

Branciforte Middle School - 315 Poplar Ave.	
Grades:	6th - 8th
Number of Students:	408
Free/Reduced Meal %:	51.6% (District is 36.5%)
Students residing within a mile of school:	59%
Students using active transportation:	40%
Bike/Pedestrian injury or fatal crashes within half mile of school 2007-2012:	78 23 Pedestrian and 56 Bicycle (4 severe injuries)



Bike/Walk Audit - November 15th, 2013

Participants: Principal Kristin Pfothenauer, Parents Karen Nelson and Paula Maxfield, Neighbor Ariana Green, Students Zoe and Hannah Pais, Savannah Maxfield, Cole Trebbian, Todd and James, Regional Transportation Staff Karena Pushnik, GreenWays to School Staff Tawn Kennedy, Project Bike Trip Staff Kira Ticus, Santa Cruz City Public Works Cheryl Schmitt and EA Staff Jeanne LePage.

Overview

- Branciforte Middle School is set in a suburban neighborhood bordered by a commercial area.
- The crossing guards at Fairmont/Morrissey and Morrissey/Pacheco that serve DeLaveaga Elementary also serve Branciforte Middle School students.
- This school site has a significant percentage of students coming from lower Broadway. There is also a large number of students that must cross Morrissey Boulevard to travel to school; many parents have stated that Morrissey Boulevard is a barrier.
- Parent survey results indicate the biggest barrier to students walking/biking to school is concerns regarding distance although individual comments indicate safety as the largest concern.
- EA has conducted BikeSmart bicycle safety trainings and Greenways to School coordinates a student bike club at this school.
- The closest municipal bus stop is at the Water/Poplar intersection.

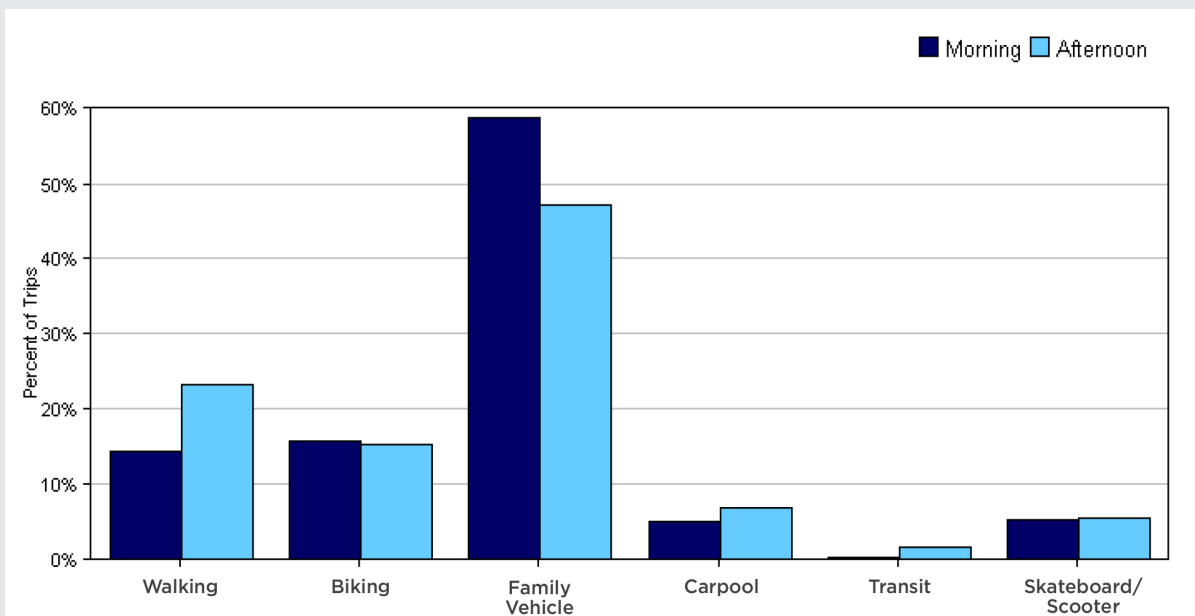


Analysis

- The Water Street corridor has the highest density of crashes near this school site with 37 reported crashes between 2007 and 2012 (3 severe injuries).
- The Water/Poplar intersection is only 2 blocks from the school and is highly confusing for all users during peak traffic times. Many parents commented on this intersection as being unsafe. Crash history at this intersection is high with 3 crashes at the intersection and 2 severe injury crashes just west of the intersection.
- 12 total locations were recommended for improvements with a total of 18 recommendations.
- Parents cited three recent student-bicycle crashes where students were hit by a car while in transit to or from the school. The locations of the crashes are Melrose/Poplar; South Branciforte just south of Soquel; and the Prospect Heights neighborhood (no intersection provided).

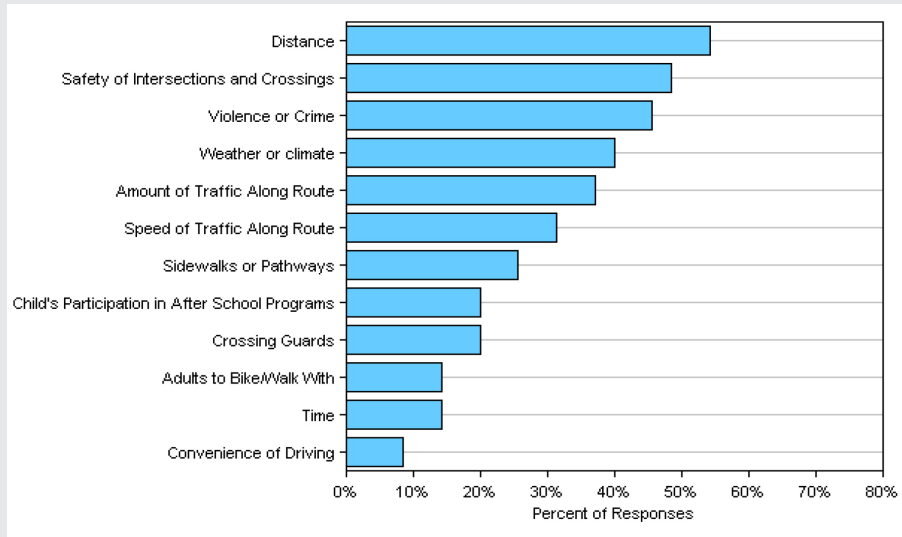
Student Mode Survey Results

In September of 2013, 13 of the 1st-5th grade classrooms were surveyed by EA staff.



Parent Survey Results

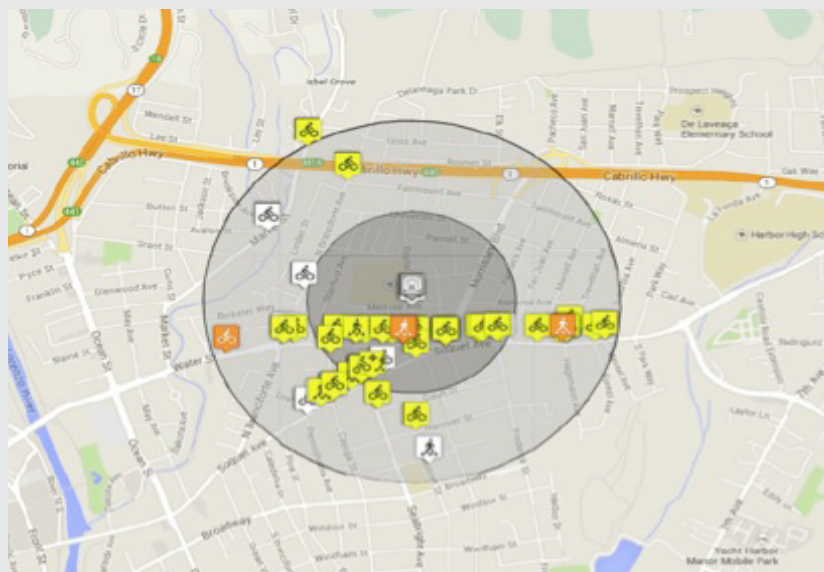
Survey administered in January of 2014. 102 surveys were returned. Below are results from Question 8 of the survey. Respondents were asked to rank the issues affecting their decision to not allow a child to walk or bike to/from school. Number of respondents to this question –62.



Pedestrian and Bicycle Collisions Within a Half-Mile Radius of Branciforte Middle School 2007-2012:



78; 23 Pedestrian; 56 Bicycle (4 severe injuries)



Collision Severity	Involvement		
	Bike	Ped	Both
Fatal			
Injury (Severe)			
Injury (Other Visible)			
Injury (Complaint of Pain)			





Branciforte Middle School Recommendations






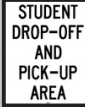




	Location	Recommendation
1	Water Street at Poplar Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Consider Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB) for pedestrian crossing on west leg of intersection B. Consider recommendations for reconfiguration of intersection to improve visibility of pedestrians and bicyclists crossing and reduce potential conflicts with vehicles turning left from Water onto Poplar 
2	Melrose Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Fill sidewalk gap on south side between Magnolia and Catalpa B. Repair sidewalks root uplift, trim vegetation 
3	Melrose Avenue school frontage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Paint red curb on either side of driveway that provides access to bike cage; enforce no parking in this area to ensure driveway clearance B. Consider prohibiting on-street parking along Melrose school frontage during school hours to provide extended drop off zone; shift drop off zone west away from Poplar intersection to reduce congestion, encourage students to use gate west of bike cage
4	Melrose Avenue at Morrissey Blvd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Install marked crosswalk and RRFB to provide enhanced crossing for bicyclists and pedestrians that use this crossing location; provide enhanced median refuge and reconfigure left turn pocket
5	Hammond Avenue at Morrissey Blvd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Install RRFB to provide enhanced visibility B. Reconfigure corners to provide full curb extensions to improve visibility of pedestrians crossing Morrissey

6	Hammond Avenue between Poplar and Morrissey	A. Fill sidewalk gaps on north side of Hammond between Morrissey and Poplar
7	School Main Entrance on Poplar	<p>A. Restripe crosswalk at Hammond as high-visibility style</p> <p>B. Enforce no parking in diagonal hatch loading zone where crosswalk intersects Hammond</p> <p>C. Install No U-Turn signs and enforce</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
8	Poplar Ave. and Fairmount	A. Fill sidewalk gap on west side
9	Fairmount Avenue	A. Fill sidewalk gaps
10	Poplar and Fairmount	A. Install marked crosswalks
11	N. Branciforte and Keystone	A. Restripe crosswalk as high visibility; consider restriping to south leg of intersection to provide better alignment for curb ramps on both sides
12	N. Branciforte and Berkeley / Dahilia	A. Study warrants for new marked crosswalk across N. Branciforte at this location

Branciforte Middle School

Recommendations

Santa Cruz City Schools Complete Streets Master Plan
February 2015

-  Curb extensions
-  Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB)
-  High visibility School crosswalk
-  High visibility crosswalk
-  Red curb (no parking)
-  Student drop off zone
-  No U Turn
-  No Parking School Zone
-  Sidewalk Improvements
-  School Entrance



- 1 Water Street and Poplar Street**
 - Consider Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons (RRFB) for pedestrian crossing on west leg of intersection
 - Consider recommendations for reconfiguration of intersection to improve visibility of pedestrians and bicyclists crossing and reduce potential conflicts with vehicles turning left from Water onto Poplar
- 2 Melrose Avenue**
 - Fill sidewalk gap on south side between Magnolia and Catalpa
 - Repair sidewalks root uplift, trim vegetation
- 3 Melrose Ave and school frontage**
 - Paint red curb on either side of driveway that provides access to bike cage; enforce no parking in this area to ensure driveway clearance
 - Consider prohibiting on-street parking along Melrose school frontage during school hours to provide extended drop off zone; shift drop off zone west away from Poplar intersection to reduce congestion, encourage students to use gate west of bike cage
- 4 Melrose Ave at Morrissey**
 - Install marked crosswalk and RRFB to provide enhanced crossing for bicyclists and pedestrians that use this crossing location, provide enhanced median refuge and reconfigure left turn pocket
- 5 Hammond Ave at Morrissey Blvd.**
 - Install RRFB to provide enhanced visibility
 - Reconfigure corners to provide full curb extensions to improve visibility of pedestrians crossing Morrissey
- 6 Hammond Ave between Poplar and Morrissey**
 - Fill sidewalk gaps on north side of Hammond
- 7 School Main Entrance on Poplar**
 - Restripe crosswalk at Hammond as high-visibility style
 - Enforce no parking in diagonal hatch loading zone where crosswalk intersects Hammond
 - Install No U-Turn signs and enforce
- 8 Poplar Ave between Fairmount and Chilverton**
 - Fill sidewalk gaps on west side
- 9 Fairmount Ave.**
 - Fill sidewalk gaps
- 10 Poplar Ave and Fairmount**
 - Install marked crosswalks
- 11 N. Branciforte and Keystone**
 - Restripe crosswalk as high visibility; consider restriping to south leg of intersection to provide better alignment for curb ramps on both sides
- 12 N. Branciforte and Berkeley/Dahlia**
 - Study warrants for new marked crosswalk across N. Branciforte at this location



Branciforte Middle School Non-Infrastructure Recommendations

1. Conduct annual student bike and pedestrian safety education.

Ecology Action offers presentations and on-the-bike safety training for older students when short term funding is available. Safety education is fundamental to improving bike and pedestrian safety. This seems particularly important for incoming 6th graders who may be biking for the first time.

2. Consider Carpool Reward Program for incoming 6th graders to increase carpooling.

Program does not currently exist. School could pair incoming 6th graders that live near one another to encourage carpooling throughout student middle school experience.

3. Consider increasing biannual Bike/Walk to School event to monthly or even weekly event, eg. Walk and Roll Wednesdays

Ecology Action has offered a monthly (rather than biannual) event to several local schools to more consistently re-enforce and encourage biking and walking to school. Numbers indicate this approach may increase daily active commuting totals. This program requires ongoing financial support.

4. Consider creation of bike train - group of students biking together with an adult.

There are no formal bike train programs but middle school is a good age for this type of adult supervised bike safety and encouragement effort. A bike train would require parent volunteers and perhaps agency coordination.

5. Circulate bike maps, resource list and bike cage promotion every fall to students to encourage bike/walk trips.

At the beginning of the school year bike safety and advocacy resources could be promoted and offered to the entire student body to increase ridership. Currently, Green Ways to School coordinates a Middle School Bike Club at Branciforte. A more formal effort could be launched to encourage joining the club, using the existing bike cage and consulting with experienced cyclists on route selection and gear choice. This could be offered through 6th grade assembly and/or through student Core classes.

