

# Quick Build Projects

for Active Transportation

November 5, 2025

Clara Cheeves, SWCCP Program Lead, WSDOT  
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Amalia Leighton Cody, Toole Design





# Quick Build Projects

For Active Transportation

- Welcome
- Overview of Quick Build Process
- Local Project Highlights
- Additional Guidance + Resources
- Questions

*Image: Toole Design*



# Hello!



**Clara Cheeves**

Sandy Williams Connecting  
Communities Program Lead  
Active Transportation Division  
WSDOT



**Chris Hawkins**

Active Transportation Planner  
Active Transportation Division  
WSDOT



**Amalia Leighton Cody, PE**

Toole Design  
Director of Engineering

# Poll

Share your experience or knowledge with quick builds.



Image: Toole Design



# What is a Quick Build project?

Quick-build projects use low-cost materials that can be installed quickly, like cones, planters, paint, and bollards

*Image: WSDOT*



# What is a Quick Build project?

Quick Builds are accessible-  
They can provide an opportunity to try an idea out, allowing the community to experience potential changes and provide feedback



Image: Toole Design



# Quick Build Process

- They can be installed on a trial basis, which allows for adjusting or removing elements as needed
- Successful projects may become permanent exactly as installed or upgraded with more durable materials



Image: WSDOT

# Why do a Quick Build?



**Improve safety and comfort for people walking and biking**



**Test or pilot roadway designs in cost-effective ways**



**Bring community into the design process**



**Build support and interest in projects that improve the experience for people walking and biking**



# QUICK BUILD CATEGORIES



## DEMONSTRATION

## PILOT

## RAPID IMPLEMENTATION

**One Day to Weeks:**  
Opportunity to showcase  
an idea

**Weeks to Months:**  
Opportunity to test  
iterations of a design

**Months to years:**  
End state or opportunity  
to transition interim  
design to long term  
infrastructure

\$

\$\$

\$\$\$

# When could you use a Quick Build?



A **demonstration** project that brings the community together to briefly try out a new roadway improvement during the planning phase



A **pilot** project during the design phase of the project to test out a design approach, and use materials that can be adjusted if need be



A **rapid implementation** project that quickly develops a community vision in more durable materials at the end of a community engaged design phase that provides a safer, low-cost solution for pedestrians and bicyclists

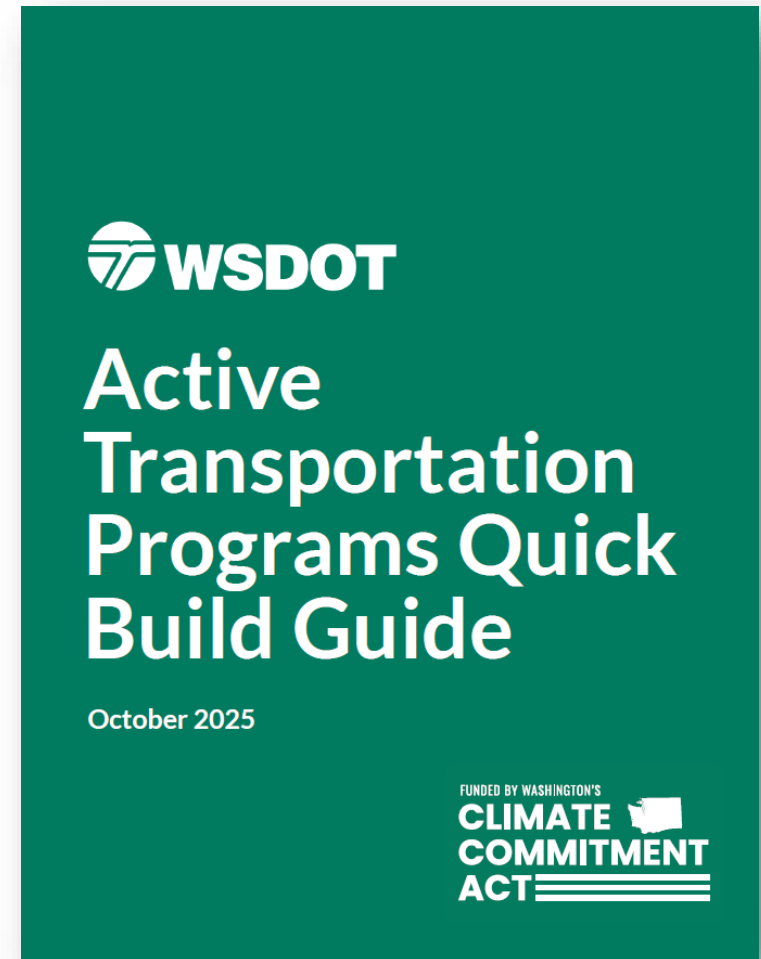


# Active Transportation Programs: Quick Build Guide

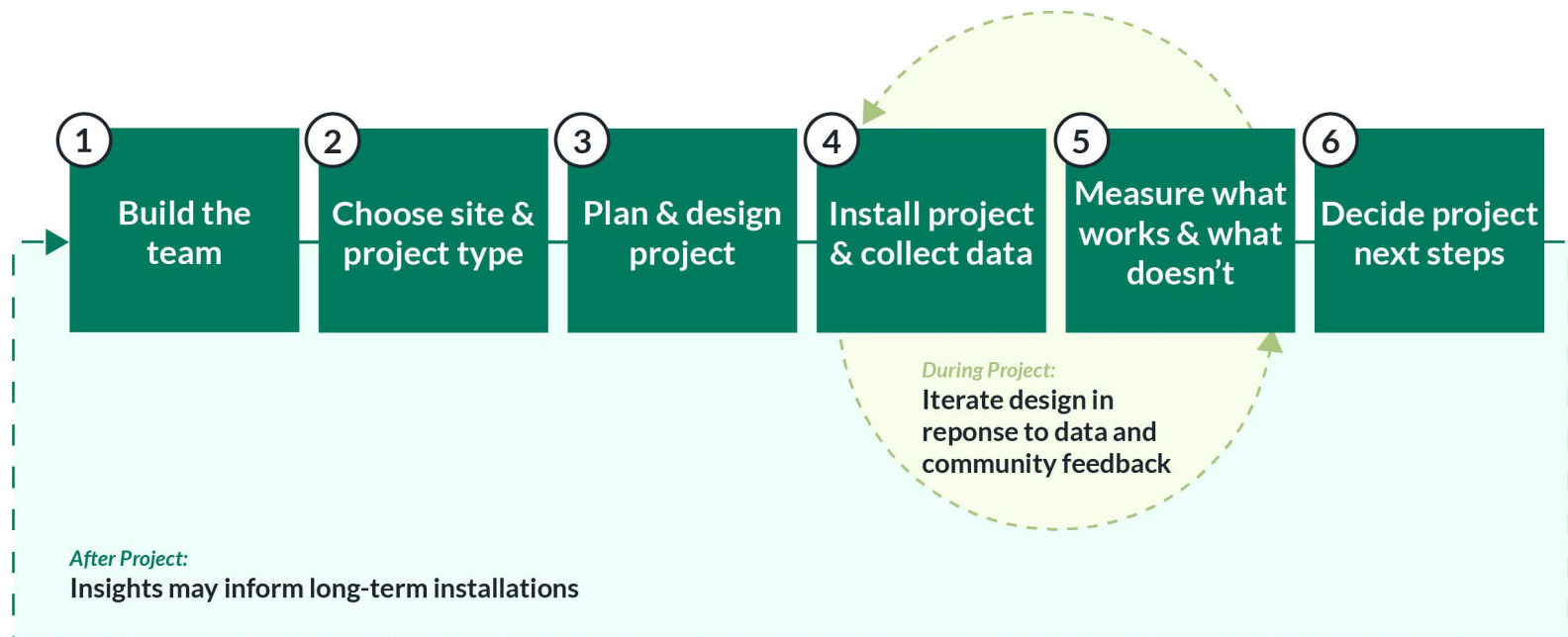
- Guidance for local jurisdictions on implementation of Quick Build projects under WSDOT Active Transportation Division funding programs.
- Information on support available for Quick Build projects led by local agencies and Tribes on local roads.
- Reference on WA-specific considerations for the implementation process and material selection.

Find the guide at WSDOT's website:

<https://wsdot.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-10/Guide-Active-Transportation-QuickBuildGuideForPartnerAgencies.pdf>



# Quick Build Process





# Quick Build & Community Engagement


- Involve community members and key partners in **collaborative planning and design efforts**.
- Allow the public to **learn firsthand about the benefits** of roadway improvements.
- Use **community surveys** to learn about public perceptions and evaluate the project's effects on behavior.





Image: Toole Design

# Quick Build Materials

Quick Build projects generally use **adjustable, low-cost materials**

 **Demonstration projects** typically use easily removable materials.

 **Pilot projects** often use flexible and adaptable materials that can be physically affixed to the roadway.

 **Rapid Implementation** projects typically use the most durable materials.

|   | WSDOT STANDARD SPECIFICATION OR STANDARD PLAN | DEMONSTRATION | PILOT           | RAPID IMPLEMENT |
|---|---|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|   |   | Days to Weeks | Weeks to Months | Months to Years |
| Pavement Markings                           |   |               |                 |                 |
| Sidewalk chalk                              | N/A   |               |                 |                 |
| Cornstarch paint                            | N/A   |               |                 |                 |
| Acrylic asphalt paint                       | N/A   |               |                 |                 |
| Traffic tape - foil backed                  | N/A   |               |                 |                 |
| Spray chalk/ spray paint                    | N/A   |               |                 |                 |
| Temporary marking paint                     | 9-34.2(6)                                     |               |                 |                 |
| Temporary pavement marking tape             | 9-34.5  |               |                 |                 |
| Thermoplastic                               | 9-34.3  |               |                 |                 |
| Methyl methacrylate                         | 9-34.3(4)                                     |               |                 |                 |
| Raised pavement marker                      | 9-21  |               |                 |                 |
| Delineators                                 |   |               |                 |                 |
| Traffic cones                               | 9-35.9  |               |                 |                 |
| Free standing delineators / tubular markers | 9-35.9  |               |                 |                 |
| Modular curb systems                        | N/A   |               |                 |                 |
| Glue down delineators                       | 8-10; 9-02.1(8); 9-26.2                       |               |                 |                 |
| Epoxied delineators                         | 9-26  |               |                 |                 |
| Guide posts                                 | 8-10; 9-17; 9-18                              |               |                 |                 |
| Barriers                                    |   |               |                 |                 |
| Tires                                       | N/A   |               |                 |                 |
| Planters                                    | N/A   |               |                 |                 |
| Movable tables and chairs                   | N/A   |               |                 |                 |
| Light weight barriers                       | N/A   |               |                 |                 |
| Hay bales                                   | N/A   |               |                 |                 |
| Plastic or rubber bolt-down devises         | N/A   |               |                 |                 |
| Plastic construction barricades             | 9-35.6  |               |                 |                 |
| Pedestrian channelizing device              | 9-35.16                                       |               |                 |                 |
| Concrete barrier - Type F (Precast)         | SP C-60.10-04                                 |               |                 |                 |
| Precast traffic curb                        | 8-07  |               |                 |                 |
| Extruded curb                               | 8-04.3(1)A                                    |               |                 |                 |
| Signs                                       |   |               |                 |                 |
| Yard signs                                  | N/A   |               |                 |                 |
| Easel                                       | N/A   |               |                 |                 |
| Sandwich boards                             | N/A   |               |                 |                 |

AT Programs Quick Build Guide: Table 3

# Pavement Markings

Pavement markings define where vertical elements can be placed in the roadway, enabling:

- Space reallocation
- Artistic & cultural elements
- Speed management & traffic calming



Acrylic Asphalt Paint



Traffic Tape



Thermoplastic



Methyl Methacrylate (MMA)

Image Sources: Toole Design



# Delineators

Delineators help people understand the route ahead when there are horizontal or vertical curves.

- Installation of delineators may vary depending on the duration of the project (epoxy vs. doweled)
- They also provide intermittent physical separation for different roadway users



Traffic cones



Tubular markers



Modular curb systems



Guide posts

*Image Sources: Toole Design*

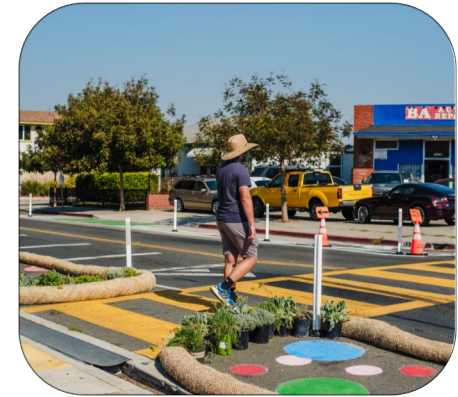
# Barriers

Roadway barriers provide continuous or nearly continuous physical separation between roadway facilities.

- Barriers also provide an opportunity to add art or vegetation into the ROW



Plastic construction barricades



Lightweight barriers



Planters



Concrete barriers



# Signs

Signs can be used for Quick Build projects to:

- Alert people that something in the roadway is changing
- Help reinforce design and guide user behavior
- Provide information about the project, e.g., purpose, duration, sponsorship
- Link to feedback surveys



Sandwich boards



Yard signs



Construction signs



Revised Signage

Images: Toole Design



# Regional Quick Build Examples

- Hood River County Safe Routes to School program  
Megan Ramey, MBA  
Safe Routes to School Program  
Manager Hood River County School District
- East Wenatchee 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Rapid Implementation project



Image: WSDOT



# WALK & ROLL

## HOOD RIVER COUNTY SCHOOLS

### Quick Build Projects

November 5, 2025

Washington State Department of Transportation





## Megan Ramey

- Safe Routes to School Manager  
Hood River County School District
- Vice Chair, Columbia Area Transit
- Founder, Bikabout.com
- talk to me about music, especially KEXP



# The Vicious Cycle: unsafe streets



**Mitchell Jorstad**

@OfficialMitchll

Older folks: "Why don't kids go outside anymore?"

The outside they built:



We have a vicious cycle of children not playing outside because it's not safe leading to political inaction with leaders who only see vehicle demand.

Odell, Oregon



Hood River, Oregon

# The Vicious Cycle: devices

## What Kids Told Us About How to Get Them Off Their Phones

Children who were raised on screens need more freedom out in the real world.

By Lenore Skenazy, Zach Rausch, and  
Jonathan Haidt



No. 1 response  
from kids on  
how to get them  
off their phone?

Freedom to play  
in their  
neighborhood.

## Break the cycle: Kids in the Street





# Timeline of Safe Routes to School in Hood River County

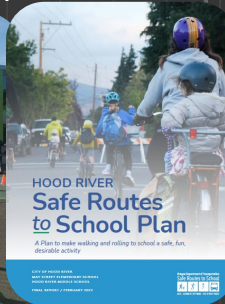
Oct, 2020 Bike  
train



Oct, 2021  
1st \$20K grant  
for bike train  
and education



Oct, 2022  
City adopts  
plan



School  
District wins  
grant, hires  
me!

**Ramey named Safe Routes to School manager**

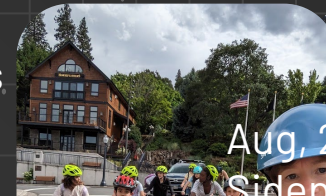
By Stephanie Hoppe  
HRCSD communications director

After receiving the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) Safe Routes to School grant in June, Megan Ramey was named the manager of the program for Hood River County School District (HRCSD). Ramey is the mother of a HRCSD student and is an advocate for safe routes to school.

"I am really passionate about kids walking, rolling and biking to school, giving them childhood independence, health and sense of place," Ramey said. "Providing mobility



Jan, 2023  
80s Walk & Roll  
Club starts



May, 2024  
School Street  
demo



2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

# Timeline of Safe Routes to School in Hood River County

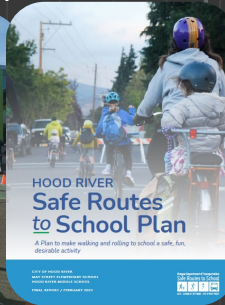
Oct, 2020 Bike train



Oct, 2021  
1st \$20K grant for bike train and education



Oct, 2022  
City adopts plan



School District wins grant, hires me!

Ramey named Safe Routes to School manager

By Stephanie Hoppe  
HRCSD communications director

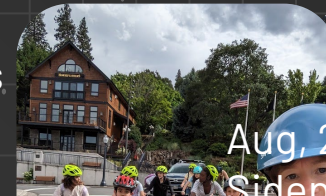
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Megan Ramey teaching bike safety at Mid Valley Elementary earlier this year.

Jan, 2023  
80s Walk & Roll Club starts



May, 2024  
School Street demo



2020

2021

2022

2023

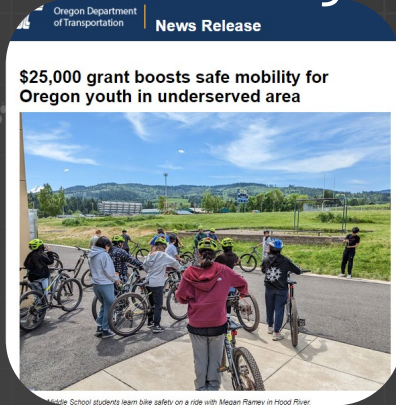
2024

2025



# In 3 Years...Program Highlights

**\$10** million in grants



**3** pilots->permanent



**200** bike / walk buses



**300** bikes donated



**200** learned how to ride



**3400** biked in PE





# Bike League's Educator of the Year





## 2 Secrets of Success



1. Cheap Quick Builds



2. Kids in the Street

“

I ride perfectly when biking to school so my councillor doesn't need **political courage** to build in systems where I can make mistakes.

— Sarah, Age 9

”



The reality of road safety campaigns.



Lawyers for Cyclists • Advocates for Change

## Political Courage

**Quick Builds build community trust and give our leaders political courage to champion safe streets and make larger investments.**



# Project 1: Sidepath for Middle School

- **Cost:** \$12,000
- **Funding:** ODOT Innovative Mobility grant
- **Duration:** 3 months
- **Student involvement**
  - after school club
  - engaged neighbors
  - weekly interviews



**WALK & ROLL**  
HOOD RIVER COUNTY SCHOOLS



# Project Timeline

2018

Dan Burden Walk Audits &  
SRTS Reports



2023

Demonstration Plan



2020 - 2022

PSU Better Blocks

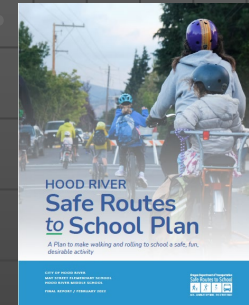


August 2023  
Installation



2022

City Safe Routes to  
School Plan



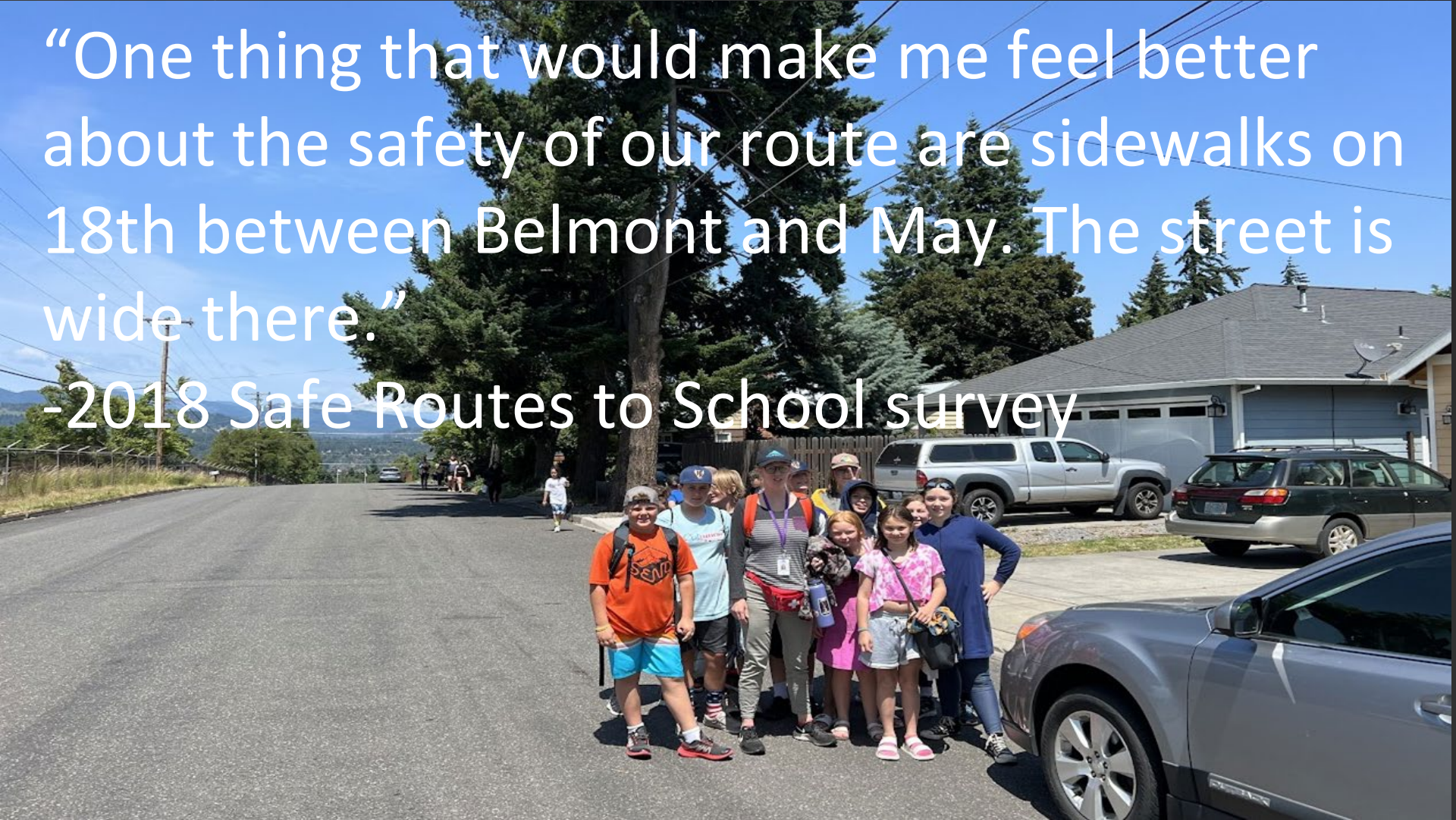
August-October 2023  
Demonstration





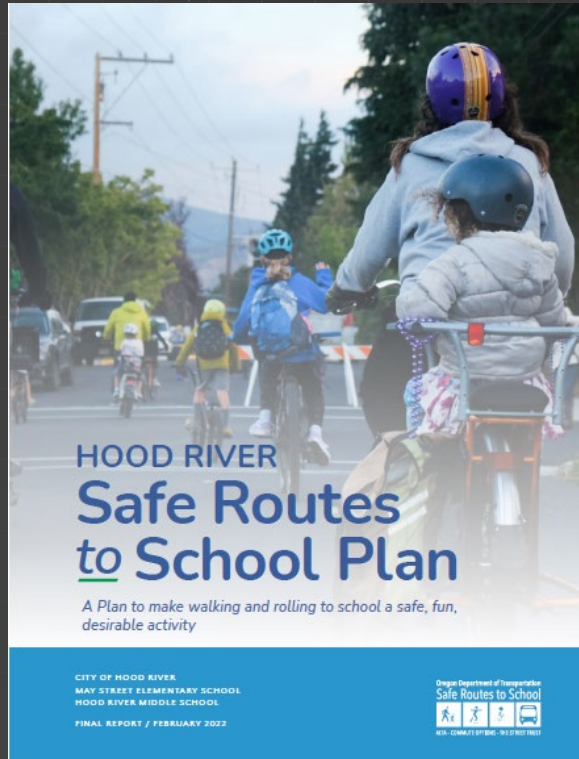
“One thing that would make me feel better about the safety of our route are sidewalks on 18th between Belmont and May. The street is wide there.”

-2018 Safe Routes to School survey



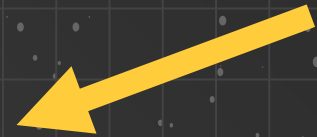


# City of Hood River Safe Routes to School Plan



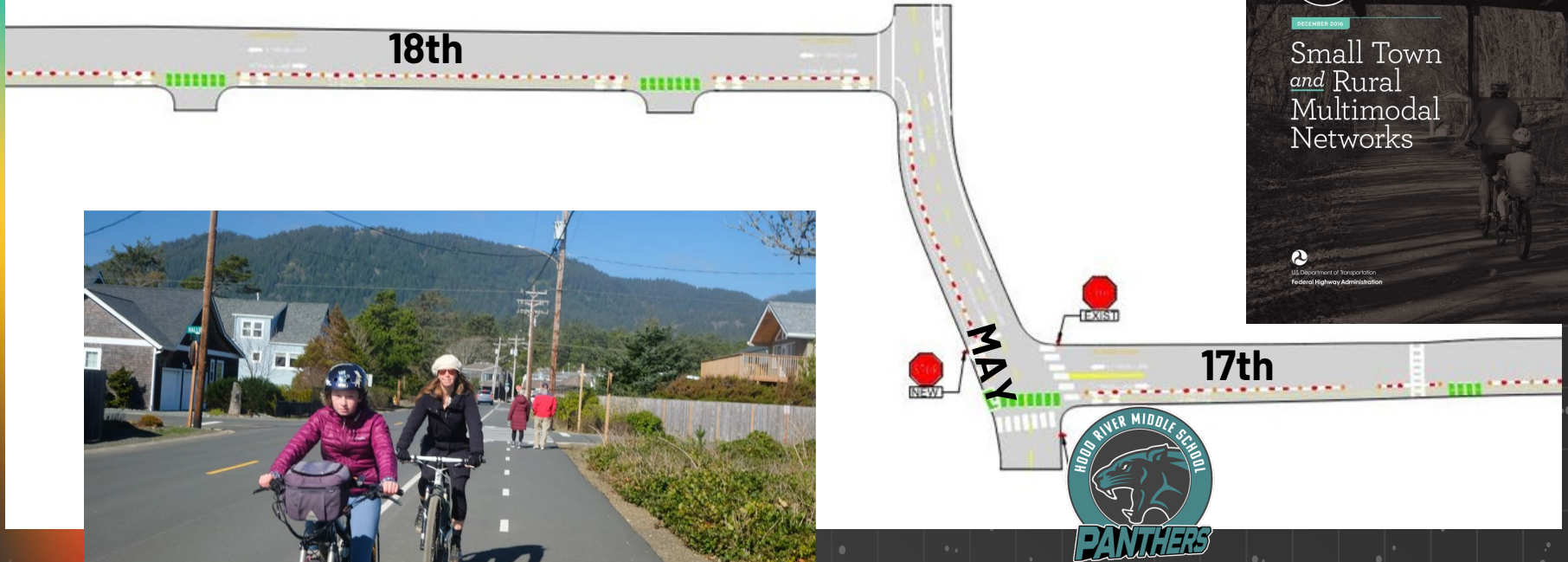
## High Priority Construction Projects:

1. May at 13th
  2. May at 12th
  3. 12th Street
  4. 13th Street
  5. **17th-18th-May at Hood River Middle School**
1. Indian Creek Trail
  2. Friendship Park cut-through



Approved by City Council, May 2022

# Design Inspiration for Quick Build



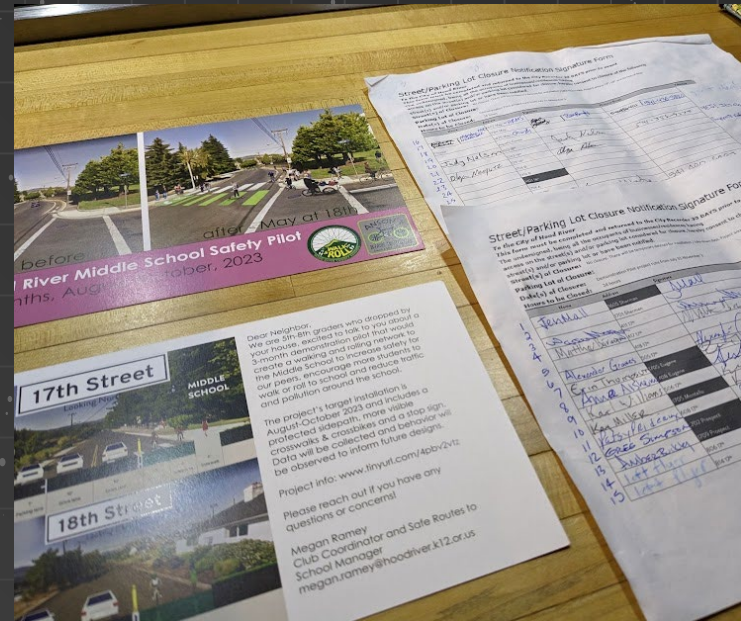


## 80s Walk & Roll Club





# Neighborhood Engagement



100% of 34 neighbors signed the City's notification form, with many happy to support students' safety.

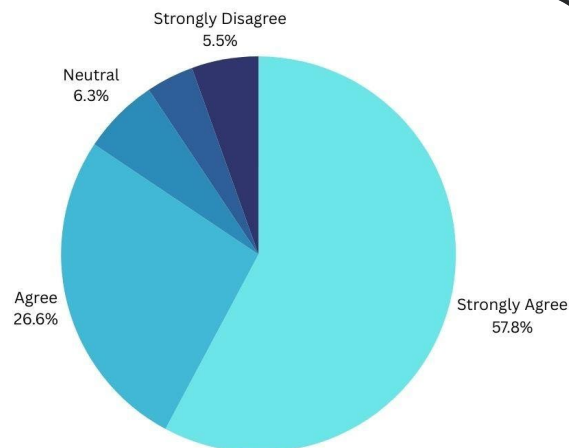
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL  
DEMONSTRATION AT  
HOOD RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Deep Donut  
Thoughts Thursday*



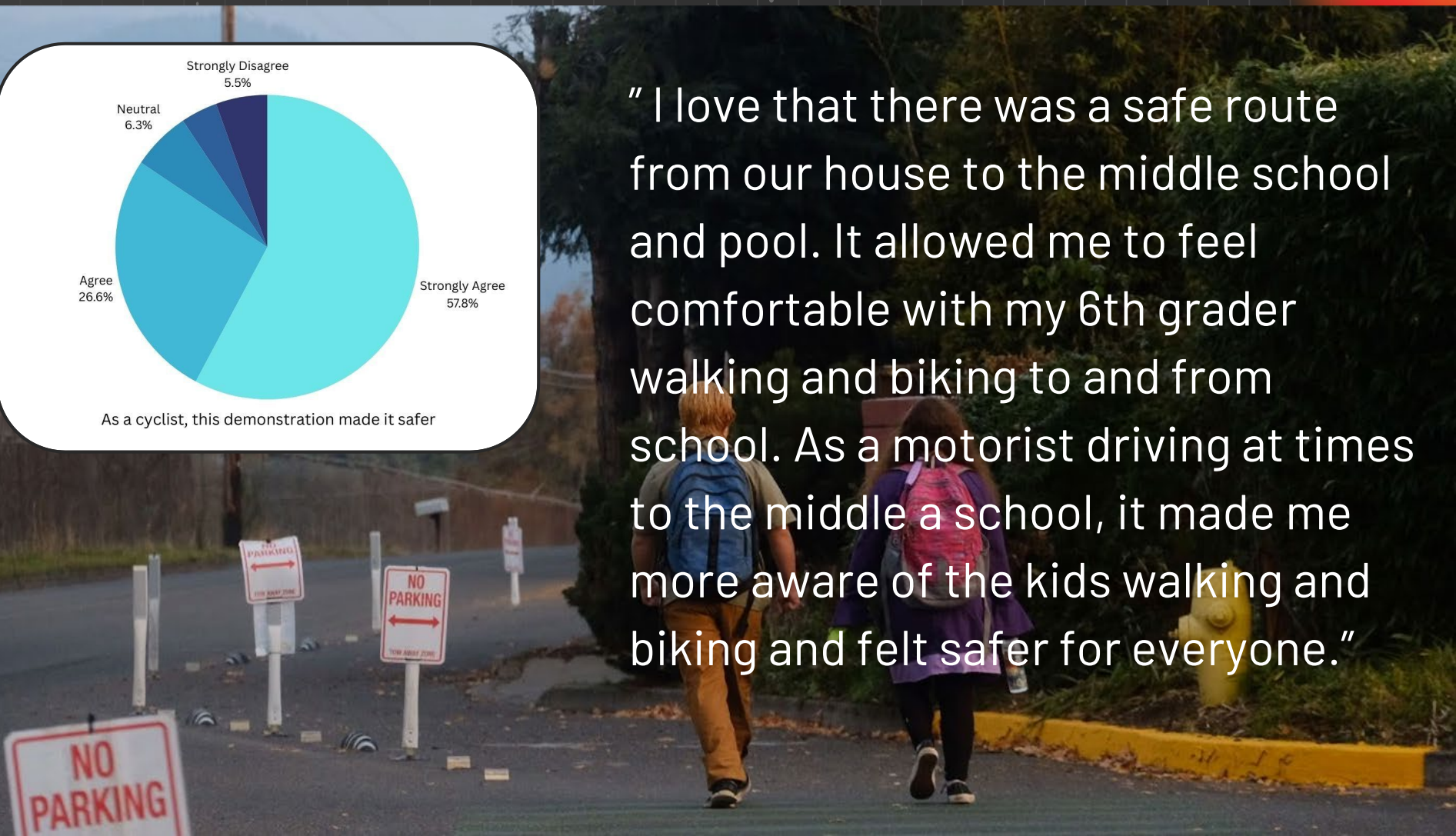
Thanks to Jack Hanley for his brilliance  
and Kickstand Coffee for donut donations.





As a cyclist, this demonstration made it safer

"I love that there was a safe route from our house to the middle school and pool. It allowed me to feel comfortable with my 6th grader walking and biking to and from school. As a motorist driving at times to the middle a school, it made me more aware of the kids walking and biking and felt safer for everyone."





18th permanently installed August 2024!



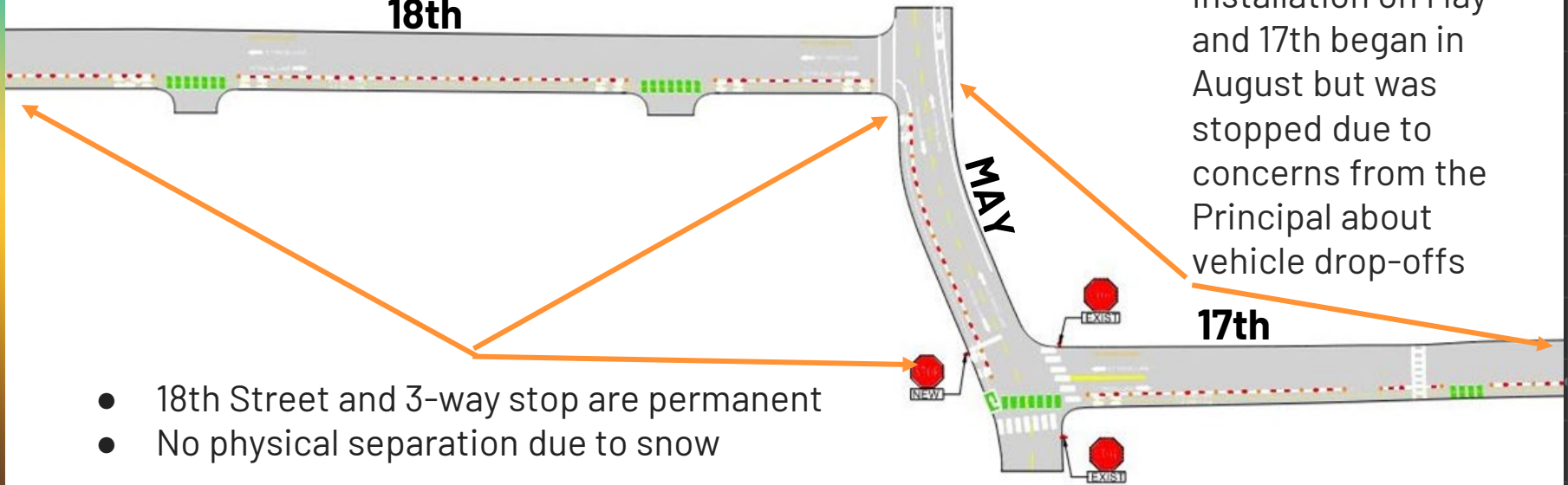
**18th**

**MAY**

Installation on May  
and 17th began in  
August but was  
stopped due to  
concerns from the  
Principal about  
vehicle drop-offs

**17th**

- 18th Street and 3-way stop are permanent
- No physical separation due to snow









# Project 2: Puma Path



PUMA PATH  
walk caminar



**Cost:** \$25,000

**Funding:** Governor's Highway Safety Association Youth Active Transportation grant

**Duration:** 3 months, August - October 2024

**Student Involvement:** weekly walking bus, PE class bike rides





## Project Objectives:

- Create safe ¼ mile walking path from neighborhood to school
- Inspire with weekly walking bus to school
- New learning bikes for kinders
- New helmets





## Mid Valley PTO won a \$15K ODOT Innovative Mobility Grant



Bike Shed



5th grade fleet of bikes





Temporary Crosswalk





Walking Bus





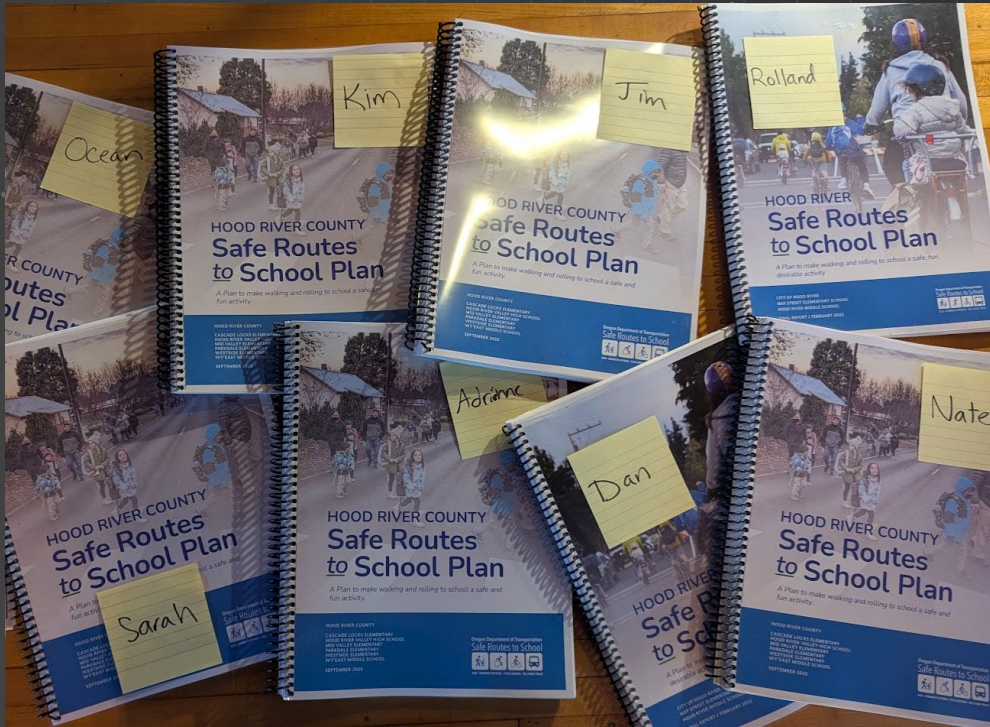
Walk & Roll to School Day



Bike Fix-it Stations at Wy'East  
and Mid Valley



# County Schools have plans now!



TOP 2 recommendations  
for construction  
projects:

- AGA Rd sidewalks
- Odell Hwy



# Project 3: School Street

- **Cost:** \$400
- **Funding:** ODOT Education Grant
- **Duration:** May 13- June 14 (last month of school) 2024

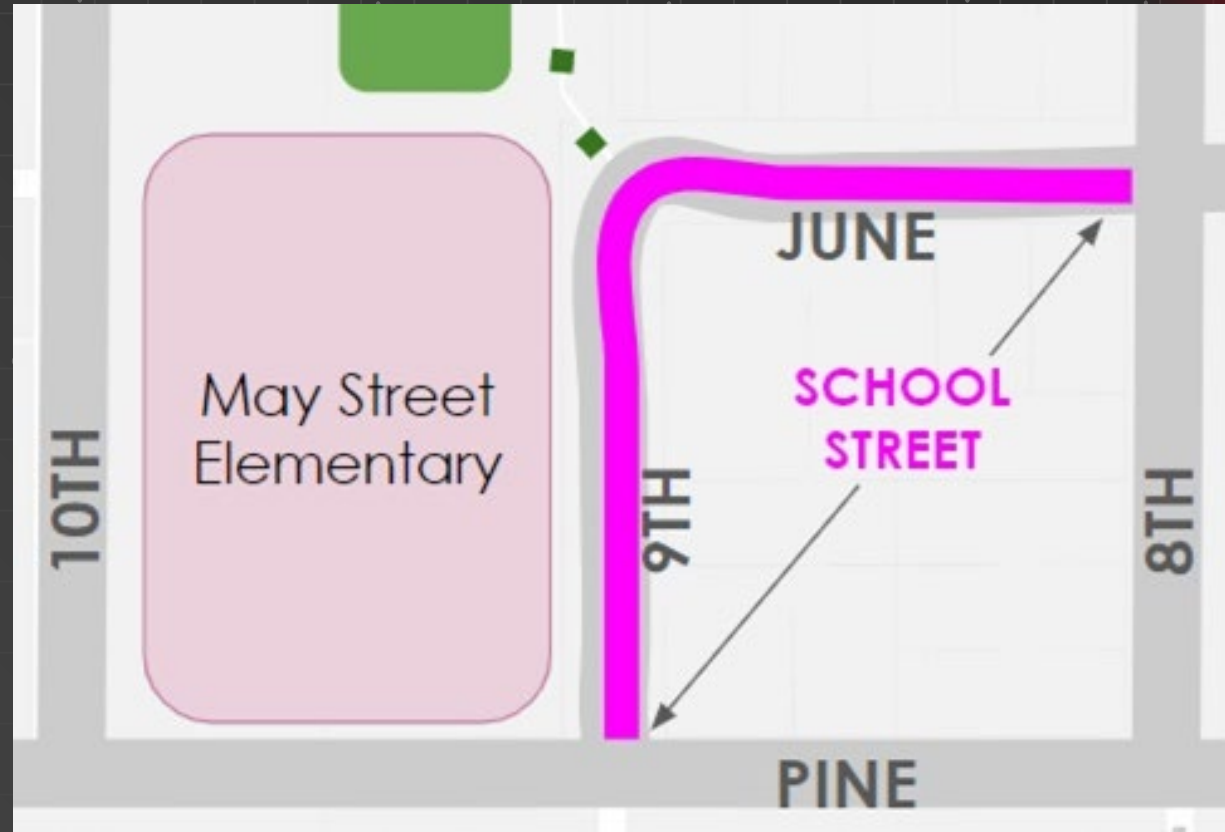


**WALK&ROLL**  
HOOD RIVER COUNTY SCHOOLS



# WHY a School Street?

- Give biking and walking families a safe entrance
- Reduce anxiety and noise / air pollution from vehicles
- Increase open space for students
- Increase walking and biking to school



## 4 - single day pilots



Internation Walk & Roll  
to School Day, Oct '21

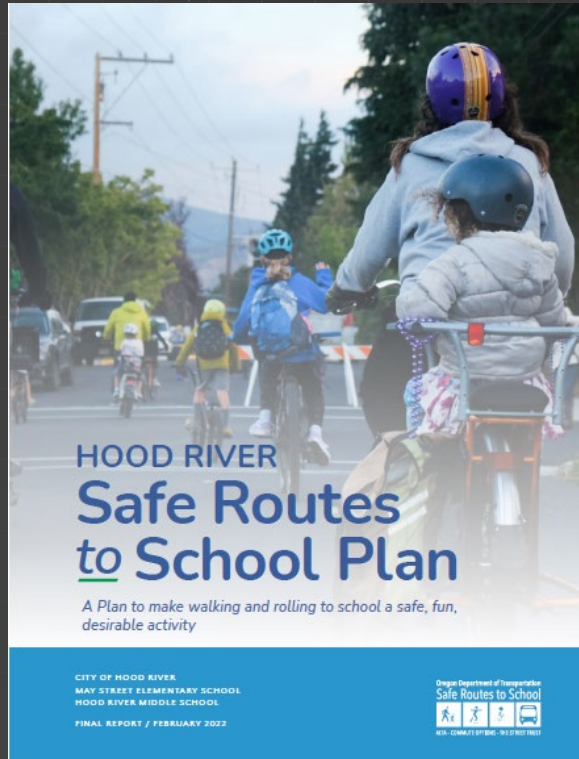


Earth Day, Apr '22





# City of Hood River Safe Routes to School Plan



Approved by City Council, May 2022

## RECOMMENDATION 1

“Close 9th St and June St between Pine St and 8th St to through traffic and unauthorized vehicle drop off during student arrival and dismissal.”

1 month long pilot, May 2024  
9 month pilot, Sept '24 - May '25



Venmo to the coolest 5th  
grader teacher, Mr.  
Campbell, for moving the  
barriers 2X per day



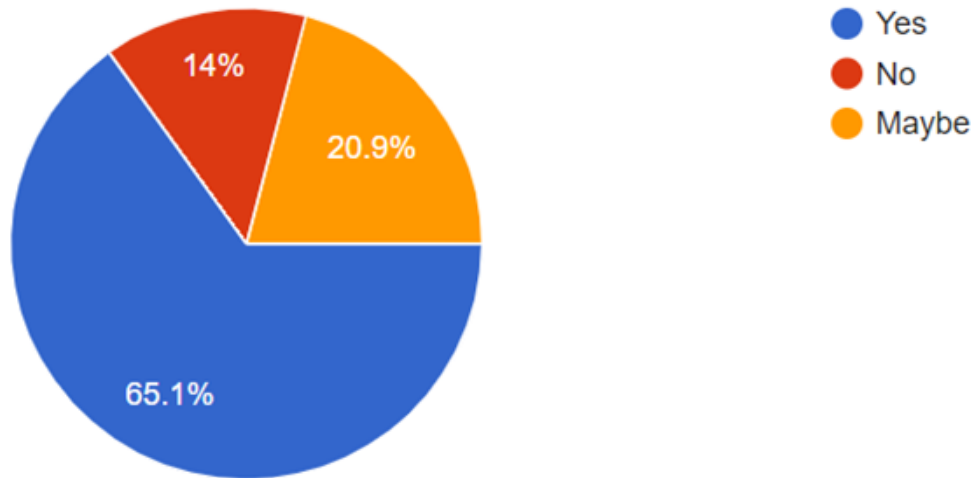
# “You’re doing God’s Work”



# Survey - 45 responses

Would you like to see School Streets continue in the future?

43 responses

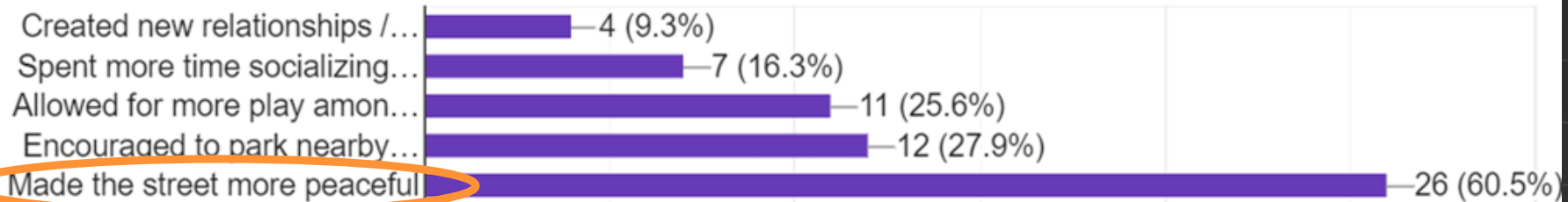




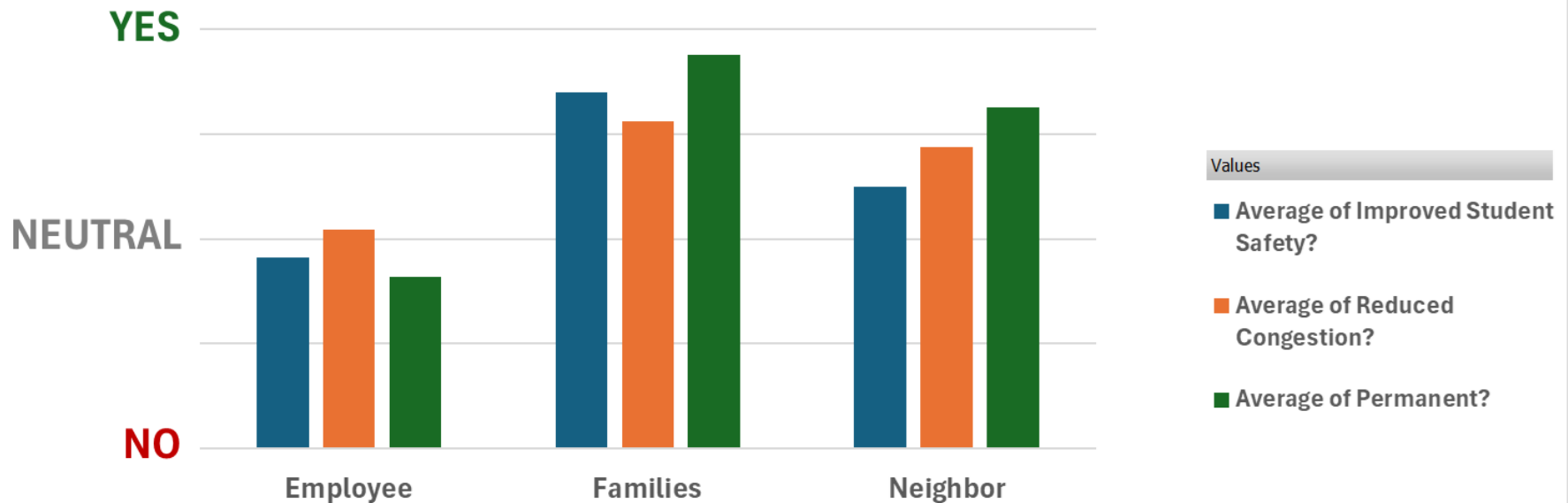
In which ways, if any, has your **relationship with this space and community** changed since the closure of the street? Check all that apply.



43 responses

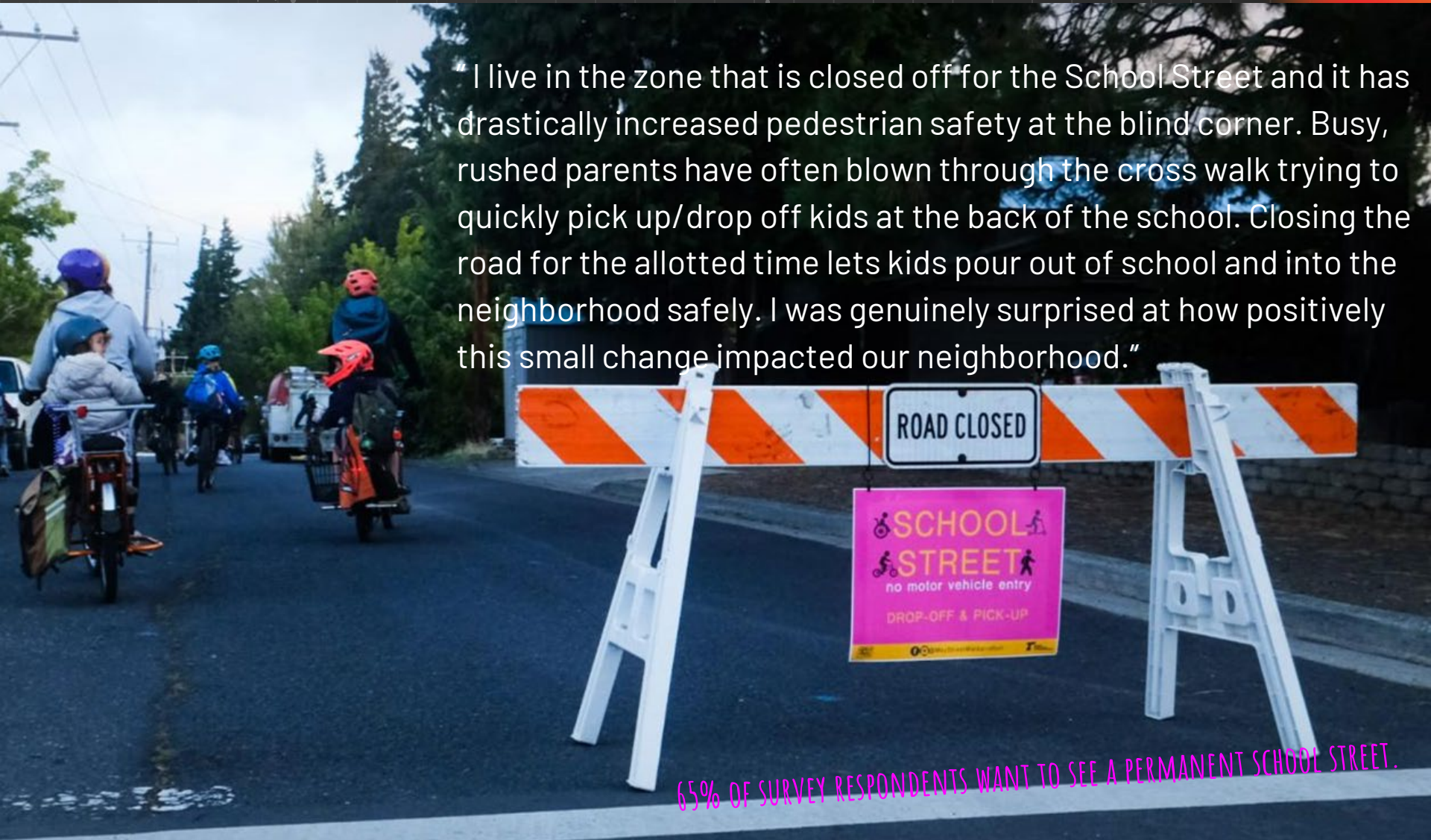


# How did 3 groups feel about the School Street?





"I live in the zone that is closed off for the School Street and it has drastically increased pedestrian safety at the blind corner. Busy, rushed parents have often blown through the cross walk trying to quickly pick up/drop off kids at the back of the school. Closing the road for the allotted time lets kids pour out of school and into the neighborhood safely. I was genuinely surprised at how positively this small change impacted our neighborhood."



65% OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS WANT TO SEE A PERMANENT SCHOOL STREET.

# Design Inspiration

Modeled on Seattle's Healthy Streets, Hood River's Public Works liked the permeable design that allowed plowing.





# Permanently Installed August 2025!



















**School Streets  
make arrival and  
dismissal into  
peaceful and  
joyful time.**

3 things  
humans need  
right now:

- 1) joy
- 2) peace
- 3) community

School Streets  
are the answer.



**141 students rode  
bikes in PE class at  
May Street  
Elementary**



**WALK&ROLL**  
HOOD RIVER COUNTY SCHOOLS

[About](#) [Schools](#) [Contact](#) [Free Bikes](#)

Thank you!

[www.walkandrollhoodrivercounty.com](http://www.walkandrollhoodrivercounty.com)

Bluesky @bikabout.com

Instagram @hoodriverwalkandroll

**Safe Routes to School**





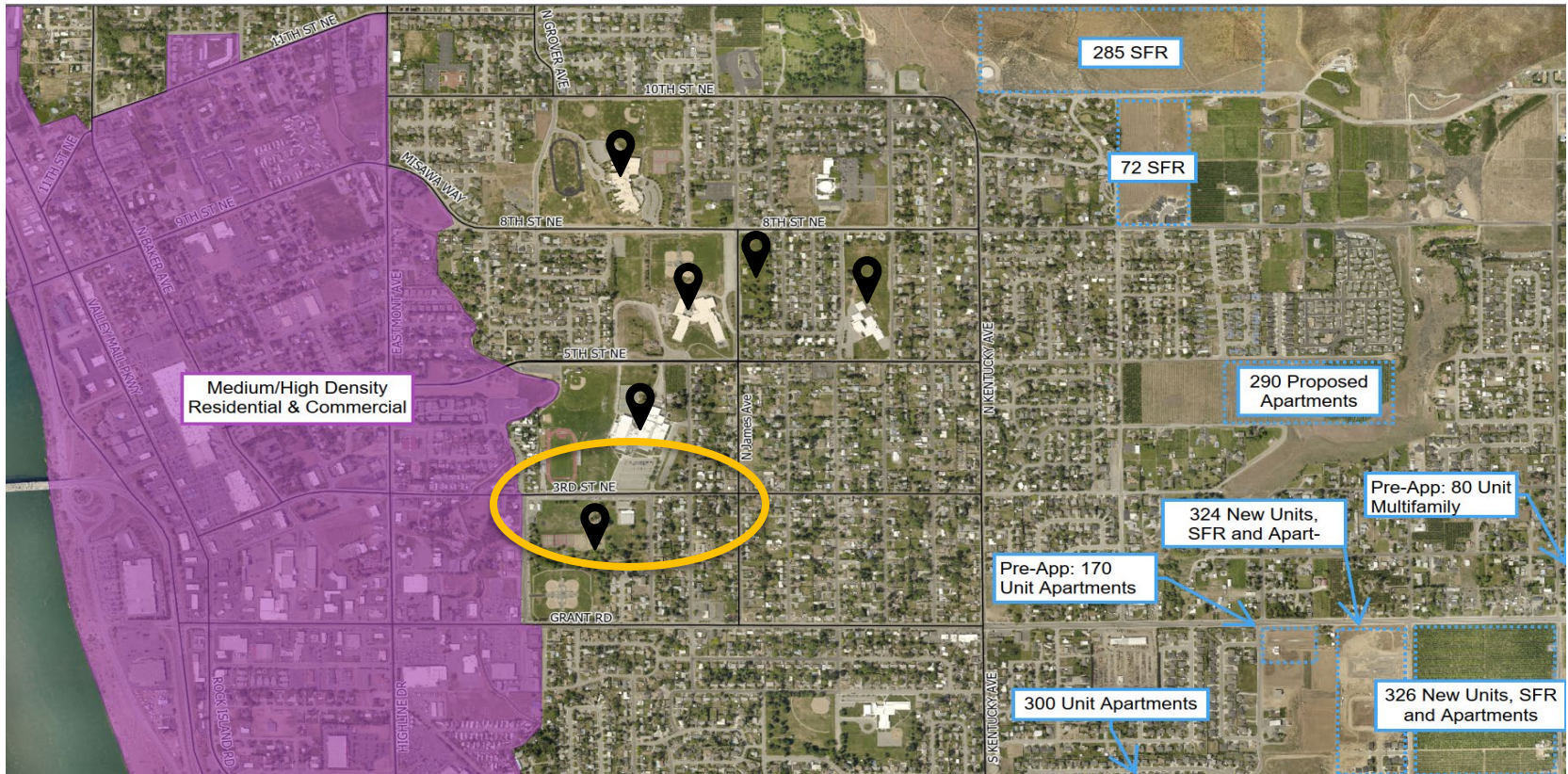
# Retrofitting City Streets to Prioritize Students



East Wenatchee, WA  
Quick Build Street Reconfiguration



# East Wenatchee Overview





# Parent Survey Results from East Wenatchee Schools

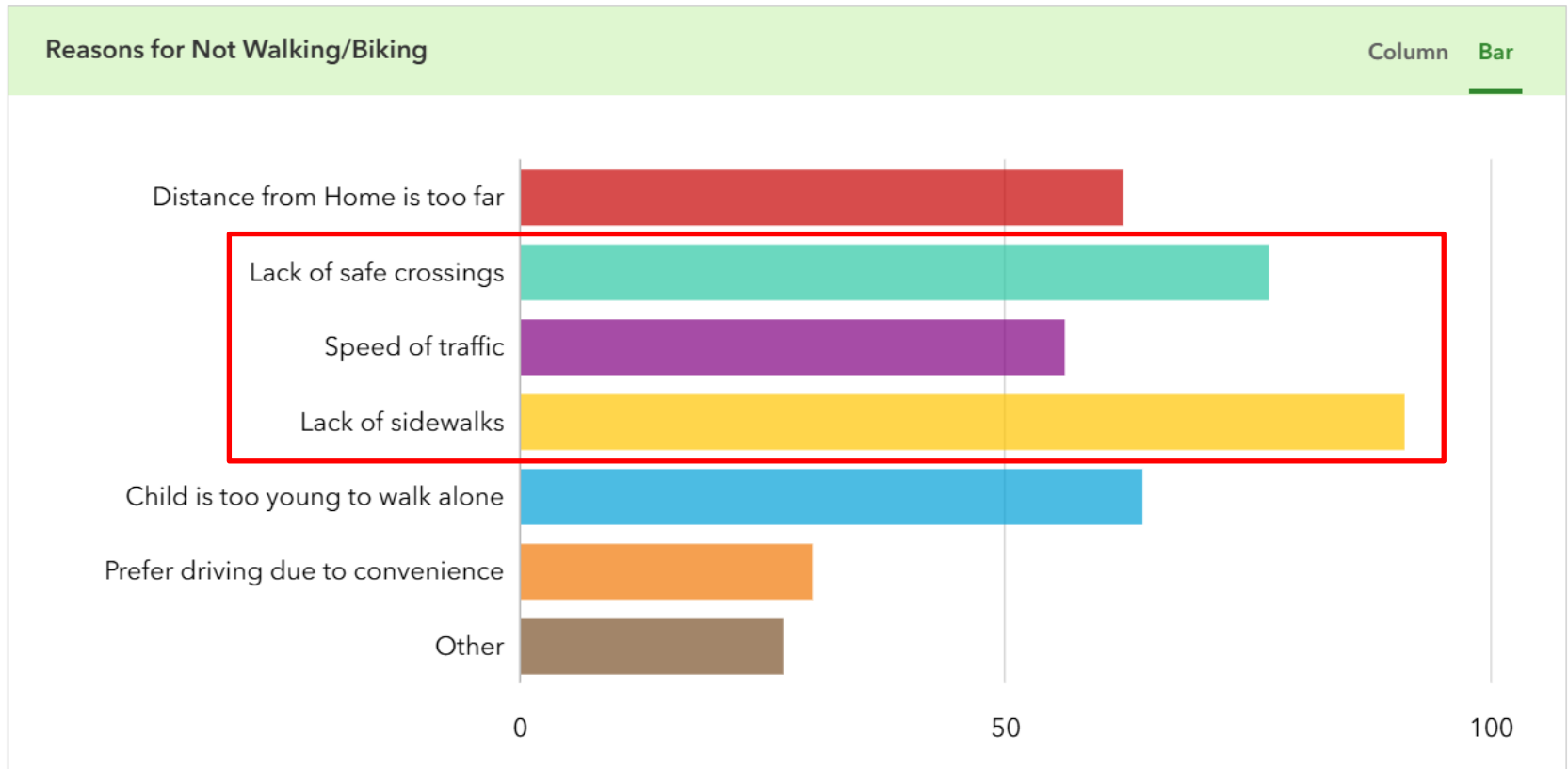




Image: Google Maps



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Improvements

## 2024 Transportation Improvement Board Complete Streets

Before – 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile & 50<sup>th</sup> Percentile Speed:

WB 85<sup>th</sup>: 32.20mph, 50<sup>th</sup>: 27.26mph

EB 85<sup>th</sup>: 37.73mph, 50<sup>th</sup>: 29.91mph

After – 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile & 50<sup>th</sup> Percentile Speed:

WB: 85<sup>th</sup>: 25.92mph (-6.28), 50<sup>th</sup>: 21.79mph (-5.47)

EB: 85<sup>th</sup>: 28.1mph (-9.63), 50<sup>th</sup>: 23.10mph (-6.81)



3<sup>rd</sup> St NE near N Georgia Ave, looking east; Feb 2024

\*Speed data from Spring 2021 and Fall 2024.



3<sup>rd</sup> St NE near N Georgia Ave, looking east; May 2025





Slides and data provided by  
City of East Wenatchee



# Funding Opportunities

## WSDOT Programs

- Pedestrian and Bicyclist & Safe Routes to School Programs
  - As part of a Development and Design Project
- [Sandy Williams Connecting Communities Program](#)
  - Quick Build Project
- FHWA Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)
- [AARP Community Challenge](#)
- WA State has [additional funding sources](#) eligible for Quick Build projects



Image: Toole Design

# Key Takeaways

- Quick Build active transportation projects can make changes to roadways using commonly available and standard materials to support and promote walking, biking, and rolling.
- Quick Build projects offer numerous advantages:
  - Improving safety and connectivity sooner
  - Piloting interventions in a cost-effective way
  - Fostering interactive community and partner engagement
- For support and guidance, local jurisdictions and tribes can reference the new “Active Transportation Programs: Quick Build Guide” or reach out to the WSDOT Active Transportation Division



# Additional Resources

The Guide provides a list of further resources and examples on planning, designing, and implementing Quick Build projects:

- [WSDOT Active Transportation Programs Design Guide](#)
- [WSDOT Design Manual](#)
- [Smart Growth America Complete Streets Demonstration Projects \(Airway Heights, Arlington, and Wenatchee\)](#)
- [Global Designing Cities Initiative - How to Implement Street Transformations](#)
- [MnDOT Demonstration Projects Implementation Guidance](#)
- [People for Bikes - Quick Builds For Better Streets: A New Project Delivery Model for U.S. Cities](#)
- [Street Plans Collaborative - Tactical Urbanist's Guide to Materials and Design](#)
- [City Thread, Accelerated Mobility Playbook Grant \(open now!\)](#)

# Questions?



Image: Toole Design



# Let's stay connected!

## Clara Cheeves

SWCC Program Lead

WSDOT Active Transportation Division

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(564) 233-8762

## Chris Hawkins

Active Transportation Planner

WSDOT Active Transportation Division

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