

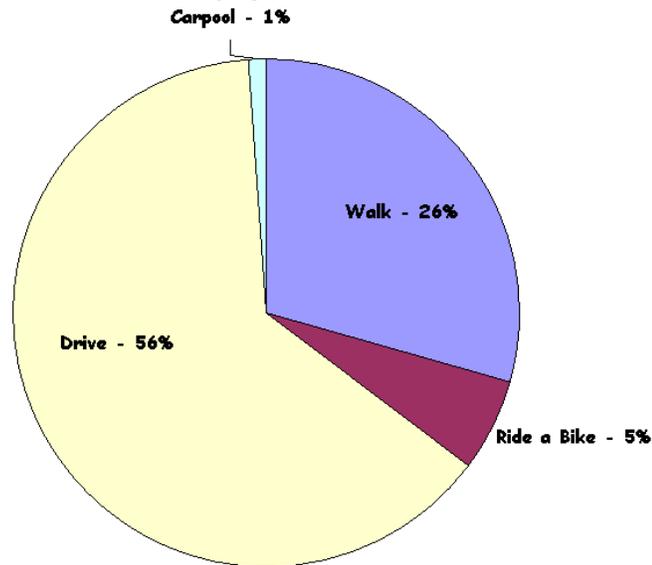


APPENDIX III: SURVEY RESULTS

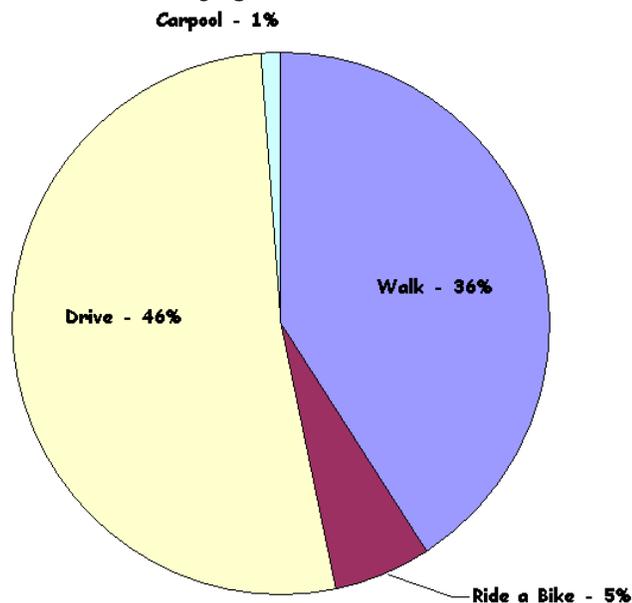
Parent Surveys

Parent surveys sought to discover what types of programs would help parents become more comfortable allowing their children to walk or bicycle to school. A letter containing the web address for the parent survey was sent home to parents of all Duffy and MacKinnon students, levying a total of 80 responses. The following graphics depict complete results of the parent surveys.

1. How does your child usually get to school in the morning?



2. How does your child usually get home in the afternoon?

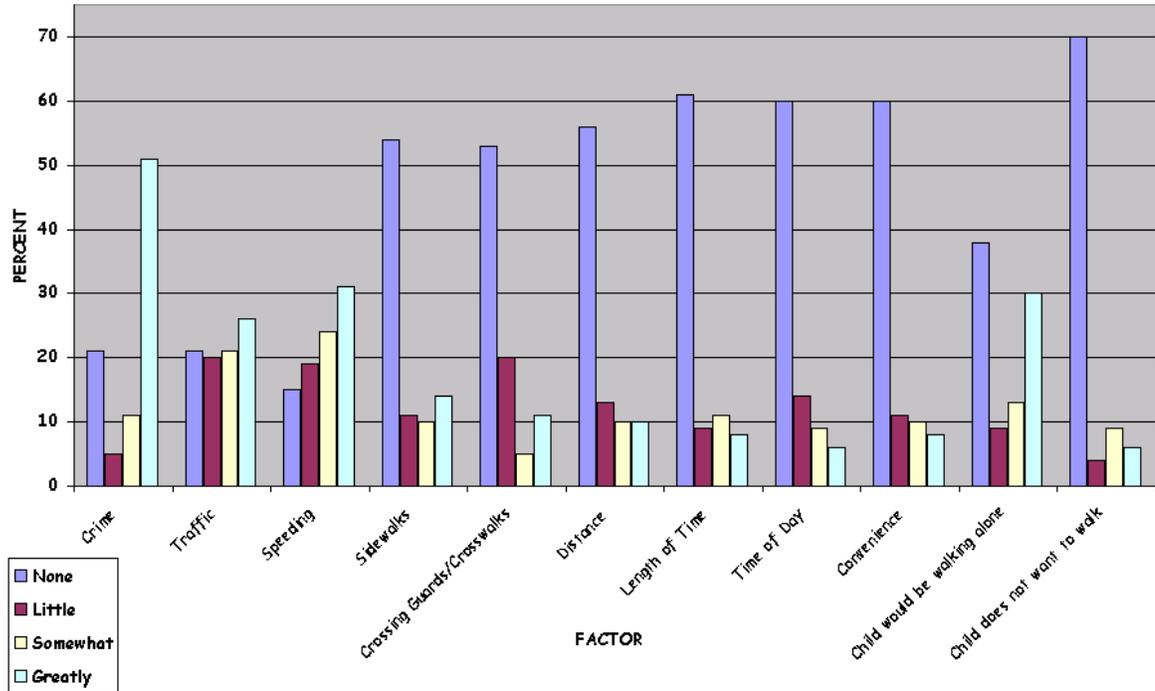




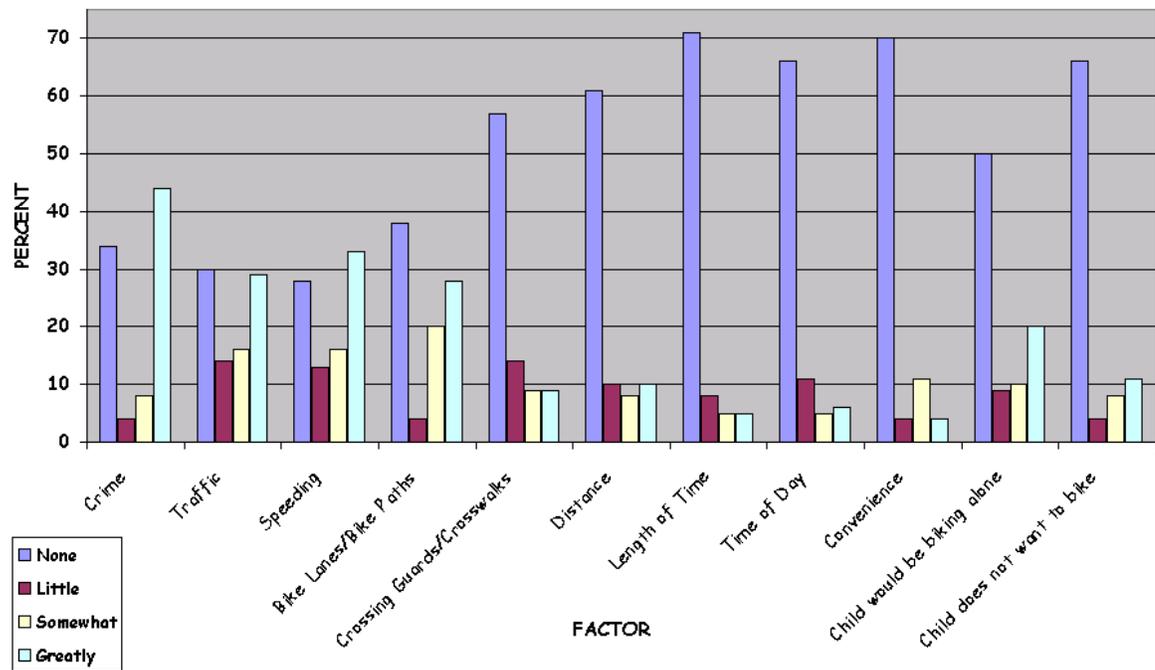
Borough of Wharton Safe Routes to School Program Plan 2006



3. Level of concern about your child WALKING to/from school for factors that affect the commute

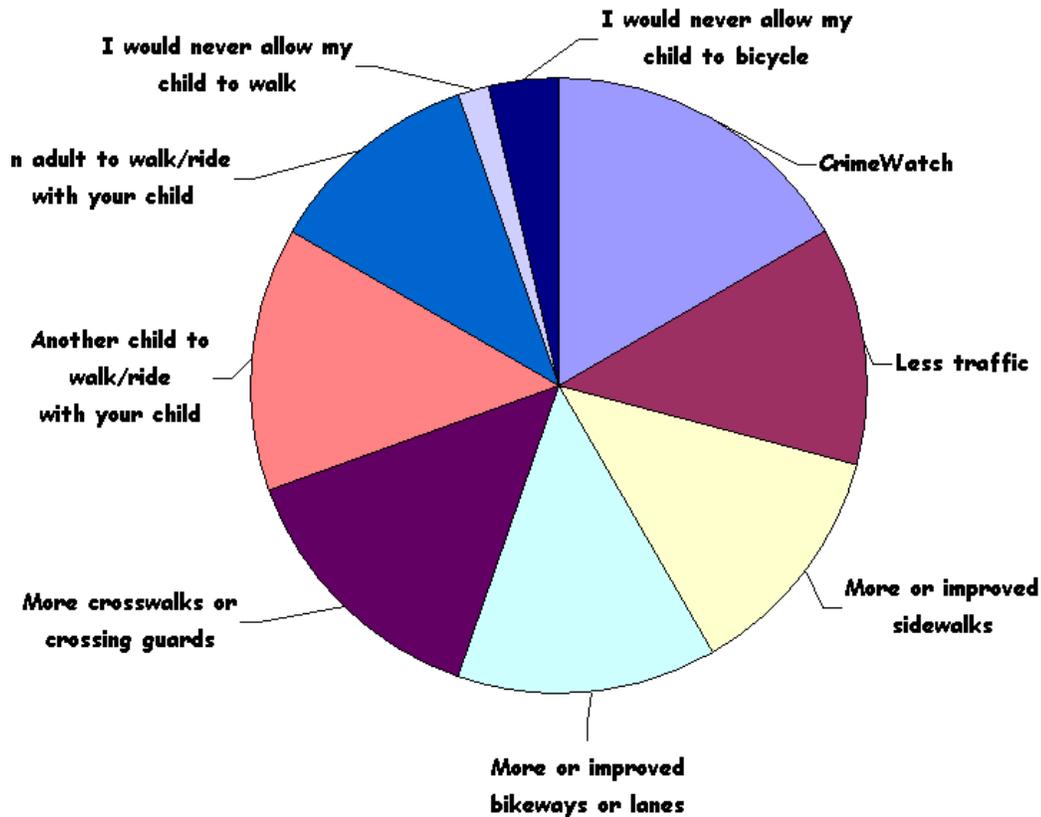


4. Level of concern about your child BIKING to/from school for factors that affect the commute





5. What would make you more comfortable with your child walking/bicycling to or from school?



Additional survey responses included:

- How Far do You Live From School?
 - Average blocks – 4.41
 - Average miles – .99
- Are you aware that there are designated walk to school routes in Wharton Borough?
 - Yes – 73 percent
 - No – 16 percent
- What grade is your child in?
 - Kindergarten – 5 percent
 - First – 8 percent
 - Second – 8 percent
 - Third – 10 percent
 - Fourth – 7 percent
 - Fifth – 8 percent
 - Sixth – 9 percent
 - Seventh – 8 percent
 - Eighth – 5 percent



Borough of Wharton Safe Routes to School Program Plan 2006



Parents also made additional comments on their surveys. They included:

Convenience

- Since we are always rushed for time in the morning it is easier to drop my son off. If needed he could definitely walk or bike to school and I would not be concerned. I feel it is safe.
- As I am able to take my kids to school, walking/biking to school is not an issue.
- Sometimes we drive to school if there are major things to bring to school.
- It's just so much easier for me in the morning to drive them to school. If I didn't they would have to get up 20 minutes earlier.
- My child walks during fall and spring; in the winter it is easier to drop her off/pick her up
- We live in Stirling Heights; I believe that is too far to let my child walk and/or bike to school

Crossing

- There should be more crossing guards.
- I would like to see a crosswalk in front of the school and one on Stickle at the E. Central end near the front of school. The crossing guard is there but its concerning that there is no painted crosswalk.
- Crossing Main St. even with a crossing guard is not an option at this point.
- Another crossing guard on the corner of Sterling Street directly across from the park would benefit our children as speeding tends to occur on this street. I would be willing to let my children walk from school to Sterling Street park and I would meet them there for the remainder of our trip home, if the sidewalks were fixed and there was that extra crossing guard on the corner.
- There are no crossing guards on our side of town near Princeton/Michigan/Atlanta/Cornell/Eileen or even someone to patrol for safety.
- The crossing guards are inadequate and do not stay at their assigned posts.

Facilities

- There are no bike paths/designated lanes and sidewalks are in need of much repair.
- The bicycle rack at our school is full to capacity in good weather.
- I would like to see a bicycle route in town from one end to the other. I live at the bottom of Princeton Ave, and we aren't usually included because we are almost in Dover.
- My children are unable to walk without one of the kids tripping and it usually winds up that we have to walk in the street.
- There are no ramps exiting Sterling Street Park on the Sterling Street side and for those of us who have baby carriages, it is a nuisance to have to hop over the curbs to get across.
- When I am not working we walk to school. I would not let them walk by themselves ever because the crosswalks at some of the intersections are not clearly labeled. Also the sidewalks in front of some houses are often blocked, especially with ice and snow and overgrown bushes.
- My student is not ready to ride her bicycle for such a long way to school since a safe bicycle route is an issue on Main Street.
- I am happy with my town's sidewalks.

Personal Safety

- There is at least one convicted criminal that lives on Main Street, close to the school and us.



Borough of Wharton Safe Routes to School Program Plan 2006



- My son walks on nice days, but he walks alone, which sometimes concerns me. He is responsible, yet he is very outgoing and I always wonder and worry about the power of being persuaded.
- I don't feel it is safe for a child to walk or ride a bike alone to school. I like knowing that my child gets to school and home safely via drop off and pick up by an adult. Perhaps if there was a neighborhood watch or safe houses along the route I'd reconsider, but it is doubtful.
- A way to ensure safety would be the promotion of a "buddy system" where kids living in the close proximity and perhaps their parents who have the opportunity to be available during the school "commute hours" could be put in touch and encouraged to form a walking team.

Traffic Safety

- A concern is speeding near the schools, especially on Lafayette, Baker and East Central.
- We live at the end of town and would have to walk quite a distance; it would take too long. Also, the route we would have to walk is very congested with too much truck traffic.
- There are too many speeding cars and trucks on our route to school; there is not enough monitoring of speed limits during school and after school hours.
- Cars on Baker and Central often travel well over the speed limit.
- Cars travel too fast on Central Ave & Lafayette St. Many cars do not yield to pedestrians.
- There is not enough monitoring of traffic during walking times to and from school. Cars and trucks drive way too fast on roads near the school.
- There's always traffic on Dewey Ave. and, which is difficult to avoid during rush hours. Hopefully, these pedestrian/bicycle routes will be a big success.

Miscellaneous

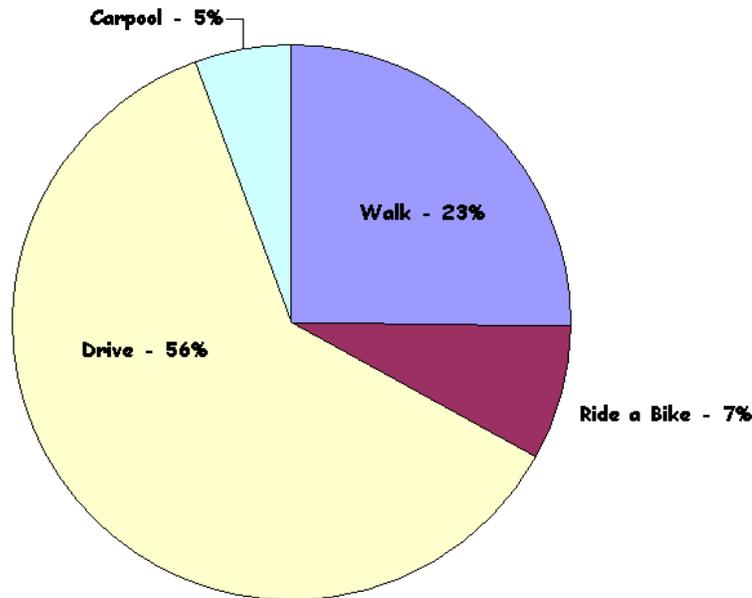
- Adults drop their children off without parking the car. Others go out of the parking lot without looking for children getting out of another car.
- This is not a priority for Wharton – too many construction projects have diverted safety patrols away from the children to the adult needs.
- I am pleased with the program as well as the advertising and information the school has provided for the parents.
- I've spoken with my daughter about the pros and cons of walking/bicycling. With a heavy school schedule and other after school activities she is usually too tired to even think of walking to school in the mornings.
- Most students have been driven to school from Kindergarten so they're used to the luxury of a few minutes of extra sleep, and the security that comes with being dropped off.
- It is a great idea to promote walking and/or biking to and from school especially for children who live in a very close proximity. A few minutes out in the fresh air before and after all day in school, and a little exercise could become a good health habit.
- It's my student's wish to ride her bike to school, but her activities – Band, Chorus and Soccer– will make her too busy for riding a bike all day long
- Elementary and Middle schools should not be dismissed at the same time. There should be a lag time of approx 30-45 minutes. This may ease up on congestion at the schools.
- One concern is bikes being stolen. Need to have some kind of security for the bikes.



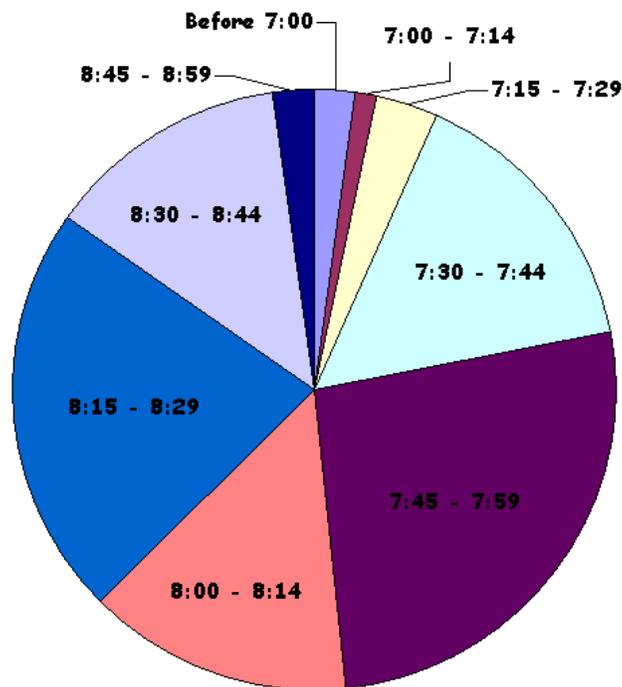
Student Surveys

During their Computer Applications classes, approximately 500 students in grades 2-7 took the surveys, which aimed to gauge a child's perspective on walking and/or biking to school. The following graphics depict complete results of the student surveys.

1. How do you USUALLY Get to School in the Morning?



2. What Time Do You USUALLY Get to School in the Morning?

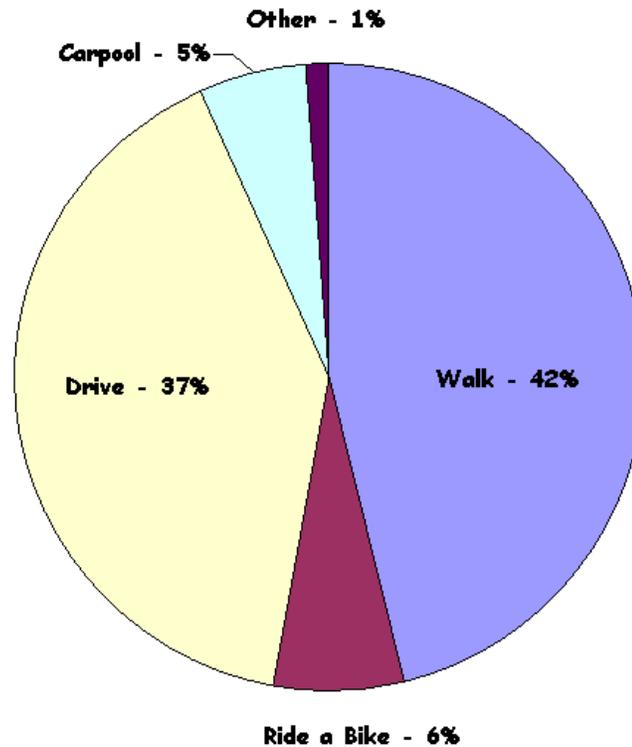




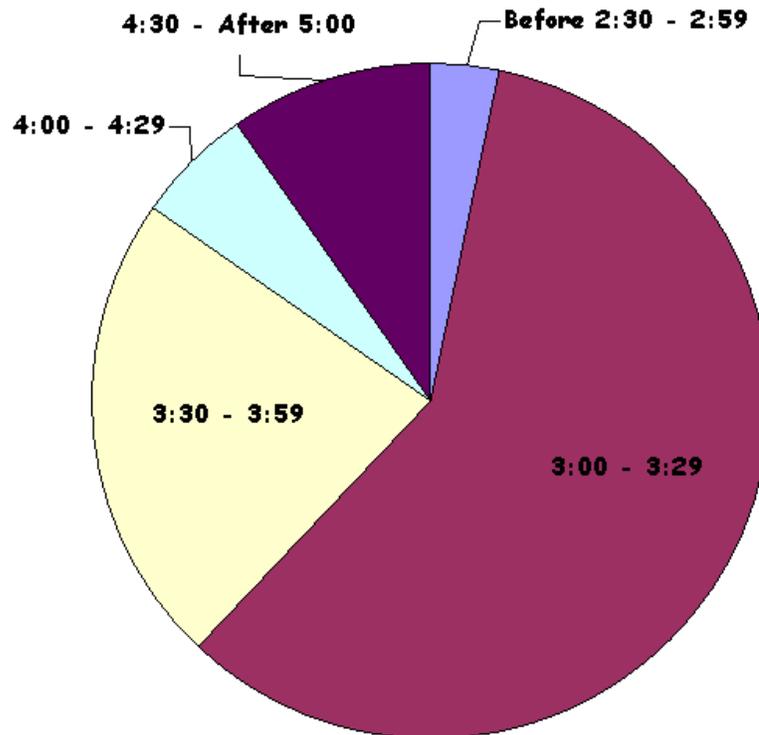
Borough of Wharton
Safe Routes to School Program Plan 2006



3. How do you USUALLY Get Home in the Afternoon?

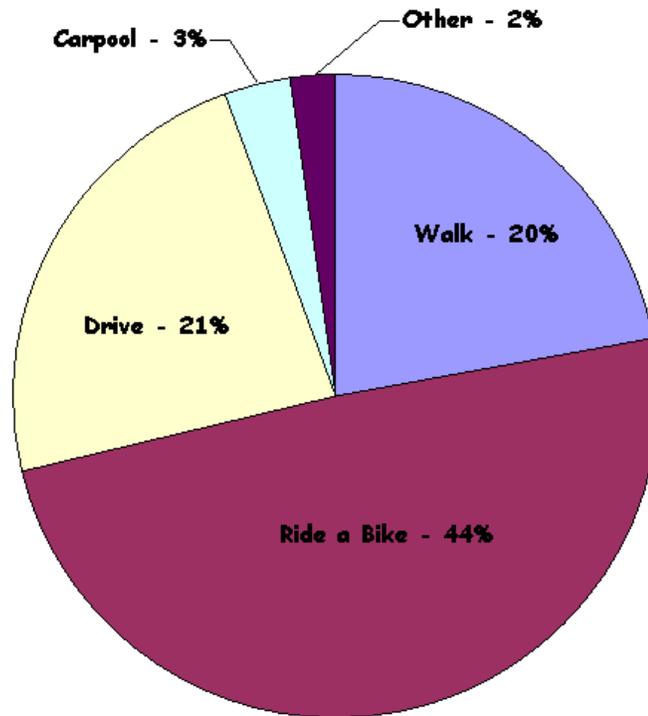


4. What Time Do You USUALLY Get Home in the Afternoon?

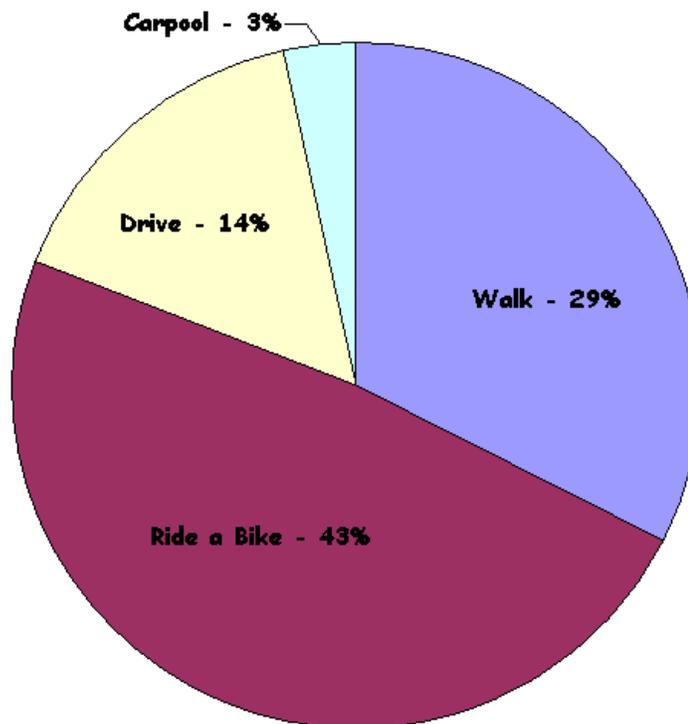




5. If You Had a Choice, How Would You Get to School in the Morning?



6. If You Had a Choice, How Would You Get Home in the Afternoon?





Borough of Wharton Safe Routes to School Program Plan 2006



Students also made additional comments on their surveys. They included:

Convenience

- My backpack gets really heavy. (3)
- I go to the YMCA after care so it was sort of hard to answer some of the questions
- We should ride our bikes when it's sunny.
- Sometimes I walk home, but most of the time my mother drives me because she works in the school.

Crossing

- What would happen if you didn't cross the cross walk?
- I sometimes ride my bike to school but I always walk because my mom can't take me to school. Whenever it is raining or if it is too cold, my uncle takes me to school.
- I would like to be able to walk to school in the morning, but I am not able to get up early enough to be able to get to the early programs like band and chorus. I would like to walk, but I feel the programs are too early in the morning to be able to walk.

Facilities

- Some of the sidewalks are in very bad condition and there are a lot of cars or trucks.
- We should have designated lanes for bicycle riders!

Personal Safety

- When I'm walking home the older kids usually tell me to do something and I do it because I'm afraid of what they'll do to me.
- It is scary to walk to school in this non-safe town

Traffic Safety

- I wish I could bring my bike to school but my parents do not let me bring my bike to school because they think I will get hurt.
- I don't have a helmet (2)
- Can you put a traffic light or a cop on Main Street so I can get across faster?

Miscellaneous

- I think it's a good thing to walk to school because then you're ready for class.
- I think it would be good to ride on a bike because it helps you to get muscles.
- I would like to walk to school and ride a bike to school too.
- I do not enjoy driving in a car to school.
- I think people are getting fatter because kids are getting driven to school and home.
- My parents say that next year they will let me walk to school with my brother
- I ride my bike to school. I like it a lot.
- I would like to rollerblade to and from school
- This survey makes you think how other people get to school, which is a good thing to think about.
- I think bikes are the best. I ride my bike everyday. To School and from. My dad just bought me a new BMX bike and it rides very good. Everyday I ride it with my friends. I enjoy going off ramps.