

What's Going On?

In the fall of 2005 Wharton Borough was selected by Morris County Division of Transportation to pilot a Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) program. SRTS refers to a variety of programs and physical improvements that promote and enable walking to school, an effort that benefits the students, school and community.

This past spring County, Borough and School representatives – including administrators, teachers and students – worked together with a nationally-recognized consultant team to first identify and then develop consensus on the SRTS needs and aspirations for Wharton Borough schools. The following activities took place throughout that process:

- Public Visioning Workshop
- Student Activities
- Student and Parent Surveys
- Bicycle Rodeo

Parents & Students Speak Out

The surveys revealed that, while nearly half of the students are currently driven to school, about 75 percent of the students would choose to bike or walk rather than be transported by car to and from school. In addition, many of the Duffy and MacKinnon students that are driven to school in the morning will actually walk home in the afternoon. These results ultimately suggest that the SRTS will be quite successful, as Wharton students demonstrate a desire to become more active.

At the Public Visioning Meeting, parents, students, teachers, school and Borough officials had a chance to discuss travel

Wharton Borough Safe Routes to School



Speaks

out

9/06

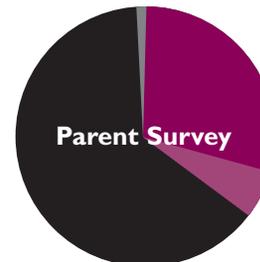


patterns, options, concerns and desires related to walking and biking. Overall, Wharton residents believe it is both possible and desirable to have more students walking and biking to school after some improvements are completed. These improvements would include:

- Safe, clearly-marked and level crosswalks
- Safe, comfortable, traffic-controlled school zones
- Continuous, smooth sidewalks on all streets
- Development of a school-community partnership
- Formation of a walking network / buddy system

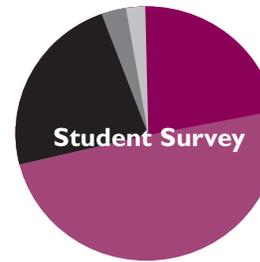
How Does Your Child Usually Get to School in the Morning?

- Driven by parent/guardian
- Driven in car-pool with other children
- Ride a Bicycle
- Walk



If You Had the Choice, How Would You Get to School in the Morning?

- Driven by parent/guardian
- Driven in car-pool with other children
- Ride a Bicycle
- Walk
- Other



Vision Statement

Based on all the comments that were received through interviews, surveys, meetings and various other activities, a vision statement was formulated.

"The Borough of Wharton envisions a Safe Routes to School program that enables the children to walk or bike safely to school with supervision; increases the amount of parent education and community involvement; decreases the amount of traffic near the school; and encourages children to be independent and healthy."

What's Next?

On August 24, 2006, the Wharton Borough Council and Wharton Borough Public School Board passed a joint resolution designating the 2006-2007 school year as "Safe Routes to School Year." This year will include the following events:

1. On October 4, Duffy Elementary and MacKinnon Middle Schools will participate in International Walk to School Day
2. Throughout the school year education and encouragement programs will be introduced to the students and the community to increase the awareness of the benefits of walking and cycling.
3. An assortment of physical improvements for the streets and sidewalks that surround and radiate from the school will be implemented.

Important Upcoming Dates

Wharton Family Picnic9/24/06

Wharton Borough Celebrates
Walk to School Day10/4/06

Got something to say, email Deena Cybulski at:
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Consultant Team: 

National Center for Cycling and Walking,
Eng-Wong, Taub & Associates, AmerCom Corp.,
Vertices, and Steve Spindler Cartography

 More information about Safe Routes to School initiatives in NJ and elsewhere can be found at:
www.bikemap.com/srts • <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes> • <http://www.cdc.gov/hccphp/dnpa/kidwalk>

