

JW Eater Jr. High Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Plan

Rantoul City Schools #137 Board Presentation



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Champaign County Regional Planning Commission

17 August 2023

Introduction

- **In 2020, CCRPC wrote 5 transportation plans for Rantoul:**
 - Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plans for RCS elementary schools
 - Village of Rantoul Transportation Plan
- **In 2022-23, CCRPC was asked to create a SRTS Plan for Eater Jr. High School**
- **The 6 E's of SRTS:**
 - Engineering
 - Education
 - Encouragement
 - Equity & Engagement
 - Evaluation
 - Enforcement



Surveys & Public Input

1. Walkability Checklists

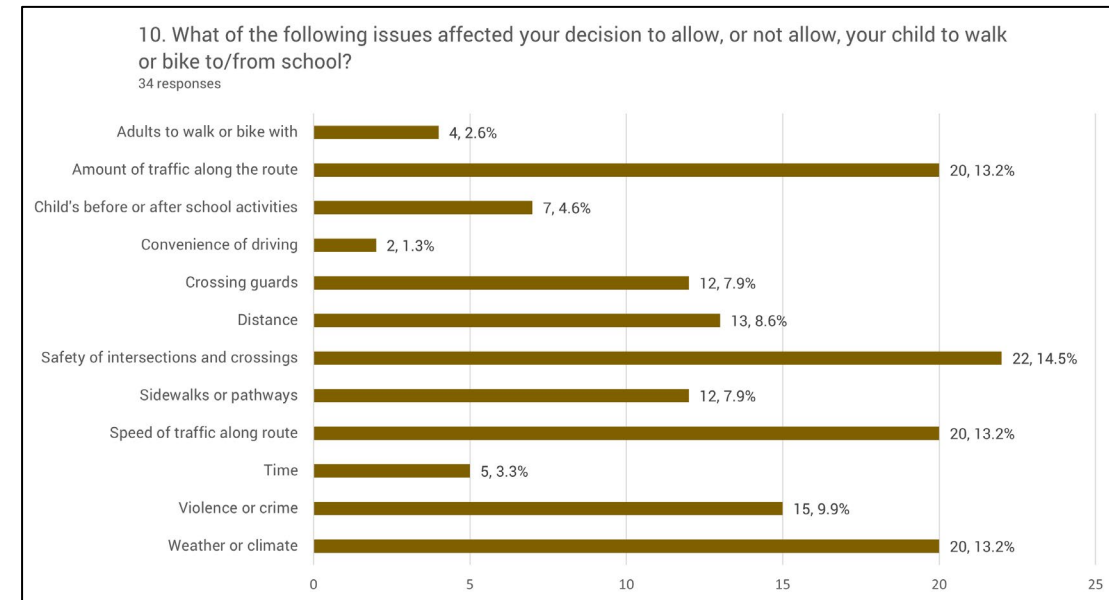
2. Parent Surveys

3. Travel Tallies

4. Traffic Observations

5. Public Input

- March 2023 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- August 2023 Public Comment Period



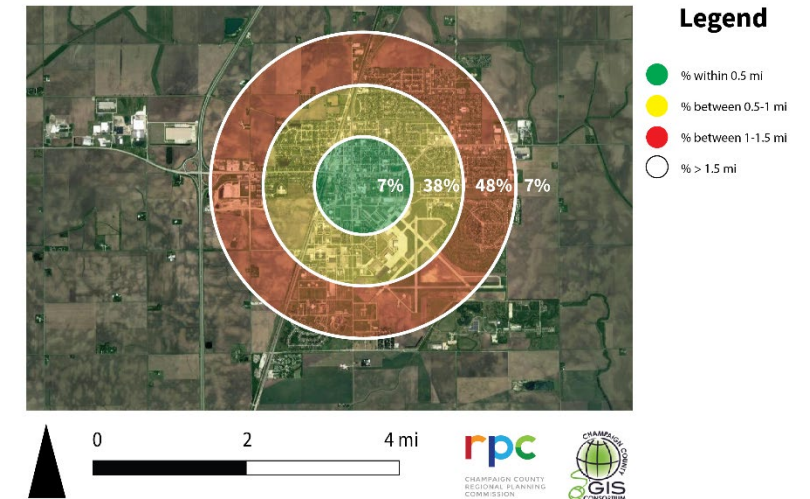
Existing Mode Share

Mode	Eater JHS Arrival	Eater JHS Dismissal	Eater JHS Overall
Walk	10.9%	18.9%	14.9%
Bike	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
School Bus	26.9%	28.5%	27.7%
Family Vehicle	53.2%	43.8%	48.5%
Carpool	6.1%	7.3%	6.7%
Transit	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%

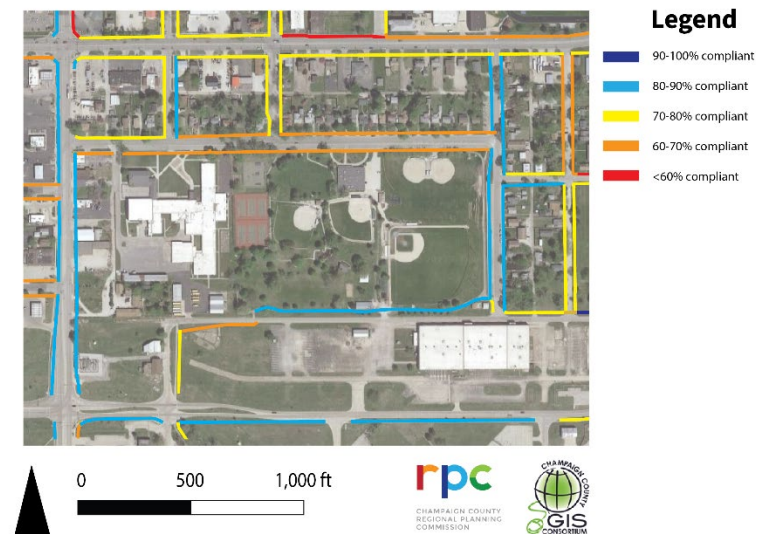
Existing Conditions

- District & School Environment
- Land Use Analysis
- Transportation Conditions Analysis
 - Infrastructure
 - Student Distance to School
 - Pedestrian ADA Compliance & Condition
 - Pedestrian Signs
 - School Traffic Circulation
- Crash Data Analysis
- Health Analysis
- Modal Analyses

Eater Jr. High SRTS Plan 2022-23: Student Distance to School



Eater Jr. High SRTS Plan 2022-23: Sidewalk ADA Compliance



Engineering Recommendations (13)

1. High Priority

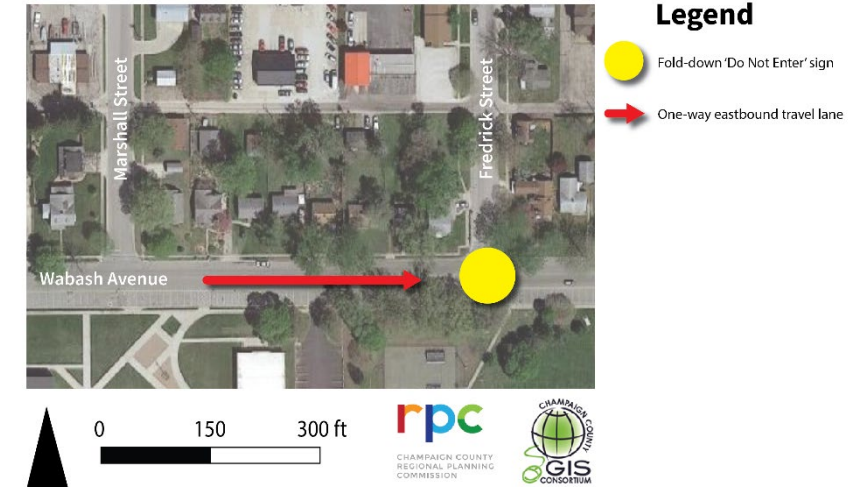
1. Wabash Avenue one-way east traffic during school arrival & dismissal
2. Install Permanent Vehicular Speed Feedback Signs
 1. **Century Blvd. (US 45) between Champaign Ave. (US 136) & Yates St.**
 2. **Other locations as warranted (including US 136)**
3. Improve pedestrian safety at Century Blvd. (US 45) & Wabash Ave.
4. Install Pedestrian Countdown Signals at stoplights



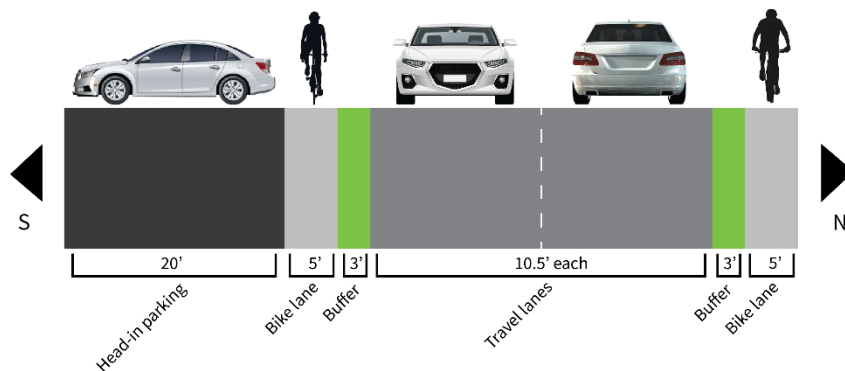
Wabash Avenue Recommendations



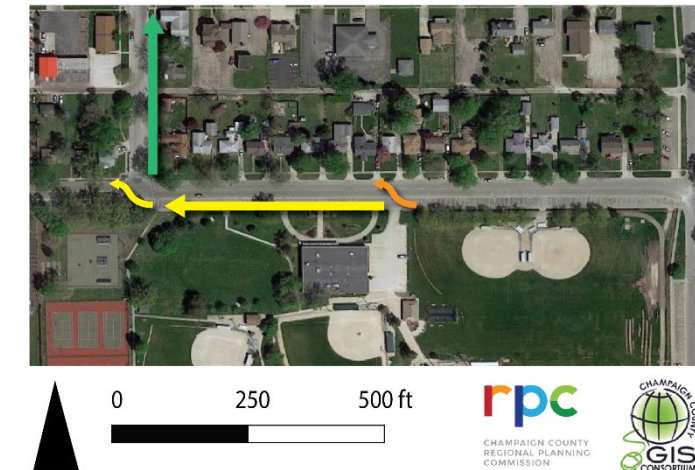
Eater Jr. High SRTS Plan 2022-23: Proposed Wabash Avenue Traffic Circulation



Eater Jr. High SRTS Plan 2022-23: Proposed Wabash Avenue Redesign



Eater Jr. High SRTS Plan 2022-23: Sidepath Transition



Engineering Recommendations (13)

2. Medium Priority

1. Improve existing sidewalks
2. Install more bike lanes
3. Install new sidewalks
4. Install median refuge islands
 1. **Century Blvd. (US 45) at Wabash Ave.**
 2. **Champaign Ave. (US 136) at Marshall St.**



3. Low Priority

1. Install bike/pedestrian wayfinding signs
2. Safety Study of Champaign Ave. (US 136) & Marshall St.
3. Install covered bike parking
4. Upgrade or reconstruct curb ramps to make them ADA compliant
5. Extend shared-use path network to Eater JHS, stripe transitions to bike lanes



Education Recommendations (6)

1. High Priority

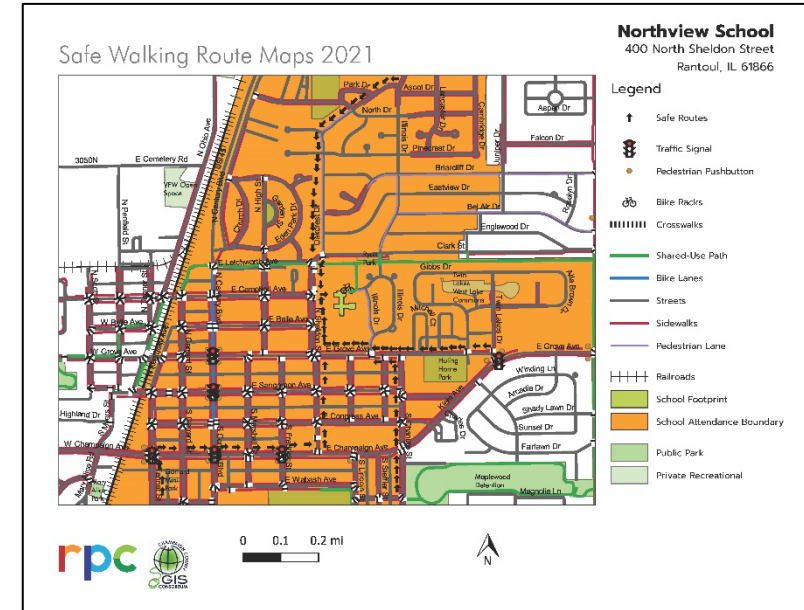
1. Safe Walking Route Map distribution
2. Annual Parent Letter about traffic rules

2. Medium Priority

1. Middle School Bike Education Curriculum

3. Low Priority

1. Traffic Circulation Map distribution
2. Host Wellness Fairs
3. Bike Pamphlets distribution



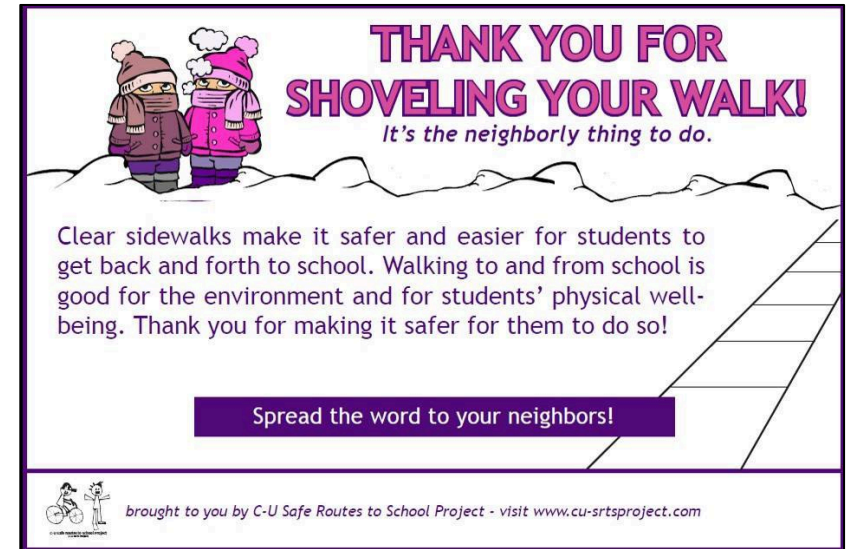
Encouragement Recommendations (10)

1. High Priority

1. Bike Trains

2. Medium Priority

1. Early Dismissal for Walkers and Bikers
2. Snow Removal Encouragement
3. Walk 'n' Roll to School Day
 - **1st or 2nd Wednesday in October**



Encouragement Recommendations (10)

2. Medium Priority (cont'd)

4. Frequent Walker Club – Active4.me
5. Year-Round Walking & Biking Program



3. Low Priority

1. Bike to School Day
 - **1st Wednesday in May**
2. Frequent Walker Club – Punch Card
3. Annual school walkathon
4. National Bike Month (May)



Equity Recommendations (4)

1. High Priority

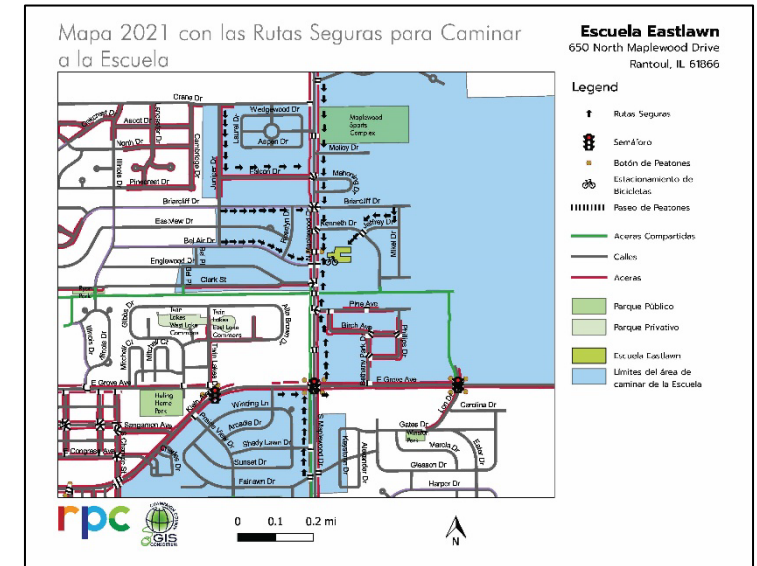
1. Translated materials

2. Medium Priority

1. School bike donation drive

3. Low Priority

1. Veo bike share
2. Community bike donation drive



Evaluation Recommendations (5)

1. High Priority

1. Speed & Safety Studies

2. Medium Priority

1. Travel Tallies
 - Administered by teachers 1-2 times/year
2. Walkability Surveys

3. Low Priority

1. Bicycle & Pedestrian Counts
 - Every 5 years
2. Bikeability Surveys

Take a walk and use this checklist to rate your neighborhood's walkability.

How walkable is your community?

Mark your walking path to school or bus stop (See back)

For the locations of problems, give the nearest intersection and/or mark a cross "X" on map on the back.

Rating Scale: 1 2 3 4 5 6
awful many problems some problems good very good excellent

1. Did you have room to walk?

☐ Yes ☐ Some problems

- ☐ Sidewalks or paths started and stopped
- ☐ Sidewalks were broken or cracked
- ☐ Sidewalks were blocked with poles, signs, shrubbery, dumpsters, etc.
- ☐ No sidewalks, paths, or shoulders
- ☐ Too much traffic
- ☐ Something else _____

Locations of problems: _____

Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6

2. Was it easy to cross streets?

☐ Yes ☐ Some problems

- ☐ Road was too wide
- ☐ Traffic signals made us wait too long or did not give us enough time to cross
- ☐ Needed striped crosswalks or traffic signals
- ☐ Parked cars blocked our view of traffic
- ☐ Trees or plants blocked our view of traffic
- ☐ Needed curb ramps or ramps needed repair
- ☐ Something else _____

Locations of problems: _____

Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6

3. Did drivers behave well?

☐ Yes ☐ Some problems: Drivers...

- ☐ Backed out of driveways without looking
- ☐ Did not yield to people crossing the street
- ☐ Turned into people crossing the street
- ☐ Drove too fast
- ☐ Sped up to make it through traffic lights or drove through traffic lights?
- ☐ Something else _____

Locations of problems: _____

Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6

4. Was it easy to follow safety rules?

Could you and your child...

☐ Yes ☐ No

- ☐ Cross at crosswalks or where you could see and be seen by drivers?
- ☐ Stop and look left, right and then left again before crossing streets?
- ☐ Walk on sidewalks or shoulders facing traffic where there were no sidewalks?
- ☐ Cross with the light?

Locations of problems: _____

Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6

5. Was your walk pleasant?

☐ Yes ☐ Some unpleasant things

- ☐ Needed more grass, flowers, or trees
- ☐ Scary dogs
- ☐ Scary people
- ☐ Not well lit
- ☐ Dirty lots of litter or trash
- ☐ Dirty air due to automobile exhaust
- ☐ Something else _____

Locations of problems: _____

Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6

How does your neighborhood stack up?

Add up your ratings and decide.

1. _____	26-30	Celebrate! You have a great neighborhood for walking.
2. _____	21-25	Celebrate a little. Your neighborhood is pretty good.
3. _____	16-20	Okay, but it needs work.
4. _____	11-15	It needs lots of work. You deserve better than that.
5. _____	5-10	It's a disaster for walking.

Total _____

Now that you've identified the problems, please turn in this form at your school.

Enforcement Recommendations (7)

1. High Priority

1. Add Crossing Guards along multi-lane roads with no stops
 - **Century Blvd. (US 45) at Wabash Ave.**
 - **Champaign Ave. (US 136) at Marshall St.**
2. Enforcement of No Cell Phones in School Zones State Law
3. Police Presence at School Arrival & Dismissal times
 - **At least at beginning of school year**

2. Medium Priority

1. Message Board Reminders
2. Implement Proposed School Traffic Circulation Changes
3. Enforce Motorist Violations

3. Low Priority

1. Bicyclist & Pedestrian Warnings



IDOT SRTS Infrastructure Grants

- Due Monday, October 2, 2023
- New this cycle: High Schools are eligible
 - Eligible schools = K-12
- Infrastructure applications
 - Must be within 2 miles of school
 - Maximum award = \$250,000
 - **No local match required**
 - Right-of-Way (ROW) must be secured before applying
 - Preliminary Engineering must be done within 6 months of award announcement
 - If communities apply for an Infrastructure grant, they should also apply for a Non-Infrastructure grant



IDOT SRTS Non-Infrastructure Grants

- **Due Monday, October 2, 2023**
- **Grantee-designed application**
 - Maximum award = \$100,000
- **New this cycle: Mini-grants**
 - Choose one:
 - **Walk & Roll to School Day (October) or Bike & Roll to School Day (May) event**
 - **Bike Rodeo or Bike Safety Clinic event**
 - **Pedestrian & Bike Personal Safety for Students**
 - **Pop-Up Traffic Garden**
 - **Crossing Guard Training**
 - Maximum award = \$25,000
- **Must be completed in the School Year after the award announcement**
 - For example, if the grant awards are announced in March 2024, the activities must be completed in the 2024-25 School Year.



Final Steps

- **August/September: Plan approvals from RCS & Village Boards**
- **October 2: IDOT SRTS grant applications due**
- **Ongoing: Implementation of recommendations**
 - Village: work with IDOT & property owners
 - RCS: non-infrastructure recommendations

Thank You!

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