A photograph of four children walking away from the camera on a paved sidewalk. The child on the left is wearing a blue hoodie, blue shorts, and a green backpack with a cartoon face. The child next to them is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and light blue pants, carrying a black backpack. The child in the middle is wearing a blue cap and a grey backpack. The child on the right is wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt with a cartoon pattern and a black backpack with a sunflower pattern. To the right of the sidewalk is a chain-link fence. In the background, there are trees and a silver car parked on the street.

Safe Routes to School Highlights from the 2024-25 School Year



Sara Colling - Safe Routes to School Program Manager
November 2025



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

What's in this document?

1. **Safe Routes to School What, Why, and How**
2. **Examples of how we used each of the "7 E" strategies this year to make it safer and easier for kids to walk and bike to school**
3. **All the E's coming together to make a difference**



What is Safe Routes to School?

Partnership between the City and Seattle Public Schools to support students to walk and bike to school with a focus on equity.



Why Safe Routes to School?





How?

7 E's

Equity

Environment

Education

Empowerment

Encouragement

Engineering

Evaluation

This document gives examples of each of the 7 E's (i.e., strategies to support students to walk and bike to school) for the 2024-25 school year.



EQUITY

Foundational to our program, equity is infused into each of the other E's

We prioritize staff and financial investment at our equity priority schools.



Bike to School Day celebrating Dunlap Elementary's bike bus and walk groups in Rainier Beach



Student-designed community crosswalk at Denny Intl' Middle School in Delridge (in addition to adding to neighborhood identity, art in the street has been proven to slow people driving down)



EQUITY

Foundational to our program, equity is infused into each of the other E's



Dash to the Bash event along the "Bike to Books" route in Rainier Beach



Project co-creation at Mercer Middle School on Beacon Hill



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ENVIRONMENT

Reduce driving to school to make the air cleaner and reduce climate change



We worked with SDOT Urban Forestry to plant about 25 street trees near Cleveland High School.

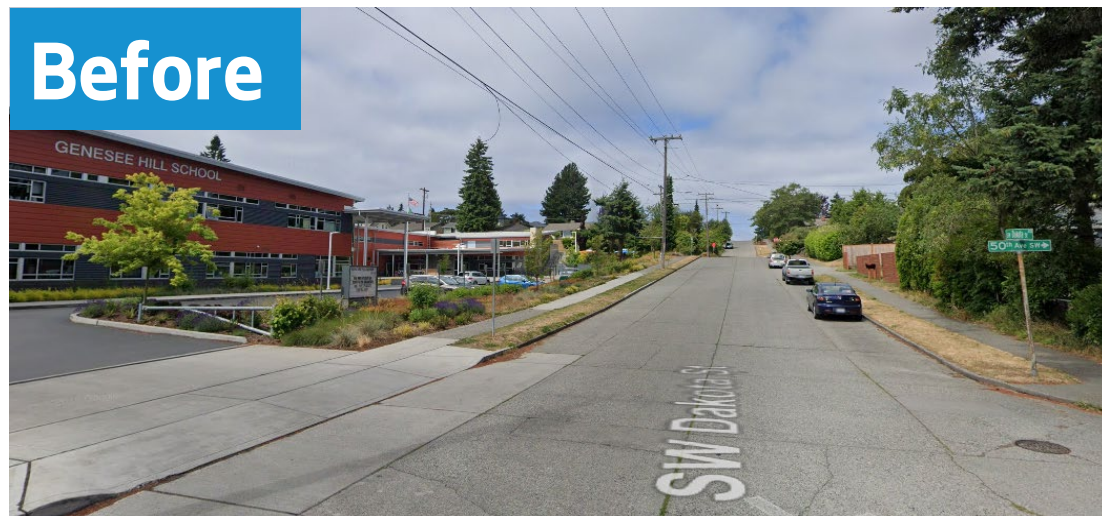




ENVIRONMENT

Reduce driving to school to make the air cleaner and reduce climate change

Before



School Streets are blocks next to schools closed to through traffic. For the first time, we upgraded temporary School Streets at Genesee Hill Elementary, Emerson Elementary, and Whittier Elementary.

We installed student-designed art in the street at Genesee Hill and Emerson in 2024.

After



Genesee Hill Elementary





Genesee Hill Elementary School Street Art



Safe Routes to School



Genesee Hill Elementary School Street Art



Safe Routes to School



Genesee Hill Elementary



WEST SEATTLE ART: Genesee Hill's student-designed street mural

DECEMBER 4, 2024 11:58 AM | 4 COMMENTS | GENESSEE HILL | WEST SEATTLE NEWS | WEST SEATTLE SCHOOLS | WS CULTURE/ARTS



11:58 AM: Thanks to teacher Vincent Della Pella for the photo! That's the newly installed street mural on SW Dakota in front of Genesee Hill Elementary. The mural features fox tracks in honor of the school's mascot, and we're told the tracks were all designed by GHE students! (Students at GHE have been



Genesee Hill Elementary



"Adding a School Street to our campus has not only improved student safety but also deepened our sense of community and school pride."

-Principal Liz Dunn



Genesee Hill Elementary



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Emerson Elementary





EDUCATION

Ensure everyone learns how to travel safely

SDOT Safe Routes to School funds the Let's Go program for Seattle Public Schools to get students on bikes during all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade P.E. classes. It's expanding to all middle school P.E. classes too!

SPS partners with Cascade Bicycle Club and Outdoors For All to deliver the program.

- In 2024-2025, Let's Go operated in **70** out of 73 SPS elementary schools (3 teacher or school cancellations) reaching 11,220 students.
- Let's Go Further (the middle school program) expanded from 11 to **15** middle schools, reaching 6,714 students.
- Both programs combined **reached an estimated 17,933 students.**
- Teachers reported **740 students learning to ride** this year across both programs.



Includes adaptive bikes for kids with disabilities



EDUCATION

Ensure everyone learns how to travel safely

This year, we continued to provide books to Seattle Public School libraries that celebrate walking, biking, transit, and people of all abilities.

We now have bundles of these books at all elementary schools.



Broadview Thomson K-8





EMPOWERMENT

Let communities run with their own ideas

Schools and community groups can apply for [mini grants](#) and request [walking and biking packages](#) by completing a simple form online.

Packages include: School Safety Patrol Supplies; Bike Bus Supplies; Walking School Bus Supplies; Crosswalk Flag Set; Walk/Bike/Roll to School Encouragement Supplies; and Walk/Bike/Roll Prizes.

This year we provided **6** mini grants and **124** packages to **46** different schools.





ENCOURAGEMENT

Support culture change within schools

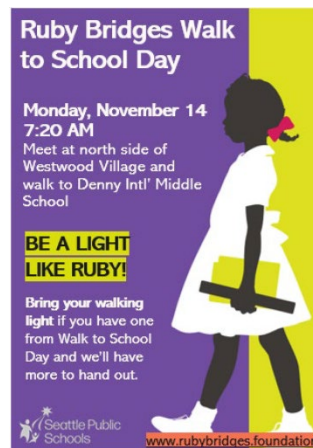
Safe Routes to School
Coordinator embedded
within Seattle Public Schools



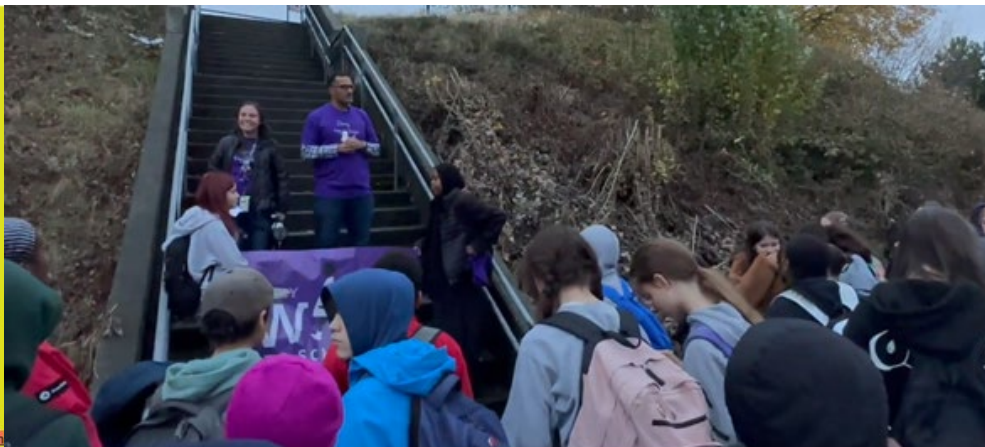
Walk and bike buses to school



Classroom engagement



Walk and bike events



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ENCOURAGEMENT

Support culture change within schools

The Seattle Public Schools Safe Routes to School Coordinator (funded by SDOT Safe Routes to School) led culture building initiatives within SPS including:

- Kicking off 2 new recurring events at 4 elementary schools: **Traffic Garden Celebrations and Crossing Guard Appreciation Days**
- Supporting **middle and high school student leaders** to champion Safe Routes efforts at school (Meany, Denny, and Lincoln)
- Procuring about **\$30k in grant funding** to deepen our impact at 4 equity priority schools

Overall, we co-hosted events with **8** new priority schools and deepened support for **7** existing priority schools.

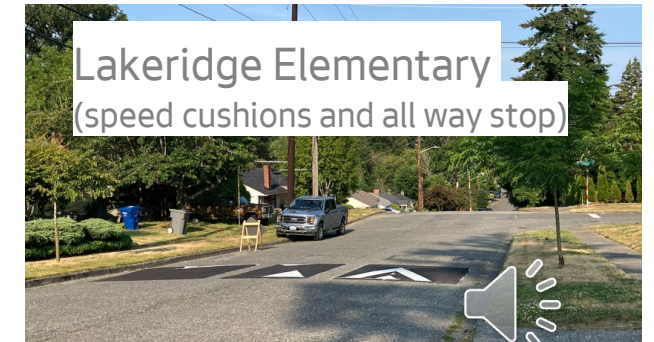
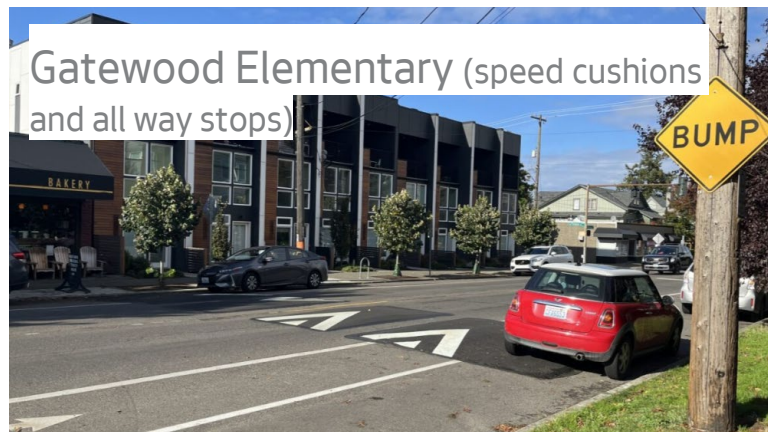
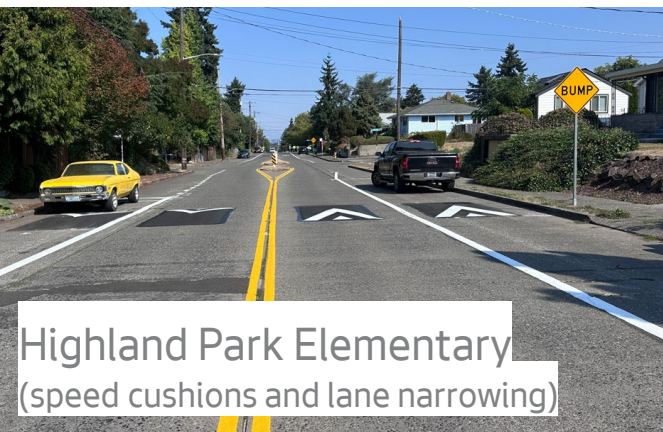
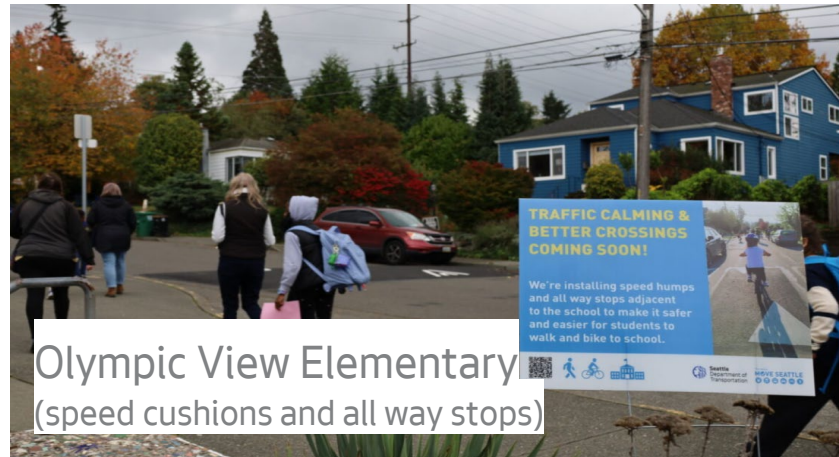
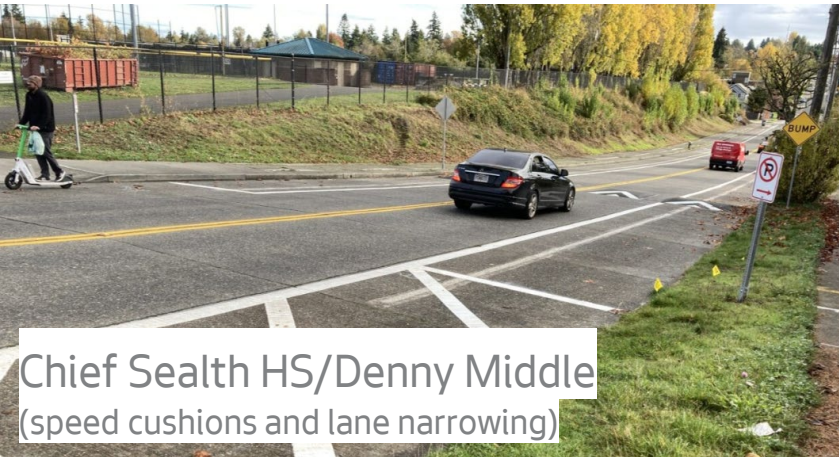




ENGINEERING

Design streets for safety

Traffic calming*





ENGINEERING

Design streets for safety

All way stops*



*Only includes all way stops delivered by SDOT's Safe Routes to School program. Additional SDOT programs built all way stops this year as well.



ENGINEERING

Design streets for safety

Curb ramps*



*Delivered in partnership with ADA program. Only includes curb ramps delivered by SDOT's Safe Routes to School program. Additional SDOT programs built curb ramp projects this year as well.





ENGINEERING

Design streets for safety

Intersection daylighting (pulling parking back so people crossing are easier to see)

View Ridge Elementary

Before

After



B.F. Day Elementary

*Only includes crossing improvements delivered by SDOT's Safe Routes to School program. Additional SDOT programs built crossing improvements this year as well.



ENGINEERING

Design streets for safety

Crossing improvements*



Sand Point Elementary



After - (Push button crossing beacon, one block walkway, and speed cushions)

*Only includes crossing improvements delivered by SDOT's Safe Routes to School program. Additional SDOT programs built crossing improvements this year as well.

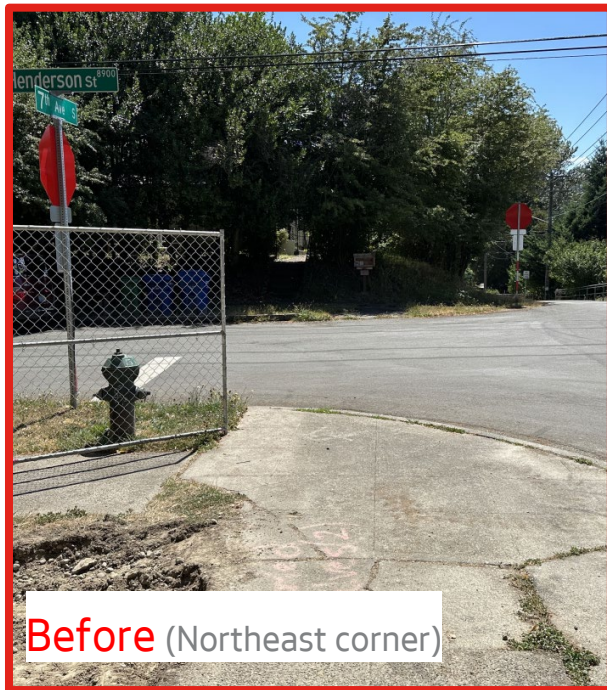




ENGINEERING

Design streets for safety

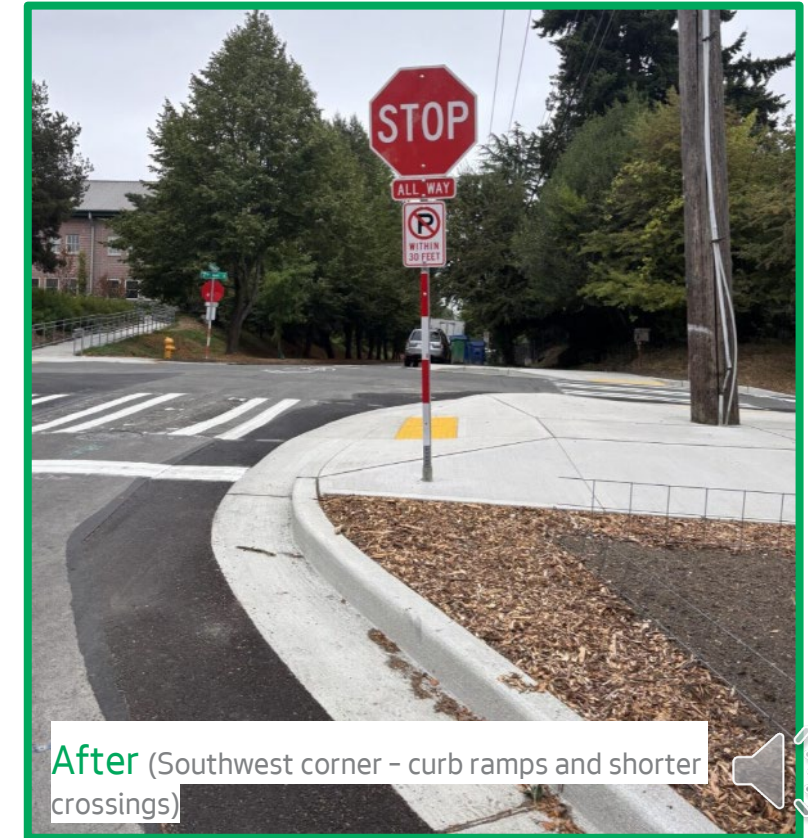
Crossing improvements*



Before (Northeast corner)



After (Northeast corner)



After (Southwest corner - curb ramps and shorter crossings)



*Only includes crossing improvements delivered by SDOT's Safe Routes to School program. Additional SDOT programs built crossing improvements this year as well.





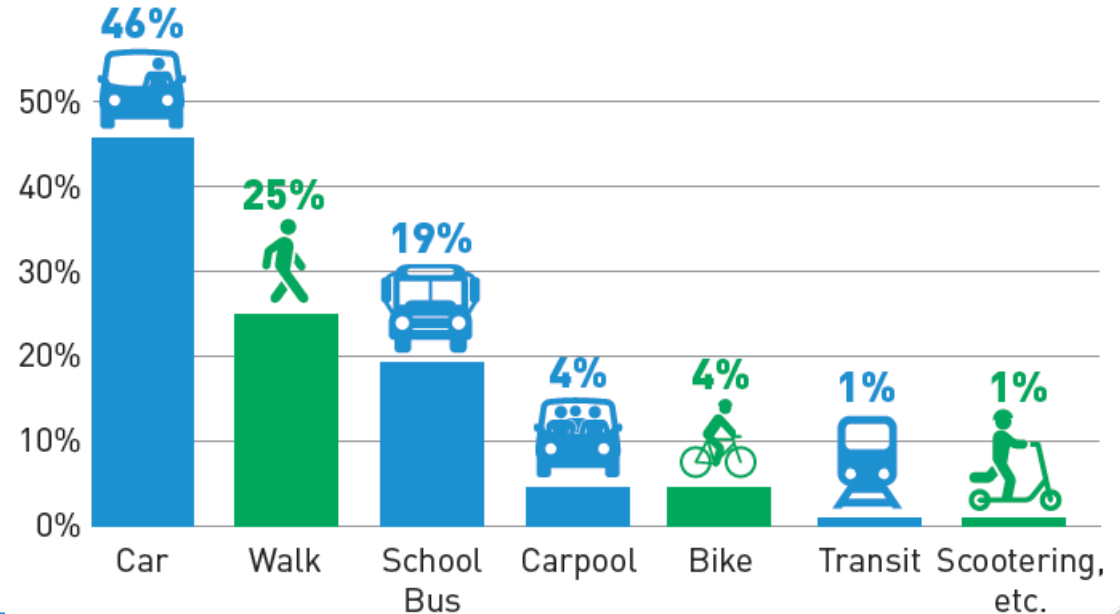
EVALUATION

Track progress

We partner with Seattle Public Schools on a "Travel Tally" to learn how K-5 students get to school. In June 2025, **50** schools (out of 73) participated.

30%

of students walked,
biked, or scooted
to school



1/2 of K-5 students are **walking, biking, scootering, or busing** to school!



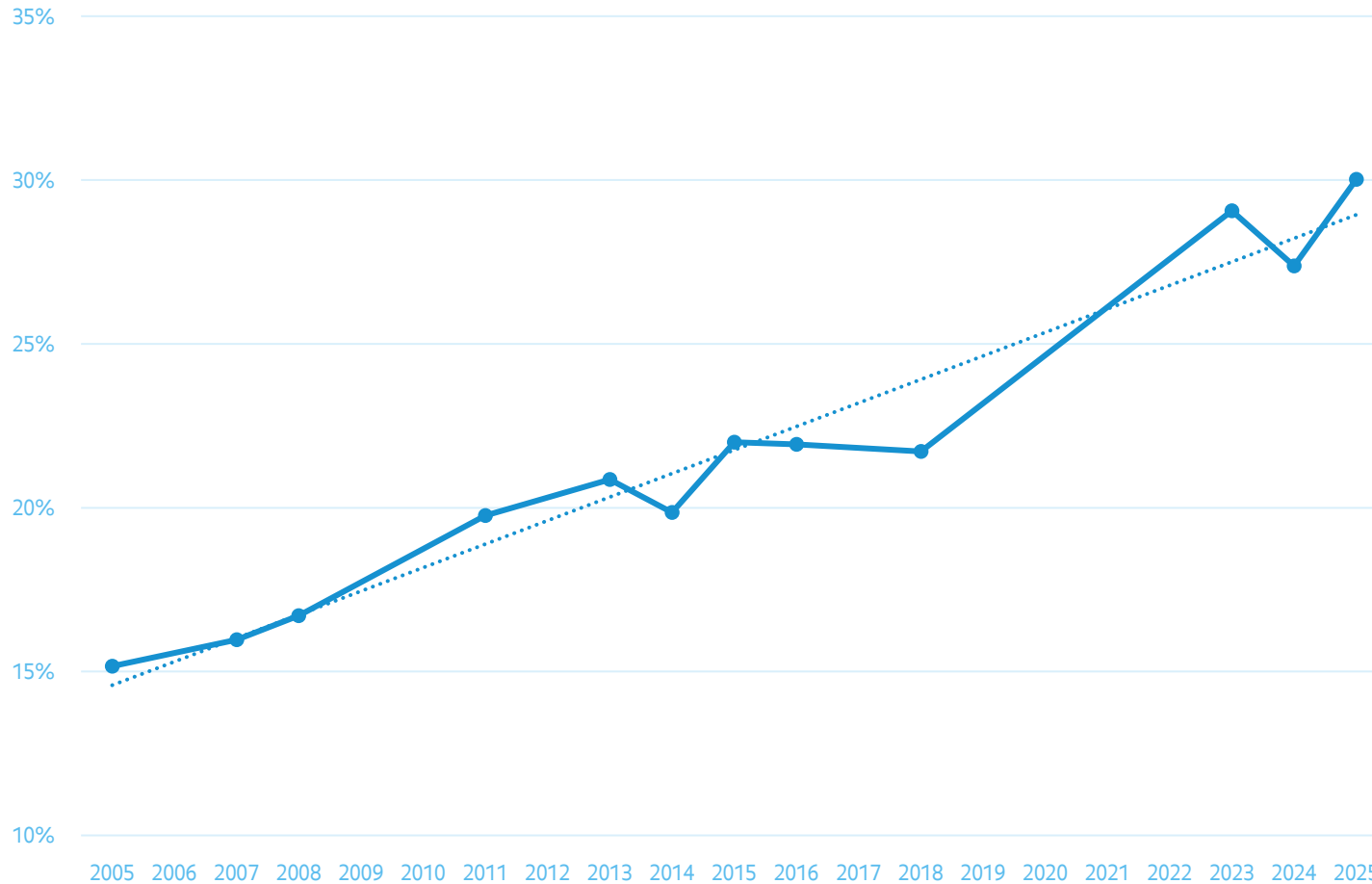


EVALUATION

Track progress

More and more students walking/biking/rolling to school

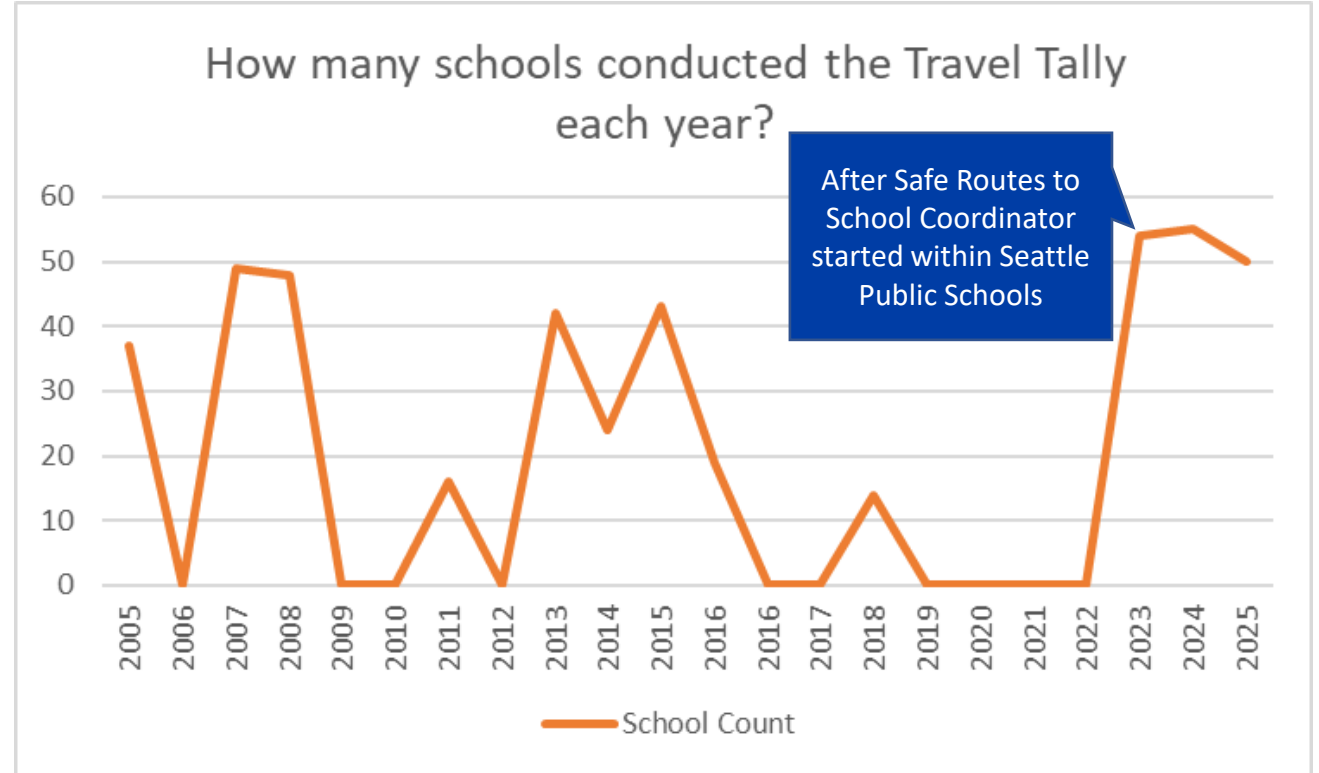
Walk/Bike/Roll rate



More frequent Travel Tally surveys help track progress

The Travel Tally started in 2005. Since 2023 (after we started to have a Safe Routes to School Coordinator embedded in the school district), the consistency and sample size have improved consistently – making our data much more reliable.

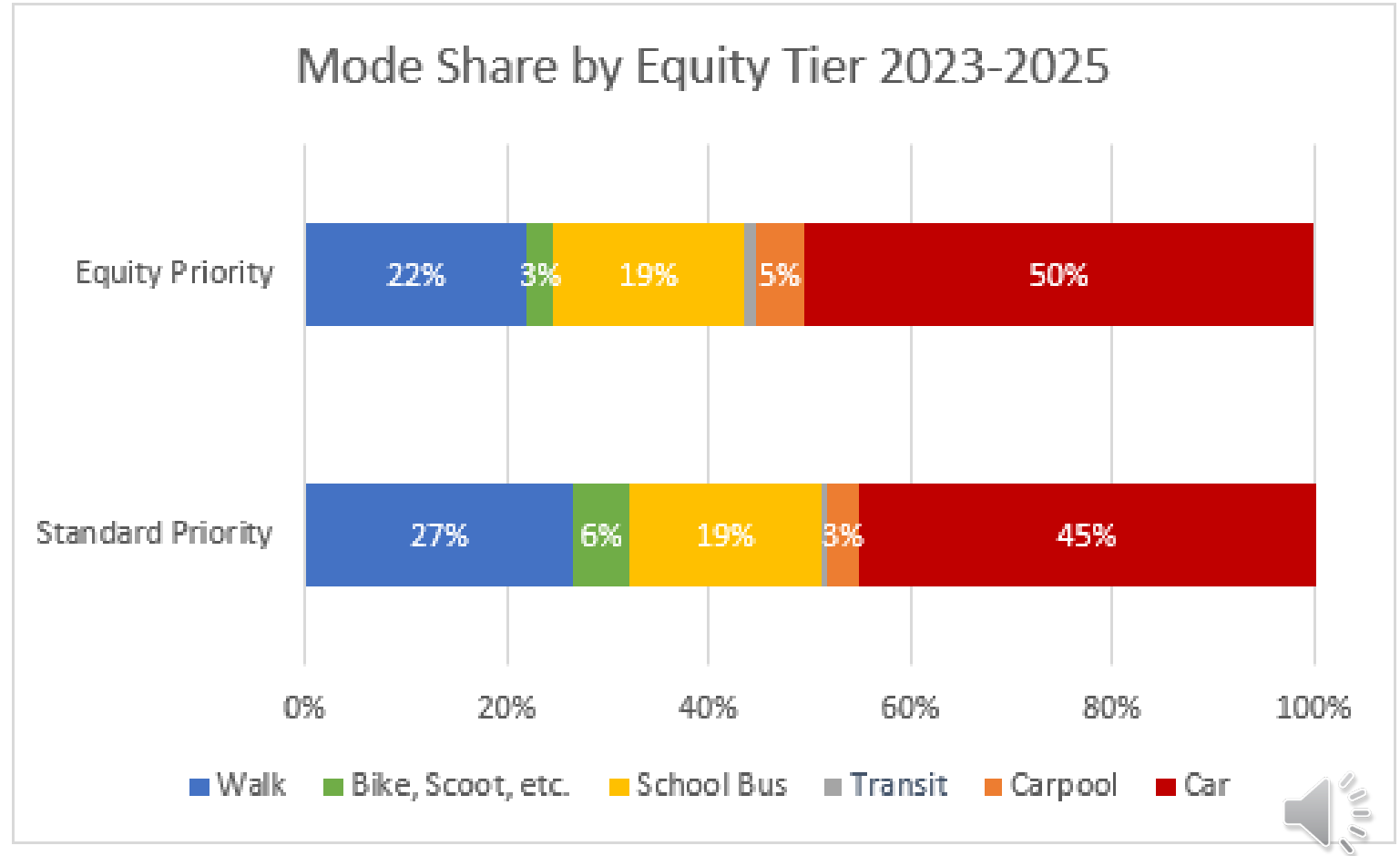
This is out of approximately 73 elementary and k-8 schools total in 2025.



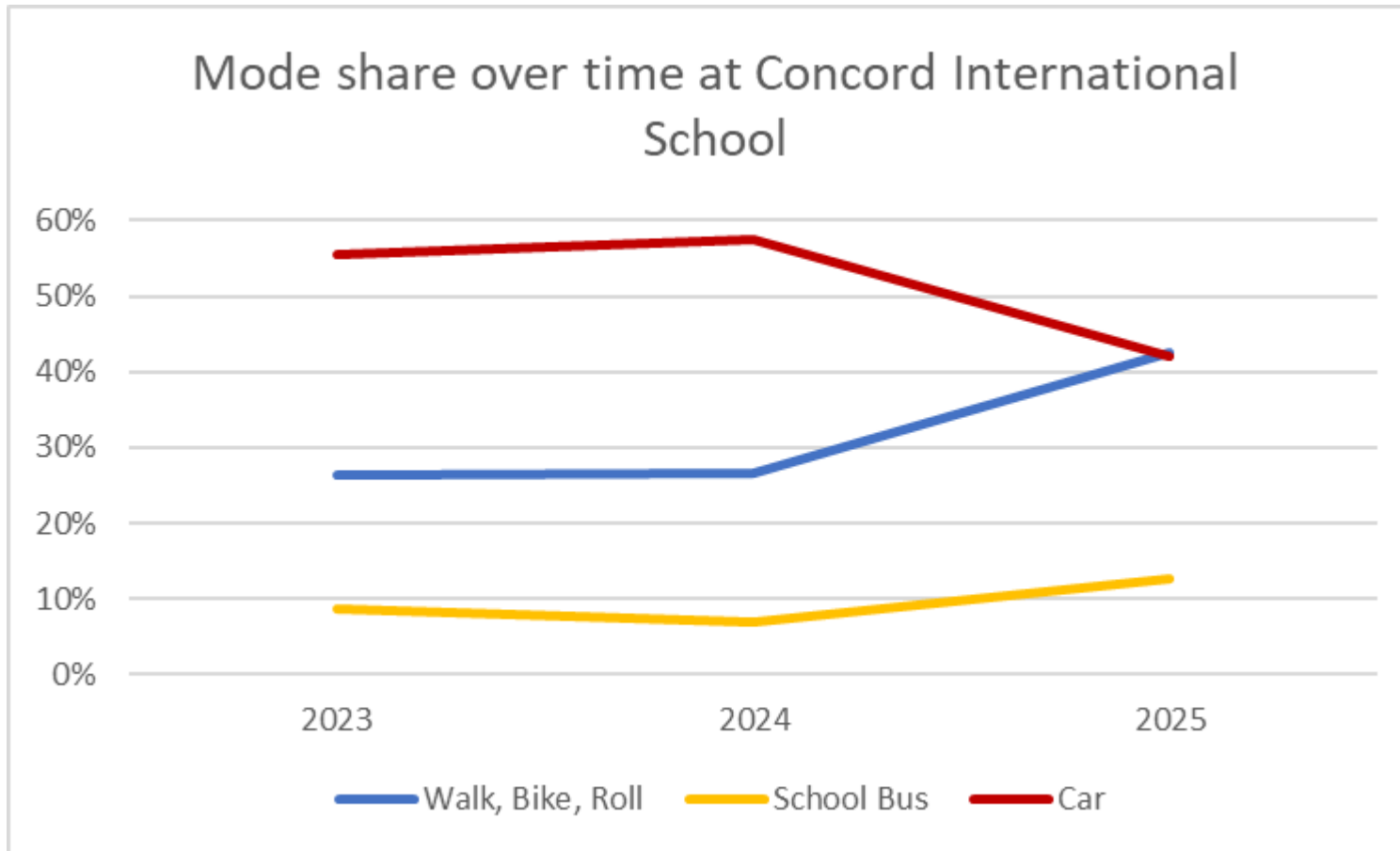
Trends across equity-priority tiers

Seattle Public Schools ranks schools into equity priority tiers based on multiple demographics such as race, free and reduced lunch, and number of English language learners.

On average, over the last 3 years, we see higher walking/biking/rolling rates in our standard priority schools (8% higher) than our equity priority schools.



Big strides at some equity priority schools



From 2024 to 2025 **Concord Intl' Elementary** in South Park saw a 16% increase in walking, biking, and rolling to school rates, which was one of the highest increases across the district! (7th highest)

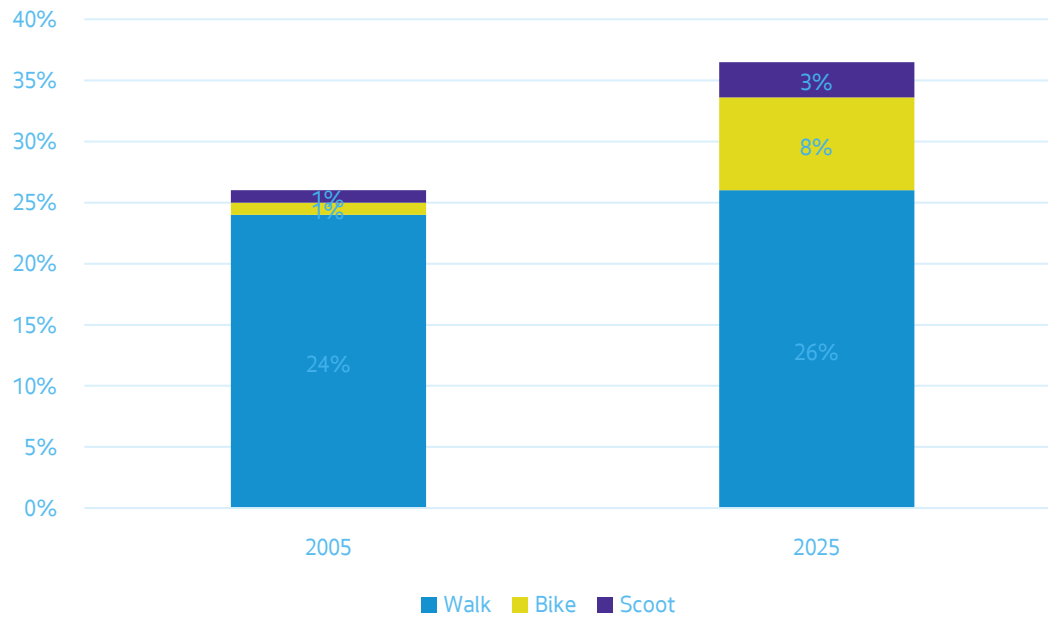
Walking, biking, and rolling to Concord surpassed the rate of car travel (carpools not included).

This may have to do with the P.E. teacher partnering with BikeWorks to give away bikes to kids!



All the E's coming together

Dunlap Elementary in Rainier Beach





Clean air

Safe streets

Independent youth

Connected communities



Safe Routes to School Team

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Seattle Public Schools Safe Routes to School Coordinator

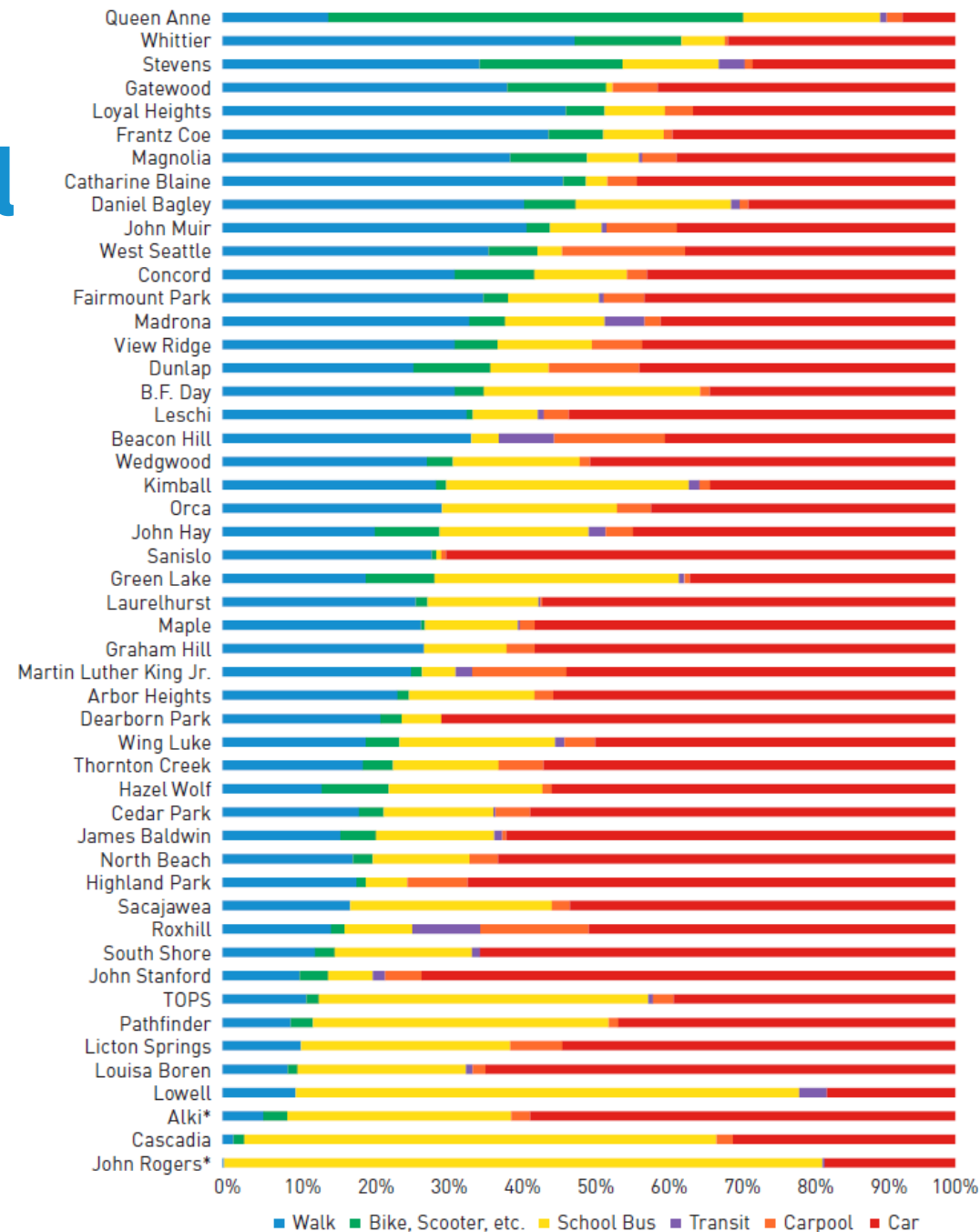
SDOT webpage: www.seattle.gov/transportation/srts

SPS webpage: www.seattleschools.org/walk-bike-roll/



2025 Travel Tally by School

Walking, Biking, and School Busing



*John Rogers and Alki were at interim locations during the 2024-25 school year.

