

School Survey Summary

February 1, 2018





THURSTON REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (TRPC) is a 22-member intergovernmental board made up of local governmental jurisdictions within Thurston County, plus the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation and the Nisqually Indian Tribe. The Council was established in 1967 under RCW 36.70.060, which authorized creation of regional planning councils.

TRPC's mission is to "Provide Visionary Leadership on Regional Plans, Policies, and Issues."

To Support this Mission:

- A. Support **regional transportation** planning consistent with state and federal funding requirements.
- B. Address **growth management, environmental quality, economic opportunity**, and other topics determined by the Council.
- C. **Assemble** and **analyze data** that support local and regional decision making
- D. Act as a "**convener**" and build regional **consensus** on issues through information and citizen involvement.
- E. Build **intergovernmental consensus** on regional plans, policies, and issues, and advocate local implementation.

This summary was prepared as part of the Main Street Rochester project.

TRPC PROJECT TEAM

Burlina Montgomery, Administrative Assistant
Karen Parkhurst, Programs & Policy Director
Katrina Van Every, Associate Planner
Michael Ambrogi, Senior GIS Analyst
Michael Burnham, Senior Planner
Paul Brewster, Senior Planner
Veena Tabbutt, Research & Data Director

THURSTON COUNTY STAFF

Allison Osterberg, Long-Range Planning
Scott Davis, Public Works
Shannon Shula, Long-Range Planning
Theresa Parsons, Public Works

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TRPC would like to thank the Rochester School District, whose staff distributed and collected the parent survey and whose teachers conducted the student tally.

Contents

- Project Overview..... 1
- Parent Survey Analysis..... 2
 - Survey Distribution and Response 2
 - Assumptions..... 2
 - The Students 2
 - Traveling To and From School..... 3
 - Walking/Biking Safety 5
- Student Tally Analysis 10
- Surveys..... 13
 - Parent Survey 13
 - Online Student Tally Questions..... 15

Project Overview

Main Street Rochester is an effort to address the dual role US 12 serves as a regional highway and Rochester's Main Street. The project developed in response to requests from Rochester area residents to address safety and mobility concerns, infrastructure needs, and to improve the economic vitality of the corridor, while strengthening Rochester's identity. In 2016, Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) – acting on behalf of Thurston County – received a federal Surface Transportation Program grant to look at these issues for the approximate one-mile US 12 corridor from Bailey's IGA to 183rd Avenue Southwest. Both Thurston County and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) provided matching funds for the project.

As part of the Main Street Rochester project, TRPC conducted targeted outreach to Rochester Middle School students and parents. With the assistance of Rochester School District staff and teachers, the parent survey was distributed in December 2017 to 23 classrooms for students to take home. Students were asked to return the surveys to their teachers a few days later. Rochester Middle School teachers conducted the two-day student tallies on Monday, December 11th and Tuesday, December 12th. The parent survey and student tally will help inform Main Street Rochester's Current Conditions report and Thurston County's efforts to update the Rochester Subarea Plan (an element of the County's Comprehensive Plan).

A copy of the parent survey and the online student tally questions are included at the end of this summary.

Parent Survey Analysis

Survey Distribution and Response

Thirty copies of the parent survey were distributed to each of 23 classrooms for students to take home on Tuesday, December 5, 2018. Parents were asked to return the completed survey to school by Friday, December 8, 2017. Approximately 532 students were enrolled in Rochester Middle School at the time the survey was distributed and collected.

Parents were asked to complete only one questionnaire per household, and 105 surveys were completed fully or partially. This represents at least 121 students for a return rate of approximately 22.7%. The following summary provides context on parents' transportation choices for their middle schoolers.

Assumptions

Throughout the survey results, the total number of students represented is noted. This number has been adjusted to account for instances where a parent did not answer Question 1 (How many of your children attend Rochester Middle School?) but answered another question in the survey. For example, a parent may have indicated that they have a child in 6th grade and 8th grade. In this example, it is assumed that two students attend Rochester Middle School (one for each indicated grade). Another parent may have indicated that they live more than two miles from the school. In these example, it is assumed that one student attends Rochester Middle School.

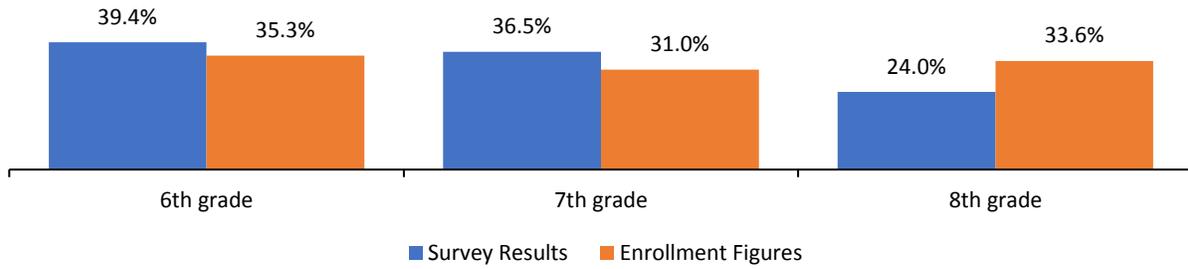
The Students

Questions 1 and 2 asked parents to identify how many of their children attend Rochester Middle School and what grades their children are in. The majority of responding households (86.7%) have only one child attending the middle school, and 39.4% of the students are in 6th grade. Another 36.5% are in 7th grade, and 24.0% are in 8th grade. Comparing the number of students enrolled in each grade, the survey results are generally consistent with the enrollment figures for the 2017/2018 school year.

Q1. How many of your children attend Rochester Middle School?		
Total Students Represented: 121		
Total Responses: 94		
No response: 11		
Response	Count	% of Total Responses
1	91	86.7%
2	12	11.4%
3	2	1.9%
More than 3	0	0.0%
TOTAL	91	100.0%

Q2. What grades are your children in? (check all that apply)		
Total Students Represented: 104		
Responses: 90		
No response: 15		
Response	Count	% of Total Students
6 th Grade	41	39.4%
7 th Grade	38	36.5%
8 th Grade	25	24.0%
TOTAL	104	100.0%

Rochester Middle School Students



Source: For enrollment figures, Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Enrollment Report, School Grade Level

Traveling To and From School

Questions 3-7 asked parents about traveling to and from school. When asked how far their students live from school, only 20.2% live within one mile of Rochester Middle School while more than three quarters (77.9%) live more than one mile from school.

Q3. How far do your children live from school?		
Total Students Represented:	113	
Total Responses:	96	
No response:	9	
Response	Count	% of Total Students
Less than 1/4 mile	5	4.4%
1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	12	10.6%
1/2 mile up to 1 mile	6	5.3%
1 mile up to 2 miles	21	18.6%
More than 2 miles	67	59.3%
Don't know/Not sure	2	1.8%
TOTAL	113	100.0%

Questions 4 and 5 asked about how students get to school in the morning and travel home from school in the afternoon. More than 90% of students either ride the bus or ride in a family vehicle. In the afternoons, the number of students who ride in a family vehicle drops, and the number of students who travel home by bus or by walking increases.

Q4. On MOST days, how do your children travel to school?				
Q5. On MOST days, how do your children travel home from school?				
Total Students Represented:		105		
Total Responses:		91		
No response:		14		
Response	Arrival		Departure	
	Count	% of Total Students	Count	% of Total Students
Walk, bike, skate-board, scooter, etc.	3	2.9%	6	5.7%
School bus	56	53.3%	77	73.3%
Family vehicle	42	40.0%	21	20.0%
Carpool	4	3.8%	1	1.0%
TOTAL	105	100.0%	105	100.0%

Question 6 asked parents how long it normally takes their children to get to and from school. One third of students take more than 20 minutes.

Q6. How long does it normally take your children to travel to/from school?		
Total Students Represented:		105
Total Responses:		91
No response:		14
Response	Count	% of Total Students
Less than 5 minutes	7	6.7%
5 – 10 minutes	33	31.4%
11 – 20 minutes	26	24.8%
More than 20 minutes	35	33.3%
Don't know/Not sure	4	3.8%
TOTAL	105	100.0%

Question 7 asked parents to consider what factors affect their school travel decisions. The three most commonly cited factors included distance between home and school (36.7%), other factors such as personal safety, crime, etc. (33.3%), and the convenience of driving (30.0%). The least cited factors affecting parents' school travel decisions included the presence of crossing guards (5.6%), the speed of traffic on Highway 12 (6.7%), and the safety of intersections and street crossings (12.2%).

Q7. Which of the following affect your school travel decisions? (check all that apply)		
Total Responses:	90	
No response:	15	
Response	Count	% of Total Responses
Distance between home and school	33	36.7%
Other (personal safety, crime, etc.)	30	33.3%
Convenience of driving	27	30.0%
Child's after-school activities	24	26.7%
Amount of traffic on Highway 12	20	22.2%
Weather	20	22.2%
Ability to save time	18	20.0%
Safety of intersections and street crossings	11	12.2%
Speed of traffic on Highway 12	6	6.7%
Presence of crossing guards	5	5.6%

Walking/Biking Safety

Questions 8 and 9 asked parents to identify streets in the Rochester area their families routinely walk and bike along and what streets they felt were unsafe for such activities. Responses to Questions 8 and 9 listed below may contain typographical and/or transcription errors. Some responses are for areas outside the immediate vicinity of the Main Street Rochester project extent. Some streets – such as 183rd Avenue SW and James Road – actually traverse both Rochester and Grand Mound.

Q8. What streets in the Rochester area do you and your family routinely walk/bike along?
Response
0
0
173rd Ave
173rd Ave
176th
176th
176th Ave
176th Ave
176th Ave SW
178th
178th
178th Ave
180th Ave and Gauva
183rd and Highway 12
183rd Ave SW
183rd Ave SW
183rd Ave, Leitnier Rd area

Q8. What streets in the Rochester area do you and your family routinely walk/bike along?
Response
184th
184th
184th
184th Ave SW and 185th Ave SW
187th Ave SW
187th Avenue
188th Ave SW
191st
191st Street
195th Ave
198th Way SW
201st
201st Ave
201st Ave SW
201st Ave SW
Albany
Albany

Q8. What streets in the Rochester area do you and your family routinely walk/bike along?
Response
Albany
Albany
Albany
Albany St SW
Albany St.
Any road except Highway 12
Applegate
Applegate
Applegate
Applegate Loop
Apricot
Apricot Street
Around Jordan Street
Around the block at home - unicorn, 176th Ave, Albany, Littlerock Rd
Cheycona Lane
Citrus
Denmark
Down Sargent Road
Elderberry
Elderberry St
Eugen Street
Fleming St
Grandmound Way
Guava
Highway 12
Highway 12
Highway 12 and Albany
Hwy 12
Hwy 12
I do not walk anywhere in this town due to very limited walking and biking space
Independence
Irwin
Irwin
Ivan Street
James Rd
James Road
Joselyn Rd
Joselyn Rd SW
Joslyn
Jutland St and 194th Ave

Q8. What streets in the Rochester area do you and your family routinely walk/bike along?
Response
Leitner
Leitner Rd
Leitner Rd, Rochester WA
Littlerock Rd
Littlerock Rd is the main road we travel on, not walk/bike
Littlerock Road
Loganberry st
Lundeen Road
N/A
Near our home. Josely, 191st, 187th, Pecan
None
None - no sidewalks
None - we live out of district
None in Rochester
None, we live in the duplex behind the school
Nutmeg St
Olympic Ct SW, Rochester WA
Our family goes on Sargent Rd

Q8. What streets in the Rochester area do you and your family routinely walk/bike along?
Response
Our immediate neighborhood, as 183rd has a fog line and then ditch and people have died on the road
Our own private - too much traffic on Main Street - unsafe for kids
Pecan Street
Pecan/Rosemary
Pendleton, 178th - sidewalks wont fix this. Still too many pedophiles and stupid drivers to want to walk anywhere
Sargent

Q8. What streets in the Rochester area do you and your family routinely walk/bike along?
Response
Sargent Rd SW
Sergant Road
Son rides James, 188th
Tea St SW
The streets are old highway 99 and old highway 9.
Unicorn St
We don't
We just moved to town
Zero absense of sidewalks and trails make it unsafe to walk and bike

Q9. Besides Highway 12, are there any streets in the Rochester area you feel are unsafe to walk/bike along? Please tell us about it:
Response
180th street because people think it's ok to hit people with there car since there is no room to walk
183rd
183rd - no space by the road to walk safely - need to walk down in the drain or in the tall grass
183rd Ave.
183rd Ave. The street is really busy and their isn't enough space to be comfortable walking or riding a bike
183rd avenue - speeding is a big problem
183rd Avenue Rochester, WA
183rd has no safe areas to walk on and people speed, atleast once a year someone hits a telephonpole and dies. Those poles aren't even on the road side of the ditch. Hwy 12 is also terrible, people pass around cars that are taking lefts. Need to put curbs along the fog lines where there isn't driveways to keep cars from passing in pedestrian lanes.
183rd people drive too fast not enough off shoulder for safety
183rd, no shoulder
183rd/Littlerock Rd. Too much high speed traffic and not sufficient space to travel
Albany
Albany
Albany St very quiet, hardly no traffic
Albany, at times. Lacks a shoulder and at times can be very busy
Albany, Marvel. There are no sidewalks nor bike lanes. Cars, trucks, etc. often go over the posted speed limit, often 10 or more over the limit.
Albany/Littlerock

Q9. Besides Highway 12, are there any streets in the Rochester area you feel are unsafe to walk/bike along? Please tell us about it:
Response
All - lacking sidewalks
All of them without sidewalks
All that do not have sidealks are unsafe! Cars travel too fast.
All the side streets off the main road in Rochester
All, no sidewalks
All, no sidewalks, shoulders, lack of crosswalks, street lights
All. Nothing to slow speeding drivers down. Edge of roads are too small. No lighting or sidewalks
Almost all of them. None of the major roads have shoulders or sidewalks.
Along Highway 12 is the only road
Case
Denmark St
Hwy 99
Hwy 99 (old)
I feel all the streets are more unsafe these days than they used to be
In general all the streets are unsafe, but because mom and dad works, my child walks from school to home after his after school activities
It's too dark and there are no sidewalks, so most are unsafe
James - doesn't have much of a shoulder
James Rd Hwy 9? (either 9 or 99, can't remember - connects with James Rd)
James Rd, Abany, Littlerock Road - minimal shoulder and speed limit
James Rd.
James Rd.
James Rd., Old 99 - traffic and speed too many accidents
Just Hwy 12
Littlerock
Littlerock
Littlerock
Littlerock Rd
Littlerock Rd
Littlerock Road
Littlerock Road
Littlerock road, 183rd, any without sufficient bike lanes
Loganberry St
Mainly all the back roads at least 1/2 mile out from traffic light. In my opinion, Hwy 12 in the city center area is safer
Most of them
Most roads don't have much room to walk it's the county roads
N/A
N/A
N/A
N/A
No
No

Q9. Besides Highway 12, are there any streets in the Rochester area you feel are unsafe to walk/bike along? Please tell us about it:
Response
No
No
No
No
No there isn't
None
Not sure
Not that I know of
Old 9
Old hwy 9
Old Hwy 9
Old Hwy 9 & 99 SW. I feel without sidewalks or sufficient space with a walking line or lane painted that it is too dangerous to walk with my family
Old Hwy 99
Old Hwy 99
Olypia
Pendleton
Safety concerns are the drivers not the roads. This is the conty country land. Leave it that way!
Sargent
Sargent
Sargent Rd
Sargent Rd SW, lack of space
Sargent Road,
The roads around the high school are scary. I won't let my kids ride around there at all.
The side roads has little room for pedestrians and cars to drive fast
The streets that are not safe are old highway 99 and old highway 9 because shoulders are to small to walk and bike on
Very dark at night and lots of 35 mph roads with no sidewalks
We don't really have any roads that we think are unsafe for us and are kids and other people
We live on Highway 12 just past the 55 mph sign, this speed is unsafe for our children to be walking the highway, there are no sidewalks. Also there are a lot of druggies in the area, we do not want our daughter exposed to the bad decisions other people make

Student Tally Analysis

The student tally was conducted on Monday, December 11, 2017 and Tuesday, December 12, 2017. A total of 42 classrooms participated over the two days, with 450 students participating on Monday and 394 students on Tuesday. Thirty of the classrooms had students from only one grade, and 12 classrooms had students from more than one grade.

Student Tallies		
Metric	Monday	Tuesday
Classrooms Participating	22	20
Students Participating	450	394
Weather Condition	Sunny, Overcast	Sunny, Overcast

Classroom Type	Count
Grade 6	11
Grade 7	12
Grade 8	7
Mixed Grades	12
TOTAL	42

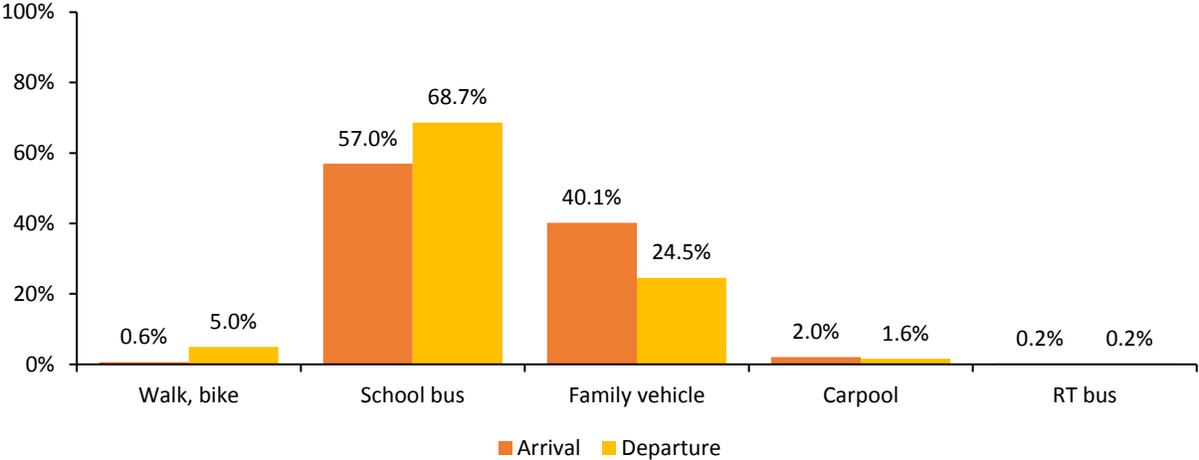
Teachers were asked to tally how students arrived at school and planned to leave for home. Ninety-eight percent of student arrival trips are made by school bus or family vehicle. This drops to 93.2% when students depart from school. Only five arrival trips over the two days were by kids walking to school; no kids indicated they biked to school. However, 40 departure trips were by students on foot (4.8%) and one was by bike (0.1%).

Student Arrival Modes						
Total Responses Monday: 444			Total Responses Tuesday: 388			
No Responses Monday: 6			No Responses Tuesday: 6			
Mode	Count			Percentage		
	Monday	Tuesday	TOTAL	Monday	Tuesday	TOTAL
Walk	3	2	5	0.7%	0.5%	0.6%
Bicycle	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
School bus	257	217	474	57.9%	55.9%	57.0%
Family vehicle	178	156	334	40.1%	40.2%	40.1%
Carpool	6	11	17	1.4%	2.8%	2.0%
RT bus	0	2	2	0.0%	0.5%	0.2%
Other	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
TOTAL	444	388	832	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

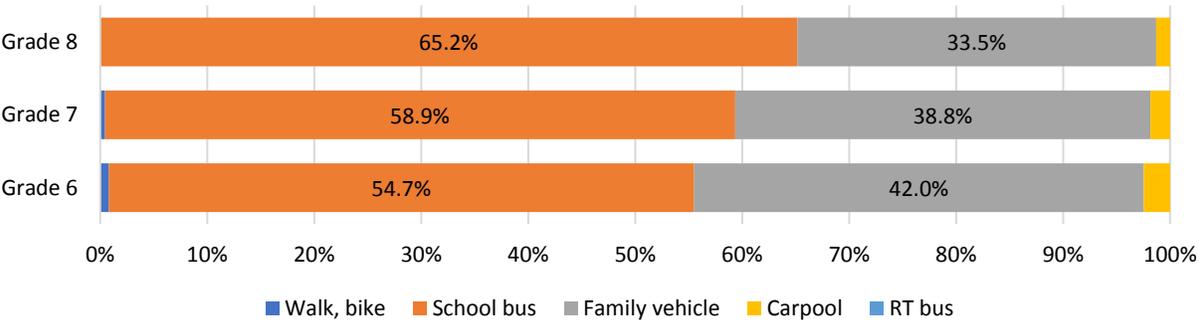
Student Departure Modes						
Total Responses Monday: 442			Total Responses Tuesday: 385			
No Responses Monday: 8			No Responses Tuesday: 9			
Mode	Count			Percentage		
	Monday	Tuesday	TOTAL	Monday	Tuesday	TOTAL
Walk	22	18	40	5.0%	4.7%	4.8%
Bicycle	1	0	1	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%
School bus	312	256	568	70.6%	66.5%	68.7%
Family vehicle	101	102	203	22.9%	26.5%	24.5%
Carpool	6	7	13	1.4%	1.8%	1.6%
RT bus	0	2	2	0.0%	0.5%	0.2%
Other	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
TOTAL	442	385	827	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The chart below compares student arrival and departure travel modes. Students are more likely to travel to school by family vehicle and carpooling than they are on their way home. Conversely, students are more likely to travel home by walking, biking, and school bus than they are on their way to school.

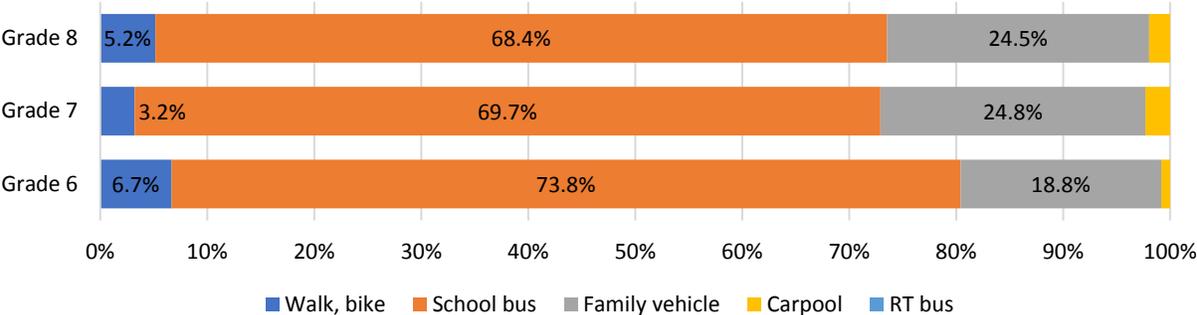
Student Arrival and Departure Travel Modes



Arrival Mode by Grade (Single-Grade Classrooms Only)



Departure Mode by Grade (Single-Grade Classrooms Only)



Surveys

Parent Survey

ROCHESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT SURVEY ABOUT WALKING, BIKING, AND RIDING THE BUS TO SCHOOL



Dear Parents,

Working with the Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC), Thurston County is looking at ways to improve transportation, safety, and mobility in the Rochester area, especially along Highway 12. We want to learn your thoughts about students walking and biking to Rochester Middle School and how we can improve conditions in the area.

Instructions

Please share your views about how your children travel to and from school. One survey per household is sufficient. After you have completed this survey, please send it back to school with your child by **Friday, December 8, 2017**. All responses will remain confidential.

If you or your student would like to learn more about the Main Street Rochester project, go to www.trpc.org/rochester for more information.

Thank you for participating in the survey!

1. How many of your children attend Rochester Middle School?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- More than 3

2. What grades are your children in? (check all that apply)

- 6th grade
- 7th grade
- 8th grade

3. How far do your children live from school?

- Less than 1/4 mile
- 1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile
- 1/2 mile up to 1 mile
- 1 mile up to 2 miles
- More than 2 miles
- Don't know/Not sure

4. On MOST days, how do your children travel to school?

- Walk, bike, skate-board, scooter, etc.
- School bus
- Family vehicle (only with children from your family)
- Carpool (riding with children from other families)
- Other

5. On MOST days, how do your children travel home from school?

- Walk, bike, skate-board, scooter, etc.
- School bus
- Family vehicle (only with children from your family)
- Carpool (riding with children from other families)
- Other

6. How long does it normally take your children to travel to/from school?

- Less than 5 minutes
- 5-10 minutes
- 11-20 minutes
- More than 20 minutes
- Don't know/Not sure

7. Which of the following affect your school travel decisions? (check all that apply)

- Distance between home and school
- Convenience of driving
- Ability to save time
- Child's after-school activities
- Speed of traffic on Highway 12
- Amount of traffic on Highway 12
- Presence of crossing guards
- Weather
- Safety of intersections and street crossings
- Other (personal safety, crime, etc.)

8. What streets in the Rochester area do you and your family routinely walk/bike along?

9. Besides Highway 12, are there any streets in the Rochester area you feel are unsafe to walk/bike along? Please tell us about it?

Online Student Tally Questions



Rochester Middle School Student Arrival/Departure Tally

Dear Teacher,

Working with the Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC), Thurston County is looking at ways to improve transportation, safety, and mobility in the Rochester area, especially along Highway 12. Your assistance in conducting tallies on December 11, 2017, and December 12, 2017, will help us understand how students travel to and from school.

We are also sending a survey home to parents to help us better understand families' transportation choices.

If you or your students would like to learn more about the Main Street Rochester project, visit www.trpc.org/rochester.

Thank you for your assistance in this tally and for the important work you do with Rochester's students!



Rochester Middle School Student Arrival/Departure Tally

Instructions

Ask your students as a group the question "How did you arrive at school today?" Before students respond, read them their options. Reread each answer choice and record the number of students that raised their hands for each. Follow the same procedure for the question "How do you plan to travel home after school?"

Please be sure to ask students both the school arrival and departure questions.

1. Address

Teacher's Name

2. Grade (choose all that apply)

6

7

8

3. Survey Day

Day 1

Day 2

4. Weather

Sunny

Rainy

Overcast

Snow

5. The number of students in class when count made.

6. How did you arrive at school today?*Record the number of hands for each answer.*

Walk

Bicycle

School bus

Family vehicle (only with children from your family)

Carpool (riding with children from other families)

RT bus

Other (skateboard, scooter, etc.)

7. How do you plan to travel home after school?*Record the number of hands for each answer.*

Walk

Bicycle

School bus

Family vehicle (only with children from your family)

Carpool (riding with children from other families)

RT bus

Other (skateboard, scooter, etc.)

8. If there were any disruptions to your count or any unusual travel conditions to/from the school today, please let us know.