

Creating a walking map for your school

One of the best ways to encourage more children to walk and bicycle to school is to provide parents with a “walking map” to help them work with their child to choose a route to school. Walking maps are also a great tool for schools to identify and prioritize improvements.

To download directions on how to create neighborhood maps with the Google Maps system, [click here](#).

Tips on creating a walking map

- Make sure to keep the map simple and easy to photocopy.
- Include the date the map was created or updated.
- Send the map home with students and post it on the school's Web site. Include information about the school's walking and bicycling program, how to use the map, and basic safety guidelines.

Your map should include the following:

- School location
- Surrounding streets and street names
- Location of sidewalks and pathways within walking or bicycling distance from the school
- Landmarks
- Traffic signals, stop signs and yield signs
- Crosswalk and crossing guard locations
- Speed limits
- Designated walking or bicycling routes, if they exist.
- Specific areas to avoid or where extra caution is needed such as railroad tracks, four lane roads, drainage ditches, poorly maintained roads or sidewalks, driveways with heavy truck traffic, etc.

Sometimes this information is available from the school district or local planning or traffic engineering department. In some cases it may be necessary to gather more information through a walkabout, bikeabout, audit or other assessment method.

For more information on conducting walking and bicycling audits, please visit www.saferoutesinfo.org/guide/engineering/walking_and_bicycling_audits.cfm