



# MURRAY PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACTION PLAN

## RIPON SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM



920.748.4695 | 64 Sunset Avenue | Ripon, WI 54971 | 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**

### MURRAY PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Murray Park Elementary School is a 3rd grade through 5th grade school located on the north side of the City of Ripon. The primary mode that students get to school is by school bus and family vehicle. The amount and distance, amount and speed of traffic, along with the safety of intersections and crossings along with distance were among the top reason give by parents that do not allow their children to walk or bike to school.

### SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

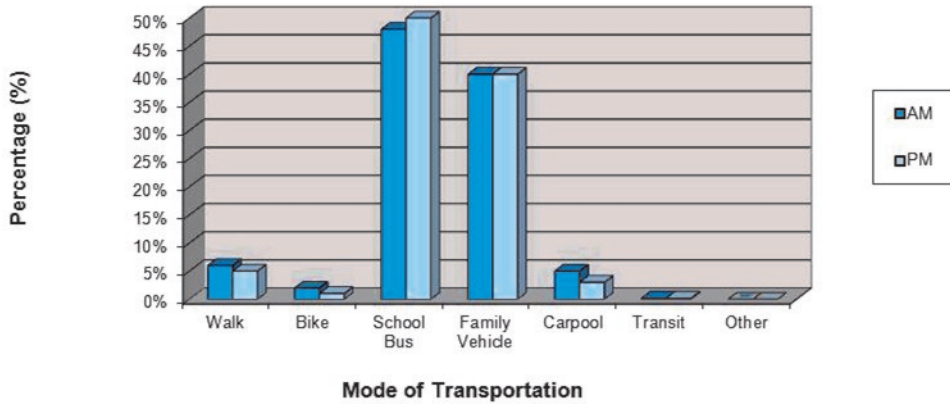
<b>Enrollment:</b>	364 students
<b>Grades:</b>	3 - 5
<b>Principal:</b>	Randy Hatlen
<b>Start Time:</b>	8:02 a.m.
<b>End Time:</b>	3:10 p.m.
<b>Task Force Reps.:</b>	???



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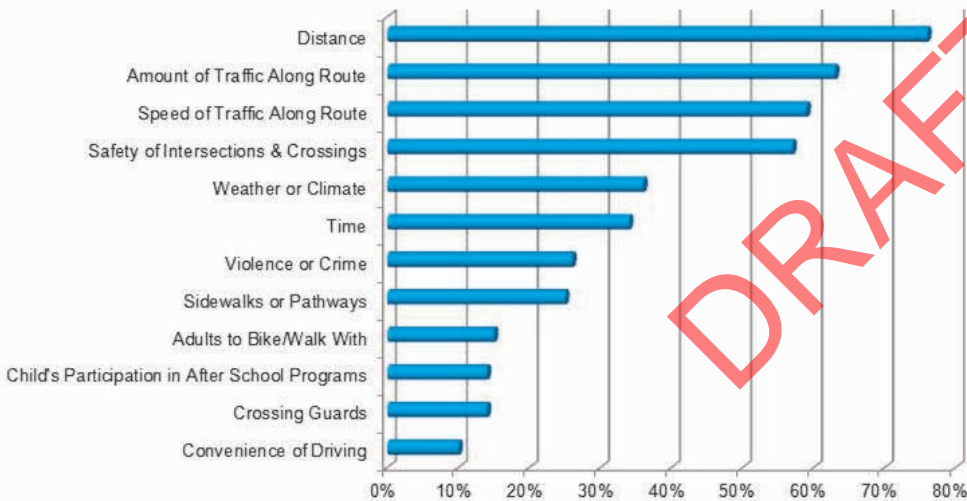
# PARENT & STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

**Murray Park Elementary School Student Survey Results  
Morning and Afternoon Comparison**



Survey Data Collected in Winter 2012

**Murray Park Elementary School  
Parent Concerns of Children That Do Not Walk or Bike to School**



Survey Data Collected in Spring 2011

## EXISTING FACILITIES: NON-MOTORIZED

Aside from the City of Ripon, the Ripon Area School District is made up of mostly rural areas. The city has a good sidewalk network in place, particularly in the central part of the community. However, several gaps exist and there are areas that lack sidewalks entirely. Other non-motorized transportation facilities in the Ripon area include:

- Northwestern Trail
- Mascoutin Valley State Trail
- Trails within Ceresco Prairie Conservancy
- Trails within Riggs County Park
- Trails through the Ripon College campus

## WORK IN PROGRESS

Recently, the City of Ripon Common Council approved a series of bike routes, developed by the Park and Rec Committee, which will provide better connections throughout the community. In 2011, individuals from the school district and city began working with the East Central Regional SRTS Program to address safety concerns near schools. This group continues to meet to develop and implement strategies that make it safer and more appealing for students to walk and bike to/from school.



Crossing Guard on Sunset Ave.



Bike racks near the front of school.



# MURRAY PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BIKE/WALK AUDIT RESULTS

-  Crossing Guard
-  Areas Used by Most Parents Picking-Up Students
-  No Sidewalk
-  Bus Loading Area - Busses Only

Source: Aerial photography and base data Fond du Lac County, 2010. ECWRPC provided the school location and bike and walk audit results.

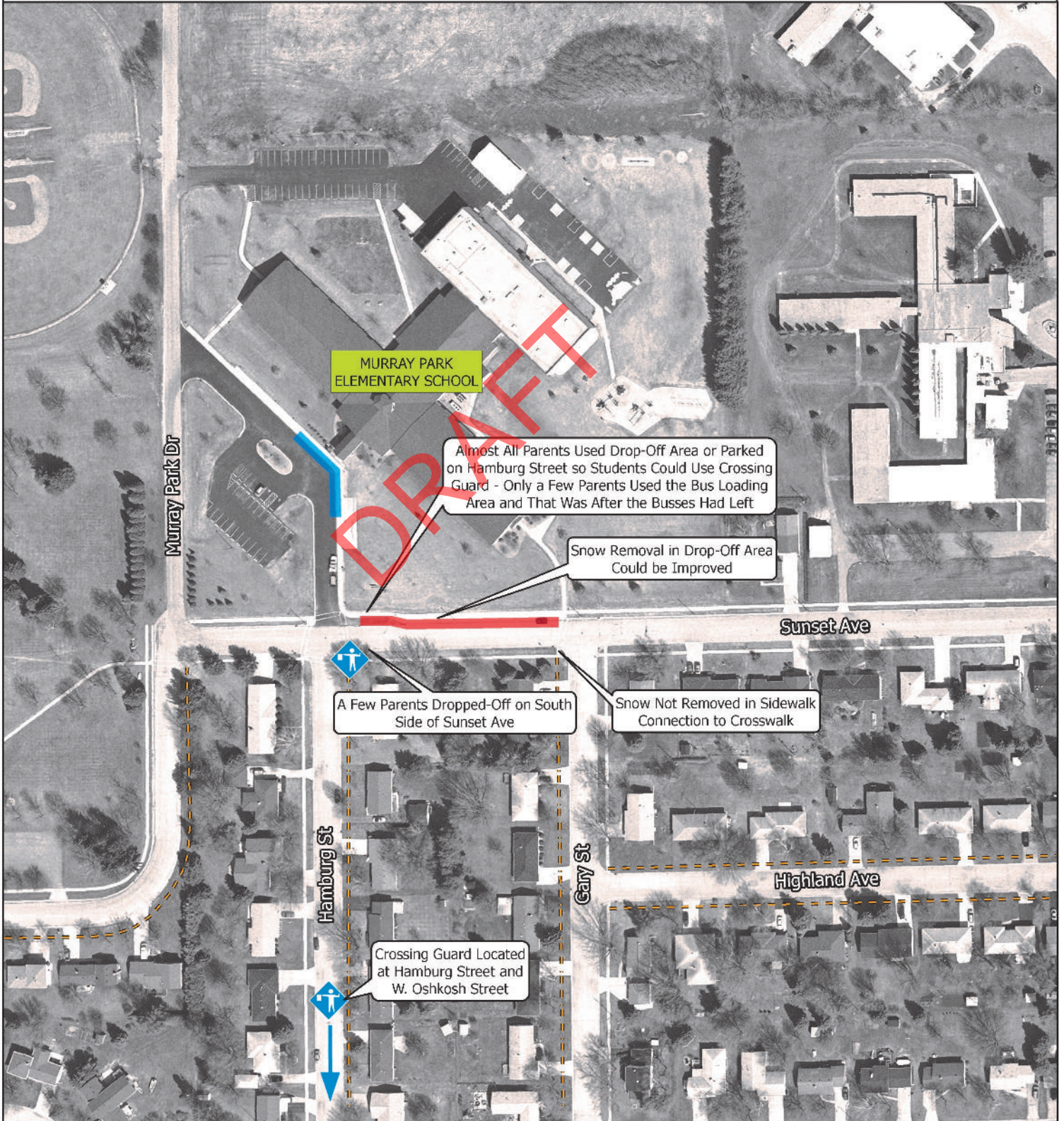
Audit Conducted  
11.24.2012 - A.M.

0 105 210  
Scale in Feet



This data was created for use by the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Geographic Information System. Any other use/application of this information is the responsibility of the user and such use/application is at their own risk. East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission disclaims all liability regarding fitness of the information for any use other than for East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission business.

Prepared By  
EAST CENTRAL WISCONSIN  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-JANUARY 2012



# RECOMMENDATIONS

## ~ Engineering ~

- **Flashing Beacon Signs:** Consider installing flashing beacon signs at key intersections and crossings.
- **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.
- **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.
- **No Idling Policy:** Develop a no idling policy at and around the schools where buses and person vehicles would turn off their engines while they are parked.
- **Consider traffic calming devices (curb extensions) to slow down traffic at key intersections at and around the school during road reconstruction projects.**

## ~ Enforcement ~

- **Student Safety Patrol Program** - Students are trained to look for traffic and help other students cross at designated intersections around the school.
- **School Zone Campaign:** The school zone campaign is using the progressive approach to reduce speeders within school zones.
- **Law Enforcement Presence** - Work with the New London Police Department to increase enforcement at and around schools, particularly during drop-off and pick-up times.
- **Speed Trailers or School Zone Feedback signs:** Speed trailers and school zone feedback signs could be put at or near schools to show passing motorists the speed at which they are traveling.

## ~ Education ~

- **Assemblies/Speakers:** Guest speakers could be brought in to address issues such as Helmet Safety and Personal Safety Issues.
- **Walk or Bike Across America:** Walk or Bike Across America involves students to keep track of the miles that they accumulate when they walk or bike to school. This could be incorporated into a geography class.
- **Classroom Activities :** Bike safety could be taught in Physical Education class, or the art class could have a poster contest on bike safety or pedestrian safety.

## ~ 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..
- **Walking Wednesday/Tuesday Truckers:** Walking or biking days that are during the week or the month.. These could be complete with themes to encourage students to bike and walk to school.
- **Cops 'n Cones:** Law enforcement officers hand out coupons for ice cream to kids that wear their helmet when biking.
- **Continued Participation in Annual Walk/Bike to School Day Events**
- **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.

## ~ 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. Any or all of these could be used on streets near Murray Park ES.



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