

# Clearview Local Schools School Travel Plan

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**Lorain County  
Public Health**



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# Acknowledgments

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## **Clearview Local Schools**

Jerome Davis, Superintendent  
Noleen Rothacker, Principal of Clearview High School  
Laura Manning, Principal of Durling Middle School  
Lynn Stark, Principal of Vincent Elementary School  
Paul Kish, Curriculum Director  
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## **Sheffield Township**

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## **Oversight Committee**

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Kimberly Rivera, Clearview Band Booster  
Shaun Duffala, PE, Lorain County Engineers

# Executive Summary

Clearview Local Schools, Lorain County Public Health, and Sheffield Township collaborated to create a new School Travel Plan to guide walking and bicycling to school initiatives in the district. This chapter provides an overview of the project, the mission and vision, and a timeline of the planning process.



# Executive Summary

School Travel Plans (STP) are an important part of making **active transportation** safe and easy for students and community members. This includes walking, bicycling, and other forms of human-powered transportation. In a healthy community active transportation is safe, easy, and equitable so that residents of all ages and abilities can get where they need to go. This plan will address the active transportation needs of students who attend Clearview Local Schools and/or live in Sheffield Township and Lorain.



The Clearview Local School District has three schools:

- Vincent Elementary
- Durling Middle
- Clearview High School

Durling Middle and Clearview High School share a campus on Broadway Ave in Lorain. This plan will focus on the elementary and middle school populations, but will ultimately impact all Clearview students due to the nature of a shared campus for older students.

## Sheffield Township and Lorain City Demographics and Unique Characteristics

Clearview Local Schools are located in both the City of Lorain and Sheffield Township. Students and staff identify as both a Lorain and a Sheffield Township school. Clearview Local Schools maintain a student base that reaches into both the neighboring cities of Lorain and Elyria due to their open enrollment policies.

The district and Sheffield Township maintain a unique position between the two largest cities in the county and minutes from major highway interchanges. The resulting physical characteristics of the district and its students are a mixture of rural, suburban and urban. According to the 2019 5-year American Community Survey Census estimates, Sheffield Township's population is 3,963. The population of Lorain is 65,211. The median age of Sheffield Township is 39, while the median age of Lorain is 35. About 32% and 39.6% of people under the age of 18 live in poverty in Sheffield Township and Lorain, respectively.

Sheffield Township is:

- White (67%)
- Hispanic or Latino (23.9%)
- Black (15.8%)

Lorain is:

- White (57.7%)
- Hispanic or Latino (29.2%)
- Black (17.1%)

# Mission and Vision

## Mission

The plan provides community focused ideas for all 6 E's, engagement, equity, education, encouragement, engineering changes, and evaluation. Outcomes are measured through participation, funding leveraged, and continuous feedback. The school's and township's goals are fiercely focused on removing the complicated barriers of safety.

## Vision

With a focus on removing barriers and connecting students to the school district family, the Clearview STP creates and supports accessible and safe opportunities to increase walking and biking for transportation. Students of all ages and abilities in the Clearview School district are able to choose healthy, convenient, and fun options of active transportation to school and community destinations.

# Planning Process

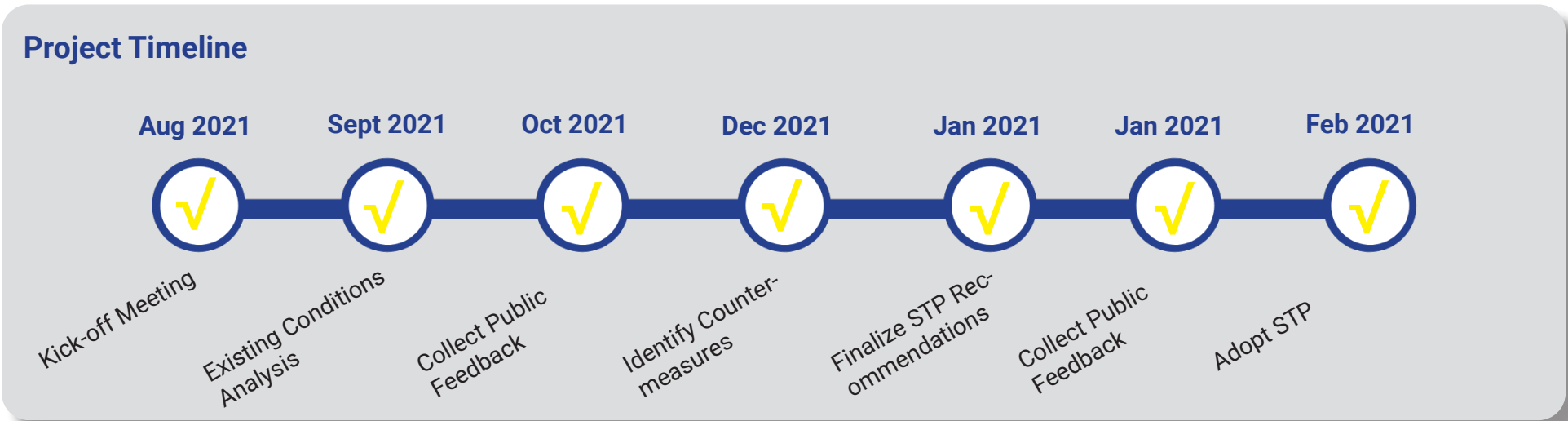
A Clearview STP Oversight Committee was formed at the beginning of the project to provide guidance and to oversee the planning process. One of the committee's first tasks was to create the vision and mission statements. Throughout the process the Oversight Committee provided input through regular meetings.

Public input was gathered at major milestones:

- Existing Conditions
- Prioritizing Countermeasures
- Draft Recommendations

Draft recommendations were presented to the Clearview Local Schools Board and Sheffield Township Trustees in January 2022 (see Chapter 7 for endorsements). Following endorsement the STP was finalized.

## Project Timeline



# Existing Conditions

Current student travel is impacted by the existing conditions in the district. Understanding the existing conditions includes examining school policies, reviewing crash data, surveying parents, interviewing principals and observing arrival/dismissal at Vincent Elementary and Durling Middle School. This chapter contains a snapshot of the factors that affect the way children get to school.



# Clearview Local Schools & Students

Clearview Local Schools currently consists of three schools. Durling Middle School and Clearview High School share a campus in Sheffield Township and Vincent Elementary is less than 3 miles east on N Ridge Rd. The following tables provide information on the school locations and student demographics. Map 1 and 2 show student residences in relation to the school they attend. The maps show that many students live less than 1 mile from the school, which is less than a 20 minute walk. Recent bicycle and pedestrian crashes near the schools are also displayed.

**Table 1. Target Schools**

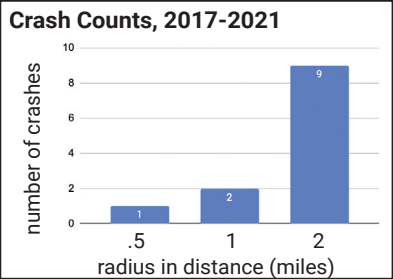
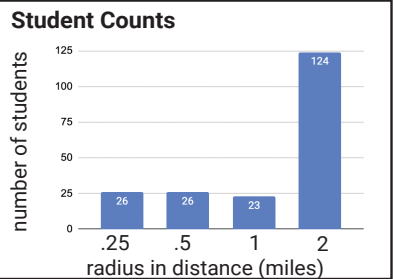
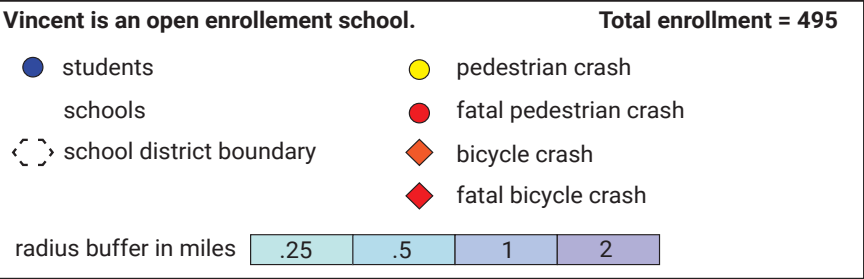
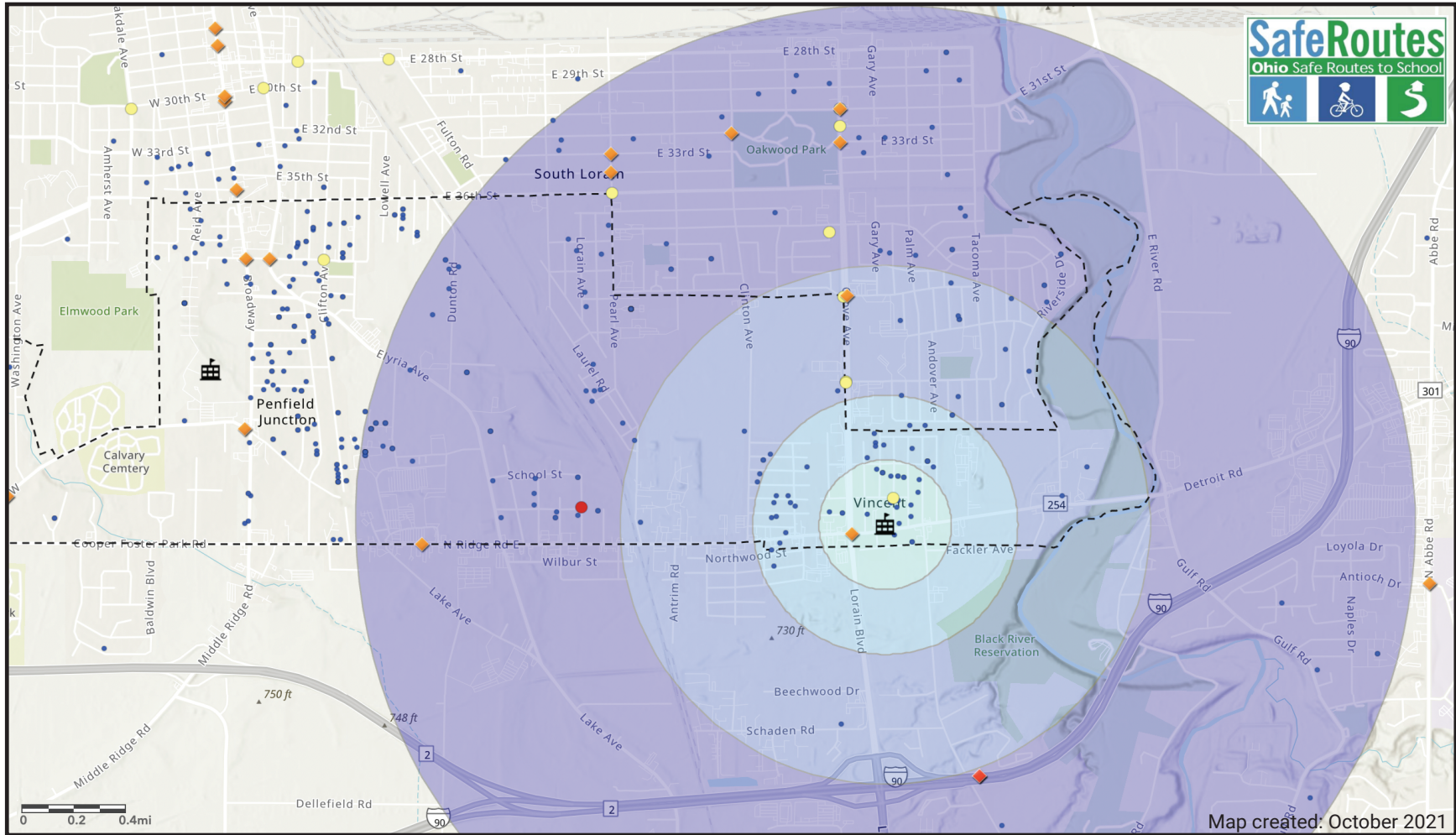
District	School Name	Address	Grades Served
Clearview	Vincent Elementary	2303 N Ridge Rd, Lorain, Ohio 44055	K - 5, Pre-K
Clearview	Durling Middle	100 N Ridge Rd W, Lorain, Ohio 44052	6 - 8

**Table 2. Student Demographics**

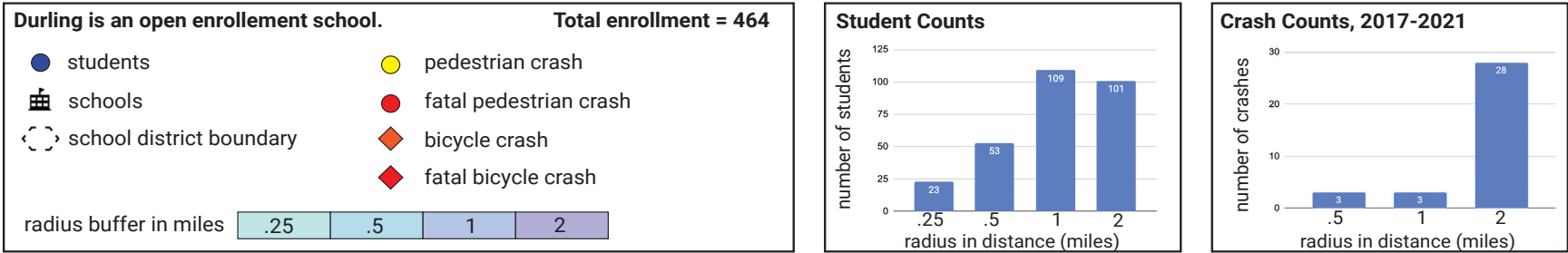
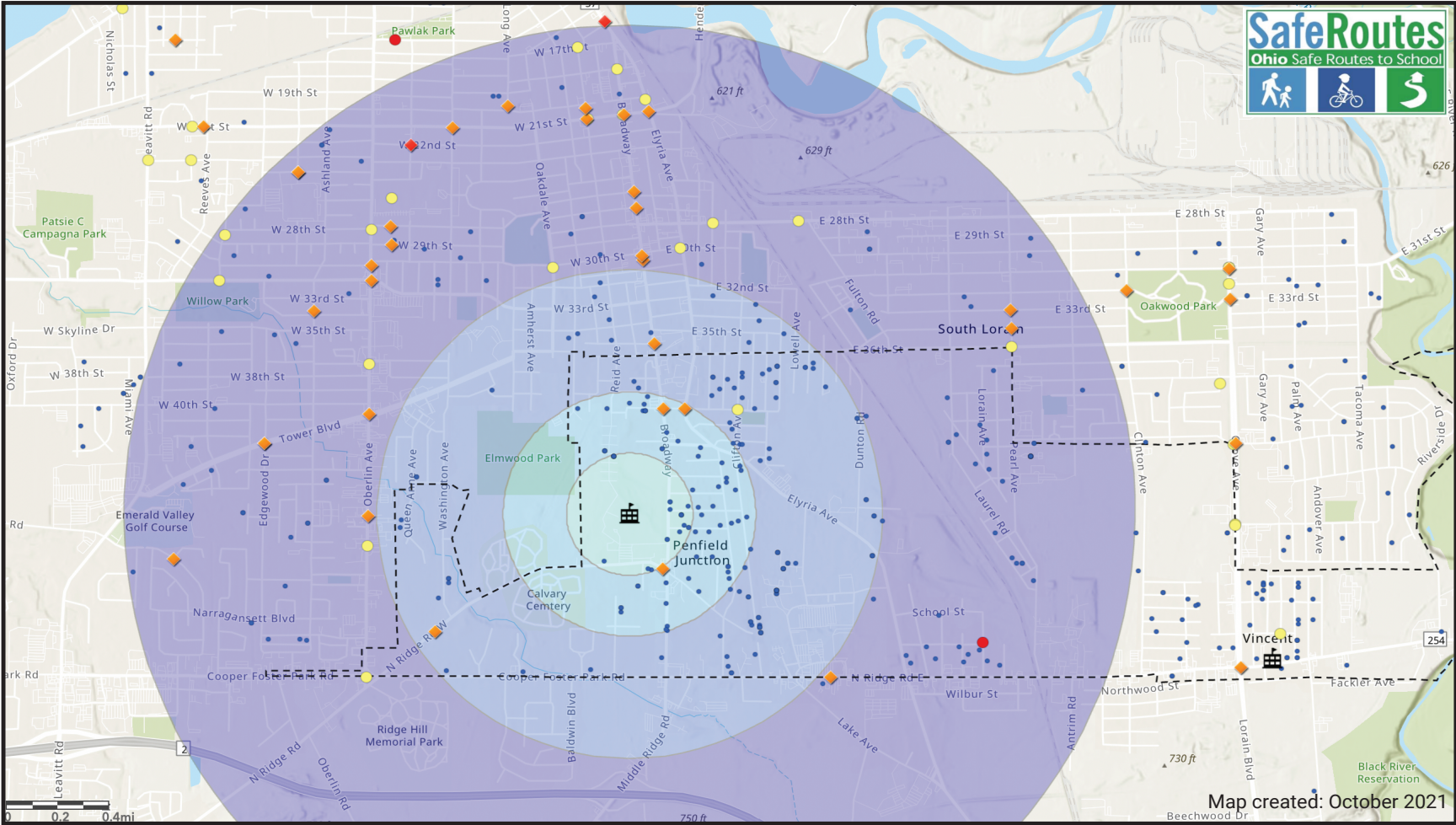
School	Avg. Daily Enrollment	Black, Non Hispanic	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Multi-Racial	White Non Hispanic	Economically Disadvantaged	Limited English Proficiency	Students with Disabilities	Migrant
Vincent Elementary	577	80	NC	NC	247	43	208	577	15	43	NC
Durling Middle	512	56	NC	NC	217	47	189	512	16	52	NC
Clearview High	465	63	NC	NC	187	38	176	465	13	51	NC

\* Data source: Ohio School Report Cards, 2020. If enrollment is less than 10, enrollment is Not Calculated (NC).

# Map 1. School Address Map for Vincent Elementary, 2303 N Ridge Rd, Lorain, OH 44055



# Map 2. School Address Map for Durling Middle, 100 N Ridge Rd, Lorain OH 44052



# Current Student Travel

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## Relevant District Policies: Vincent Elementary

### Arrival of Students

- Staff begins the supervision of arriving students at 8:25. Buses will arrive in the front and students are to immediately enter the building, pickup their breakfast and head to class.
- The crossing guard will be available at pre-scheduled times to safely walk students across the street and lead them to the school building.
- Students are to be at their assigned location and supervised by a parent prior to the guard crossing them. If students are not waiting at their assigned time, it is the responsibility of the parent to get their child safely across the street and into the building.
- All other students are to be dropped off following the car line procedures via Vincent Ave. or Fleming Ave. No students are to enter through the main doors during arrival unless they are with a parent and have a scheduled meeting. Only daycare vehicles are to enter off of Rt. 254.
- Latchkey parents are to have their child to school prior to 8:25, or they are to use the regular car line procedure.

### Dismissal of Students

- All children will be dismissed in their usual manner (assigned bus, car rider, walker, etc.) unless their parent or guardian requests in writing a change in the normal routine.

### Walkers/Transportation Changes

- Those children walking home will be dismissed after bus students have all been released.
- If there is a need to change transportation for your child, please notify the school with a written note or a phone call to the office by 1:00 p.m. It can only be submitted by the parents or legal guardians. Changes after 1:00 p.m. will be considered emergency changes only.
- If you do not send in a note, you (parent/guardian) must come to the office to sign your child out. If someone else is picking him or her up, we must have written authorization.

## Vincent Elementary School Profile

### Principal Survey Results

Students walking and biking to/from school

- Approximately 10-25% of students regularly travel to/from school by walking and bicycling.
- Key intersections include: Fleming ave and Vincent Ave, and N Ridge Rd and Highway 57.

### Barriers to Choosing Walking and Biking

- Safety concerns at intersections and crossings
- Volume of traffic along key student walking routes
- Lack of adult supervision
- Most students live too far from the school

### Policies

- Vincent Elementary has an adult crossing guard

### Education

Vincent currently conducts regular Walk to School days. They would consider implementing:

- Bike and pedestrian safety education
- Education regarding the health benefits of walking and bicycling to school
- Carpools

### Arrival and Dismissal Observations

- There is a long drop-off and pick-up line with idling cars.

### Student Travel Tallies

- Family vehicle is the top transport mode for students (58%).
- In the AM, 3.67% of students report walking and in the PM 6.61% of students reporting walking home.

Table 3. Students living within walking and bicycling distance of Vincent Elementary

Distance from School	Number of Students	% of Student Body
Within 1/4 mile	26	5%
Within 1/2 mile	26	5%
Within 1 mile	23	5%
Within 2 miles	124	25%



The Vincent Elementary School building from N. Ridge Rd.

## Durling Middle School Profile

### Principal Survey Results

Students walking and biking to/from school

- Approximately 10-25% of students regularly travel to/from school by walking and bicycling.
- A key intersection is Broadway Ave and N Ridge Rd.

### Barriers to Choosing Walking and Biking

- Lack of sidewalks or pathways
- Safety concerns at intersections and crossings
- Lack of crossing guards
- Speed and volume of traffic along student traveling routes

### Education

Durling currently conducts regular Walk to School days, education on the health benefits of walking, mileage clubs and contests, carpools, and assessments of bike and ped infrastructure in school walking areas. They would consider implementing:

- Bike and pedestrian safety education
- Personal security education
- Events

### Arrival and Dismissal Observations

- Bus drop off and ride transfers of elementary/pre-K students add to the congestion during arrival and dismissal.
- Students walkers use the trail behind Durling, which causes students to walk in driveways and parking lots.

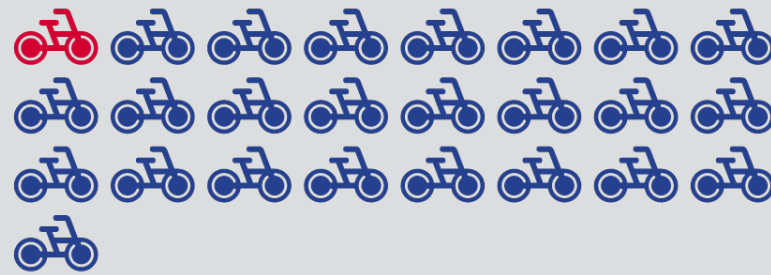
Table 4. Students living within walking and bicycling distance of Durling Middle

Distance from School	Number of Students	% of Student Body
Within 1/4 mile	23	5%
Within 1/2 mile	53	11%
Within 1 mile	109	23%
Within 2 miles	101	22%

### Relevant Crash Data between 2017-2021



16 pedestrian crashes within 2 miles of a Clearview school, resulting in 1 fatality.



25 bicycle crashes within 2 miles of a Clearview school, resulting in 1 fatality.

# Public Input

Community engagement is an essential tool in the plan development process, and it helps to prioritize recommend countermeasures. Public input was collected through several methods: Oversight Committee meetings, surveys, and in-person engagement at school events.



# Stakeholder and Public Input

## Oversight Committee Meetings

An Oversight Committee comprised of people from the schools and community, directed the strategic planning process and development of the STP. They met regularly to give feedback on public participation efforts, study methods, and draft network recommendations. The Committee ensured that the STP reflected the community's needs.

Key touch points included:

- » **Kick-off Meeting**
- » **Existing Conditions Meeting**
- » **Draft Recommendations**
- » **Priority Recommendations**
- » **Finalize Plan**

## Stakeholder Interviews and Surveys

All three school principals were interviewed on student travel behaviors. In addition, two community stakeholder interviews were conducted that informed the Existing Condition Analysis. Stakeholders included Sheffield Township Trustees and the long-time resident school groundskeeper.



Parent survey promotional image.

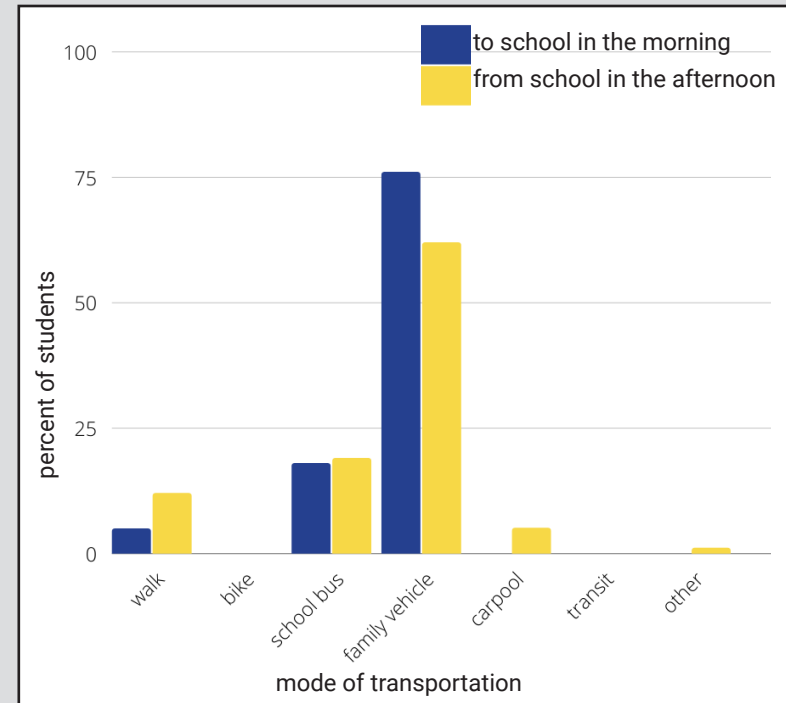
## Parent Surveys

Hearing the voice of parents regarding biking and walking was crucial in forming the recommended network. Feedback is essential in promoting safety and comfortability for existing and future users as the plan is implemented.

92 people completed the Safe Routes to School survey. Some notable key takeaways are:

- Family vehicle is the typical mode of transportation to and from school:
  - 76% in the AM
  - 63% in the PM
- “Amount of traffic along route” was reported as the top reason why parents chose not to allow their children to walk and bike to and from school.
- The need for crossing guards was a frequent comment among survey takers.
- Aggressive and fast driving nearby schools and in the parking lots was another frequent comment.

### Typical transportation mode to and from Clearview Schools



### Top three issues affecting the decision to not allow a child to walk or bike to school

Amount of traffic along route



Speed of traffic along route



Distance



## Public Engagement and Meetings

To reach the diverse school community, two in-person meetings and one virtual Zoom meeting were conducted and recorded for resident convenience. These meetings were held to promote active transportation and receive valuable feedback on:


- Existing Conditions
- Prioritizing Countermeasures
- Final Recommendations

Lorain County Public Health (LCPH) staff attended two in-person existing school events and advertised to the school community. The third grade Christmas concert at Vincent Elementary School and a varsity basketball game at Clearview High School. During both events, parents and students were engaged in prioritizing non-infrasturcture activities and identifying barriers to walking and bicycling on maps.

**Public Engagement during events: What programs and policies would you most like to see in your school? One vote per person.**


IN-SCHOOL  
EDUCATION ON  
SAFETY

✓ VOTE HERE




COMMUNITY  
WALKS + EVENTS  
ABOUT SAFETY

✓ VOTE HERE




CAMPAIGNS + ADS  
ABOUT SAFETY

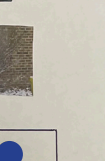
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## STUDENT SAFETY PATROL



VOTE HERE




## NO IDLING POLICY




VOTE HERE


## CHANGES TO ARRIVAL + DISMISSAL




VOTE HERE



## CROSSING GUARDS



VOTE HERE



# Key Issues Impacting Safe Walking and Bicycling to School

Gaps and barriers were identified through numerous stakeholder discussions, an extensive qualitative parent survey and four walk audits near Clearview Schools. This chapter summarizes current barriers of walking and bicycling to school.



# Analyzing the Data

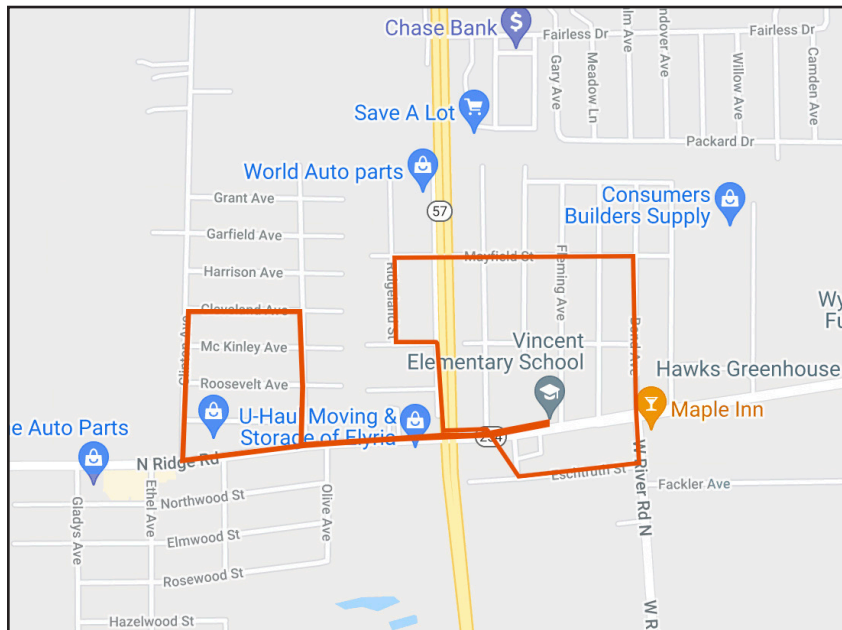
## Walk Audits

Four walk audits were conducted in the fall of 2021.

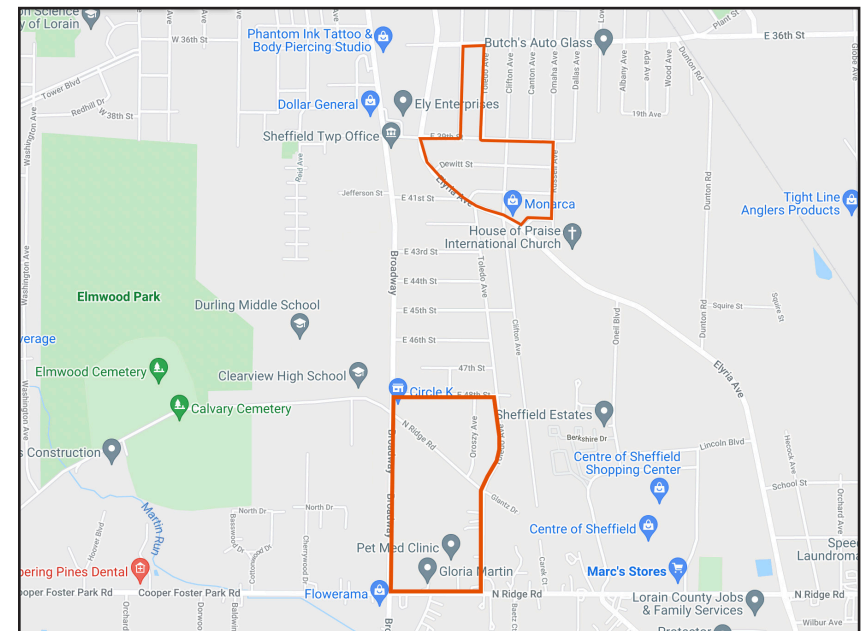
- Walk Audit #1 - Durling Middle School
- Walk Audit #2 - Vincent Elementary
- Walk Audit #3 - Durling Middle School
- Walk Audit #4 - Vincent Elementary

### Walk Audit Route Map Key

 indicates walking route



Screenshot Google Maps Vincent walk audit routes.



Screenshot of Google Maps Durling walk audit routes.

## Gaps and Barriers

### Vincent Elementary School

- Several high speed, major intersections in close proximity to the school.
- Lack of sidewalk leading directly to the building.
- Poor lighting and safety for pedestrian cut throughs and routes.
- Narrow streets that lack sidewalks in the surrounding neighborhood.

### Durling Middle School

- Lack of sidewalks leading directly to the school building on North Ridge Rd.
- Lack of safe crossings, including an unmanned crosswalk across Broadway Ave.
- High speed roads in close proximity to the school and along potential walking routes.
- Poor lighting and safety for pedestrian cut throughs and routes.
- Busy parking lot that lacks adequate sidewalks for pedestrians.



Students arriving to school by car.

## Key Takeaways

### Intersections

- High speed and heavily trafficked intersections are in close proximity to both school buildings.
- Crosswalk paint, ped-heads, and curb ramp improvements are needed at major and minor intersections to increase visibility and accessibility.
- “Look for pedestrians” or signage for crossing at N Ridge Rd and Broadway Ave.

### Walking routes

- The district is made up of many local side streets that lack sidewalks.
- While it may not be possible to put sidewalks on every street, there is an identified need for sidewalks along major walking routes including N Ridge Rd. and Elyria Ave.

### Biking routes

- There is not a strong bicycling culture in the district.
- Few children bike to middle school and slow neighborhood routes are rarely used.

### Safety

- Many neighborhood streets lack lighting, which may impede walking to school during winter months when the sun sets early.
- Both school campuses have a high volume of car trips and busy parking lots.

# Recommended SRTS Countermeasures

This section makes recommendations that will promote and support safe routes to school through infrastructure projects, policies and programs. Infrastructure recommendations refer to physical, built projects that will change how roadways are configured to provide space for all roadway users. Policy and program recommendations aim to change the culture around active transportation. These non-infrastructure changes help increase walking and bicycling through engagement, education, encouragement and evaluation.



# Infrastructure Recommendations

Proposed recommendations include sidewalks, intersection improvements, and lighting upgrades. All proposed projects were based on the Existing Conditions Analysis, Public Input, and the Oversight Committee meetings. Map 4 displays all recommended facility types followed by Tables 5 and 6 that provide more detail on each project

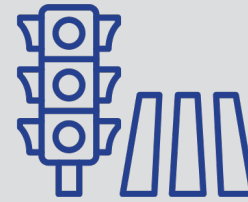
Sidewalks, lighting, and intersection enhancements are critical to support students walking to school through all seasons in Ohio. Sheffield Township, the Lorain County Engineer, and the City of Lorain will be the lead agencies on infrastructure implementation depending on the project location and jurisdiction.

## Prioritization

In the public Zoom meeting and during Oversight Committee meetings, stakeholders and residents were asked how they would prioritize infrastructure projects from most to least important. Sidewalks on school campus and on major walking routes near Durling Middle School ranked most important.

During discussion on priorities, intersection improvements were ranked as the highest priority. It was also discussed how projects will serve the greatest number of students should be implemented first. For example, projects closest to the schools and projects that serve children living in dense housing, like apartments.

## Proposed changes include:



**10** intersection improvements



**7** miles of new sidewalks

## Funding

Funding source acronyms featured in tables 5 and 6 include:

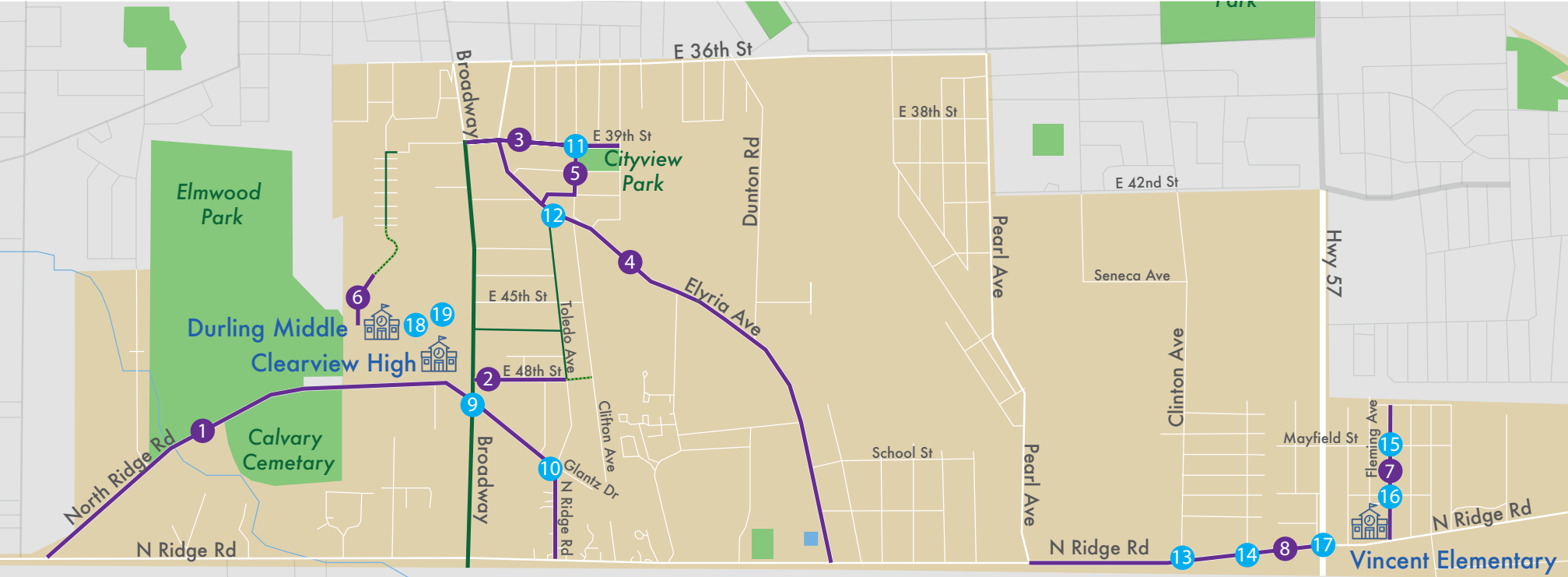
SRTS: Safe Routes to School

TA: Transportation Alternatives Program

HSIP: Highway Safety Improvement Program

TLCI: Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative

# Map 4. Recommended Network



school location

school district boundary

park

water

recommended sidewalk improvement

sidewalk improvement label

recommended intersection improvement label

existing sidewalk

existing multi-use path

Map created using Adobe Illustrator 2022 by Sara Tillie

# Infrastructure Recommendations

**Table 5. Linear Recommendations**

Map ID	Facility Type	Location	Extents	Description	Possible Funding Source
1	Sidewalk	N Ridge Rd.	N Ridge Rd to N Ridge Rd	Continuous sidewalk on the north side of the road to connect N Ridge Rd to Broadway Ave, continuing through the intersection to reconnect with N Ridge Rd.	SRTS, TA, TLCI
2	Sidewalk	E 48th St.	Broadway Ave to Toledo Ave	Continuous sidewalk on the north and south side of the road to connect students to the existing pedestrian cut-thru.	SRTS, TA, TLCI
3	Sidewalk	E 39th St.	Joesphine St to Dallas Ave	Continuous sidewalk on the north and south side of the road, if possible. Connections should be made into the existing sidewalk network, north, in the City of Lorain.	SRTS, TA, TLCI
4	Sidewalk	Elyria Ave.	E 39th St to N Ridge Rd	Continuous sidewalk on the north and south side of the road.	SRTS, TA, TLCI
5	Sidewalk	Clifton Ave.	E 39th St to Elyria Ave	Continuous sidewalk on the east and west side of the road to connect pedestrians to existing sidewalk on Toledo Ave.	SRTS, TA, TLCI
6	Sidewalk	Durling Middle School Campus	N/A	Connect the walking path behind the school to existing campus sidewalks.	TA, TLCI
7	Sidewalk and improved lighting	Fleming Ave.	Frankfurt St to Hwy 254	Continuous sidewalk on the west side of the road, improved drainage and vegetation management on the east side. Lighting along the length of Fleming Ave.	SRTS, TA, TLCI
8	Sidewalk	N Ridge Rd.	Highway 57 to Pearl Ave	Continuous sidewalk on the north and south sides of the road.	SRTS, TA, TLCI

## Table 6. Spot Recommendations

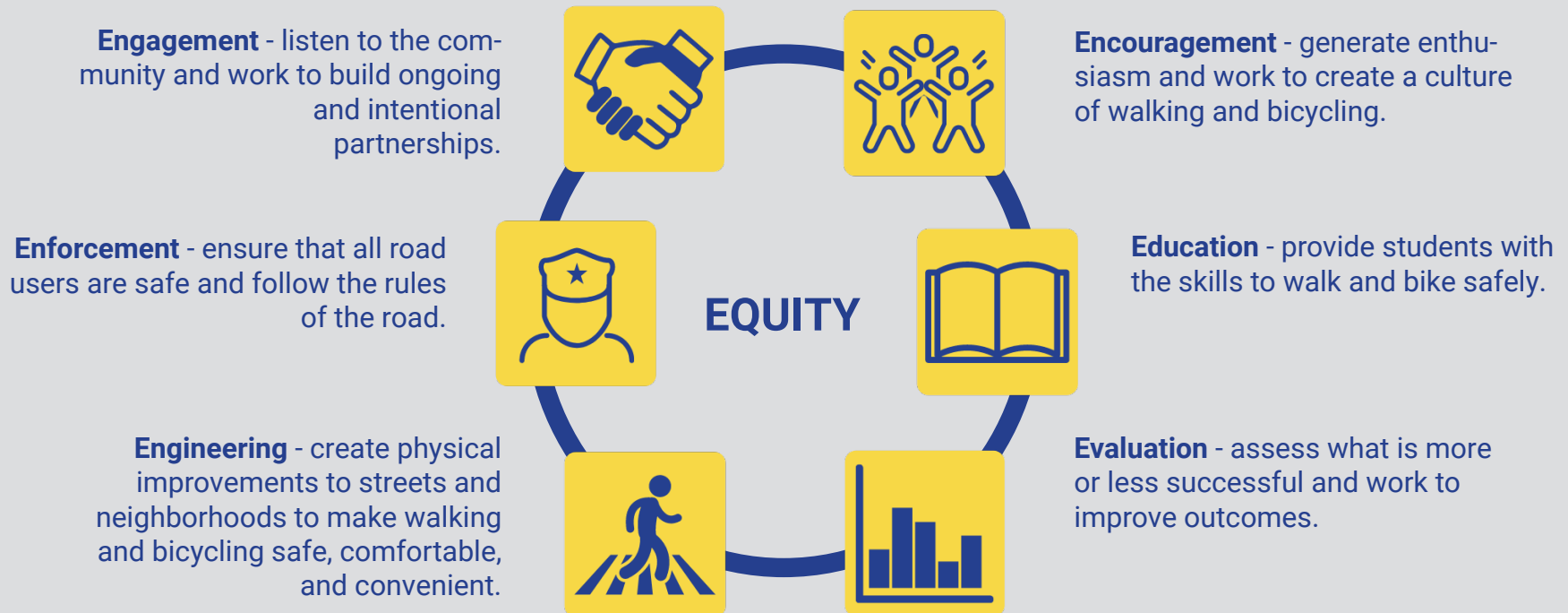
Map ID	Facility Type	Location	Description	Possible Funding Source
9	Intersection Enhancement	North Ridge Rd and Broadway Ave	Add pedestrian signals, school crossing signage, curb bumpouts, ADA accessibility, and high visibility crosswalks.	SRTS, HSIP, TICI
10	Intersection Enhancement	North Ridge Rd/Glantz Dr and Toledo Ave	Add high visibility crosswalk and ADA accessibility.	SRTS, HSIP, TICI
11	Intersection Enhancement	Clifton Ave and E 39th St	Add high visibility crosswalk and ADA accessibility. Increases access to Cityview Park.	SRTS, HSIP, TICI
12	Intersection Enhancement	Elyria Ave and Toledo Ave	Add high visibility crosswalk and ADA accessibility.	SRTS, HSIP, TICI
13	Intersection Enhancement	North Ridge Rd and Clinton Ave	Add high visibility crosswalk and ADA accessibility.	SRTS, HSIP, TICI
14	Intersection Enhancement	Oakwood Blvd and N Ridge Rd	Add high visibility crosswalk and ADA accessibility.	SRTS, HSIP, TICI
15	Intersection Enhancement	Mayfield St and Fleming Ave	Add high visibility crosswalk and ADA accessibility.	SRTS, HSIP, TICI
16	Intersection Enhancement	Wilson Ave and Fleming Ave	Add high visibility crosswalk and ADA accessibility.	SRTS, HSIP, TICI
17	Intersection Enhancement	Highway 57 and N Ridge Rd	Add high visibility crosswalk, extend pedestrian walk timer, and consider pedestrian islands.	SRTS, HSIP, TICI
18	Intersection Enhancement	Durling Middle School Campus	Add high visibility crossing to connect students from the walking path.	--
19	Parking Lot Changes	Durling Middle School Campus	Improvements and re-painting of the Clearview High School and Durling Middle Campus to increase pedestrian safety.	--

# Non-Infrastructure Recommendations

While infrastructure recommendations can improve safety and encourage more walking and bicycling, these improvements must be supported by programs and policies. When changes are made to the built environment of the community, such as sidewalks, intersections, and streets, it is important to educate and encourage people to try active transportation and navigate these new features.

This section proposes several non-infrastructure recommendations for the Clearview District and its community.

## The six “E’s” framework of Safe Routes to School



**Table 7. District-wide Non-Infrastructure Recommendations**

Strategy	Category	Project Lead	Priority and Time Frame
Community and school-wide walks, including Walk to School Days, family walking events, and other ways to engage the community in healthy walking behaviors.	Encouragement, Engagement	LCPH, Clearview Schools, Sheffield Township	High, within 1 year
Safe Routes to School maps that highlight safe walking routes around schools, as well as highlighted new changes.	Education	LCPH	High, within 1 year
Safety campaigns that highlight active transportation, safe routes, and safe behavior for all users - including topics like distracted driving, speeding, and impaired driving.	Education	LCPH, Clearview Schools, Lorain County Sheriff	High, within 1 year
Regular data collection to monitor progress. Annually collect student travel tallies and parent surveys.	Evaluation	LCPH, Clearview Schools	High, within 1 year
Crossing guards and crossing guard training.	Enforcement	Clearview Schools, Lorain County Sheriff	Medium, 1-2 years
In-school education on safety and active transportation, including curriculum changes.	Education, Encouragement	Clearview Schools	Medium, 1-2 years
Arrival and dismissal changes, including options like School Pool carpooling.	Encouragement	Clearview Schools, LCPH, Lorain County Engineer	Low, 3-5 years

**Table 8. School-specific Non-Infrastructure Recommendations**

Strategy	Category	School	Project Lead	Priority and Time Frame
Walkin' Wednesdays and the implementation of regular walking opporunties during the school day.	Encouragement	Vincent	Clearview Schools	High, within 1 year
Safety Patrol and safety council.	Enforcement, Engagement	Durling	Clearview Schools, Lorain County Sherrif, Students for Change, AAA	Medium, 1-2 years



The Durling Middle School building from the parking lot.

# Program Action Plan

## Strategy #1: School Safety Patrol.

Action	Timeframe	Project Lead
Engage student safety mentors for safety patrol based on interest in SRTS related curriculum and clubs	August - September 2022	Students for Change group, Clearview Schools, LCPH, Lorain County Sheriff's Office
Connect with local AAA chapter to assist with traffic safety education, logistical support and awareness, presentations and resources - including equipment and program guidelines.	October 2022	Clearview Schools, AAA East Central, LCPH
Connect Safety Patrol and SRTS concepts to school physical education curriculum.	October 2022 - January 2023	Clearview Schools,
Evaluate participation, safety incidents, behavior referrals, attendance, etc.	June 2023	Durling Middle School principal, LCPH

**Strategy #2: Conduct community-wide safety campaigns.**

Action	Timeframe	Project Lead
Draft communications plans targeting diverse groups, including paid and unpaid messaging and mediums (i.e. consistent branding and tagline, sporting event announcements, yard signs, radio spots, district newsletters, info for online parent groups, info for neighborhoods near schools).	July - August 2022	Clearview Schools, Lorain County Sheriff, Students for Change, LCPH
Implement paid and unpaid communications to reach diverse audiences regarding both SRTS and safe driving for parents and community members.	September 2022 - May 2023	Clearview Schools, LCPH
Evaluate reach and impact of SRTS messaging and campaign components in order to update future plans.	April - May 2023	Clearview Schools, LCPH

**Strategy #3: Implement Community Walks and consistent opportunities for walking.**

Action	Timeframe	Project Lead
Invite community to the two established Walk to School days for Durling Middle School.	October 2022, May 2023	Clearview Schools, LCPH
Identify and plan for new opportunities to incorporate regular Walk to School Days. Ensure arrival and dismissal policy updates include supports for active transportation and inclusion for children that normally do not walk.	September 2022 - May 2023	Clearview Schools, LCPH
Implement changes to support regular Walk to School Days, like Walkin' Wednesdays.	April - May 2023	Clearview Schools, LCPH, Lorain County Sheriff's Office
Evaluate and adjust plans based on data (i.e. student travel tallies, walk to school participation).	Ongoing	Clearview Schools, LCPH

# Pledge of Support & Endorsements

