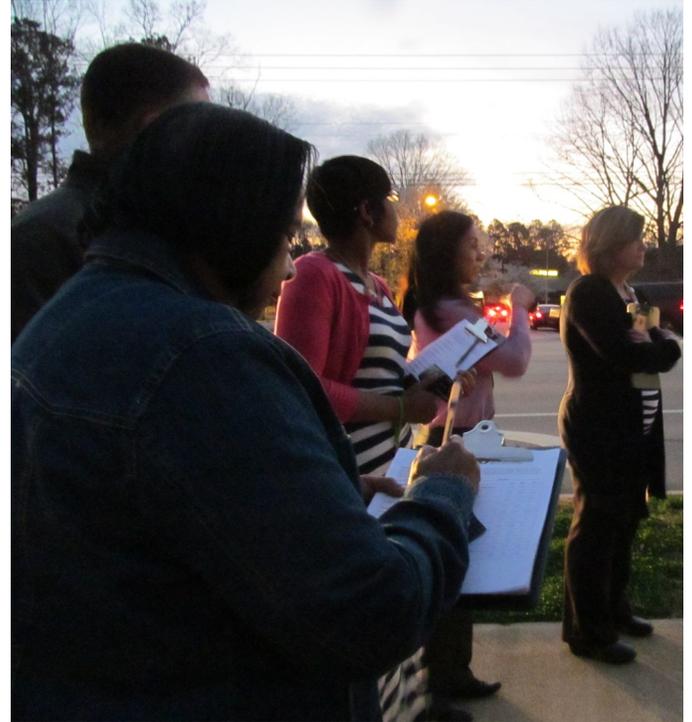




Safe Routes
to School
**National
Partnership**

Get Healthy, Live Well Carrollton City Schools Community Walk Audit

On March 18, 2015, the Safe Routes to School National Partnership partnered with the Get Healthy, Live Well at Tanner Health System to conduct a Walk Audit* of the Carrollton City Schools as part of our Technical Assistance for the Tanner Health System's Safe Routes to School program through the Partnership to Improve Community Health (PICH) grant. This walk audit was conducted to evaluate the current infrastructure near the elementary, middle and junior high schools and to identify recommendations to improve the safety of children and families as they walk or bicycle to school.



Walk Audit Participants

The Walk Audit was attended by Tanner Health System/ GHLW, Carrollton City management, school administration from all four schools, law enforcement, the fire department, Friends of the Carrollton Greenbelt, the Georgia SRTS Resource Center and community members. Input was received regarding the current traffic patterns during morning drop-off and afternoon activities. The information collected from this Walk Audit is provided to assist the Carrollton Safe Routes to School Task Force develop an effective plan to enable Carrollton children and their families to walk and bicycle to school.

* The recommendations in this document were based upon the conditions observed during the walk audit and summarize the discussions and conclusions that took place. Engineering studies and judgments will assist in determining the best treatments to improve safety for students and community members and encourage more walking and bicycling to school.

Current Scenario on Campus

Current Scenario

- Approximately 5,000 students attend schools on this four-school campus, resulting in significant traffic volumes during morning drop off and afternoon pick-up.
- The Carrollton Greenbelt is a nearly completed 16-mile multi-use trail that encircles the City of Carrollton and traverses the school campus, providing convenient access for children and their families desiring to walk, bicycle or skate to and from school.
- Early start times for the Carrollton High School and the Carrollton Junior High School mean that students arrive at dawn for much of the school year.
- Carrollton hosts cross country meets, requiring unimpeded green space. This impacts construction of additional impervious surfaces such as connecting sidewalks to the Greenbelt multi-use trail.



Enforcement

- The Carrollton Police Department employs a campus-wide School Resource Officer who also serves as a crossing guard for vehicle and pedestrian control.
- CPD employs seven crossing guards at pedestrian crossings and intersections to regulate traffic during drop-off and pick-up time periods.
- The Carrollton Police Bicycle Unit patrols the Greenbelt path but has a coexisting requirement to direct traffic at Tom Reeve Blvd @ Hayes Mill Rd. due to high traffic volume.



General Recommendations

- Ben Scott Blvd. is the primary corridor serving the Carrollton Elementary, Middle and Junior High Schools. While crosswalks and signage currently exist, vehicular speeds are excessive, warranting traffic calming measures such as raised crosswalks, speed feedback radars or rapid flashing beacons.
- The Carrollton City Schools and Tanner Medical Center should work with the Carrollton Police Department to obtain crash statistics for this corridor.

Carrollton Elementary School

Observations:

- The Carrollton Greenbelt runs along the front of the school, but there is no ADA-accessible pedestrian connection to the entrance of the school.
- The main entrance includes a parking lane, two drop off lanes and an emergency travel lane.
- A crosswalk extends along the main entrance to the Elementary School.
- A bike rack has been installed at the front of the school.
- During school events, due to limited parking, guests must utilize satellite parking across Ben Scott Blvd. and walk to the school.
- Cross country course requirements impede certain solutions for pedestrian and bicycle access.



Recommended Improvements:

- The parking lane along the northside entrance should be converted and a sidewalk installed between the end of the parking and the Greenbelt path to allow pedestrian and bicycle access to the school's entrance.
- The converted parking lane will need to be buffered by bollards and curb blocks at minimum.
- A permeable surface treatment could extend from the bridge over Buffalo Creek to the northside faculty parking lot.



Carrollton Middle School

Observations:

- There is pedestrian traffic between the Junior High School and the Middle School.
- There is a gap between the Greenbelt and the sidewalk leading to the school's entrance
- There are no crosswalks at the entrance and exit to the school.
- Pedestrian traffic between the Elementary School and the Middle School occurs in greenspace, away from vehicular traffic.



Recommended Improvements:

- Sidewalk should be extended to the Greenbelt.
- Crosswalks should be installed at the entrance and exit to the Middle School. [*NOTE TO TASKFORCE: Do you think this is an improvement to make? Or is it more effective to focus on the connection to the Greenbelt?*]

Carrollton Junior High School

Observations:

- Entrance to the school is close to the intersection of Hwy 166, resulting in heavy traffic and parents not only drop off in the standard drop off zone but also many parents turn into the faculty parking to drop students off.
- There are student dropoffs on the south side of Hwy 166.
- No crosswalk exists in front of the Junior High School, making it difficult for pedestrians to cross in front of the school. During the audit, we witnessed a student crossing between cars as she crossed the entrance to the school.
- There is a gap between the sidewalk that leads to the school and the Greenbelt along the front of the school.
- No sidewalk exists on the north side of the main entrance, yet there is a “goat trail” indicating pedestrian traffic.



Recommended Improvements:

- A crosswalk should be installed along the main entrance of the school.
- Sidewalk should be installed on the north side of the entrance.
- Sidewalk should be installed along Ben Scott Blvd between the Greenbelt and the entrance to the Junior High School.
- Drop-offs should be prohibited in the faculty parking lot.
- Infrastructure or enforcement improvements need to be considered along Hwy 166.