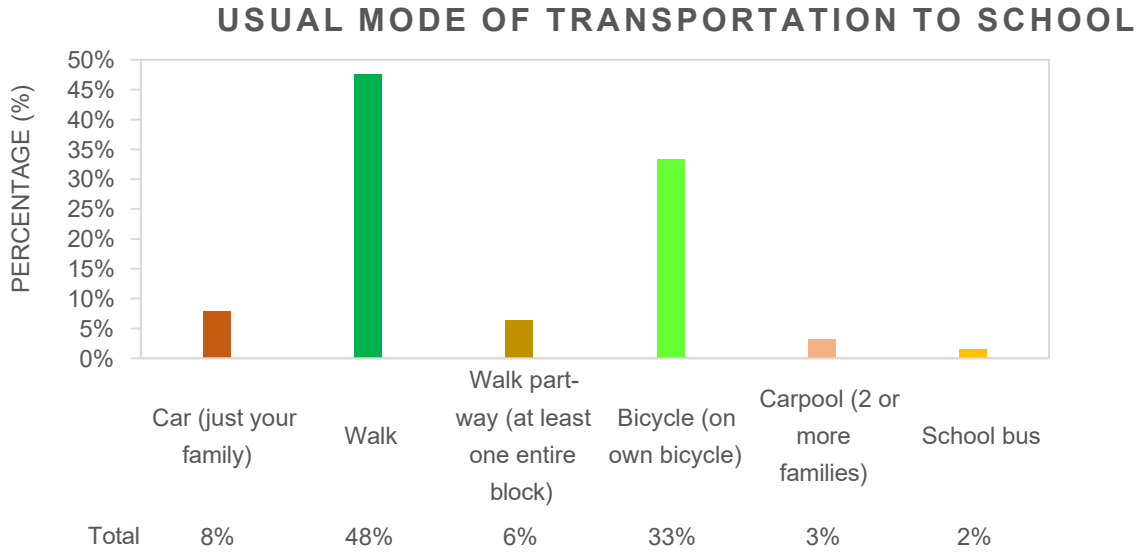


# Active and Safe Routes to School Survey Summary 2017-2018 Program

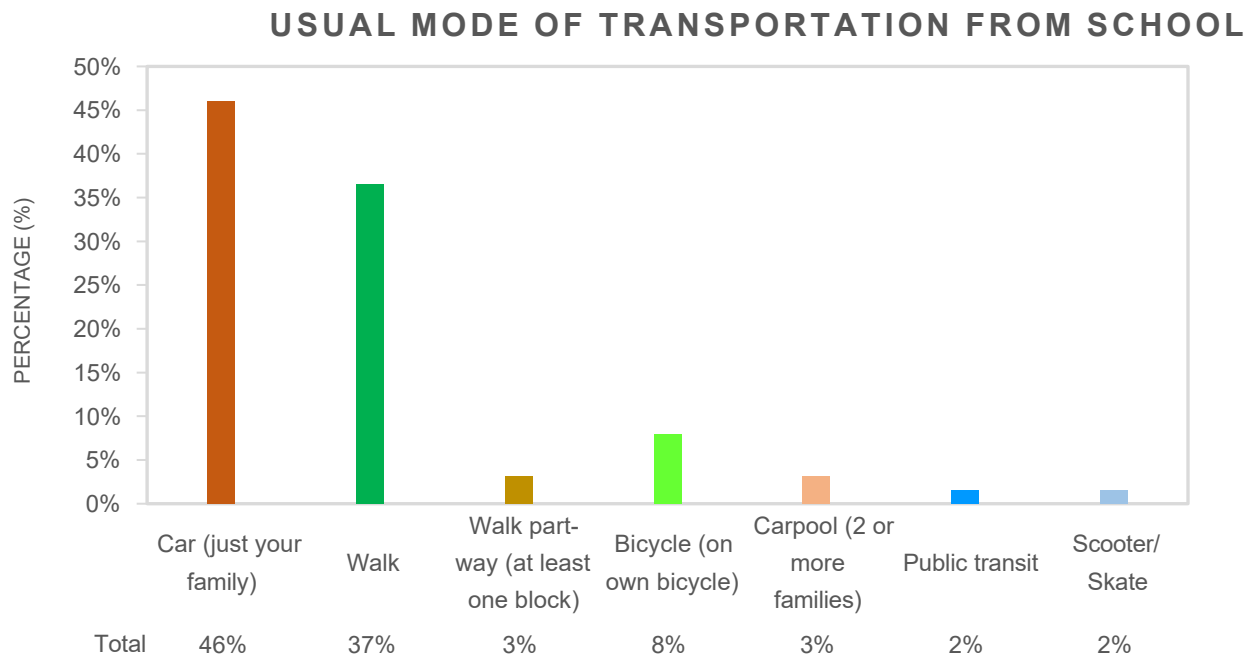
## Mode

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How does your eldest child usually get to school throughout the school year?



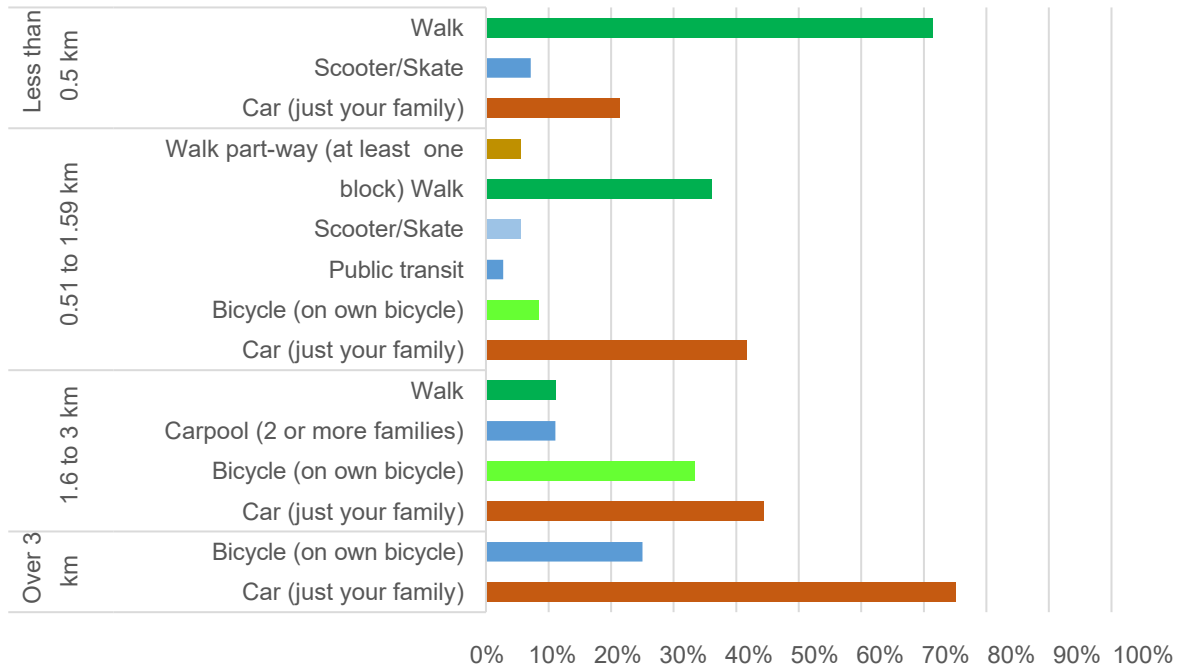
How does your eldest child usually get home from school throughout the year?



# Active and Safe Routes to School Survey Summary 2017-2018 Program

Comparison of travel mode by trip distance:

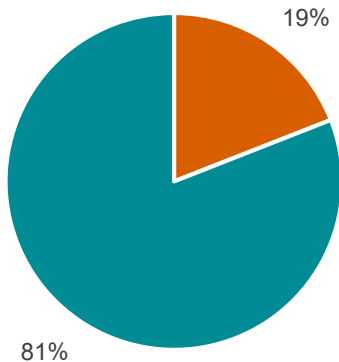
## MODE OF TRANSPORTATION BASED ON DISTANCE



## Travel companion

Is your eldest accompanied to school by an adult?

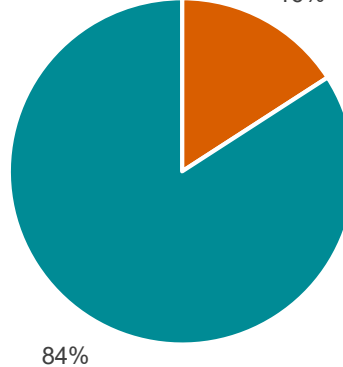
PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN ACCOMPANIED TO SCHOOL



■ No ■ Yes

Is your eldest accompanied from school by an adult?

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN ACCOMPANIED FROM SCHOOL



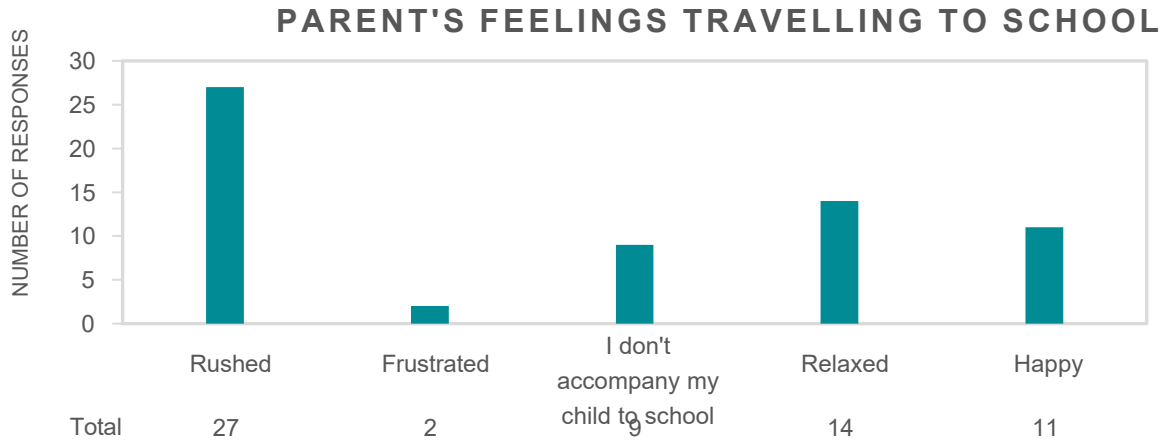
■ No ■ Yes

# Active and Safe Routes to School Survey Summary 2017-2018 Program

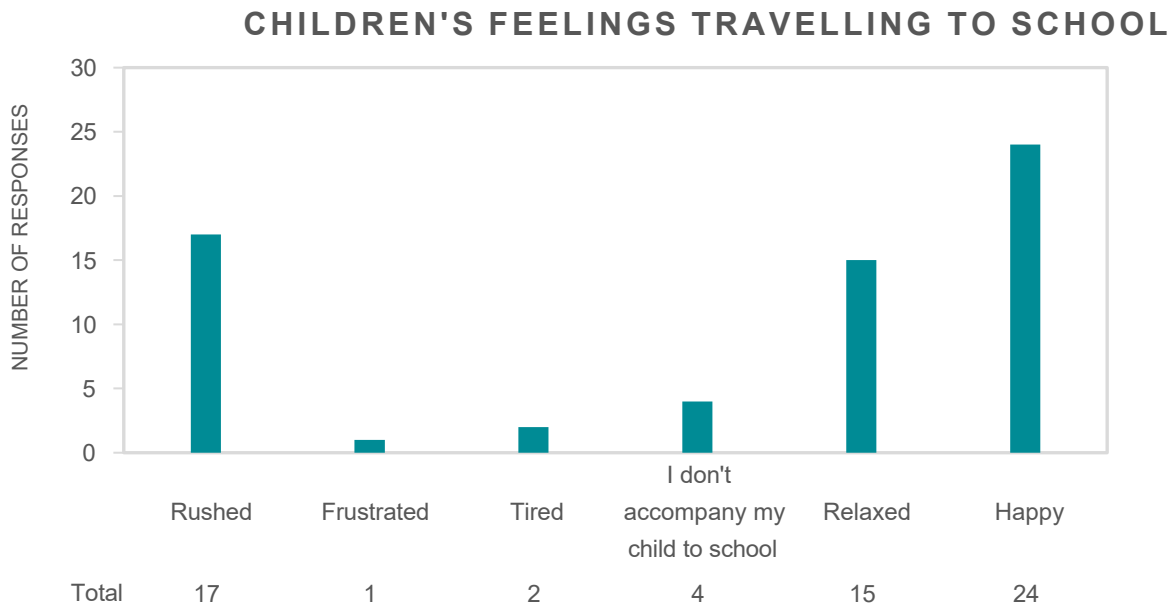
## Feelings

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As a parent/caregiver, what feeling do you have most of the time when taking your child(ren) to school?



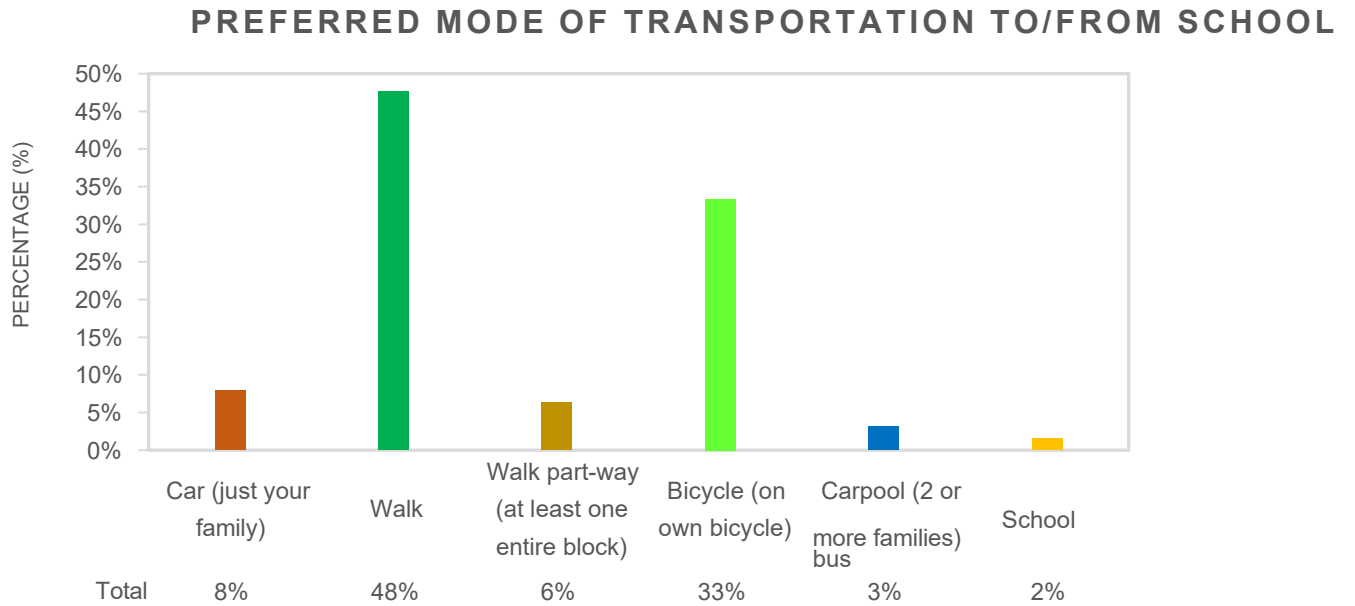
What feeling do you think your eldest child has most of the time when travelling to school?



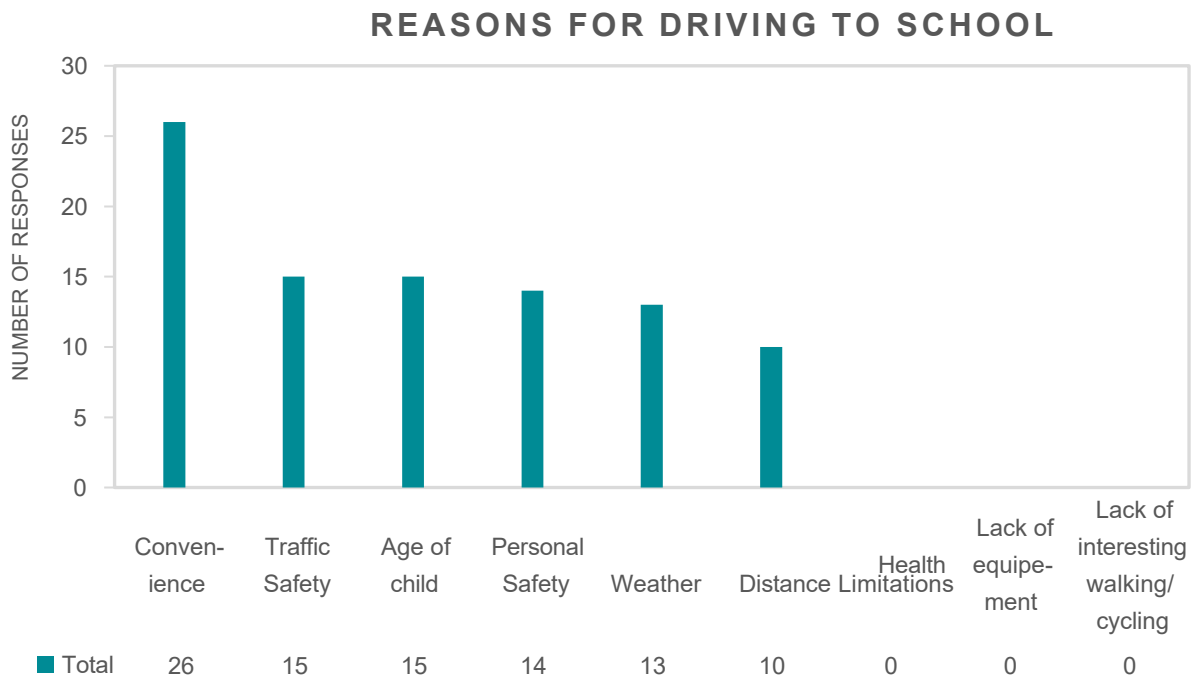
# Active and Safe Routes to School Survey Summary 2017-2018 Program

## Preferred Mode

How would you prefer your eldest child travels to and from school?



What are the main reasons your eldest child is usually driven to/from school?(Choose up to three)

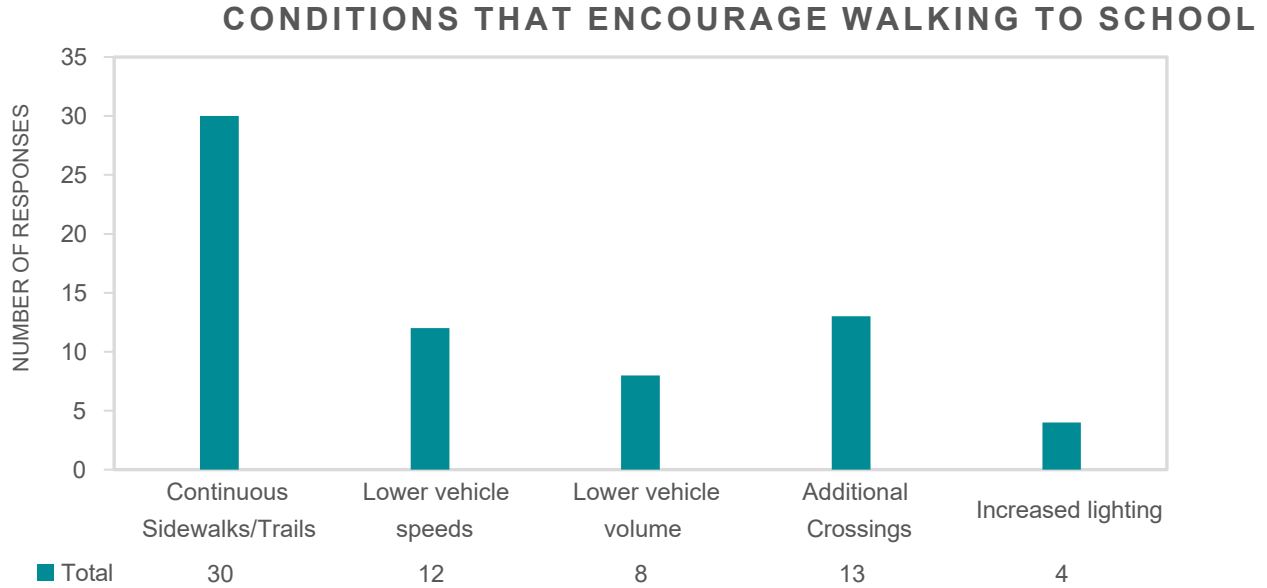


# Active and Safe Routes to School Survey Summary 2017-2018 Program

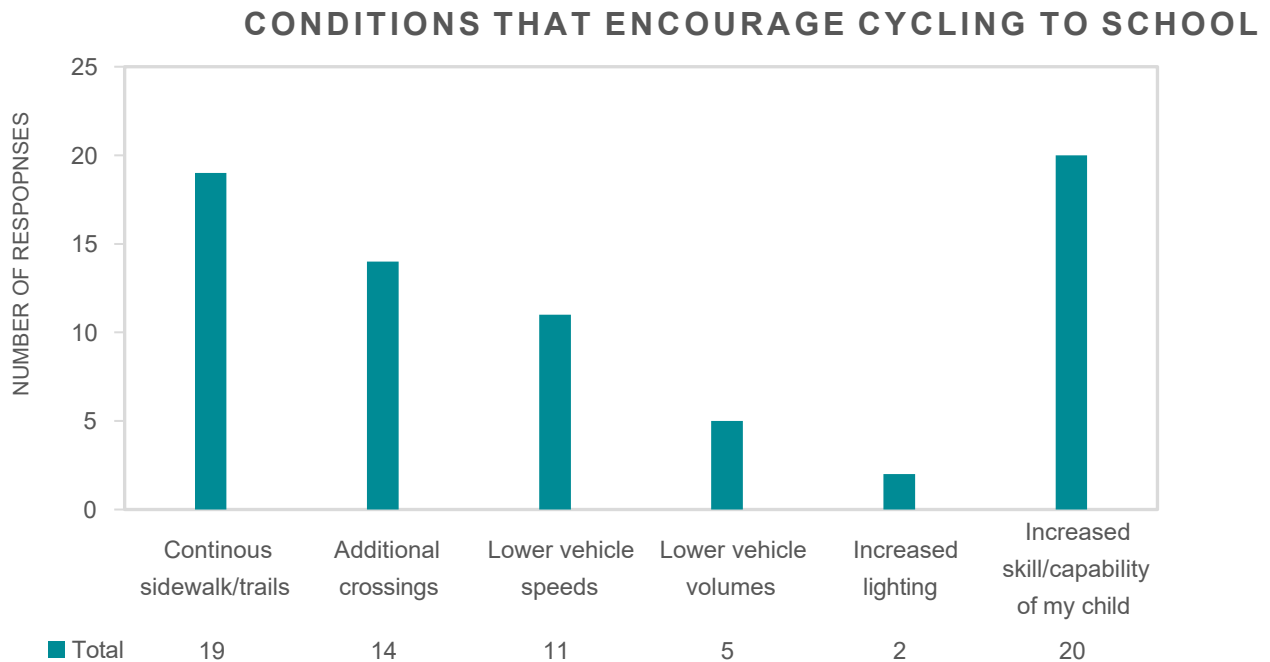
## Preferred Mode

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I would encourage my eldest child to walk to school  
if...(Choose up to two)



I would encourage my eldest child to cycle to school  
if...(Choose up to two)

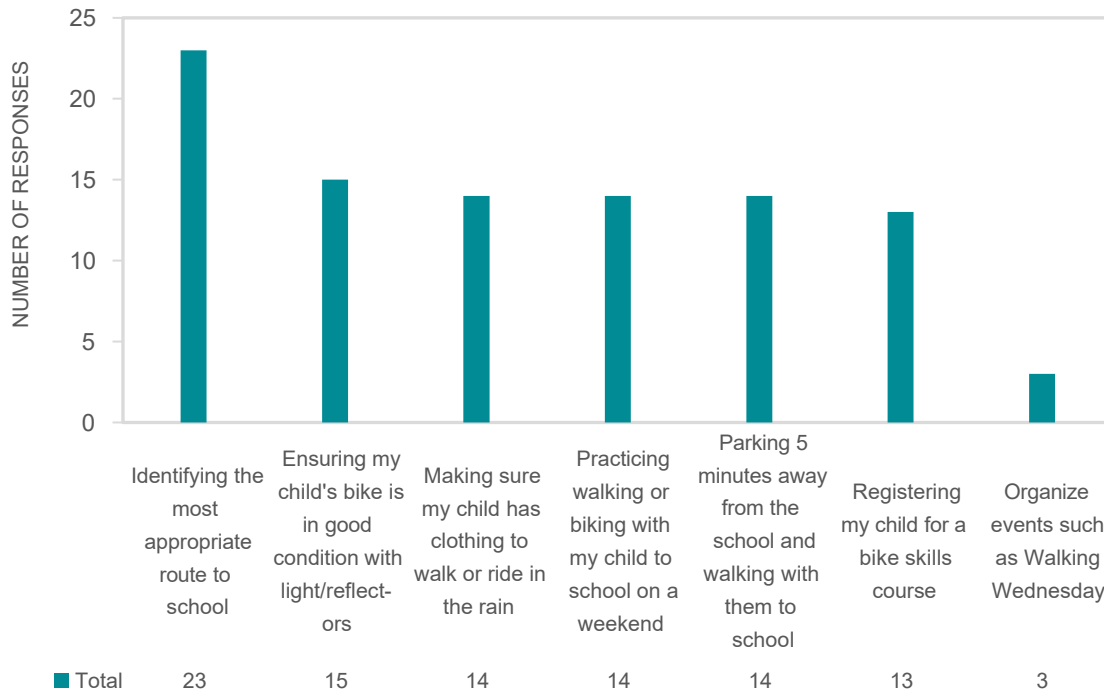


# Active and Safe Routes to School Survey Summary 2017-2018 Program

## Preferred Mode

I am willing to encourage my eldest child to walk or bike to/from school by...(Check all that apply)

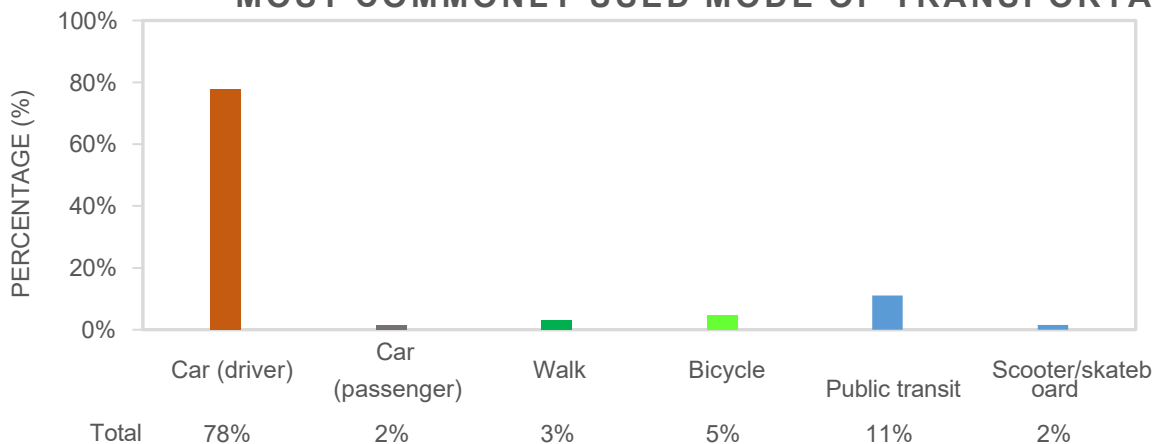
**APPROACHES TO ENCOURAGE WALKING/  
CYCLING TO SCHOOL**



## Other Destinations

As a parent/caregiver how do you usually travel to your most frequent destination?

**MOST COMMONLY USED MODE OF TRANSPORTATION**

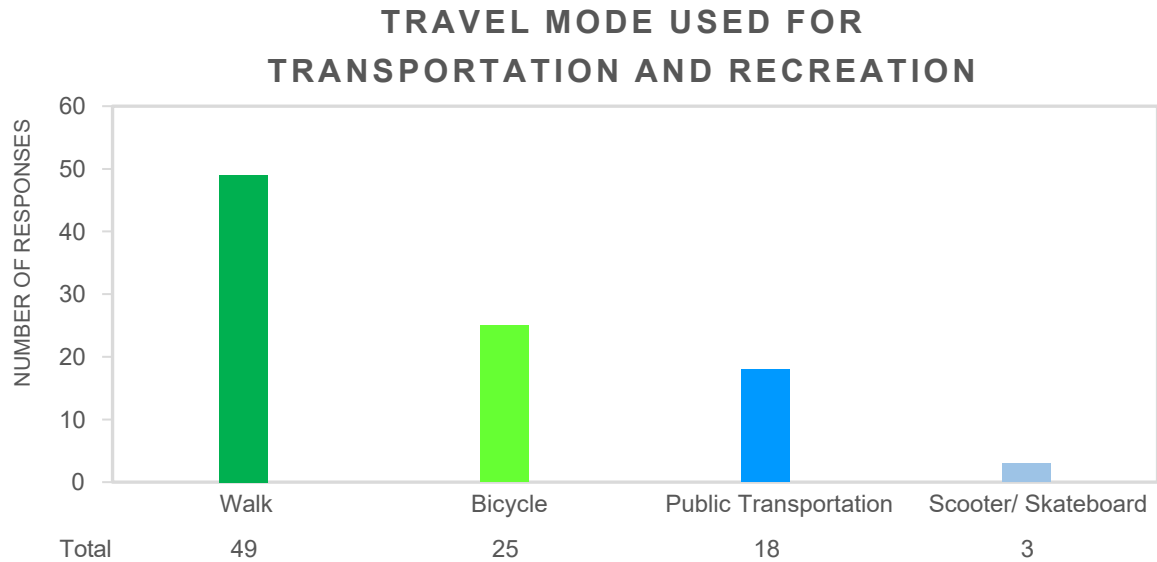




# Active and Safe Routes to School Survey Summary 2017-2018 Program

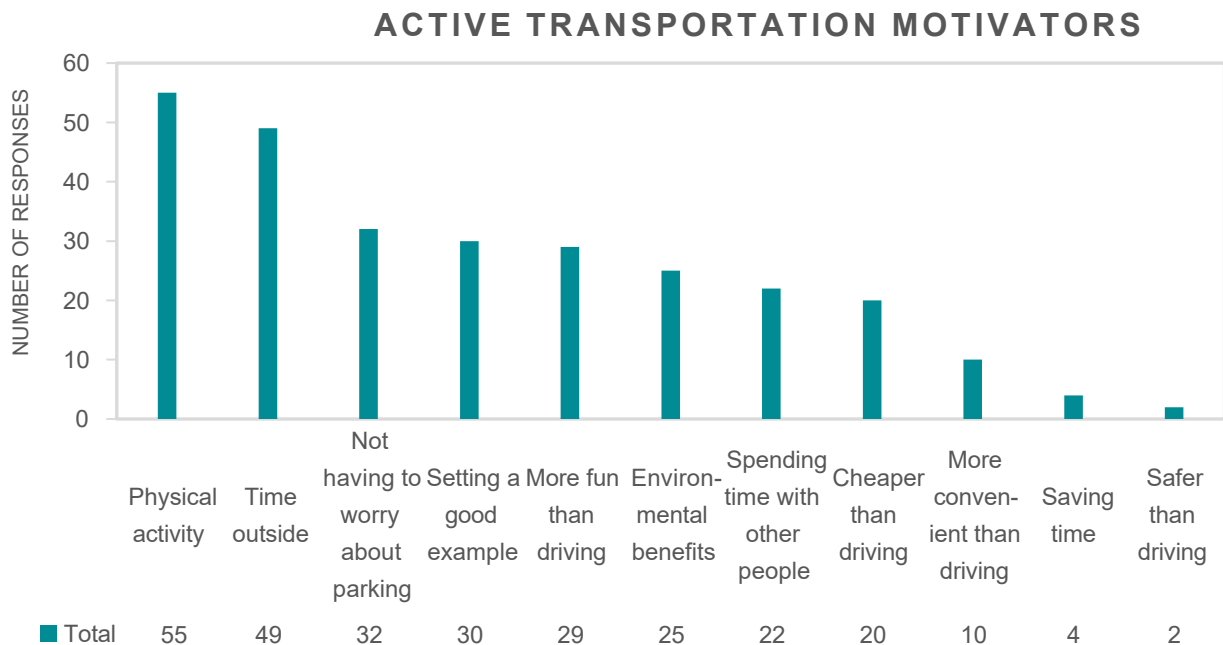
## Other Destinations

As a parent/caregiver, do you ever travel for transportation or recreation by: (Check all that apply)



## Motivation & Cycling Education

If/when you walk or cycle as a family, what motivates you? (check all that apply)

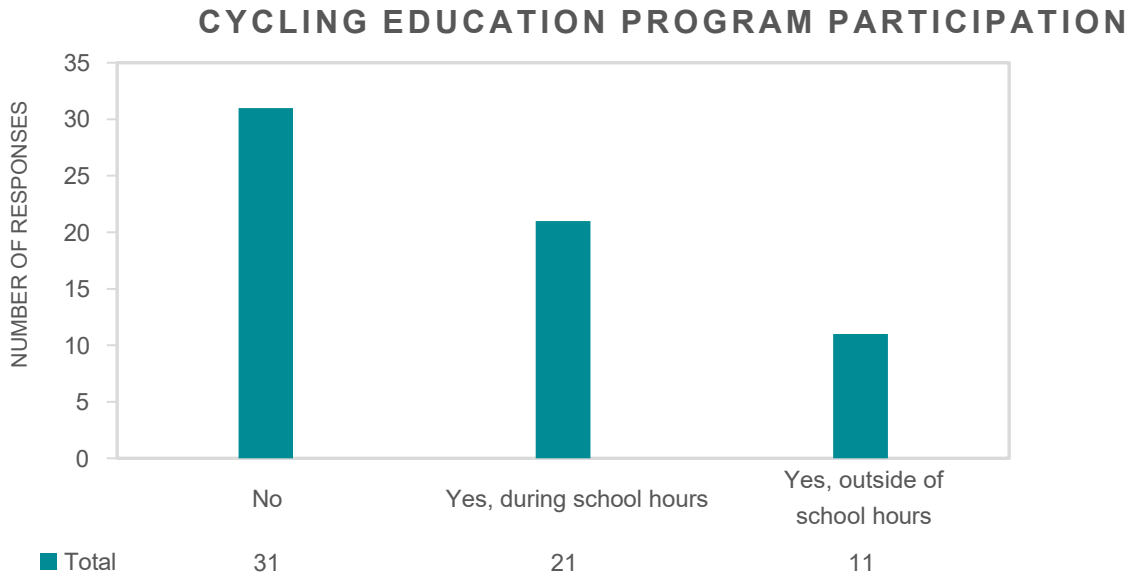


# Active and Safe Routes to School Survey Summary 2017-2018 Program

## Motivation & Cycling Education

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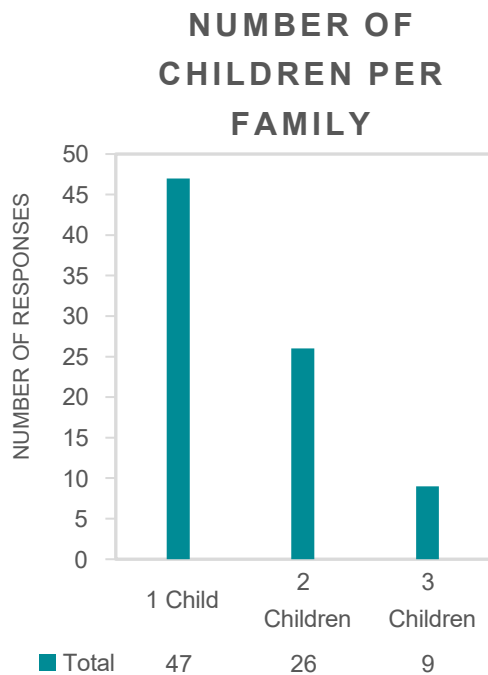
Has your child ever participated in a cycling education program?



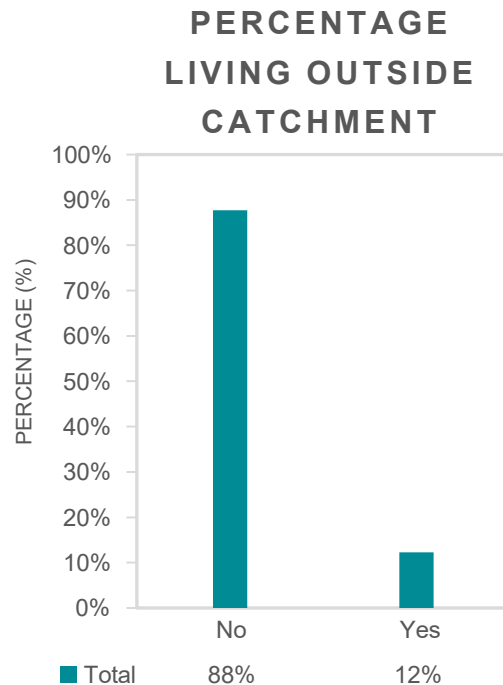
## Final Questions

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How many of your children attend this school?



Do you live outside the catchment area?

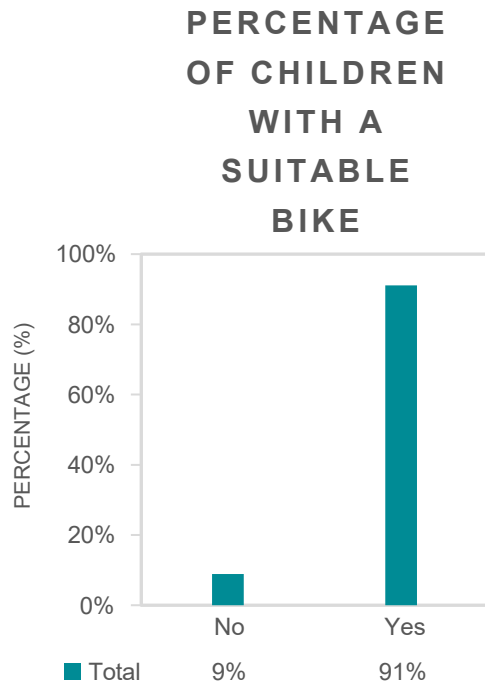


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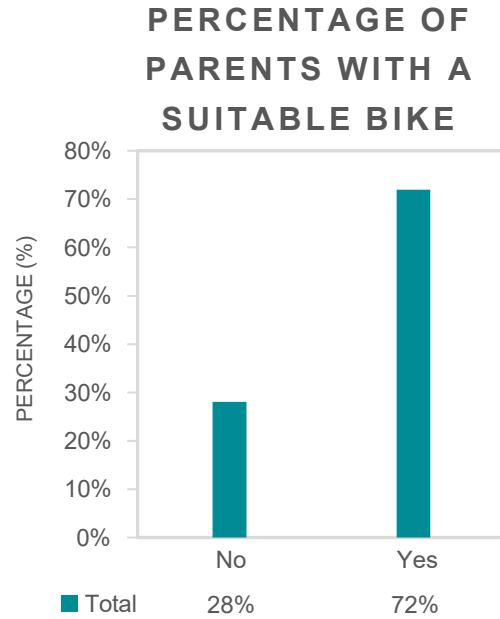
## Final Questions

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Does your child have a suitable bike?



Does one or both parents have a suitable bike?



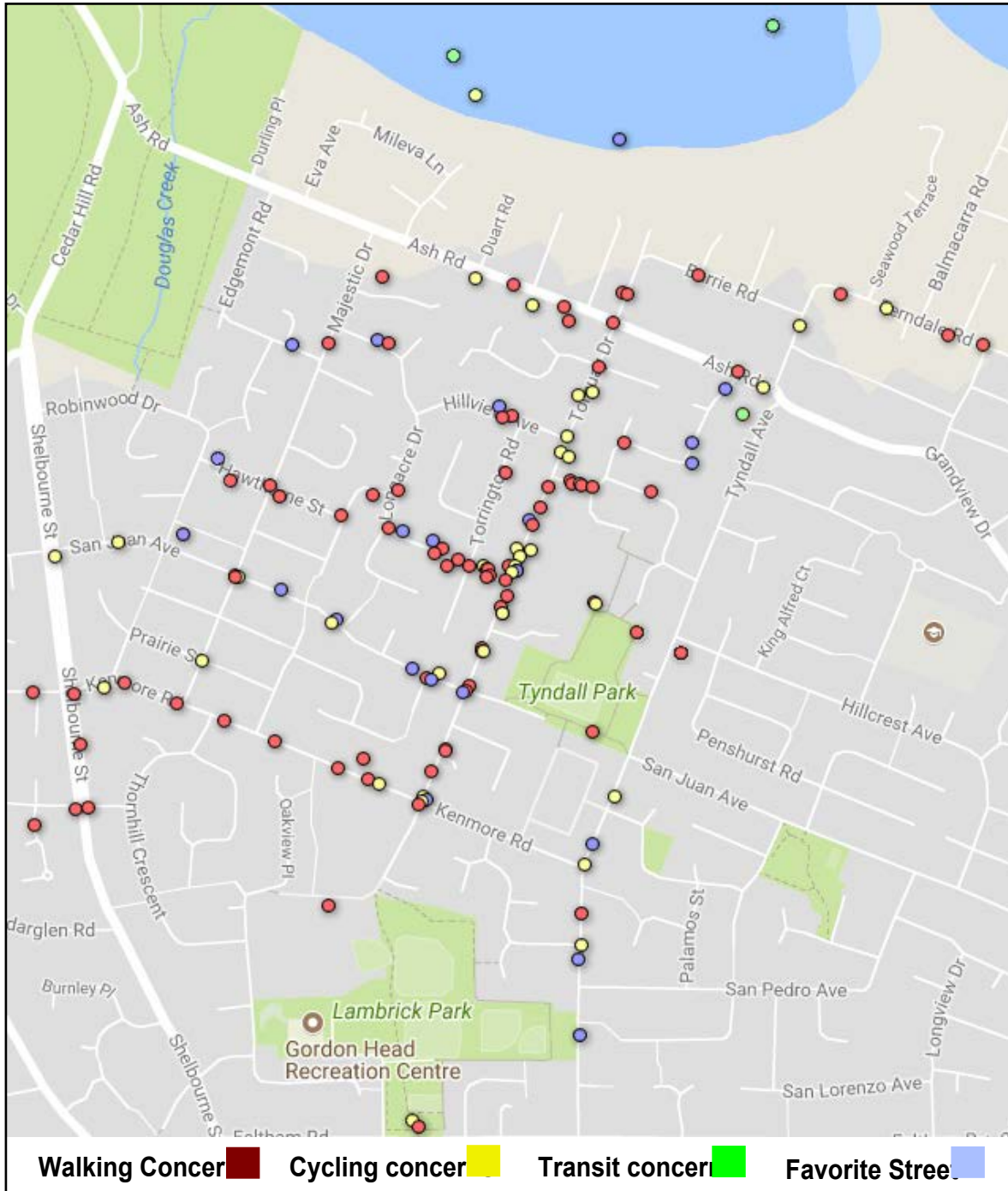
Do you have any further comments on the challenges and opportunities for active travel at your school?

— Analysis of the 21 comments are ongoing —

# Active and Safe Routes to School Survey Summary 2017-2018 Program

Respondents were asked to identify any obstacles, barriers, or challenges to walking and biking to school. They identified up to 10 challenges as their top priorities for themselves and their families. Also, they identified which streets they preferred to walk or bike on when travelling to/from school.

### Torquay Elementary Obstacle Map



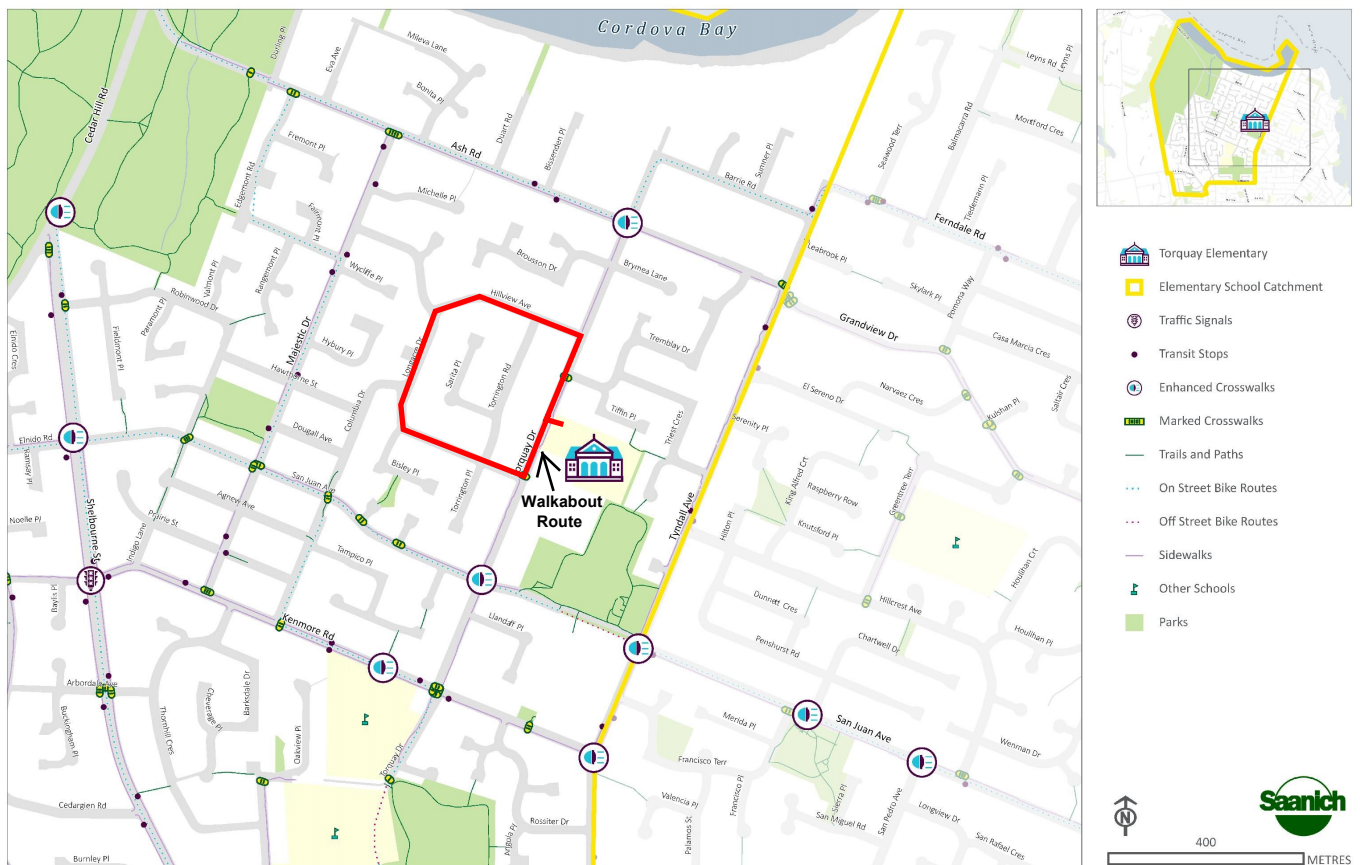
## Active and Safe Routes to School Neighborhood Walkabout

The neighborhood walkabout was used to look at locations of concern that were identified in the on-line survey. The walk was followed by a debrief discussion. Specifically the walkabout involved:

- Identifying active transportation safety concerns on our streets
- Brainstorming strategies with school district and municipal staff, local law enforcement and health professionals

The **Torquay Elementary** Neighborhood Walkabout was held on **Tuesday, November 28 at 7:45-10am.**

### Map of Torquay Elementary Catchment and Walkabout Route



## **Active and Safe Routes to School Neighborhood Walkabout**

### Attendees:

Cindy Harte – Principal  
Sandra Liddell – Saanich Engineering  
David Williams – Saanich Engineering  
Andrew Burger – Saanich Parks  
Mike Goldsworthy – Saanich Parks  
Areli Hermanson – Island Health  
Kate Berniaz – Capital Regional District  
Bryce Devereaux – Capital Regional District  
Alex Randell – PAC  
Hilary Braid – School VP

### **Walkabout Summary of Observations, Concerns and Potential Solutions:**

#### Torquay:

- Drop off area in front of school:
  - Parents pull in and drop off and then turn around (u-turns)
  - No space to drop off kids
  - Parent's parked cars block traffic forcing drivers into the other lanes
  - Very busy (lots of volume)
  - Parents are parking illegally
  - Parents cars are forced into oncoming traffic
- With parking on the road some felt it was too narrow
- Westside sidewalk:
  - People drive on the sidewalk
  - Sidewalk between Tremblay and Long acre is rarely used
  - Sidewalk between Tremblay and Ash is very minimal
  - Request to improve the visibility and structure of the sidewalk between Hillview (or Ash) and crosswalk to raise the curb and make it a real sidewalk
- No stopping sign is too high
- Remove parking on Torquay by the entrance of the school
- School zone:
  - Most follow speed
  - Parents slow down on the way
  - Parents are worse after they drop off kids
- Entrance/private drive is used for turnabout/u-turn
- Private drive beside the school seems wide
- Width of road varies- it is fine in front of school but too narrow on other parts of the road

#### Torquay/Longacre:

- Very busy crossing with approximately 90% of the school active travel traffic using this crosswalk
- Intersection is part of the school route for outings to Mount Doug
- Poor connection with no curb drop on one side

- Request remove parking from crosswalk to school
- Request for flashing beacons at the crosswalk
- Request to improve the connection and accessibility at this intersection with bumpouts/landing pads and curb drops
- Discussion about moving the crosswalk in front of the school (mid-block); Saanich staff state that the District does not typically install mid-block crossings.

#### Longacre:

- Very popular route with lots of kids on scooters and bikes, and parents with strollers
- Parent park on Longacre and walk their kids to school
- Used as a bike route
- No sidewalks but very wide road
- Concern about vehicle speed and “drifting” at the sweeping curve. Suggestion to paint a section of centre line to provide a visual cue to drivers

#### Hillview Road:

- Low visibility from the hill
- Concern about high vehicle speeds with hill and corners
- Cars parked on the road limiting space
- Lots of kids live on the street
- Deer are often seen on this road

#### Hillview/Torquay:

- Request for crosswalk
- Existing sidewalk at travel lane grade; request for addition of curb for protection
- Wide intersection

#### Ash/Torquay:

- Many concerns raised about intersection safety:
  - Concerns that the Arbutus tree restricts visibility
  - Comment that as a driver you can see the pedestrian flashing lights but not the pedestrian
  - People drive on the curb
- Intersection is part of the school's route to take students to the beach (zig-zaggy route; inconsistent path)

#### Tremblay:

- Used as drop off location
- Concerns about vehicle speed
- Request for sidewalk and traffic calming

#### Other locations:

- San Juan
  - Request for re-painting of bike symbol
  - Streetlight is out at Shelbourne and San Juan
- Torrington Rd- parents currently use this road to park and walk

- Bisley PI connection to San Juan – sign says ‘no exit’; suggestion to add ‘pedestrian connection’ sign

#### School property:

- Front turn-around is only for staff
- Kids enter the school in the back
- Poor access into school for pedestrians, including poor connections from sidewalks to the school
- Principal is making a proposal to school district
  - Wants to make a path behind the parked cars (north end of parking lot) by adding wheel stops
  - Move bike racks and garbage containers
  - Discussion about Saanich connecting sidewalk
- Tyndall Park is adjacent to school field
- Tiffin Place access to back field
  - Staggered bike barrier
  - Request for pathway from access path to school
- Suggestion that the School District and the District of Saanich work together to make connected paths (chip trail?) behind the school
- School district process for improvements
  - School put in request; could be school or school district cost
  - Land improvements would be a school district cost
  - E.g. Rock garden – school district charges school for labour
  - PAC fundraising for school cost
  - School district would have to put improvements into capital grants program

#### General:

- Newsletter content review
- Potential Drive to 5 location – Saanich Fusion parking lot
- 2 crossing guards
  - Used to have student controllers but they were removed because it got crazy
  - Education Assistants are present 15 mins before/after school at Tremblay and Longacre
  - Principal would prefer to use that staff time to supervise students at the school
- Funding discussion:
  - Are grant programs that school could apply for? Kawanis, Boys and Girls Club
  - School district complies grants and then principal reviews with PAC
  - Island Health can help with grants application with Healthy Schools Initiatives
- School District has made a big push for healthy lifestyle, connect with nature
- School has an Active Before Learning program; discussion that school path through park could be used for Active Before Learning program
- Grade 5 accompaniment
  - Grade 5 volunteers are used to welcome other students being dropped off
  - Had it last year
- District of Saanich has an Active Transportation Plan in development and is requesting feedback