



SHAWANO MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTION PLAN

SHAWANO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM



715.526.2192 | 1050 South Union Street | Shawano, WI 54166 | EastCentralSRTS.org

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The purpose of the SRTS program is to provide safe pedestrian and bicycle facilities that encourage healthier lifestyles. Programs can be established to educate students, parents, and the community on the benefits of walking and bicycling to school and provide tips to do so safely. Major SRTS goals are:

1. To enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bike to school.
2. To make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age.
3. To facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

SRTS Planning efforts assess the facilities and conditions near school, examine how students are currently traveling to/from school, and identify safety concerns/issues raised by parents and the community. Infrastructure and non-infrastructure recommendations are then created and implemented, sometimes with grant funding assistance, by the SRTS Task Force and other community members. SRTS Plans focus on projects within two miles of an elementary or middle school (Kindergarten-8th grade) and address the 5 E's:

Engineering Enforcement Education Encouragement Evaluation

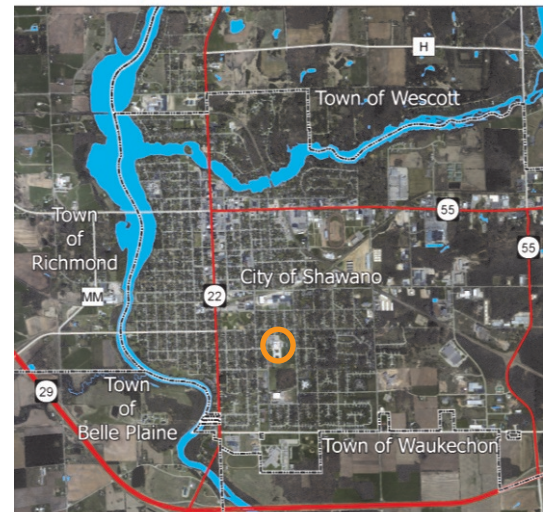
SHAWANO MIDDLE SCHOOL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Shawano Middle School is located in the City of Shawano on the corner of S. Union St. and E. Stevens St. Over 75 percent of students travel to school in a family vehicle or school bus while approximately 20 percent walk or bike. Much of the district is very rural and distance was the top reason parents do not allow their children to walk or bike to school however three of the next four top concerns were all traffic/intersection safety related. In particular, traffic speeds along Union St. and crossing busy intersections along Main St. are major concerns for students walking or biking to school. The fear of "stranger danger" is also a concern for parents and something that influences their decision to allow their children to walk or bike to school.

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SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

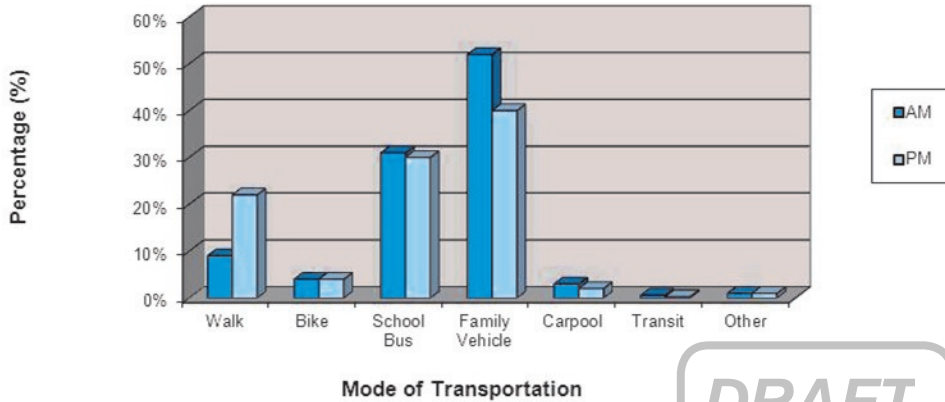
Enrollment:	491 students
Grades:	6 - 8
Principal:	Daniel Labby
Start Time:	7:30 a.m.
End Time:	2:30 p.m.
Task Force Reps.:	Lori Smits, Jodi Johnson



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PARENT & STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

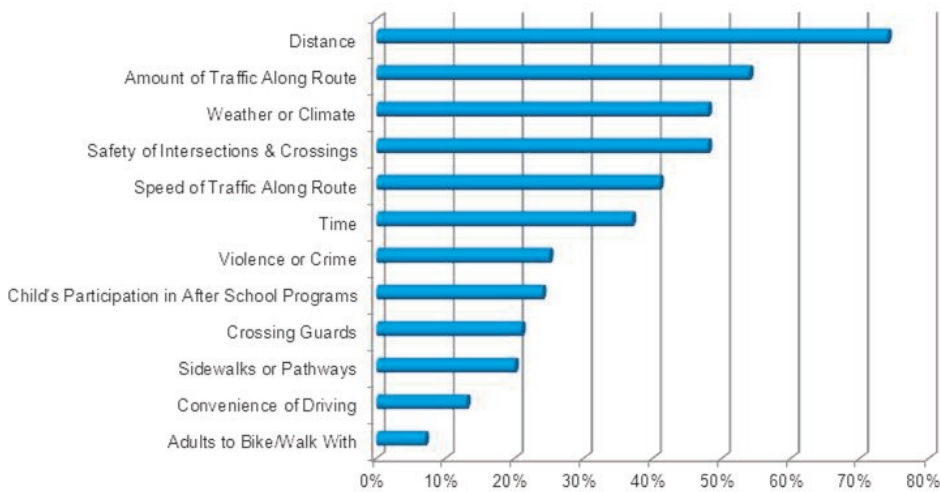
**Shawano Middle School Student Survey Results
Morning and Afternoon Comparison**



Survey Data Collected in Spring 2010

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**Shawano Middle School
Parent Concerns of Children That Do Not Walk or Bike to School**



Survey Data Collected in Fall 2011

Background Information

The Shawano School District covers a very large area surrounding the City of Shawano. Much of the district is rural and the long distances some students have to travel create a challenge for walking or biking to and from school. However, there are a large number of students, approximately 34 percent according to the 2011 parent surveys, that live within one mile of the school, a very walkable or bikeable distance. The City of Shawano does have a sidewalk network, but there are several gaps, areas of the community without sidewalks, and areas that have sidewalks only on one side of the street. The lack of bike/pedestrian facilities, along with the speed and volume of traffic are the major challenges for students walking or biking to school. One of the most notable non-motorized facilities in the community is the Mountain Bay Trail which is a multi-use trail that runs 58 miles east-west through Shawano County and the City of Shawano.

WORK IN PROGRESS

In the summer of 2011, a group of interested individuals from the school district, county, and city came together to form the Shawano SRTS Task Force. The group has been meeting monthly since that time and already coordinated several events in the community to promote walking and biking, such as:

- Booths at "Back to School Nights"
- Homecoming Parade Float
- Booth at Community Health Fair
- International Walk to School Day Events

In 2010, an advocacy group, Shawano Pathways Organization for Kids Environment and Safety (S.P.O.K.E.S.), partnered with Shawano County to secure a Transportation Enhancement grant to create a county-wide bicycle/pedestrian plan. They are currently working with the consulting firm, Alta Planning and Design, to develop the plan.



**Shawano MS "Back to School Night"
S.P.O.K.E.S. and SRTS Display
September 2011**



**International Walk to School Day
October 5th, 2011**

SHAWANO MIDDLE SCHOOL BIKE/WALK AUDIT RESULTS

Source: Aerial photography Shawano County, 2011.
ECWRPC provided the school location and
bike and walk audit results.

Audit Conducted
10.19.2011 - P.M.



High Traffic Volume at Dismissal



Crossing Guard



Area Used by Most Parents to
Pick-Up Students



Bus Loading Area



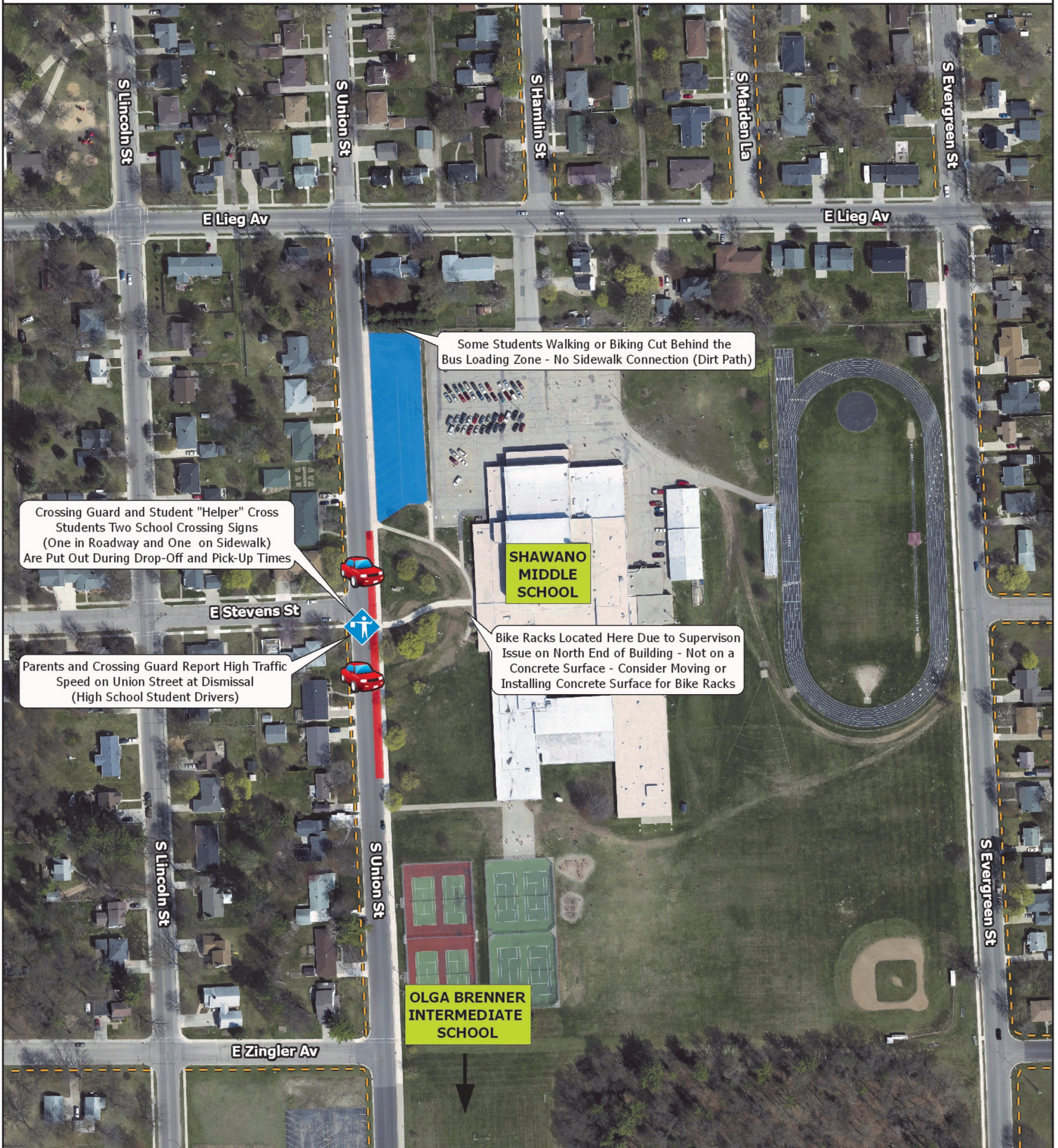
No Sidewalk

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Prepared By
EAST CENTRAL WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-OCTOBER 2011



RECOMMENDATIONS

~ Engineering ~

- **High visibility ladder style crosswalks at designated intersections** - High visibility crosswalks improve pedestrian visibility to drivers and emphasize the recommended path for crossing an intersection.
- **Consider traffic calming devices to slow down traffic at key intersections at and around the school during reconstruction projects**
- **Raised crosswalks or speed tables (permanent or portable)** - Raised crosswalks are constructed 3-4 inches above the street and increase pedestrian visibility while slowing traffic. Speed tables or speed cushions can be used to slow down traffic at crucial locations at and around schools.
- **Sidewalk Stencils** - Students and members of the community will have a visual reminder of designated routes to and from school. The stencils would encourage students to use these routes and reassure parents that planning and analysis has gone into developing the routes.
- **Consider bike/pedestrian accommodations during road reconstruction projects around the school and throughout the community**
- **Move bike racks to a new, paved location or pour a concrete slab where they are now.**

~ Enforcement ~

- **Law Enforcement Presence** - Work with the Shawano Police Department to increase enforcement at and around schools, particularly during drop-off and pick-up times.
- **Corner Captains** - Have adults stationed along a designated route to make sure that children who are walking to or from school get there safely.
- **Sidewalk, Building, and Property Maintenance Ordinances** - These ordinances support a safer and friendlier pedestrian environment (i.e. clearing sidewalks of snow within 24 hours and trimming overgrown vegetation). It is important to enforce these ordinances throughout the year.
- **Crossing Guards** - Explore different options/resources to increase the number of crossing guards in the community.

~ Education ~

- **Bicycle Rodeo/Safety Course** - A Bike Rodeo is a bicycle safety clinic which typically features bike safety inspections; a safety lecture covering the rules of the road; an obstacle or other bicycling course which emphasizes riding safely; and education about the importance of wearing a helmet.
- **Media Campaign (i.e. Public Service Announcements)** - A media campaign could be implemented by the SRTS task force by including signage reminding drivers to slow down in school zones. Also public service announcements could be developed and aired over local radio to remind the community about the importance of bicycle/pedestrian awareness and school zones.
- **Back to School Nights/Health Fair/Homecoming Parade** - Continue participating in these events annually to increase awareness of the Shawano SRTS program and promote walking and biking in the community.
- **Walk or Bike Across America** - Involves students tracking the miles they walk or bike to school and could be combined with a geography class by seeing the different destinations students could "travel" to with the miles they accumulate.

~ Encouragement ~

- **Frequent Walker Card/Frequent Rider Miles** - Students are given cards that get punched every time they walk or bike to school. Once their card is full they will receive an incentive or become eligible to win an incentive.
- **Recess Rovers/Moving Miles** - Teachers take a break in the morning and walk with students around the block or campus on a designated route. This could also be done at recess and students could have the option to walk around the playground on a marked route to receive punches on their frequent walker card. This is a great way to include students that can not walk or bike due to distance.
- **Walking School Bus/ Cycle Train Program** - The Walking School Bus is simply a group of students walked to school along a designated route by a parent or adult volunteer. The Cycle Train is basically the bicycle version of a Walking School Bus.
- **Continued Participation in Annual Walk/Bike to School Day Events**

~ Evaluation ~

- **Student and Parent Surveys** - Conduct periodic parent and student surveys in conjunction with the Regional SRTS Program.
- **Bike/Walk Audits** - Continue annual audits to assess safety concerns at and around the school.

EXAMPLES

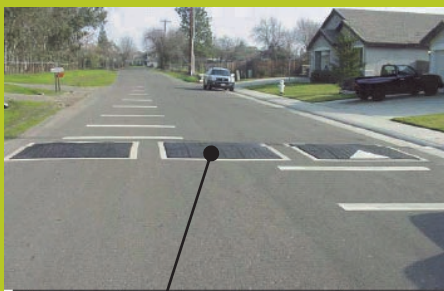
rapid repeating flashing beacon

pedestrian refuge island



ladder style crosswalk

The street design elements shown above help identify crossings and calm the speed of vehicular traffic.



Speed tables or speed cushions shown above could be implemented on Union Street to slow traffic down past the school.

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Recommendations Developed by
the Shawano SRTS Task Force



East Central Wisconsin Regional
Planning Commission
400 Ahnaip Street, Suite 100
Menasha, WI 54952
920.751.4770
www.eastcentralsrts.org