

School Travel Plan



2014-2015

29 Salem Drive

Whippany, NJ 07981

Grades: K-5

Created: June 2015



Salem Drive School

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Introduction

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is supported by the New Jersey Department of Transportation with funds from the Federal Highway Administration. SRTS promotes safe and more accessible walking and bicycling environments for children in New Jersey through education, training and research. TransOptions is one of eight Transportation Management Associations in New Jersey that provide SRTS programming to schools. TransOptions' service area includes multiple counties in Northwestern New Jersey.

Hanover Township is located in Morris County and comprises the unincorporated communities of Whippany and Cedar Knolls. A significant portion of Patriots' Path, a wilderness walkway and bike trail stretching for 26 miles passes through the township along the Whippany River. Hanover Township Public Schools consists of three elementary schools; Salem Drive School, Mountview Road School and Bee Meadow School. Hanover Public Schools is also made up of one middle school and one high school; Memorial Junior School and Whippany Park High School. Salem Drive School contains grades K-5 and approximately 330 students.

Salem Drive School is located on Salem Drive in the Whippany section of Hanover Township about ¼ mile west of Whippany Road (County Road 511).

Salem Drive is a cul-de-sac style street, terminating at the Salem Drive School property. Many paved and unpaved paths connect Salem Drive School to surrounding residential neighborhoods. One of the paths connects the school to Convergence, a multi-tenant technology and office campus located on Convergence Way and Jefferson Road.

TransOptions and Salem Drive School

What began as a small group of Hanover Township citizens advocating for safer streets for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists transitioned into a rapidly growing Safe Routes to School program. In February 2014, Sgt. Michael Look of Hanover Police

Department and Thomas "Ace" Gallagher of the Hanover Township School & Park Traffic Safety Advisory Committee reached out to TransOptions in need of assistance on Safe Routes to School. After meeting with Superintendent Scott Pepper, the PTA's at the three Hanover elementary schools and all three school principals, Walk-Bike to School Days were scheduled throughout May and June 2014. Parent Surveys were administered by TransOptions and Travel Tallies were distributed to Mountview Road School and Salem Drive School. Ace Gallagher helped identify SRTS Champions at all three

Community Profile: Hanover Township
Population: 13,894 (2012 Census)
Area: 10.727 SQ. Mi.
Police: Hanover Township Police Department

Working Members:

Thomas "Ace" Gallagher – Committeeman

Roberto Camean – School Principal

Stephen Gallagher – Chief of Police

Sgt. Mike Look – Hanover Police

Rose McCauley – SRTS Champion/Board of Education

Andrew Lappitt - TransOptions

elementary schools that were willing to continue SRTS programming at their respective schools. TransOptions also educated several Hanover police officers on SRTS and the types of pedestrian and bicycle safety education we offer.

Hanover School & Park Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

The Hanover School & Park Traffic Safety Advisory Committee is made up of Hanover Township Committeemen, School Board Members, Police and TransOptions. With the support of the engineering and public works departments as well as school administrators, their goal is to improve pedestrian and traffic safety where children learn and play. In 2014, TransOptions and the committee held public meetings to gather community input, conduct walkability assessments near Salem Drive School and Mountview Road School and plan Walk to School Days at all three elementary schools.

Committee Members:

Thomas “Ace” Gallagher	Chief Stephen Gallagher-Hanover Police
Chief Steven Bolcar (Retired)	Sgt. Michael Looock-Hanover Police
Brian Cahill	George Coppola
Jim Herbert	Brian Foran
David Leo	Rose McCauley
Andrew Lappitt-TransOptions	

Objectives of the School Travel Plan

- To make travel to and from Salem Drive School safer and more efficient.
- To reduce traffic congestion on Salem Drive and nearby streets around the school.
- To encourage walking and/or bicycling to school.
- To create awareness amongst motorists in Hanover Township.
- To set a foundation for ongoing programming and education on the safety elements of walking and bicycling to and from school.

Current School Policies

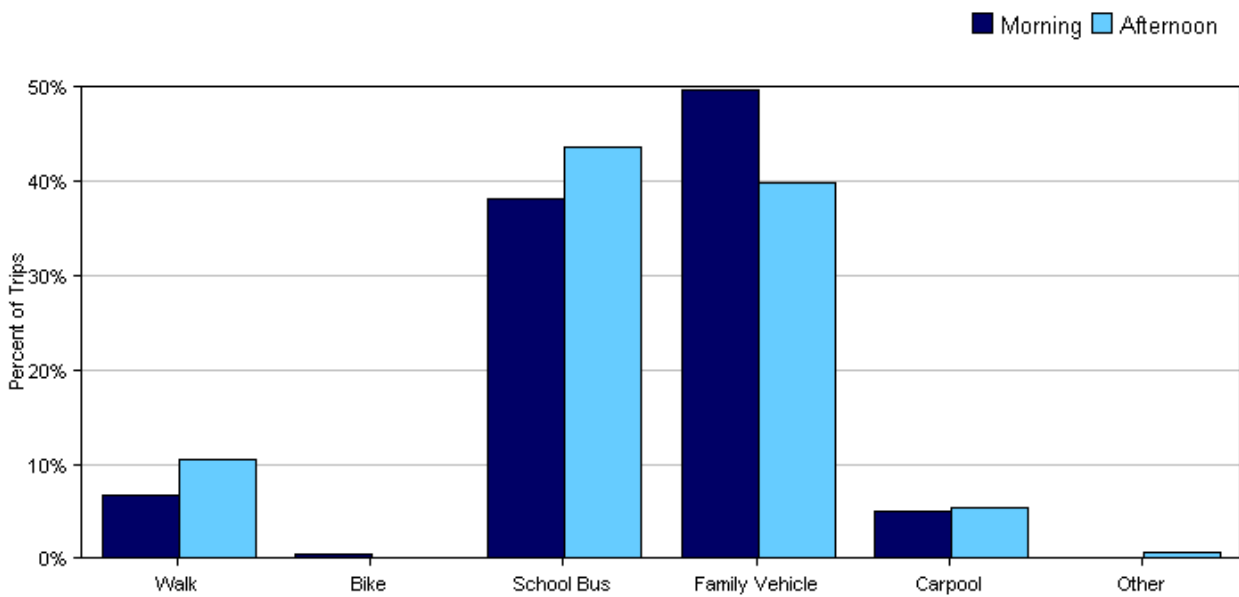
All students at Salem Drive School are encouraged to walk or bike to and from school. Students that reside more than 2 miles away from the school are eligible for bus transportation. There are two bicycle racks located on the side of the school’s building. There is one crossing guard located on Whippany Road front of the school in order to assist students, parents and faculty crossing Kent Street.

Travel Tallies

The graphs and charts below show the results of travel tallies that were conducted by all Salem Drive School teachers on May 20th, 21st and 22nd of 2014. Travel tallies are obtained by a show-of-hands collection method in each class. The teacher asks the students how they arrived at school that morning, giving them the choice of Walk, Bike, Bus, Carpool, driven alone in a family vehicle, or other (e.g. scooter, skateboard).

The data collected in the tally was completed without the promotion of a walk or bike to school event. It is important to gather information that would capture the true travel behavior of the students before any ongoing encouragement and education efforts were started.

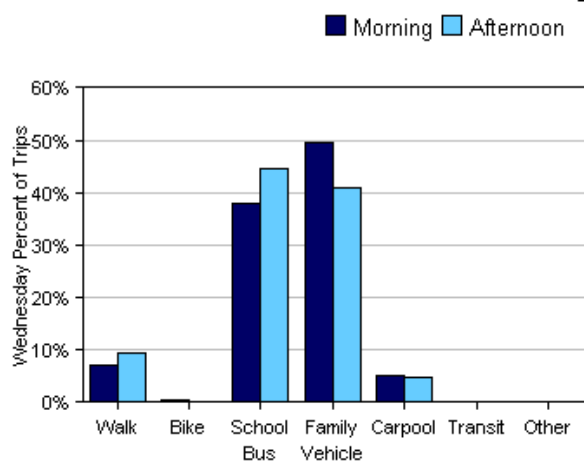
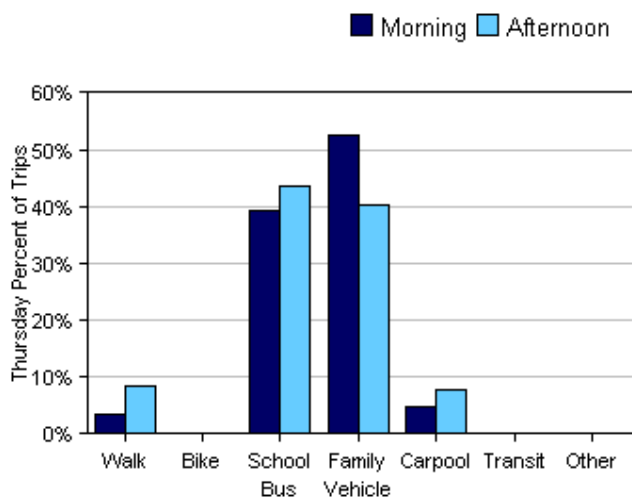
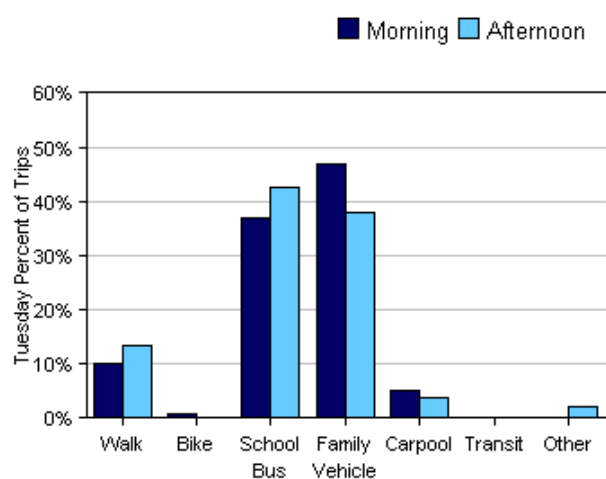
Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison



	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Morning	751	7%	0.4%	38%	50%	5%	0%	0%
Afternoon	736	10%	0%	44%	40%	5%	0%	0.7%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison by Day

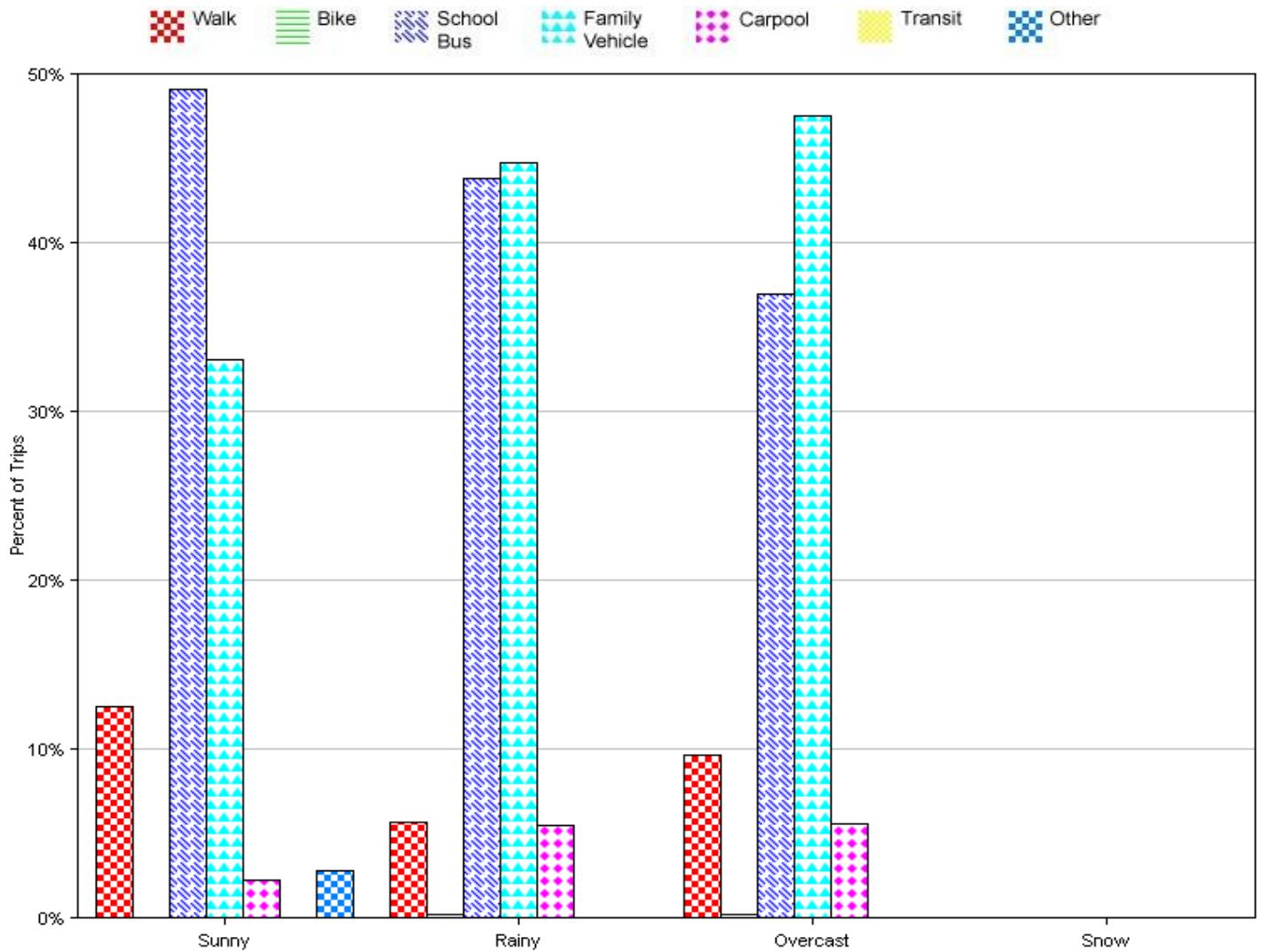


Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison by Day

	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Tuesday AM	238	10%	0.8%	37%	47%	5%	0%	0%
Tuesday PM	239	13%	0%	43%	38%	4%	0%	2%
Wednesday AM	258	7%	0.4%	38%	50%	5%	0%	0%
Wednesday PM	251	10%	0%	45%	41%	5%	0%	0%
Thursday AM	255	4%	0%	39%	53%	5%	0%	0%
Thursday PM	246	9%	0%	43%	40%	8%	0%	0%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Travel Mode by Weather Conditions



Travel Mode by Weather Condition

Weather Condition	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Sunny	175	13%	0%	49%	33%	2%	0%	3%
Rainy	525	6%	0.2%	44%	45%	6%	0%	0%
Overcast	787	10%	0.3%	37%	48%	6%	0%	0%
Snow	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

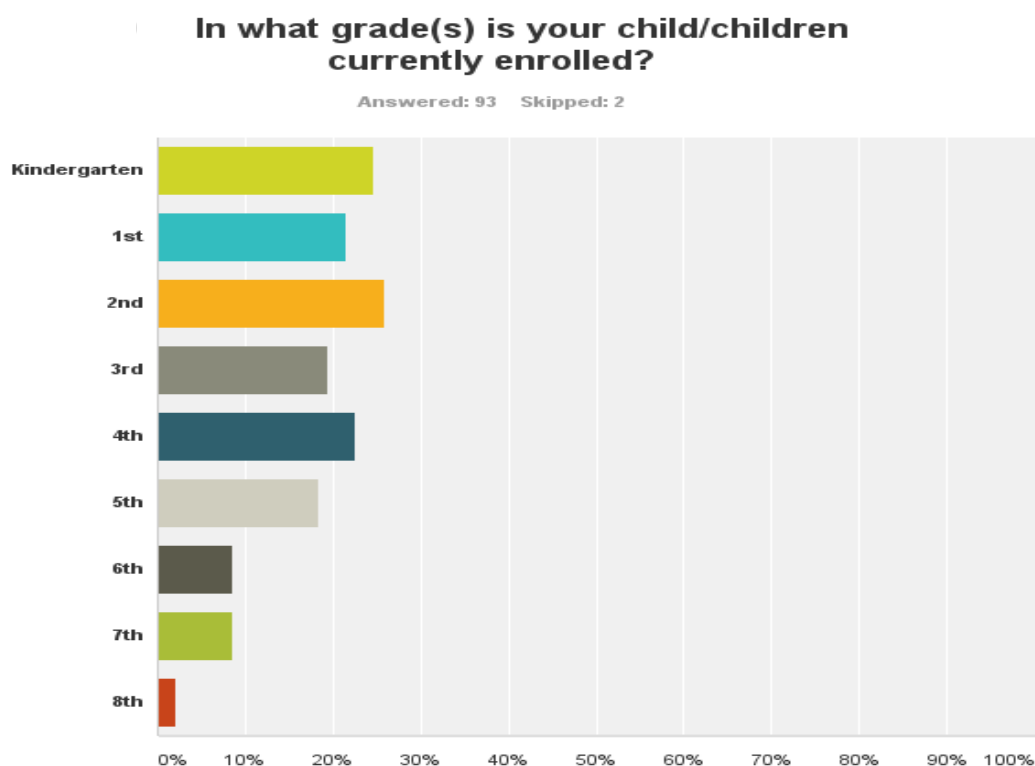
The data reveals that most students arrived at and departed Salem Drive School on a school bus or in a family vehicle during both morning and afternoon trips. The amount of walkers tallied ranged between 4-13%. Bikes averaged less than 1% of trips. These percentages stayed consistent throughout the week.

While walking and bicycling were not very common methods of transport during the week of this study, Salem Drive School has had exceptional walking and bicycling participation during numerous Walk to School Days since 2014.

Another travel tally was conducted in April 2015. The goal of the additional tally is to compare the numbers to 2014. The 2015 tally is currently being counted and results will be added to this report upon completion along with analysis.

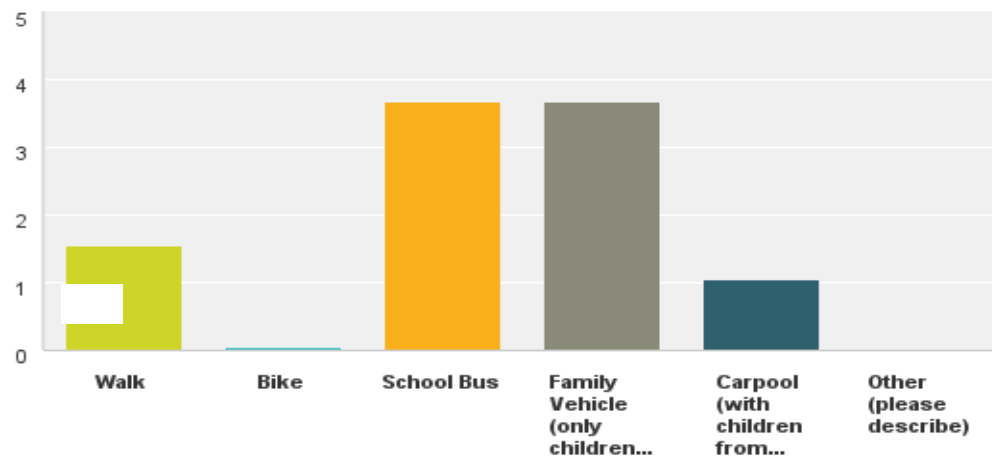
Parent Survey

- This survey was administered to every parent e-mail address at Salem Drive School and was conducted between April 1 and April 30, 2014.
- All surveys were taken online via SurveyMonkey. The link was sent out by Committeeman Ace Gallagher and Superintendent Scott Pepper.
- Total number of completed surveys: **95**



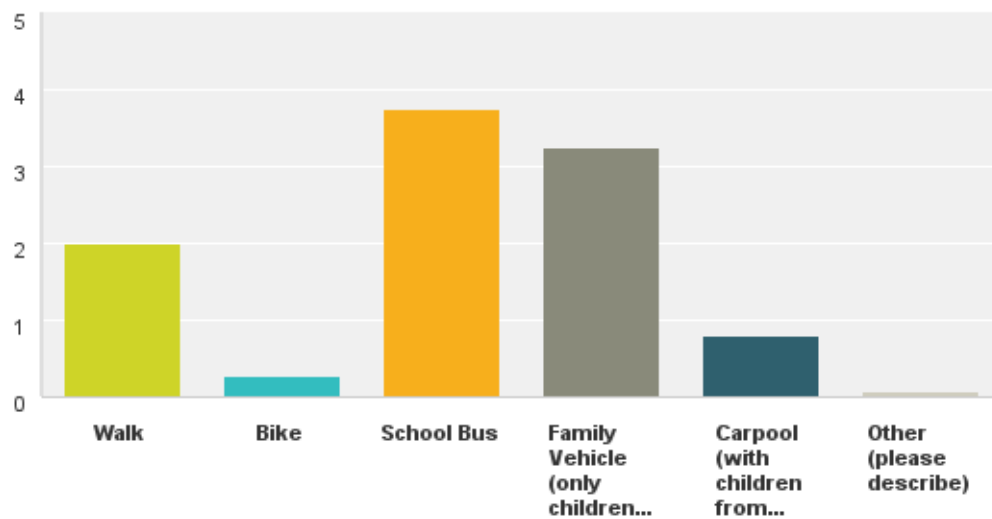
In a typical 5-day school week, how many days of the week does your child go to school using these types of transportation?

Answered: 95 Skipped: 0



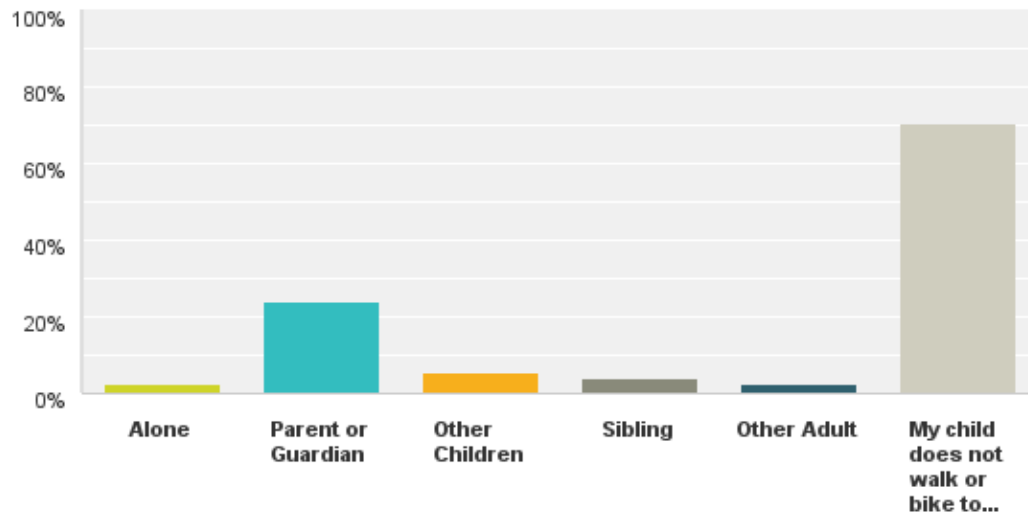
Q5 In a typical 5-day school week, how many days of the week does your child leave from school using these types of transportation methods:

Answered: 95 Skipped: 0



**If your child walks or bikes to school,
with whom do they usually travel? (Check
all that apply)**

Answered: 75 Skipped: 20



**“If your child does not walk or bike to school, please identify some of the obstacles you face.
(Example: Distance to School)”**

59 parents responded while 36 skipped this question.

The most common responses were:

- Crossing Whippany Road
- Distance
- Not all streets have sidewalks
- Traffic congestion/speeding

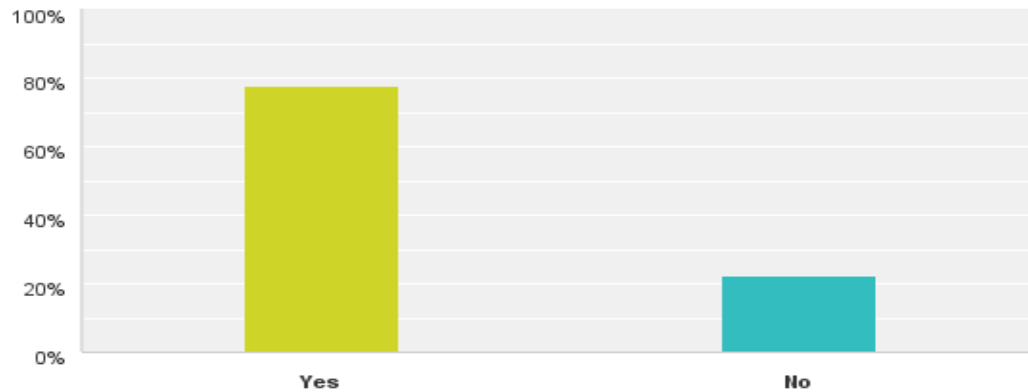
**“What is the driving distance between your home and Salem Drive School in minutes and
miles?”**

Average Driving Distance (Minutes): 4 Minutes

Average Driving Distance (Miles): 1.23 Miles

Does your child have a bike that she or he can ride to school?

Answered: 95 Skipped: 0



“Currently, how important are the following in your decision to allow your child to walk or bike to school?”

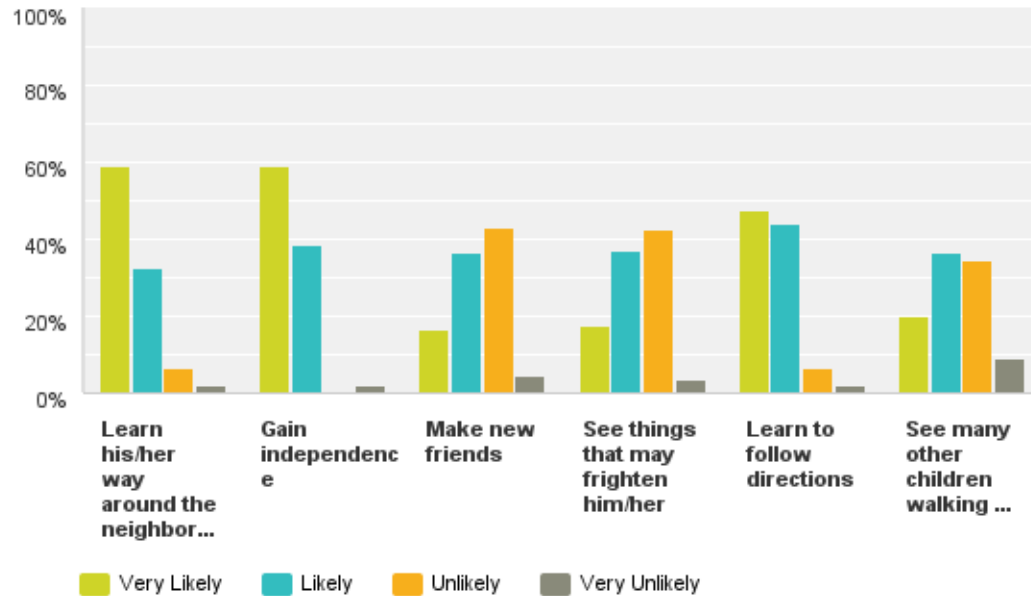
	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Indifferent	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant	Total
Age of my child	87.91% 80	9.89% 9	2.20% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	91
Amount of traffic on roads	94.51% 86	3.30% 3	2.20% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	91
Availability of bike parking	52.94% 45	21.18% 18	22.35% 19	1.18% 1	2.35% 2	85
Availability of bike paths and/or trails	66.29% 59	16.85% 15	12.36% 11	2.25% 2	2.25% 2	89
Availability of crossing guards	84.44% 76	8.89% 8	6.67% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	90
Availability of sidewalks	78.89% 71	11.11% 10	7.78% 7	2.22% 2	0.00% 0	90
Child's before/after school activities	42.22% 38	32.22% 29	18.89% 17	3.33% 3	3.33% 3	90
Distance to and from school	69.23% 63	19.78% 18	8.79% 8	2.20% 2	0.00% 0	91
Family schedule	50.00% 44	25.00% 22	18.18% 16	3.41% 3	3.41% 3	88
No School Bus available	41.03% 32	11.54% 9	38.46% 30	3.85% 3	5.13% 4	78
Positive Environmental impact	41.38% 36	28.74% 25	22.99% 20	5.75% 5	1.15% 1	87
Safe crossings at intersections	94.38% 84	1.12% 1	3.37% 3	1.12% 1	0.00% 0	89
Speed of traffic on roads	95.65% 88	2.17% 2	2.17% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	92
Teaches responsibility	35.23% 31	42.05% 37	18.18% 16	3.41% 3	1.14% 1	88
Weather	51.65% 47	32.97% 30	14.29% 13	1.10% 1	0.00% 0	91
Weight of book bag	42.86% 39	31.87% 29	19.78% 18	4.40% 4	1.10% 1	91

“Please indicate any factors not listed above that have an impact on your decision on allowing your child to walk to and from school.”
(32 Responses, some examples shown below)

- “The road our school is on has sidewalks but there is no traffic light or crossing guard at the nearest (busy) intersection. A nearby intersection that has a light and a crossing guard leads to a street (that goes to the back of the school) that has no sidewalks; therefore, there is not a safe, easy route for him to walk alone to school.”
- “Given location of our development, my child would never be able to walk/bike to school due to dangerous intersection”
- “Salem Drive once removed bike racks several years ago when my older son rode his bike to school without informing parents. By the time my kids are old enough to ride to school, they are almost in middle school and then it’s too far without sidewalks on Reynolds.”
- “I have always wondered why there was no light at ford hill and whippany road - if there was one I would have let my kids walk to school every day.”
- “Traffic and crossing guards...enforcing speed limit on whippany road by school and side streets.”

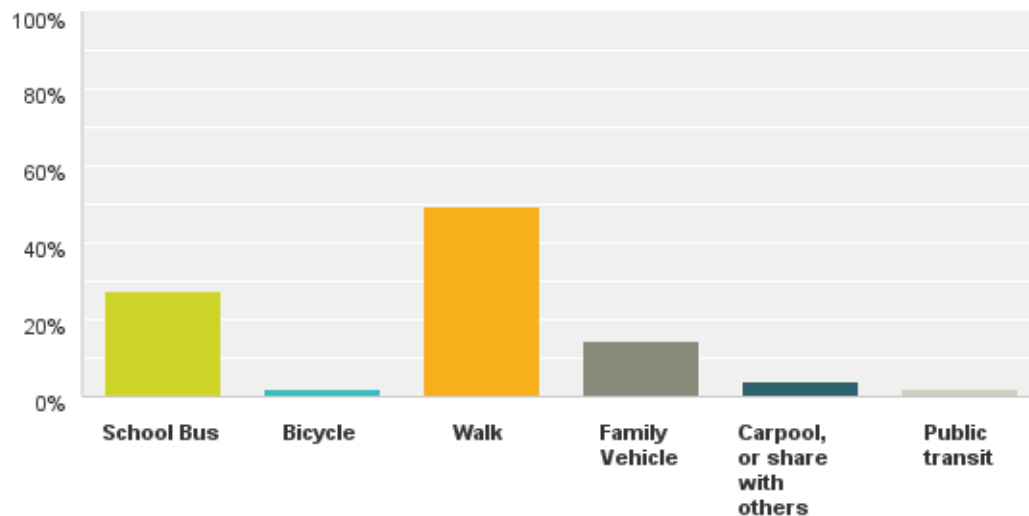
If your child were to walk or bike to school she/he would or does...(select one for each)

Answered: 93 Skipped: 2



When you were in grade school, how did you primarily get to and from school?

Answered: 95 Skipped: 0



“The national average of students walking to and from school in 1970 was 49% which decreased to 16% in 2001. Generally speaking, what are your thoughts on why most children are not walking to school any longer?”

(Answered: 88)

Common answers include:

- Parent’s schedules
- Perceived safety of children, increased fearful culture.
- Distance, people live farther from schools today.
- Larger roads, more dangerous intersections and crossings.
- Increased traffic on roads.
- Media
- Parents are afraid of child being alone.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Education Curriculum

TransOptions offers bicycle and pedestrian education programs for children of grades K-8. The curriculum has been developed to address the different age groups and their ability to comprehend the lesson plan. The programs have been offered to Salem Drive School as well as Mountview Road School and Bee Meadow School:

- Grades K-3 – Classroom Lesson

- Importance of helmet safety and take-home material for parents on properly fitting a helmet.
- Encouraging walking and bicycling as fun and energizing activities.
- Learn the basics of traffic safety such as signs, traffic lights, marked crosswalks and the role of crossing guards.
- Grades 4-5 – Traffic Safety Town
 - This program is a miniature, interactive “town” that TransOptions’ staff can bring to Salem Drive School and set up in the gymnasium. Streets, crosswalks, sidewalks, intersections and signage are all simulated as students will test their behavior as pedestrians.
 - TransOptions brought Traffic Safety Town to Salem Drive School on April 1, 2015. Approximately 150 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students participated.
- Grade 4-5 – Bike Rodeo
 - A bike rodeo is a bike safety clinic typically held on a basketball court or similar sized paved area at school. The course is made up of several stations equipped with simulations such as signs, crosswalks, railroad crossings and other awareness methods that students will need to utilize while riding in their neighborhoods.

Barriers and Constraints

After conducting the parent survey and assessment of the school’s surrounding connectivity, it became very clear that Whippany Road was a major factor in deterring students from walking or biking to Salem Drive School if they are located east of this road. Whippany Road is a four-lane county arterial road with a speed limit of 40 MPH. A traffic count conducted by the New Jersey Department of Transportation in 2012 shows that Whippany Road has an Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) count of over 12,000 vehicles.¹

Many residential streets within two miles of Salem Drive School do not have sidewalks along them or crosswalks at three-way and four-way intersections.

Actions

Education Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe	Cost
Pedestrian Safety Classes	TransOptions	Spring 2015	Low
Bicycle Safety Classes	TransOptions	Spring 2015	Low
Printing of Pedestrian Safety Documents for Parents	TransOptions	Spring 2015	Low
Encouragement Actions			
Establish relationship with local police, bike clubs, advocacy groups	Salem Drive School	Ongoing	Low

¹ http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/refdata/roadway/traffic_counts/

Establish Walk and Bike to School dates for 2015-2016 School Year	Salem Drive School	Spring 2015	Low
Encourage adoption of Complete Streets Policy	TransOptions/Township of Hanover	Spring 2015	Low
Encourage adoption of Supportive Walk-Bike to School Policy	TransOptions/Board of Education	Fall 2015	Low
Enforcement Actions			
Speed Enforcement	Hanover Police	Ongoing	Low
Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks	Hanover Police	Ongoing	Low
Engineering Actions			
Installation of sidewalks, crosswalks, pedestrian signage	Township of Hanover	Ongoing	High
Walkability/Bikeability Audit	TransOptions	April 2014	Low
Evaluation Actions			
Additional student travel tally	School/TransOptions	Spring 2015	Low

Next Steps 2015-2016

TransOptions will bring Traffic Safety Town back to Salem Drive School in Spring 2016. TransOptions will arrange a bike rodeo to be held at Salem Drive School as well.

In order to help resolve the issues of Whippany Road, Hanover Township should work with Morris County and NJDOT in conducting a safety audit between State Route 10 and County Road 623 (Park Avenue).

Salem Drive School will continue to celebrate “Foot Power Fridays,” a weekly walk to school event organized by Rose McCauley.

Salem Drive School should encourage biking to school by having a Bike to School Day.

Another travel tally was conducted in April 2015. This data will be added to the School Travel Plan in as soon as the tallies are counted.

TransOptions will continue to attend monthly meetings held by the Hanover School & Park Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

Appendix

The School & Park Traffic Safety Advisory Committee was able to obtain funding from Hanover Township to purchase and install numerous reflective signs and warning signals, traffic calming measures and portable solar powered SpeedSentry Digital Displays. Recommendations for traffic calming techniques were made by TransOptions during the walkability assessments.

TransOptions recommendations to Hanover School & Park Traffic Safety Advisory Committee for traffic calming techniques near Salem Drive School in Whippany, NJ

Before



Old, faded signage. WATCH CHILDREN is placed very high

After



Reflective sign, lowered for better visibility

Before



Intersection of Woodfield Drive and Litchfield Place

After



Newly painted Stop line along with double yellow line.

Before



Intersection of Salem Drive and Salem Drive Loop

After



Newly painted crosswalk and stop line. Permanent "Stop for Pedestrians in Crosswalk" sign

Additional Improvements



Newly installed reflective signage on Salem Drive Loop



Solar-powered SpeedSentry sign, displays vehicle speed



Newly installed reflective signage on Salem Drive



Painted curb extension at Woodfield Drive and Litchfield Place



Traffic Safety Town presentation – April 2015



Students walk to school during Walk to School Week – April 20-24, 2015



Walk to School Day – May 2014

Additional Photos of Vicinity



Vehicle drop-off line on Salem Drive



Unpaved path connecting Salem Drive School and homes on Beech Terrace



Paved path connecting Salem Drive School and Warren Street



Unpaved path connecting Salem Drive School and homes along Warren Street



Looking south from Westview Drive towards Salem Drive School



Bike rack placed approximately 500 feet east of school entrance



Paved path connecting Salem Drive School and Convergence Way



Looking east on Warren Street



Paved path towards Westview Drive from school property



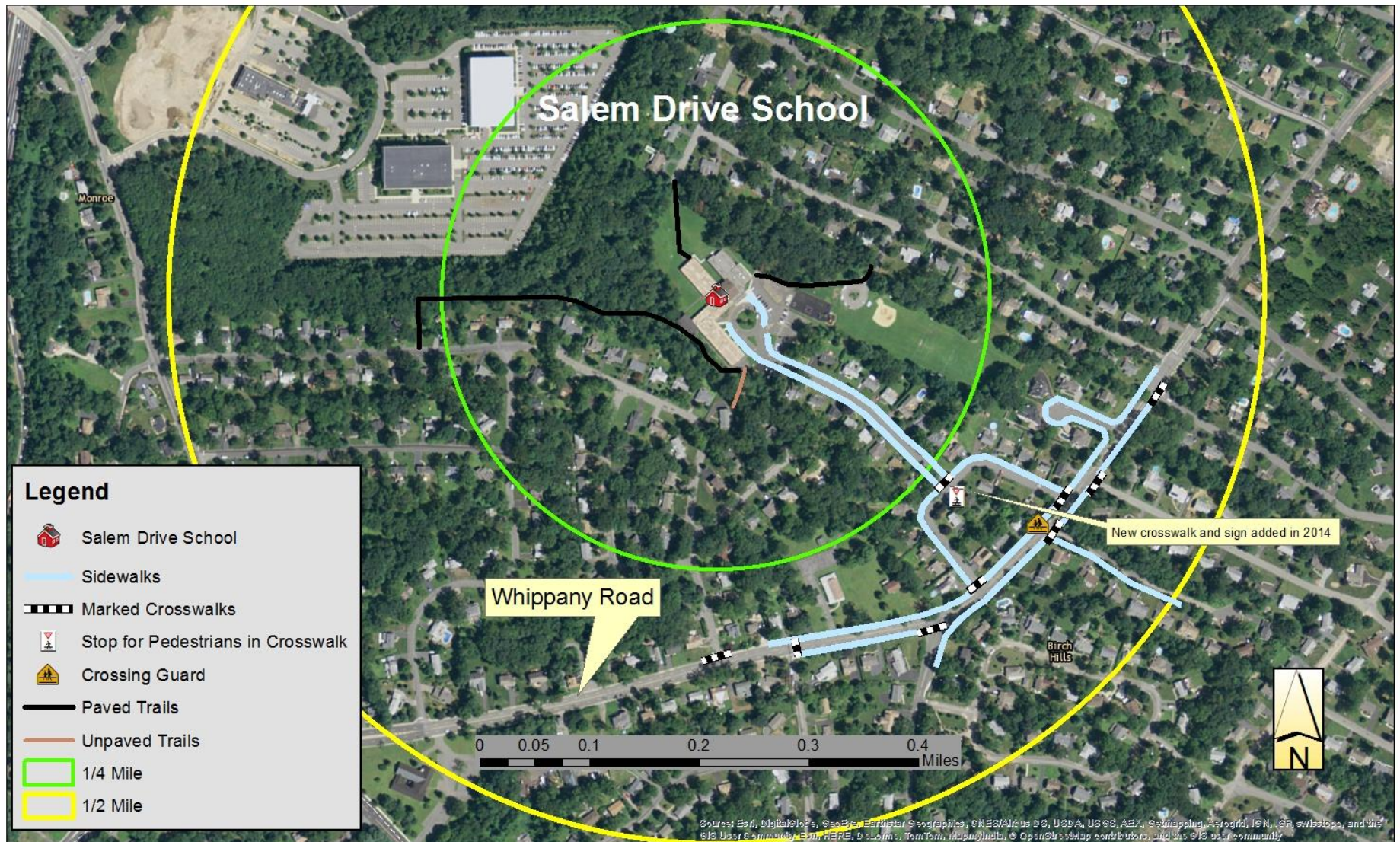
Paved path along Salem Drive School basketball court, continues towards Litchfield Place



Looking west on Salem Drive (2014)



Intersection of Litchfield Place and Woodfield Drive (2014)



Sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Transportation
with funding from the Federal Highway Administration



NEW JERSEY
Safe Routes to School

