



# WAUPACA LEARNING CENTER ACTION PLAN

## WAUPACA SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM



715.258.4141 | 1515 Shoemaker Road | Waupaca, WI 54981 | 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:

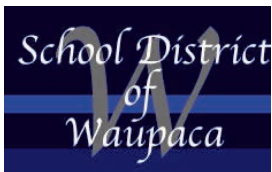
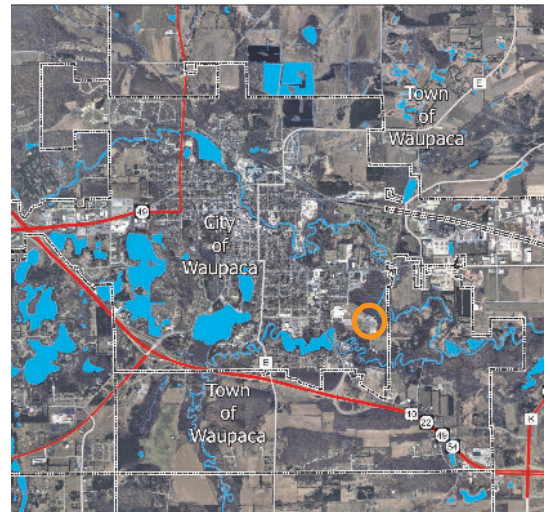
**Engineering Enforcement Education Encouragement Evaluation**

### WAUPACA LEARNING CENTER BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Waupaca Learning Center is located on the west side of the City of Waupaca off of Churchill Street. The school is located on a large campus adjacent to Waupaca Middle School. The majority of students, approximately 95 percent, travel to school is day in private vehicles or by school bus while 5 percent walk or bike. The Waupaca School District is very large and consequently distance was the top reason parents do not allow their children to walk/bike to school as 68 percent of students live more than two miles from school. The high speed and volume of traffic were the next two highest factors influencing their decision to not allow their children to walk/bike. Churchill Street carries a relatively high volume of traffic at 7400 vehicles per day according to 2009 traffic counts and has wide traffic lanes which encourages higher speeds and increases crossing distance/time for pedestrians. During arrival/dismissal times there is a crossing guard located at the corner of Churchill St. and Riverside Dr. to help students cross and flashing beacons located in this area alert drivers of the school zone crossing.

### SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

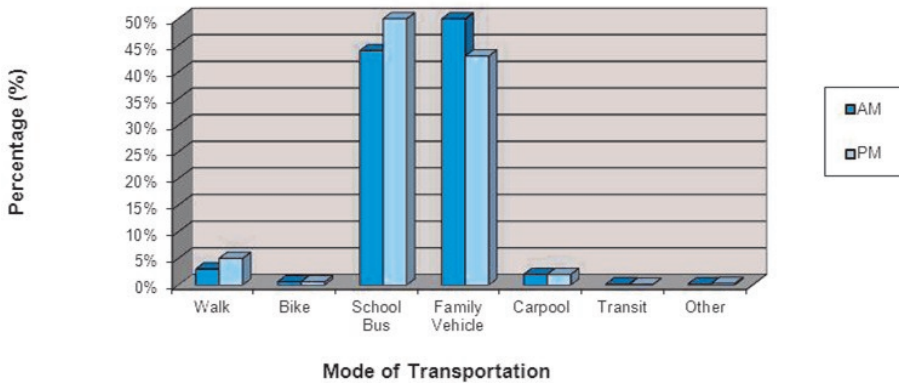
**Enrollment:** 794 students  
**Grades:** PreK-5  
**Principal:** John Erspamer  
**Start Time:** 8:00 a.m.  
**End Time:** 2:55 p.m.  
**Task Force Reps:**



SRTS & School Background Info.....1  
 Survey Results & Background Info.....2  
 Bike & Walk Audit Results.....3  
 Recommendations: The 5 E's.....4

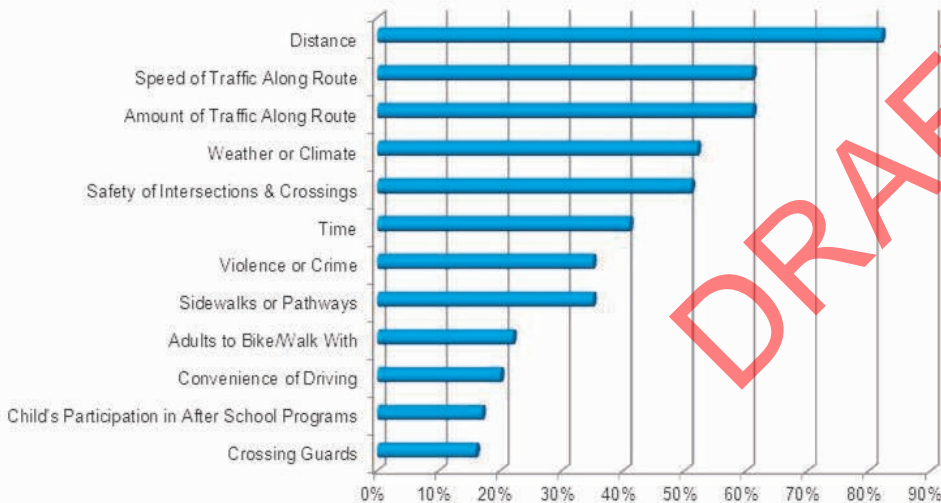
# PARENT & STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

**Waupaca Learning Center Student Survey Results  
Morning and Afternoon Comparison**



Survey Data Collected in Spring 2010

**Waupaca Learning Center  
Parent Concerns of Children That Do Not Walk or Bike to School**



Survey Data Collected in Spring 2010

## Background Information

The Waupaca School District covers a large area in the southwest corner of Waupaca County including the City of Waupaca but much of the area included in the district is very rural and understandably the roadways in these areas lack any bicycle/pedestrian accommodations. The City of Waupaca does have a sidewalk network but there are many gaps in the network and areas of the city that lack sidewalks. The city has been working to build a more complete sidewalk network and include bicycle/pedestrians facilities in road reconstruction projects whenever possible. The highway bypass project has relocated much of the through traffic from the city and made Royalton St. and Churchill St. more bicycle/pedestrian friendly. There are still opportunities directly around the schools and throughout the community to create a safer and more inviting environment for walking/biking and encourage active transportation choices.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

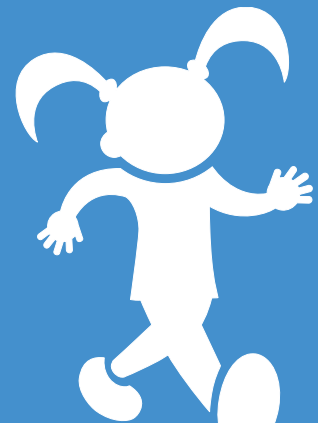
The City of Waupaca and Waupaca School District have been working on SRTS initiatives since 2010. Students from Waupaca Early Learning Center were included in the Bike/Walk Audit process to get their perspective on the walking/biking conditions in the areas surrounding the school. The schools have also participated in annual SRTS events including International Walk to School Day and Bicycle Safety Day. The City of Waupaca will be working with East Central WI Regional Planning Commission in 2013 to develop a city-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.



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



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

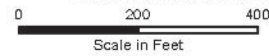




# WAUPACA MS & EARLY LEARNING CENTER BIKE/WALK AUDIT RESULTS

Source: Aerial photography Waupaca County, 2010.  
ECWRPC provided the school location and  
with the help of Waupaca Early Learning Center  
students and staff the bike and walk audit results.

Audit Conducted  
05/21/2012 - A.M



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-JUNE 2012



- High Traffic Volume & Speeds
- Heavy Traffic During Drop-Off/Pick-Up Times
- Crossing Guard
- Bus Loading Area
- Parent Pick-Up/Drop-Off Areas
- Existing Sidewalk
- No Sidewalk





# RECOMMENDATIONS

## ~ Engineering ~

- **Continue using high visibility ladder style crosswalks at key intersections/crossings** - High visibility crosswalks improve pedestrian visibility to drivers and emphasize the recommended path for crossing an intersection.
- **Consider options to calm traffic speeds on Churchill Street** - Striping a white line on Churchill Street creating a narrower travel lane would slow traffic, create room for bicycles, and create a buffer for pedestrians using the sidewalk.
- **Consider traffic calming devices (curb extensions etc.) 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.
- **Consider bike/pedestrian accommodations during road reconstruction projects around the school and throughout the community**

## ~ Enforcement ~

- **Law Enforcement Presence** - Work with the Waupaca Police Department to increase enforcement at and around schools, particularly during drop-off and pick-up times.
- **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.
- **Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Curriculum** - Work with the Regional SRTS program to include curriculum that focuses on giving students the skills and knowledge to safely walk or bike in their community throughout the year.

## ~ 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.

## ~ 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.



Reconfiguring lanes on existing roadways from 4 travel lanes to 2 travel lanes and a center turn lane creates room for a bicyclists and creates a safer environment for all forms of transportation.

Recommendations TO BE Developed by the Waupaca SRTS Task Force



**SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**  
EAST CENTRAL WISCONSIN  
East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission  
400 Ahnaip Street, Suite 100  
Menasha, WI 54952  
920.751.4770  
[www.eastcentralsrts.org](http://www.eastcentralsrts.org)

SRTS Action Plan prepared by East Central Wisconsin Regional Safe Routes to School Program, December 2012. For additional information, please contact Melissa Kraemer Badtke, Regional SRTS Coordinator, at 920.751.4770 or visit [www.eastcentralsrts.org](http://www.eastcentralsrts.org).