# 2013

# Safe Routes to School Travel Plan

Hillside Elementary School



Prepared By:



In Association with:



May 2013

# **Table of Contents**

١.	Introduction	3
II.	Montclair SRTS Team and Partnerships	5
III.	. School Profile	8
S	School Description	8
Ν	Map 1 – School Location Map	9
S	School Demographic Information	10
IV.	Current School Travel Environment	11
v.	Evaluating Opportunities and Constraints	12
S	Stakeholder Interviews	12
Ν	Neighborhood Mapping	13
	Team Observation	13
	School Community Observation	14
VI.	. Creating Solutions for the School Neighborhood	
Т	Top SRTS Priority Recommendations	
	Engineering	
	Enforcement	
	Education	
	Encouragement	19
	Evaluation	20
Ι	Incentives	20
VII.	I. Program Evaluation and Monitoring	20
VIII	II. Mapping Solutions for the School Neighborhood	23
Ν	Map 2 – School Neighborhood Recommendations	24
IX.	. Action Plan Matrix	25
х.	APPENDICES	
A	Appendix A. Crosswalk $^{\mathbb{Q}}$ Neighborhood Analysis	
Ν	Map 3 – Neighborhood Analysis	43
Ν	Map 4 – School Campus Area Analysis	45

Appendix B. Surveys – Travel Mode & Attitudinal46
Classroom Travel Mode Survey for Students47
Parent/Caregiver Attitudinal Survey48
Appendix C. Traffic Count Instructions and Form53
Appendix D. Action Plan Matrix – Township-wide56
Appendix E. Samples of SRTS Educational Materials63
SRTS Curriculum64
SRTS Classroom Resources65
Sample Door Tag Template66
Sample Text for Door Tag67
Windshield Warning68
Appendix F. SRTS General Resources69
Student Pledge70
Parent Pledge
Community Pledge72
Bike Rack Considerations for Placement73
NJ SRTS Info Sheet74
NJ SRTS Recognition Program75
Appendix G. Montclair-Specific Resources76
Township of Montclair Draft Bike Network Map77
Bike&Walk Montclair Bicycle Education Program77

# **INTRODUCTION**

<u>Safe Routes to School</u> is a national and international movement to create safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to bicycle and walk to and from schools. The program has been designed to reverse the decline in children walking and bicycling to schools and can also play a critical role in reversing the alarming nationwide trend toward childhood obesity and inactivity.

Montclair's Safe Routes to School Program began in 2005 when the Rand School (now Renaissance at Rand) was one of New Jersey Department of Transportation's pilot <u>Safe</u> Routes to School Demonstration Program schools. Since then, the Montclair Safe Routes to School Program has received over \$700,000 in federal grants to improve infrastructure in all elementary and middle school neighborhoods, increase traffic safety enforcement, and encourage children and their families to get active on their way to and from school. This School Travel Plan is the result of that federal funding and identifies issues and solutions that are unique to the school's culture and priorities.

The purpose of the Hillside Elementary School Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Travel Plan is to identify measures including both infrastructure projects and programmatic activities aimed at improving and/or encouraging walking and biking to school. These measures will serve as part of an implementable action plan which, when carried out by the school community and its partners, will encourage more Hillside students and parents to walk, bike or otherwise engage in active ways to getting to school. Traditionally, SRTS programs look at a 2 mile radius. Because Montclair is a Magnet School System, students 1 mile or more from the school they attend are provided courtesy busing. This Travel Plan will focus on the area within a one mile radius of Hillside School (Grades 3 - 5).

Hillside Elementary School is one of 10 schools in the Township of Montclair's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program. In 2008, the Township of Montclair, through its SRTS Task Force, applied for and received funding through NJDOT for the development of three (3) E's of its district-wide Safe Routes to School program (Engineering, Encouragement and Enforcement). The goal of the Montclair SRTS Task Force's goal was to expand on the success of the Rand School SRTS Pilot and bring a sustainable Safe Routes to School Program to all of the

Ele	ontclair ementary hools	Mi	ontclair iddle hools
1.	Bullock	1.	Glenfield
2.	Bradford	2.	Mount
3.	Edgemont		Hebron
4.	Hillside	3.	Renaissance
5.	Nishuane		at Rand
6.	Northeast		
7.	Watchung		

Township's elementary and middle schools.

As part of this effort, the Township selected a consultant team lead by The RBA Group and assisted by Arterial and Meadowlink TMA (project team) to conduct SRTS workshops and develop travel plans. The travel plans stemming from the workshops compliment the work already undertaken by the Montclair SRTS Task Force, and reflect the Township's desire to create safer, healthier, active and sustainable school environments town-wide.

In developing the Hillside Travel Plan, the project team confirmed preliminary walking and bicycling routes and analyzed the basic elements required for safe walking and bicycling routes. Information was gathered from local stakeholders – staff, parents, as well as community members such as the Township Engineer, local police, health and bicycle advocates, board of education transportation representatives, and local crossing guards through interviews, travel surveys and the community workshops. In these workshops, stakeholders worked with the project team to identify existing barriers that limit walking and biking and opportunities that could prompt an increase in walking and biking to the school. The results of this collaboration is a list of potential projects and/or activities (action items) intended to make walking and biking to Hillside a safer and more appealing option than taking the car.

The Hillside Elementary School Travel Plan actively promotes the five E's of a successful SRTS program – engineering, education, enforcement, encouragement, and evaluation. These categories provide the framework for the action items identified in the plan. At the conclusion of the project, the goal is to have the school community take an active role in improving their SRTS program goals for getting students to and from school safely using active modes of travel. This Travel Plan should be adopted by the school and updated on an annual basis to reflect changes in priorities, leadership and conditions.

# **MONTCLAIR SRTS TEAM AND PARTNERSHIPS**

A key element in the planning process was for the project team to foster partnerships within the school community. The first goal was to establish a SRTS Team leader at each school. The project team worked with the SRTS Team Leader to gain a better understanding of the challenges families face in getting their students to and from school safely. In working with closely with the SRTS Team Leader, the project team was able to set the stage for the Team Leader to move forward on his own and maintain ownership of the SRTS program. Each SRTS Task Leader was given several tasks:



- Prepare an introductory letter/email to inform parents of the SRTS program and the need to fill out the parent/caregiver survey.
- Disseminate survey.
- Identify for the consulting team the major routes to the school, and any important issues related to arrival and dismissal.
- Coordinate workshop locations, times, distribute flyers and provide snacks the day of the workshop.
- Collect data from the school via the Stakeholder Interview Sheet.
- Invite stakeholders to the workshop meeting.
- Discuss and brainstorm with the project team any incentives to use for encouragement throughout the year.
- Attend the workshops as a participant/parent and share thoughts and concerns.
- Attend the classroom presentations conducted with students by the project team, if possible.

After gathering key information about the school through interim SRTS Team Leader, the project team needed to assemble active community groups and organizers whose missions and abilities complement the goals of the Montclair SRTS Program in the hopes that they will be able to support and sustain the SRTS program over time. These local stakeholders

were continuously invited to be a part of the development of each of the schools' travel plans. The Hillside School SRTS Partner Organizations List includes:

Organization	Contact	Role/Responsibility
Hillside School	Michael Chiles, Principal	Programmatic Activity and
	P: (973) 509-4200	Implementation
	E: <u>mchiles@montclair.k12.nj.us</u>	
Hillside School	Jennifer Bell and Jennifer Savitch, Health &	Programmatic Activity and
	Wellness Liaisons	Implementation
	E: <u>healthandwellness@hillsidepta.org</u>	
Hillside School	Diane Anglin and Peter Wert, PTA Co-	Programmatic Activity and
	Presidents	Implementation
	E: <u>ptapres@hillsidepta.org</u>	
Montclair Township	Alex Kent, Safe Routes to School Coordinator	Programmatic Activity and
	P: (917) 841-1516	Implementation
	E: <u>akent@montclairnjusa.org</u>	
Montclair SRTS Task	Janice Talley, Township Planner, SRTS Task	Township SRTS Coordination
Force	Force Coordinator	
	P: (973) 509-4953	
Montclair Township	Kimberli Craft, Township Engineer	Engineering Project
	P: (973) 509-5707	Implementation
	E: <u>kcraft@montclairnjusa.org</u>	
Montclair Police	Sergeant Stephanie Egnezzo, Traffic Bureau	Safety Education, Enforcement,
Department	P: (973) 509-4718	and Crossing Guard
	E: <u>segnezzo@montclairnjusa.org</u>	Assignment
	Officer John Timchak, Traffic Bureau	Safety Education, Enforcement,
	Crossing Guard Supervisor	and Crossing Guard Issues
	P: (973) 509-4752	
	E: jtimchak@montclairnjusa.org	
Montclair Dept. of	Steve Wood, Director	Streets, public property and
Community Services	P: (973) 509-5711	parks, snow and leaf removal,
(Public Works &	E: <u>swood@montclairnjusa.org</u>	all community infrastructure,
Parks)		pothole repair

#### Hillside School SRTS Partner Organizations

Organization	Contact	Role/Responsibility
Montclair Board of	BOE Special Projects	BOE SRTS Coordination
Education	www.montclair.k12.nj.usa.org	
Bike&Walk	Rika Alper, President	Advocacy, Event, Education
Montclair	P: (973) 866-5028	and Encouragement Activities
	E: info@bikewalkmontclair.org	
Montclair Board of	Gisela Aultmon, Transportation Manager	School Bus Coordination
Education –	P: (973) 509-4055	
Transportation	E: gaultmon@montclair.k12.nj.us	
Office		
Meadowlink	SRTS Program Manager	Travel Plan Implementation,
Transportation	P: (201) 939-4242	Programmatic Activity, SRTS
Management		Program Assistance/Resource,
Association		Grant Writing Assistance
Voorhees	Leigh Ann Von Hagen, Research	Web-based resources,
Transportation	Specialist	Technical Assistance, SRTS
Center/NJ SRTS	P: (848) 932-7901	Recognition Program,
Resource Center	E: <u>srts@ejb.rutgers.edu</u>	Helpdesk assistance, and SRTS
		Tools, Tips and Training
Safe Routes to	Nora L. Shepard, NJ Advocacy Organizer	Advocacy, Event and
School National	nora@saferoutespartnership.org	Encouragement Activities,
Partnership		Policy Change, Best Practices
		& Technical Assistance,
		Publications
NJ Department of	Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT SRTS Program	State SRTS Program
Transportation -	Coordinator	Assistance; Non-Infrastructure
SRTS	P: (609) 530-2765	Grant Funding
	E: elise.bremer-nei@dot.state.nj.us	
Essex County	David Antonio, County Planner	SRTS Program Assistance
Planning	P: (973) 226-8500	
Department	E: <u>dantonio@essexcountynj.org</u>	
Essex County Board	Brendan W. Gill, Freeholder, District 5	County SRTS Coordination
of Chosen	P: (973) 621-4479	
Freeholders	E: bgill@freeholders.essexcountynj.org	

# **SCHOOL PROFILE**

## School Description

The Hillside Elementary School is located at 54 Orange Road in Montclair. This section of Montclair is primarily residential but is located near the Bloomfield Avenue/Church Street commercial district. The school is bordered by St. Luke's Place to the west, Orange Road to the east, Bloomfield Avenue to the north, and Hillside Avenue to the south.

Hillside Elementary is part of the Montclair Public School District and has a school



View of school from Hillside Avenue

population of approximately 615 students in grades 3-5. In Montclair's magnet school system, all schools have a theme. Hillside's theme is "Gifted and Talented."

The primary entrance for students walking or being dropped-off is located along Orange Road. *Map 1 – School Location* identifies key features of the school neighborhood such as the location of crossing guards, primary and secondary walking routes and crosswalks.

# Hillside School



# School Demographic Information

#### > Student Demographics

Ethnicity	Hillside	State Average
White	52%	54%
Black or African American	37%	17%
Hispanic or Latino	6%	20%
Asian	5%	8%

Source: www.greatschools.net; NCES, 2008-2009

#### > Economic Diversity

#### Free and reduced-price lunch

These statistics show the percentage of students eligible for the federal free and reducedprice lunch program as reported by National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). This percentage is one indication of the student economic level (or family income level) at a school.

Free or reduced-price lunch	Hillside	State Average
program		
Students eligible for free or reduced-	18%	30%
price lunch program		
Source: www.areatschools.net: NCES, 2008-2009		

ource: <u>www.greatschools.net</u>; NCES, 2008-2009

#### Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)

These statistics show the percentage of students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) as reported by the state. IEPs are specialized educational programs created for students with disabilities. When planning for activities related to SRTS, we want to make sure to think about all members of the student population, including students with IEPs.

Students with Disabilities	Hillside
Percentage of students with IEPs (Individualized Education	20.5%
Program) regardless of placement/programs	

Source: NJDOE 2010-2011 Report Card

#### Language Diversity

Description of the differentiate Des Critical and the state of the sta	
Percentage of Limited English Proficient students Not	ot reported

Source: NJDOE 2010-2011 Report Card

Language Spoken At Home	Hillside
English	100%

Source: NJDOE 2010-2011 Report Card

# **CURRENT SCHOOL TRAVEL ENVIRONMENT**

#### Student Travel Mode

Because Montclair is a magnet school system, courtesy busing is provided to students who live farther than one mile from the school.

There are approximately fifteen (15) buses that provide service to the Hillside School. Students are permitted to ride their bike to school and the school has participated in a number of Walk/Bike to School Days to promote walking and biking as a means for getting to school.

#### Drop-Off/Pick-Up Procedures

Hillside Avenue serves as the location for school bus arrival and departure and is one of the secondary entrances to the school. Car drop-off takes place on Orange Road, Hillside Avenue, and St. Luke's Place. Carpoolers often get picked up on St. Luke's Place.

#### **School Hours**

The official hours of instruction at the school are 9:20am-3:35pm. On abbreviated days, dismissal time is 2:10pm.

#### **Crossing Guards**

There are two crossing guards in the immediate school vicinity, which are posted at the intersection of Hillside Avenue/Church Street and Orange Road and Bloomfield Avenue and Orange Road, to provide assistance during arrival and dismissal.

Transportation to and from school is available for students in the Montclair Public Schools system who meet the eligibility requirements that are based on the distance from the child's residence to the school he/she is attending. According to Board policy, transportation will be provided for the following students:

- 1. All elementary students who reside more than 1 mile from their assigned school.
- 2. All middle school students who reside more than 1 mile from their assigned school.

Source: Montclair Board of Education website, <u>http://www.montclair.k12.nj.</u> <u>us/WebPage.aspx?Id=23</u>

# **EVALUATING OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS**

The information gathering process for the Hillside Elementary School followed a series of steps conducted by the project team including stakeholder interviews, data collection, workshop previews, student classroom activity and a SRTS workshop. Together, these steps allowed the project team to develop an Action Plan listing recommendations to be implemented in the school neighborhood to improve conditions for students on their way to and from school.

#### Stakeholder Interviews

In the spring of the year prior to the workshops, Montclair's SRTS Coordinator Alex Kent met with the PTAs and the Principals of all the Montclair schools, and talked to them about the barriers they have to walking or biking to school, safety or otherwise. In the Hillside Elementary School, some areas of concern ("hot spots") within the school neighborhood were identified. Their verbatim thoughts are included below:

#### **PTA/Parent Wish List**

• The South Fullerton/Hawthorne intersection should be a 4-way stop.

#### Parents' Thoughts

• South Fullerton/Hawthorne intersection is dangerous and used by lots of students.

# Neighborhood Mapping

#### Team Observation

Prior to the community workshop, the project team performed a field investigation to observe the conditions around the Hillside Elementary School. Observations were made of the physical conditions all around the school campus and surrounding neighborhood; parking patterns and restrictions; auto and foot traffic and circulation using the Crosswalk <sup>©</sup> data collection and assessment system.

Summaries and results of these collection efforts and field investigations are summarized in Appendix A. This summation includes detailed maps annotated with comments about the school commute dynamics and conditions for walking or bicycling to and from school. Photos of each major issue are included and keyed to the maps by number.

#### School Community Observation

#### STUDENT CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

Members of the project team met with six Hillside students, in grades 3-5, to discuss obstacles to walking and bicycling in their school neighborhood. Students participated in a classroom activity in the form of a focus group to help the project team identify issues and general concerns of safety around the school neighborhood. In talking with these students about reasons why they walk or bike to school, here's a summary of notes from that discussion:



## General Discussion

- Most get dropped off or take the bus
- A few walk when it is nice out
- One student bikes most days with his father
- Some students don't walk because they are "lazy" and want to sleep later
- More students walk home from school than to school
- Bike/Walk to School Day takes place once a year and isn't promoted well
- At least one more bike rack is needed
  - Students who bike are worried about finding a place to leave their bike in nicer weather when more people ride their bike
- Students who live further away but would like to walk aren't allowed to because it is too dangerous
  - Parents would be more likely to let their child walk if it was with a larger group like a Walking School Bus
- Roadwork being done on S. Mountain Avenue makes it dangerous for bicycling
- Park Street is a little dangerous
- Some people have big bushes next to their driveways and you cannot see when people are pulling out

In calling out specific "hotspots' here's what the students had to say:

Location	Issues
Grove Street	Difficult to cross
Columbus Avenue	Missing sidewalk on one side

Have trouble using hand signals while biking

Drivers text and use their cell phones while driving

Cars don't stop for pedestrians in crosswalks on Grove Street

Not enough crossing guards

Feel safer in the bike lane on the road than on the sidewalk, because the sidewalks are bumpy

The school doesn't promote Walk to School Day enough. Students should meet somewhere as a group and walk to school together

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#### **Community Workshop**

#### **Observation of Student Arrival**

The project team met at the Hillside Elementary School at 8:45 am on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to observe arrival of Hillside's students with parents and stakeholders. The purpose of this exercise was to allow workshop attendees the opportunity to have a first-hand observation of the existing and potentially hazardous behaviors within the school neighborhood.

#### Community Workshop

The workshop began directly after the observation of student arrival. Members of the Hillside school community and local community attended the workshop to discuss Safe Routes to School program at Hillside. The project team's goal for this working meeting was to present sufficient information on Safe Routes to School programs to the community well as supplying audience as members with anecdotal information





from their earlier discussion with students and their own observations of the schools' arrival. Workshop participants identified barriers, areas of concerns and opportunities in the environment around Hillside in their discussion and through the mapping exercise facilitated by the project team.

# Vision

- Excellent amount of bikers Another bike rack would be helpful
- Kids need to get off of their bikes when crossing the street
- Police Dept. can do safety presentations, as well as Meadowlink
- Helmet give away by Police
  Dept. and Meadowlink for kids
  that don't have helmets
- Police Dept. can set up a variable message sign for a period of time with safe messages
- Talk with Pre-K across the street to coordinate drop-off procedures
- Walking school bus from Porter Park
- Park and Walk from Montclair Art Museum (MAM). MAM is cooperative with community programs and may allow usage of their parking lot for walking to school.
- Police Dept. presence at all back to school nights





Bike rack in front of Hillside School

# CREATING SOLUTIONS FOR THE SCHOOL NEIGHBORHOOD

Based on the experience and observations at Hillside Elementary School, the project team offers the following suggestions for priority actions related to building the Hillside SRTS program.

# Top SRTS Priority Recommendations

A full listing of the recommendations are provided as options for the Hillside Elementary School to consider while implementing its SRTS plan and are included in the Action Plan Matrix, later in this Travel Plan. The top priority concepts for each of the 5 E's (Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement and Evaluation) are also listed here:

#### Engineering

- Install permanent roadway centerline "Stop for Pedestrian" signs along Orange Road and Hillside Avenue and install push button actuated Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon pedestrian crossing signs(RRFB) at the mid-block crossing on Orange Road
- Define and sign an area along St. Luke's Place for drop-off or pick-up
- Paint "School Zone" pavement legends on the roadways approaching the school
- Create a school pavement "quilt" along Orange Road between Hillside School and Montclair Community Pre-K
- Evaluate restricting Right Turn on Red at the Orange Road & Hillside Ave/ Church Street signalized intersection (during school hours)

#### Enforcement

- Update the (or create a) Family Handbook that defines arrival and dismissal procedures with map and text that defines drop-off/pick-up areas, the rules and procedures for driving along local streets within school campus and any school driveway access, and areas designated for bike parking
- Create a student safety patrol
- Evaluate crossing guard performance and procedures in school vicinity
- Reinforce "No Parking" with 25' of a crosswalk
- Talk with Montclair Community Pre-K about coordinating enhanced enforcement activity that would mutually benefit both schools during arrival and dismissal

#### Education

- Share updated information and/or Handbook on arrival/ dismissal procedures with the school community
- Coordinate with BWM to offer Smart Cycling Classes for any students who want to ride to school
- Invite Montclair Police Department to give safety presentation and conduct bicycle registration and helmet giveaways at Back to School night
- Invite NJ TRANSIT to give their SAFETY RULES! Assembly presentation every year.



NJ TRANSIT offers a no-cost, 45minute statewide safety education program to public, non-public and charter schools, Grades PreK-12, highlight the need for safe behavior and caution around rail systems and buses. According to NJ TRANSIT, the presentation includes an age-appropriate video, safety tips and procedures, question and answer session, and free educational materials that reinforce important safety messages. For more information or to schedule presentations, go to the <u>Safety Education Program</u> site at: (http://www.pitransit.com/rg/rg.servlet.sp/2hdpPageAction=SafetyTo)

- Promote Bike&Walk Montclair's Courteous Driving Pledge
- Invite <u>Meadowlink TMA</u> and <u>Bike&Walk Montclair</u> to help with bicycle and pedestrian education at assemblies or weekend Bike Rodeos.

#### Encouragement

- Improve communications between school officials and families establishing a convenient mechanism to share information and get feedback
- Establish and organize Bike Trains/Walking School Buses to connect students and families at Hillside and Nishuane who also want to walk or bike, and would be more comfortable as part of a group
- Work with neighbors to clear bushes from sidewalks
- Circulate Time Radius Map and Travel Plan Report on school website.

Evaluation

- Continue to conduct student travel surveys to measure how effective the SRTS program has been in increasing the number of students walking, biking, carpooling or taking transit to school
- Conduct tracking exercises for distances students walk both on-line and in the classroom

#### Incentives

To encourage families to arrive by foot, bike or any other form of active transportation, Edgemont's SRTS Team Leader should continue to work with the SRTS team at Meadowlink (the Transportation Management Agency covering all of Montclair and the surrounding area), to develop a plan o best leverage the incentive items and other SRTS efforts.

Meadowlink will be providing bicycle and pedestrian safety themed incentives, such as stickers, to Hillside and all of the other Montclair Schools participating in the SRTS program. Going forward, Meadowlink will offer assistance in the implementation of further SRTS initiatives such as, a walking school bus or bike rodeo, and incentives for these events will be provided as necessary.

# **PROGRAM EVALUATION AND MONITORING**

In order to continue the momentum and keep up with the growing needs of a changing school population, Hillside should use various data collection methods to evaluate the effectiveness of its SRTS Program over time. Some of those preliminary actions should be:

#### • Conduct Student Travel Mode (Hands-Up) Surveys

Hillside should measure the number of children walking and bicycling to school by conducting Student Travel Mode (Hands-Up) Surveys at least twice a year. The results will be evaluated yearly to show if there has been a shift in the number of children walking and bicycling to school.

For these surveys, Hillside can work with their SRTS Team Leader and Meadowlink TMA to coordinate this effort with Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University to tabulate survey data. A copy of the Student Travel Mode Survey can be found in Appendix B.

#### • Continue to conduct Parent Surveys

Hillside should continue to distribute parent/caregiver take-home/<u>online</u> attitudinal surveys to evaluate parents' attitudes towards walking and bicycling to school over time. The 2012 New Jersey Safe Routes to School Parent/Caregiver Survey Form is included in Appendix B. Using survey information on the number of children that currently walk and bike to Hillside as a baseline measure, these yearly surveys should be conducted to determine if there has been a shift in attitudes and/or actions since the implementation of actions related to the SRTS program. Hillside's SRTS Team Leader and Meadowlink TMA can work together to ensure that the surveys are distributed, collected and then tabulated by Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University.

#### • Conduct School Traffic Counts

School traffic counts can be a good way to collect baseline data on parent/student behavior during arrival. Unlike typical traffic counts that use automated traffic counting equipment, these visual counts involve using students to manually record how students are being dropped off to school. Hillside should institute a school traffic counts initiative to do these counts either as a single classroom activity or can use it as a schoolwide motivator to get parents and students to walk and bike more often. These counts should be done at the beginning and the end of the school year to see if any of the SRTS activities have had an impact in reducing the number of cars dropping off students. It is important that



Children of the Ganllwyd School in England counting passing vehicles as part of their Junior Road Safety Officers Program.

the counts are done the same way each time to ensure that results can accurately compared.

The SRTS Team Leader should invite a representative from the Montclair Police Department, the Township Planner, or the Township Engineer to help kick-off the school's traffic count initiative. The counts should be coupled with encouragement activities such as:

- Making a school-wide pledge to walk and bike more often
- Setting a school-wide goal and holding a celebration if the goal is met.
- Having class discussions on how to reduce the impacts of traffic by using alternative modes of transportation such as biking and walking.

A sample of a traffic count form can be found in Appendix C.

Before carrying out any of these activities, the Hillside SRTS Team should consider creating a mechanism for evaluation. As noted in the *Complete Safe Routes to School Guide*<sup>1</sup> there is a six-step process that works best for evaluating SRTS programs and is demonstrated in the following graphic:



Creating a plan at the onset of the program will be most beneficial in setting goals for your program and determining strategies to will help you attain those goals.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This guide is maintained by the National Center for Safe Routes to School at <u>www.saferoutesinfo.org</u>.

# MAPPING SOLUTIONS FOR THE SCHOOL NEIGHBORHOOD

The walking environment around Hillside Elementary School is generally in good condition. With some minor changes, the walking routes to school can be very attractive to nearby families.

*Map 2 - School Neighborhood Recommendations* (on the following page) illustrates the suggested physical improvements that are aimed at improving the overall conditions for families walking and biking to school. If implemented in conjunction with the other strategies outlined in the Action Plan Matrix (page 25), these physical improvements will offer walking and/or biking as a safe and more convenient option to getting to school.



# **ACTION PLAN MATRIX**

The following Action Plan Matrix for implementing the Hillside Elementary School SRTS program is intended to increase safety for students on their journey to and from school and, where appropriate encourage more students to walk or bike. The tables below are organized by the logical lead entity and identify those preliminary recommendations, specific to the Hillside School campus and the immediate area, partners, a time frame and a level of cost for implementing each recommended action.

To give the Hillside SRTS program more depth, it is recommended that these concepts be reinforced beyond the immediate school neighborhood. Hillside's SRTS program can best realize full success if its community and municipal partners implement the township-wide action items that support Hillside's SRTS program. These township-wide recommendations have been identified in Appendix D and are organized by the 5 E format (Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement and Evaluation) for implementing the SRTS program.

### Action Plan Matrix – Hillside Elementary School Neighborhood Specific

Timeframe Definition	Cost Definition
<b>Short-term</b> = less than 3 months	<b>Low</b> = Less than \$2,000
<b>Mid-term</b> = between 3 to 6 months	<b>Medium</b> = between \$2,000 and \$10,000
Long-term = longer than 6 months	<b>High</b> = more than \$10,000

No.	Action	Partners	Timeframe	Cost	Notes
Lead Entity: Principal					
1	Update the (or create a) Family Handbook that defines arrival and dismissal procedures with map and text that defines drop-off/pick-up areas, the rules and procedures for driving along local streets within school campus and any school driveway access, and areas designated for bike parking	School Action Team(SAT)/PTA	Short-term	Low	Consider making St. Lukes Place the morning car drop off area. Enforce the "No Cars in Staff Lot" rule.
2	Send out monthly E-blasts to reinforce bus/drop-off/pickup procedures	ΡΤΑ	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	Remind parents to use mid-block crosswalk.
3	Create school map of preferred drop- off/pick-up locations, walking routes, biking routes, crosswalks, bike parking, park and walk locations, etc.	SAT/PTA/ Meadowlink TMA/Bike&Walk Montclair	Short-term	Low	Include school map on poster for Back to School Night or other events
4	Relocate the silver bike rack located at the southeast corner (closest to the Hillside Ave and Orange Road intersection) adjacent to the red bike rack that is in line with the main school entry door	Montclair BOE/Montclair Engineering	Mid-term	Medium	See Appendix F for bike rack considerations
5	Install new state-of-the-art bike rack and relocate the rack from the Hillside Avenue adjacent to the other rack	Montclair Engineering/ BWM	Short-term	Medium	See Appendix F for bike rack considerations
6	Work with neighbors to clear bushes from sidewalks	PTA/Montclair Police Code Enforcement	Short-term	Low	
7	Create a student safety patrol utilizing 5 <sup>th</sup> grade students – especially to assist the Crossing Guard at Orange Rd and Hillside Ave	SAT/PTA /SRTS Team Leader	Short-term	Low	

No.	Action	Partners	Timeframe	Cost	Notes
8	Work with Transportation Office to re-route buses to South Mountain Avenue after drop-off instead of using St. Luke's Place	Montclair BOE – Transportation Office	Short-term	Low	
9	Host more Bike/Walk to School Days throughout the school year	PTA/BWM/ Meadowlink TMA	Short-term	Low	
10	Continue the SRTS team/group	PTA/ Meadowlink TMA	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	
11	Invite NJ TRANSIT to give their SAFETY RULES! Assembly presentation every year	Montclair BOE/NJ TRANSIT	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	www.njtransit.com/r g/rg_servlet.srv?hdn PageAction=SafetyT o
12	Invite Montclair Police Department to give safety presentation and conduct bicycle registration and helmet giveaways at Back to School night	Montclair BOE / Montclair Police	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	Montclair Police has bike helmets – request a supply for students if needed. Contact Sgt. Egnezzo
13	Invite <u>Meadowlink TMA</u> and <u>Bike&amp;Walk Montclair</u> (BWM) to help with bicycle and pedestrian education at assemblies or weekend Bike Rodeos	Montclair BOE/ Meadowlink TMA/ BWM/ PTA/ SRTS Coordinator	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	Special emphasis on jaywalking and helmet use
14	Improve communications between school officials and families establishing a convenient mechanism to share information and get feedback	SAT/PTA	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	
15	Circulate Time Radius Map and Travel Plan Report on school website	Montclair BOE	Short-term	Low	
16	Utilize the school website to advance Safe Routes to School safety campaign/messages	Montclair BOE	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	Include NJ rail safety PSAs i.e. http://oli.org/video/ view/new-jersey- transit-psa-you- dont-win

No.	Action	Partners	Timeframe	Cost	Notes
17	Integrate walking, bicycling, and traffic safety education into classroom curriculum	Meadowlink TMA /Montclair BOE /PTA	Short-term	Low	See Appendix E for sample lesson plans. Meadowlink can provide this training or provide training to trainers
18	Continue to conduct student travel surveys to measure how effective the SRTS program has been in increasing the number of students walking, biking, carpooling or taking transit to school	Montclair BOE/ Meadowlink TMA	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	See Appendix B for a hard copy of the survey
19	Continue to conduct the parent attitudinal surveys	SRTS Team Leader/PTA/ Meadowlink TMA/BWM	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	See Appendix B for the hard copy and online link to the survey
Lead	Entity: PTA				
20	Re-send parent on-line survey	Meadowlink TMA	Short-term	Low	
21	Create and sign "Park and Walk" locations at: • Porter Park • Montclair Art Museum	PTA/SAT/ Montclair Engineering/ DPW	Short-term	Low	Parents can park on Myrtle or Union Streets and walk from there.
22	Host more Bike/Walk to School Days throughout the school year	PTA/BWM/ Meadowlink TMA	Short-term	Low	
23	Create and distribute fake "tickets" to reprimand drivers/walkers/bicyclists for unsafe behavior	Safety Patrol/SAT/SRTS Team Leader	Short-term	Low	Including parents that use Staff parking lot
24	Create warm fuzzies or "thank you's" to reward drivers/walkers/bicyclists for displaying model behavior	Safety Patrol/SAT/SRTS Team Leader	Short-term	Low	
25	Participate in <u>International Walk to</u> <u>School Day</u> in October and <u>National</u> <u>Bike to School Day</u> in May and <u>NJ</u> <u>Walk and Bike to School Day</u> in May	Principal/ Meadowlink TMA/ SRTS Coordinator/ SRTS Team Leader/ BWM	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	

No.	Action	Partners	Timeframe	Cost	Notes
26	Establish and organize Bike Trains/Walking School Buses to connect students and families at Hillside and Nishuane who also want to walk or bike, and would be more comfortable as part of a group	SRTS Team Leader/ Meadowlink TMA/BWM	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	Meadowlink can help with setting up WSBs and have helmets for giveaways. Organization could be set up similar to Meadowlink's <u>carpool program</u>
27	Coordinate with BWM to offer Bike Safety Classes – Bike 101 for any students who want to ride to school	BWM	Short-term	Low	
28	Include Crossing Guard Appreciation Day with every bike/walk to school event	Principal/ Meadowlink TMA/ SRTS Coordinator/ SRTS Team Leader/ BWM	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	
29	Form a bike club to support student riders	Principal/ Meadowlink TMA/BWM	Short-term	Low	For an example, see the Loyal Heights Urban Cycling Club: <u>http://walkbikescho</u> <u>ols.wordpress.com/2</u> <u>013/03/06/the-loyal-</u> <u>heights-urban-</u> <u>cycling-club/</u>
30	Share the updated arrival/dismissal procedures/walking and Bike Route maps via PTA web site	Principal/ Montclair Engineering/ BWM	Short-term	Low	
31	Circulate Travel Plan on PTA website, especially the map of walking routes with the time radius	Montclair BOE	Short-term	Low	
32	Report any crossing guard issues to Traffic Bureau (973-509-4752) - Schedule - Procedure	Board of Education/ Montclair Police	Short-term	Low	Contact Officer John Timchak
33	Promote Bike&Walk Montclair's Courteous Driving Pledge	BWM	Short-term	Low	

No.	Action	Partners	Timeframe	Cost	Notes
34	Complete "Achievements" as part of the SRTS Recognition Program to reach the Gold Level	Meadowlink TMA/BWM/ SRTS Coordinator	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	See Appendix F for details on Achievements
Lead	Entity: Montclair Engineering				
35	Install permanent roadway centerline "Stop for Pedestrian" signs along Orange Road at the mid-block crossing	Montclair BOE	Short	Low	BOE has portable versions of this sign, this is intended to be permanently installed
36	Define and sign an area along St. Luke's Place for drop-off or pick-up	Principal/ Montclair BOE	Short-term	Low	
37	Paint "School Zone" pavement legends on the roadways approaching the school	Montclair DPW	Short-term	Low	
38	Reinstall "No Parking Here To Corner" sign on Hillside Avenue (facing east)	Montclair DPW	Short-term	Low	
39	Change signed parking restrictions on the eastside of Orange Road from "No Parking" to "No Stopping, Standing or Parking" during arrival and departure times	Montclair DPW/Montclair Council/ Montclair Police	Short-term	Low	Sign should indicate specific times
40	Create a school pavement "quilt" along Orange Road between Hillside School and Montclair Community Pre-K	Montclair BOE/ Principal/ Montclair Community Pre-K/PTA/BWM	Mid-term	Low	
41	Investigate crossing enhancements such as signal timing, striped crosswalks, curb extensions at the intersection of Bloomfield Avenue & Grove Street or anywhere along Grove Street that is difficult to cross	Montclair DPW	Short-term	Low	
42	Evaluate the sidewalk network and consider adding sidewalk along Columbus Avenue (between Grove and Christopher Streets)	SAT/PTA/ Montclair DPW	Short-Mid- term	Low- Medium	
43	Use striping to reinforce no parking within 25' of the crosswalk	Montclair DPW/Montclair Police	Short-term	Low	

No.	Action	Partners	Timeframe	Cost	Notes
44	Install push button actuated Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon pedestrian crossing signs(RRFB) at the mid-block crossing on Orange Road	Montclair DPW	Short-term	Low	
45	Evaluate restricting Right Turn on Red at the Orange Road & Hillside Ave/ Church Street signalized intersection (during school hours)	Principal/ Montclair Police	Mid-term	Low	
Lead	Entity: Montclair Police Departmer	nt		•	
46	Enforce no parking within 25' of crosswalk	Montclair Engineering/ DPW	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	
47	Include information on crossing bicyclists during annual crossing guard training	Meadowlink TMA/BWM	Short-term	Low	
48	Place variable message sign along Orange Road that displays "No U- Turn"	Montclair BOE	Short-term	Low	
49	Evaluate Crossing Guard performance and procedures (Orange Road & Hillside Ave/Church Street intersection)	PTA/SRTS Coordinator	Short-term	Low	
50	Enforce any new parking regulations within the school zone first through warnings, then through ticketing	Principal/PTA	Short-term	Low	
51	Provide information about bicycle registration that can be shared with the school community	Principal/PTA/ BWM	Short-term	Low	
52	Talk with Montclair Community Pre-K about coordinating enhanced enforcement activity that would mutually benefit both schools during arrival and dismissal	Principal/ Montclair Community Pre- K	Short-term	Low	

# **APPENDICES**

# Appendix A. Crosswalk<sup>©</sup> Neighborhood Analysis

The following maps and notes are a record of the issues identified both during initial field observations and during the workshops as noted by participants:

#### **Assessment Categories:**

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-	<b>-</b>	-
X	X	X
8	8	8

School Location/ Crossing Guard Location Ideas/ Primary Destination/ Secondary Destination Pedestrian Issues – Good/ Minor/ Major Bicycling Issues - Good/ Minor/ Major Driver Behavior – Good/ Poor/ Bad Intersection Issues - Good/ Poor/ Bad Environmental Issues - - Good/ Poor/ Bad



#### **Secondary Destinations**



- 1. Playground.
- 2. Bicycle Racks. The bicycle racks appear to be full.
- 3. Bus Loading and Drop-off.
- 4. Exit for Car Pickups.



**Crossing Guards** 



1. Crossing Guard.


**Driver Behavior - Bad** 



- 1. Drivers Drop-off. Drivers drop-off in the parking lot.
- 2. **Pick-up.** Drivers pick-up here when they should be on St. Luke's Place.
- 3. Need No Parking Here to Corner sign.
- 4. Illegal U-Turns.



#### Intersection – Good



1. Good Intersection. Good, visible crosswalk with proper curb ramps.



#### Intersection – Bad



- 1. Mid-block Crossing. Visibility of pedestrians is obscured due to parked cars.
- 2. Crossing Guard. Question regarding effectiveness.



#### Intersection - Poor



1. **Curb Ramps.** Intersection is visible and signalized but curb ramps are in poor condition and need improvements including paving and tactile surfaces.



Pedestrian Issue – Major



1. Mid-block Crossing. Students cross after being dropped-off.



Pedestrian Issue – Minor



1. **Mid-block Crossing.** The visibility of this mid-block crossing needs to be improved. There is nothing prohibiting parking adjacent to the crossing (should be 25' setback). There are no signals, "Yield to Ped" signs or crossing guard.

2. **Cracked/Heaving Sidewalk.** Sidewalks in this area are old, blue stone with some cracking and heaving.



Pedestrian – Good



1. **Good Sidewalks.** There are quality sidewalks connecting downtown/Church Street to the school.

- 2. Good Sidewalks. Sidewalks are ample width and in good condition.
- 3. Good Sidewalks. Sidewalks appear to be consistent and in good condition.
- 4. Good Sidewalks. Good sidewalks with ample width are located along Orange Road.

# Hillside School



# Neighborhood Area Photography



1 Playground is adjacent to school with safe pedestrian access.



The visibility of this mid-block crossing needs to be improved. There are no signals, "Yield to Ped" signs or crossing guard.



Illegal drop-offs and U-Turns.



4 Sidewalks in this area are old, blue stone with some cracking and heaving.



5) Intersection is visible and signalized but curb ramps are in poor condition and need improvements including paving and tactile surfaces.



6 Good sidewalks with ample width are located along Orange Road.



Analysis Area Campus Map 4 - S c h o o l

Appendix B. Surveys – Travel Mode & Attitudinal

Classroom Travel Mode Survey for Students

+ CAP	ITAL LETTE	RS ONLY -	BLUE OR BI	ACK TNK					+
chool manne		NO ONET	DECE OR DI		eacher's First	Name:	Teacher's	Last Name:	<b>T</b>
				ПΓ	Ш				ПП
Frade: (PK,K,	1,2,3) M	onday's Date	a (Week count w	as conducted)	Number of S	Students Enr	olled in Class	:	
					Ш				
0 2	line ali ani	M M D	D Y Y	Y Y	1 5		Thursday		
(Three day	s would prov	vide better da	ata if counte	d)	s Tuesday, We	eanesaay, or	i nursday.		
			s on Mondays ir hands, pleas		gh all possible a	inswer choice	s so they will k	now their choi	ces. Each
Student ma	y only answer	once.		_	t school today		201		
<ul> <li>Then, rerea</li> </ul>	ad each answe				ts that raised th		each. <b>Place ju</b>	st one chara	cter or
	same procedur				leave for hon				
<ul> <li>You can cor</li> </ul>	nduct the cour	nts once per da	ay but during t	he count plea	ise ask students k these questior	both the sch	ool arrival and	departure que	stions.
Step 1.			Step 2.						
	eather conditio				ve at school to to leave for h				
number of s		- ciudo		inswer.				ene namber e	
	Weather	Student Tally	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Key	S= sunny	Number in				Only with	Riding with		
	R= rainy O=overcast SN=snow	class when count made	-		-	Children from	children from other families	City bus, subway, etc.	Skate-board scooter, etc.
Sample AM	S N	2 0	2	3	8	3		3	1
Sample PM	R	1 9	3	3	8	1	2	2	
Tues. AM									
Tues. AM Tues. PM Wed. AM									
Tues. PM									
Tues. PM Wed. AM									
Tues. PM Wed. AM Wed. PM									
Tues. PM Wed. AM Wed. PM Thurs. AM Thurs. PM					travel condition	One to/from		the days of	the tally.

Source: <u>http://saferoutesnj.org/documents/SRTS\_Tally\_Sheet-1.pdf</u>

Parent/Caregiver Attitudinal Survey The online version of the survey can be found here: <u>https://rutgersbcsr.us2.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\_8uZQeguvLZ7cjRP</u>



O 701								
Survey Directions								
Please answer the quest								
complete only one surve						e about 5 - 10 m	inutes t	0
complete. Remember, al	i the requ	ested 11	normau	on will be anony	mous.			
1. What is the name of	your chil	d's sch	ool?					
2. In what grade is you	r child cu	rrently	y enrollo	ed?				
3. Is your child:	Male	🗆 Fe	emale					
4. Does your school dis	trict prov	ide vo	ur child	with busing?				
□ Yes	F							
□ No								
5. Does your child have	a disabilit	y that j	prevents	s her/him from v	valking or biki	ng to school?		
Yes								
□ No								
6a. What town do you	live in?							
6h. What is the street i	ntorcostio		oost more	n homo?		and		
6b. What is the street i	ntersectio	n near	rest you	r home?		and		
			-				ve fron	n school
7. During a typical 5-d	ay school	week,	-				ve fron	n school
7. During a typical 5-d	ay school	week,	-	ny days does ye	our child go to	school and lea	ve fron	n school
7. During a typical 5-d	ay school insportati	week, on:	-	ny days does yo Family Vehicle		school and lea Public Transit		
7. During a typical 5-d	ay school	week,	how ma	ny days does ye	our child go to Carpool (with children from another	school and lea		
7. During a typical 5-d using these types of tra	ay school insportati Walk	week, on: Bike	how ma School Bus	ny days does yo Family Vehicle (only children in	our child go to Carpool (with children	school and lea Public Transit (city bus, subway,		Total = 5 days
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7. During a typical 5-d. using these types of tra EXAMPLE Goes to School by Leaves from School by	ay school nsportati Walk 2 days	week, on: Bike 1 day	how ma School Bus 2 days	Family Vehicle (only children in your family)	Carpool (with children from another family)	Public Transit (city bus, subway, etc)	Other	Total = 5 days = 5 days = 5 days = 5 days
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7. During a typical 5-d using these types of tra EXAMPLE Goes to School by Leaves from School by 8. If your child walks o □ Alone	ay school nsportati Walk 2 days or bikes to	week, on: Bike 1 day schoo	how ma School Bus 2 days	Family Vehicle (only children in your family) whom do they u	Carpool (with children from another family)	Public Transit (city bus, subway, etc)	Other	Total = 5 days = 5 days = 5 days = 5 days
7. During a typical 5-d using these types of tra EXAMPLE Goes to School by Leaves from School by 8. If your child walks o □ Alone	ay school insportati Walk 2 days or bikes to or Guardi	week, on: Bike 1 day schoo	how ma School Bus 2 days I, with v	Family Vehicle (only children in your family) whom do they u ibling ther Adult	Carpool (with children from another family) sually travel?	school and lear Public Transit (city bus, subway, etc) (Check all that	Other	Total = 5 days = 5 days = 5 days = 5 days
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7. During a typical 5-d using these types of tra EXAMPLE Goes to School by Leaves from School by 8. If your child walks o Date of the school Barent Other ( 9. What is the driving of estimate) a. minutes: 10a. When your child y or him to travel from y	ay school msportati Walk 2 days or bikes to or Guardi Children distance b walks, bik	week, on: Bike 1 day o schoo an b. n b. n tes, or f	how ma School Bus 2 days d, with v Si 0 0 M n your h niles:	Family Vehicle (only children in your family) whom do they u ibling ther Adult fy child does not nome and school	carpool (with children from another family) sually travel? t walk or bike t i m minutes at Don't Kno hool, how long	o school and lear Public Transit (city bus, subway, etc) (Check all that to school nd miles? (pleas ow g, on average, d	Other apply.)	Total = 5 days = 5 days = 5 days = 5 days
Goes to School by Leaves from School by 8. If your child walks o	ay school msportati Walk 2 days or bikes to or Guardi Children distance b walks, bik	week, on: Bike 1 day o schoo an b. n b. n tes, or f	how ma School Bus 2 days d, with v Si 0 0 M n your h niles:	Family Vehicle (only children in your family) whom do they u ibling ther Adult fy child does not nome and school school bus to school	Carpool (with children from another family) sually travel? t walk or bike t i in minutes an Don't Kno hool, how long	e school and lear Public Transit (city bus, subway, etc) (Check all that to school nd miles? (pleas ow g, on average, d Xnow	Other apply.)	Total = 5 days = 5 days = 5 days = 5 days

 10b. How does your child usually get to and from school? (Check all that apply)

 □ Walk
 □ Bike
 □ Ride the School Bus
 □ Drive/Ride in Car
 □ Other

11. Does your child's school encourage walking to and from school?

□Yes □No □Don't Know

12. Does your child's school encourage biking to and from school?

🗆 Yes 🗆 No 🗖 Don't Know

13. In what ways does your child's school encourage walking or biking? (If applicable)

Walking	Biking
Walk to school days	Bike to school days
□ School walking club	School bike club
Walking School Bus program	Bike rodeo
Providing walking route maps	Providing bike route maps
Distributing informative materials on walking	Distributing informative materials on biking
Don't know	Bicycle racks are present
□ Other:	Don't know
	Other:

14. Does your child have a bike that they can ride to school?

I Yes

No

15a. Currently, how important are the following in your decision to let your child walk or bike to school? Please indicate below how important each of the following factors affects your decision and in the last column on the right, please indicate which one factor is the most important.

Please indicate the one factor that is most important

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither Important or Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant	Most Important Factor
Distance to and from school						
Availability of sidewalks						
Availability of bike paths and/ or trails	٥					D
Availability of bike parking			0			
Amount of traffic on roads			0			
Speed of traffic on roads						
Availability of crossing guards						D
Weather						
Availability of school bus			٥			0
Unsafe crossings or intersections			٥			٥

15b. Currently, how important are the following in your decision to let your Please indicate the child walk or bike to school? Please indicate below how important each of the one factor that is following factors affects your decision and in the last column on the right, please most important indicate which one factor is the most important. Neither Most Very Somewhat Somewhat Very Important or Important Important Unimportant Unimportant Important Unimportant Factor Age of my child Family schedule Child's before and after school activities Weight of book bag Availability of adult supervision Bullying Personal safety (theft, gangs, abandoned buildings, etc...) "Stranger Danger" 

15c. Please tell us if there are any other important factors in your decision to let your child walk or bike to school?

#### Tell Us About Yourself ...

These questions are asked so that we can group your responses together with those of everyone we interview.

16. What is your age as of today?

\_\_\_\_age

#### 17. Are you male or female?

- □ male
- □ female

18. Please indicate how many peope in your household, including yourself, are in each of the following age categories. [Fill in number]

Under 4 years 5 to 11 years 12 to 16 years 17 to 19 years 20 to 55 years 55 years or older

19. What is the highest level of education you've completed? Less than high school graduate □ High school graduate (or GED) □ Some college (or technical vocational school/professional business school) □ Two-year college degree (AA: Associate in Arts) □ Four-year college degree (BA or BS: Bachelor of Arts/ Science degree) □ Graduate work, but no advanced degree Graduate degree (Masters, PhD., Lawyer, Medical Doctor) 20. Which ONE of these descriptions of race and ethnic backgrounds most applies to you: □ White Hispanic □ White not Hispanic Black Hispanic Black not Hispanic 🗆 Asian Native American Other 21. What is your total annual household income? □ Less than \$25,000 □ \$25,000 to \$50,000 □ \$50,000 to \$100,000 □ \$100,000 to \$150,000 \$150,000 or more 22. How many motor vehicles are kept at home for use by members of your household? vehicles 23. What is your marital status? □ Single/Never Married Married/Civil Union Divorced □ Widowed Living with a partner 24. What type of residence do you live in? Is it a... Single family home □ Multi-family home Townhouse Apartment building Condominium Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_\_ THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS SURVEY

**Appendix C. Traffic Count Instructions and Form** 

# **INSTRUCTIONS FOR TRAFFIC COUNT FORM**

- 1. Have kids pair up in teams of two to count walkers and bicyclists. Car counters need teams of three.
- 2. Each team is assigned a location where children are arriving at school.
- 3. One person is the counter and the other is the recorder. When counting cars, one person counts cars and another counts the number of children in each car.
- 4. The counters call out a car (biker or walker) when it (they) arrives. The recorder makes a mark for the number of cars and writes out the number for the number of children per car. (Make sure they keep the tic marks in groups of five). The bike and walking counters should make marks for each child.
- 5. At the end they total the number of marks. Then they count how many cars that had more than one child in the car, which counts the number of carpools. Note: If the class has learned how to average, then have them compute the number of children per carpool.
- 6. Combine all the forms to find out how many children walked to school, biked to school, came in a carpool, or came alone in a car.
- Return the forms to the Safe Routes to School box in the office or contact \_\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

Thanks for helping out the Safe Routes to School program

Safe Routes to School is a project of: NAME OF SCHOOL, ADDRESS, PHONE, E-MAIL

#### Montclair Safe Routes to School Program

#### Safe Routes to School Travel Plan – Hillside Elementary School

Date		Weat	her	
Start Time		End 1	lime	
Name(s) of Counter	rs & Recorders			
		•		
COUNT THE NUMBER OF CARS	HOW MANY CHILDREN IN EACH CAR?	COUNT THE BICYCLISTS (WITH HELMETS)	COUNT THE BICYCLISTS (WITHOUT HELMETS)	COUNT THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WALKING
I		I	I	

**Source:** Safe routes to school, <u>United States. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration</u>, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2002

**Appendix D. Action Plan Matrix – Township-wide** 

#### Action Plan Matrix – Township-wide

Timeframe Definition	Cost Definition
<b>Short-term</b> = less than 3 months	<b>Low</b> = Less than \$2,000
Mid-term = between 3 to 6 months	<b>Medium</b> = between \$2,000 and \$10,000
Long-term = longer than 6 months	<b>High</b> = more than \$10,000

No.	Action (Township-wide)	Partners	Timeframe	Cost	Notes
Engi	neering		•		
A1	Install pedestrian countdown signal heads and R10-3e placards with instructions for use at appropriate locations	County	Short-term	Medium	
A2	Install pedestrian crossing signs with school children symbols at unsignalized school crossings	County	Short-term	Low	
A3	Establish, through ordinance, all school zones as "Zero Tolerance" areas where fines for speeding are doubled	County	Short-term	Low	
A4	Post "Zero Tolerance" signs in all school zones	County	Mid-term	Medium	
A5	Evaluate appropriate locations for pedestrian scale lighting paying special attention to existing and future sidewalks	County	Short-term	Low	
A6	Install pedestrian scale lighting - paying special attention to existing and future sidewalks	County	Short-term	Medium - High	
A7	Conduct a sidewalk assessment and create a prioritized list of locations for installation of ADA-compliant curb ramps with detectable warning surfaces at locations where they are missing	County	Short-term	Low	

No.	Action (Township-wide)	Partners	Timeframe	Cost	Notes
A8	Install ADA-compliant curb ramps with detectable warning surfaces at locations where they are missing	County	Short-term	Medium	
A9	Provide high visibility crosswalks fluorescent, yellow-green advanced school crossing and school warning signs within school zones and along designated school routes	County	Short-term	Low	
A10	Install signage within the school zones clearly denoting the school zone speed limit, associated fines for speeding and applicable hours	Township	Short-term	Low	
Educ	ation				
A11	Sponsor and host bicycle rodeos for all students to improve their cycling skills	Meadowlink TMA/Bike Shops/Bike&Walk Montclair/PTA	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	
A12	Provide better training for aides on the school bus	SRTS Coordinator/Board of Education	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	
A13	Introduce bicycle and pedestrian safety into the school curriculum through programs such as WalkSafe™ or BikeSafe™ or event based programs through SafeKids or the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey	School Superintendent	Short-term	Low	
A14	Provide educational materials about the dangers of speeding or other violations, especially in the school area, at major community gathering locations such as the Library, Montclair BID, churches, bike shops and Township buildings	Meadowlink TMA/ Bike&Walk Montclair	Short-term	Low	

No.	Action (Township-wide)	Partners	Timeframe	Cost	Notes
A15	Circulate school walking and bicycling event information with municipal utility or tax bills.	Board of Education	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	
A16	Include the health benefits of conducting a SRTS program in Teacher Training programs	School Superintendent/SRTS Coordinator	Short-term	Low	
A17	Promote Bike&Walk Montclair's Courteous Driving Pledge	Bike&Walk Montclair/PTA	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	Should have pledges and magnets on hand at the Municipal Bldg & Community Services Bldg
A18	Create a doortag or flyer for property owners and businesses with information on Chapter 297 STREETS AND SIDEWALKS of the Township's Code, including fines associated with violations and the importance of keeping the pedestrian passageway free from obstructions	Township Code Enforcement	Short-term	Low	See Appendix E for sample
A19	Educate parents to let their children out of the car curbside instead of in the street	SRTS Team Leader/PTA/Meadowlink TMA/School Safety Patrol	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	
A20	Create web-based traffic safety quizzes that include bicyclist, pedestrian and motorist safety questions on the school website	Board of Education/Meadowlink TMA	Short-term	Low	

No.	Action (Township-wide)	Partners	Timeframe	Cost	Notes
A21	Initiate a public education program/campaign, such as Street Smarts, that uses a dual approach of media and community relations to educate and raise community awareness about traffic safety issues for all users	Meadowlink TMA	Short-term	Low - Medium	
A22	Provide better training for the aid on the school bus	SRTS Coordinator/Board of Education/	Short-term	Low	
Enfo	rcement				
A23	Conduct a series of "pedestrian decoy" operations at conflict intersections to strongly reinforce that Montclair takes its motor vehicle laws and pedestrian rights seriously. Consider repeating every six weeks until driver behavior is perceived to be more respectful of pedestrian's right to travel safely	Police Department/ NJHTS/Rutgers University	Short-term	Low - Medium	
A24	Continue bicycle and pedestrian safety education within the school system	Board of Education/Police Department/Meadowlink TMA/Bike&Walk Montclair	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	
A25	Use crossing guards to hand out safety information and information on the NJ Pedestrian Crossing Law	Police Department	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	
A26	Create a zero tolerance traffic enforcement program and assign extra patrol to these areas during arrival and dismissal	Police Department	Short-term	Low	

No.	Action (Township-wide)	Partners	Timeframe	Cost	Notes
A27	Strictly enforce the 25 mph speed limit on all Township streets	Police Department	Short-term	Low	
Enco	uragement				
A28	Host a poster contest for International Walk and Bike to School Day	SRTS Coordinator	Short-term	Low	
A29	Circulate school walking and bicycling event information with municipal utility or tax bills.	SRTS Coordinator	Short- term/On- going	Low	
A30	Create a pamphlet/palm card/ and/or any other print or web material geared towards parents highlighting the benefits of walking and biking to school	SRTS Coordinator/NJ SRTS Advocacy Organizer	Short-term	Low	
A31	Have designated walking school bus meeting points mapped and signed for all elementary and middle schools	Police Department/ Board of Education	Short-term	Low	
A32	Create and publish a press release detailing the school's involvement in the SRTS program and the Travel Plan developed for the school.	SRTS Coordinator	Short-term	Low	
A33	Use Channel 34 and the Township website to provide public safety information, events, messages to residents related to bicycling and walking such as bike and walk to school day	SRTS Coordinator	Short-term	Low	
A34	Apply for funding to create a transportation matching and participation program at each school that will link parents/students interested in carpooling, biking, or walking to and from school.	Board of Education/SRTS Coordinator/Meadowlink TMA/NJDOT	Short-term	Low	Use Florida DOT's SchoolPool as an example.

No.	Action (Township-wide)	Partners	Timeframe	Cost	Notes
A35	Create and sign a joint powers agreement for maintenance of bike/pedestrian facilities	County	Short-term	Low	
A36	Adopt a resolution endorsing the Hillside SRTS Travel Plan	Board of Education	Short-term	Low	
A37	Market/brand Montclair's SRTS Program as "Montclair's Active & Safe Routes to School Program"	SRTS Coordinator/Board of Education/SRTS Team Leader	Short-term/ ongoing	Low	
Evalu	uation		1		
A38	Conduct student travel surveys in all schools to determine and measure how students travel to school	Board of Education/Rutgers VTC	Short-term	Low	
A39	Designate weeks on the school calendar to conduct traffic counts at the beginning and end of the school year	SRTS Coordinator/Board of Education/SRTS Team Leader	Short- term/On- going	Low	

**Appendix E. Samples of SRTS Educational Materials** 

SRTS Curriculum



#### http://www.nhtsa.gov/ChildPedestrianSafetyCurriculum

#### Message:

- The adoption of a pedestrian/bicycle curriculum by a school or school district helps assure that children will receive repeated age-appropriate education.
- The Walk to School web site has a list of downloadable free pedestrian and bicycle safety education programs, including a recently developed national curriculum developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

#### **Background:**

NHTSA's Child Pedestrian Safety Curriculum teaches and encourages pedestrian safety for students grades Kindergarten through 5th Grade. It is organized into five lessons: walking near traffic, crossing streets, crossing intersections, parking lot safety, and school bus safety. Each lesson builds upon previous set of skills learned.

SRTS Classroom Resources



Source: Coldfall Primary, London, UK provided by <u>www.iwalktoschool.org</u>;

#### Message:

In the classroom, SRTS education can be integrated into existing topics. A few examples of of integrating SRTS education are:

- Safety education can be infused into traditional classroom subjects such as language arts or science taught by the classroom teacher.
- Math: calculating average walking speeds or distances.
- Biology: walk to collect samples, observe nature.
- Reading: read about nature, walking.
- Language arts: write about walking, what see on way to school, design posters to encourage walking.
- Geography: track mileage and plot on a map. Learn about places that the school or class "visits."
- Arts: Photography contests, drawing contests where students depict their routes to school

Sample Door Tag Template



Sample Text for Door Tag



Windshield Warning



Source: Los Alamitos, CA, provided by David Parisi

# **Appendix F. SRTS General Resources**

Student Pledge

	SafeRoutes Colorado Safe Routes to School
Student Pledge	
As a Pedestrian/Bicyclist Sa I Promise to always	fety Smart Student
1. Stop and Look Left, Right, a	and Left again before I cross the street.
2. Wear and buckle a bicycle h	nelmet every time I ride my bicycle.
3. Stay alert when walking and around me.	d bicycling - I will watch out for all other traffic
4. Wear bright colors if I am w seen.	valking or bicycling during the day so I can be
	r bicycling in low visibility conditions or at ve gear and carry/wear a bright light or have
6. Walk on a sidewalk if one is	s present, if not, walk facing traffic.
7. Always bicycle in the same sidewalk or road.	direction as traffic whether riding on the
8. Stay 5 giant steps away from	m the street when I'm waiting for a bus.
9. Stop, Look and Listen befor near the tracks.	e I cross railroad tracks and never play on or
Student's Name	Date

Parent Pledge

	CofeDoutos
	SafeRoutes Colorado Safe Routes to School
Parent Pledge	
As a Pedestrian/Bicyclist Saf I Promise to set a good exam making sure that	fety Smart Parent ple for my children and all children by
1. My children know to Stop, L the street.	ook Left, Right, and Left again before crossing
2. All family members must we every ride.	ear and buckle a properly fitted bicycle helmet
3. Family members must alway earphones), especially when wa	ys stay alert for traffic (no cell phones or alking and bicycling.
4. Everyone stays 5 giant steps	s away from the street when waiting for a bus.
5. My family wears bright color	rs and reflective markers to be seen in the dark.
6. My children know to Stop, L and never to play on or near th	ook and Listen before crossing railroad tracks he tracks.
7. My child walks/bicycles to s a responsible parent, adult or o	school with me or with a group of children led by older sibling.
	around my child to lead by example by pedestrian and bicycle behavior at all times.
9. I ensure the safety of all ped especially around children of a	lestrians and bicyclists by driving cautiously, 11 ages.
Parent's Name	Date

**Community Pledge** 

# Safe Routes to School Pledge to Hillside Elementary School's Children

#### **Take the Pledge**

In the last 35 years, our children have lost a lot of the freedom and independence they once had to explore our neighborhoods. As we have designed our communities around automobiles, activities like walking or bicycling to school have declined dramatically. *We believe it's time for a change. We pledge that by the time the kindergarten class of 2013 graduates high school, the majority of school trips will once again be made safely by foot or bicycle.*<sup>2</sup>

To our children, we pledge to make your health and safety our number one priority, including to:

- Make the streets safe, convenient and attractive enough to let you walk or bicycle to schools.
- Ensure the streets around your schools have frequent, safe places to cross.
- Drive slowly through school zones.
- Enforce traffic laws in school zones and neighborhoods to slow down motor vehicle traffic.
- Locate schools within walking and bicycling distance of as many pupils as possible.
- Reduce the amount of traffic around your schools.
- Provide secure bicycle parking at your schools.
- Teach traffic safety skills routinely throughout your school career: first as a pedestrian, next as a bicyclist, and then as a motorist.
- Encourage staff and students at your schools to walk and bicycle more often.

Signed (any combination of the following),

Mayor Township Council Township Manager/Administrator Township Engineer/Public Works Township Planner Township Police

School District Board of Education School Principal School Teacher(s) School Nurse PTA/Parents/Caregivers

Community Liaison Other community groups

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Pledge to Children is based on the Active Living Resource Center's SRTS Pledge.

Bike Rack Considerations for Placement

#### **Bike Racks**

Students must have a functional, secure place to park their bike once they reach school. Not having a well planned bicycle parking option can lead to several undesireable outcomes, such theft, damage and locked bikes in or on critical safety infrastructure like emergency exits, hand rails and fire hydrants.

According to the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycling Professionals Bicycle Parking Guidelines, there are four elements to a bicycle rack system:

#### 1. The Rack Element

The rack element is the part of the bike rack that supports one bicycle. A good bike rack element holds the bike frame without bending the wheel and should have no moving parts. Rack elements are typically constructed of metal in an inverted u-shape, which allows for a variety of bicycle sizes and locks.

#### 2. The Rack

A rack is one or more rack elements joined on any common base or arranged in a regular array and fastened to a common mounting surface. Anchor the rack so that it cannot be stolen with the bikes attached and provides easy, independent bike access. Inverted u-shaped rack elements mounted in a row should be placed on 30" centers, allowing two bicycles to be secured to each rack element.

#### 3. The Rack Area

The rack area is a bicycle parking lot where racks are separated by aisles and may contain one or more racks. If possible, the rack area should be protected from the elements using any combination of structures, like a wall and awning. Try to avoid locating a bike rack area on grass or dirt as a rainy day can turn the bicycle parking lot into a mess. Instead, locate the bike rack area on a concrete pad.

#### 4. The Rack Area Site

The rack area site is the relationship of the rack area to a building entrance and approach. Locate the bike rack area within visibility of the building entrance it serves and consider the route cyclists' use to approach that entrance. Bike rack areas should be sited in a space that minimizes vandalism and maximizes use, while avoiding conflicts with driveways, buses, and large numbers of pedestrians.

Ideally, rack areas should be sited as close, or closer, than the nearest car parking space and provided near all high traffic building entrances. When choosing between a larger bicycle rack area or multiple smaller rack areas, it is preferred to choose multiple locations that are more convenient to users.



Engineering 3-36

Source: Safe Routes to School Guide, www.saferoutesinfo.org

NJ SRTS Info Sheet

	NJ Department of Transportation	Voorhees Iransportation Center	Transportation Management	Safe Routes to School National
	(IOdLN)	(vic)	Associations (TMAs)	Partnership
Description:	NJDOT supports Safe Routes to School and Complete Streets initiatives in NJ. NJDOT provides infrastructure SRTS <u>federal grant</u> funding to schools and communities and provides assistance with non-infrastructure programs through the <u>SRTS Resource Center</u> .	VTC is the home of the NJ Safe Routes to School Resource Center and the New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center.	New Jersey's 8 TMAs each offer assistance in their service areas by forming alliances with non-profit, public/private sectors to assist local businesses, governments, and schools with transportation services and to solve transportation problems or issues.	The SRTS National Partnership is a non- profit organization providing assistance for safe walking and bicycling. The Partnership is a network of over 600 organizations, agencies, schools and professional groups.
How does this affect New Jersey?	NJDOT provides the following resources to communities: Statewide Bike / Ped coordinator Statewide SRTS coordinator Grants administered through the <u>Division of</u> Local Aid	These centers provide primary research, education, and outreach about best practices in policy and design to create safer and more accessible walking and bicycling.	TMAs are familiar with all transportation in their service areas and can provide advice and assistance at the local level related to mass transportation, ridesharing, walking, and bicycling and walking. Each TMA employs a SRTS Regional Coordinator who is the point person for all SRTS activities and events in the area.	New Jersey is one of 7 states in the National Partnership's State Network Project. Policy goals are: Leverage funding & increase obligation rates of federal funding Facilitate Complete Streets policies and implementation Advance joint-use/shared use agreements
Contact if you are looking for:	<ul> <li>Information on infrastructure grants</li> <li>Information on statewide projects</li> <li>Contact with the state SRTS Coordinator</li> <li>Contact with the state Bike/Ped Coordinator</li> </ul>	The NJ SRTS Resource Center provides: Web-based resources on SRTS in New Jersey Requiarly updated NJ SRTS blog A recognition program to acknowledge SRTS successes Primary research Helpdesk assistance Technical Assistance Technical Assistance	<ul> <li>TMA SRTS Coordinators provide:</li> <li>Technical Assistance</li> <li>Assistance with walk and bike to school and education events</li> <li>Guidance for creating School Travel Plans</li> <li>Help with grant writing</li> <li>Promote Complete streets policies</li> </ul>	The partnership contributes to communities through: Advocacy Policy Change Best Practices & Technical Assistance Publications
Websites and social media:	Websites: http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/community/stts http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/eng/completest reets/	Websites: http://www.asferoutesni.org/ http://www.nibikeped.org/ http://www.policy.rutgers.edu/vtcp http://www.facebook.com/vTC/utgers Twiter Twiter @VTC_Rutgers	Each TMA offiers SRTS information on the SRTS sections of their websites. Go to http://www.saferoutesni.org/about/regional- conditator-tmas/ to locate your SRTS Regional Coordinator Most TMAs also have Facebook pages. Go to their websites for more information.	Website: http://saferoutespartnership.org/ Blog: http://saferoutespartnership.org/blog facebook: http://www.facebook.com/SRTS.National. Partnership Partnership Twitter. @SafeRoutesNow
Contact Information:	Elise Bremer-Nei—State SRTS Coordinator Sheree Davis—Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator David Kuhn—Assistant Commissioner, Capital Investment, Planning and Grant Administration <u>str8@dot state.ni.us</u> bicycle advocate@dot state.ni.us	Leigh Ann Von Hagen—Senior Research Specialist Sean Meehan—Project Manager Maeve Johnston—Project Coordinator sits@eib.ruters.edu 848-932-7901	Find your TMA and your local SRTS Coordinator by visiting <u>http://www.saferoutesni.ord/about/regional-</u> coordinator-tmas/	Deb Hubsmith – Director 415-454-7430 deb@saferoulespartnershi <u>o.org</u> Laura Torchio–NJ Advocacy Organizer 973-783-5939 973-783-5939
Funded by:	Federal Highway Administration(FHWA)	NJDOT/FHWA	NJDOT/FHWA	The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

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NJ SRTS Recognition Program



# **Appendix G. Montclair-Specific Resources**

Township of Montclair Draft Bike Network Map



Bike&Walk Montclair Bicycle Education Program

