

May 21, 2024



AGENDA ITEM 7 A

CRTPA SCHOOL SAFETY STUDY

TYPE OF ITEM: Action

STATEMENT OF ISSUE

This item provides an update on the CRTPA's School Safety Study (["Take the Safe Route - Safe Access to School Study"](#)).

BACKGROUND

Focused on identifying schools in the CRTPA region with the greatest need for improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, the CRTPA initiated the "Take the Safe Route – Safe Access to School Study" in late 2023. The study is a targeted, data-driven effort that is being guided by stakeholders' groups for Gadsden, Leon, and Wakulla counties comprised of local staff associated with school boards, law enforcement, public works, and planning agencies.

The "Take the Safe Route – Safe Access to School Study" is being developed in two (2) phases, discussed below.

PHASE 1

Phase 1 of the study was recently completed and involved a comprehensive data analysis of schools in the CRTPA region (elementary, middle, and high schools) to identify those with the greatest need for capital improvements related to biking and walking facilities. This phase began with conducting a desktop data analysis utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) examining factors including connectivity, accessibility, and equity. Specifically, this analysis examined the following data:

- Identified hazardous walking condition data
- Pedestrian and bicycle crash data
- Relevant socioeconomic and demographic data
- Transportation data

The initial analysis allocated points based on the data from the GIS analysis and was shared with stakeholders in the relevant counties to solicit feedback. A further analysis was next conducted that refined the list of identified schools.

This analysis involved consideration of several additional factors using GIS and Google Earth within a specific buffer distance around schools. These factors included:

- Residential density
- Existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Sidewalk Connectivity
- Roadway Signage
- Street lighting

Phase I analyses ultimately resulted in the identification of the following recommended schools in the CRTPA region from which a more detailed study will be initiated:

- **Shanks Middle School** (Gadsden County)
- **Wakulla Middle School** (Wakulla County)
- **Amos P. Godby High School** (Leon County)
- **John G. Riley Elementary School** (Leon County)
- **Raa Middle School + Ruediger Elementary School** (Leon County)
- **Griffin Middle School** (Leon County)
- **Leon High School** (Leon County)
- **Nims Middle School**
- **Rickards High School** (Leon County)
- **Pineview Elementary School** (Leon County)
- **Fairview Middle School** (Leon County)

PHASE 2

This phase of the study was recently initiated and will provide a focused safety and accessibility analysis for the recommended schools in Phase 1. This analysis includes on-site visits and an inventory of the existing facilities and infrastructure at the selected schools. The assessments will consider sidewalk gaps, crosswalk/intersection improvements, lighting, bicycle facilities and off-road trails. This phase also includes a student and parent survey for each of the identified schools.

PROJECT MILESTONES/TIMELINE

The following provides a timeline associated with the “Take the Safe Route – Safe Access to School Study”

2023

- December 7 – Initial stakeholder meetings conducted (Gadsden, Jefferson & Leon County stakeholder groups)

2024

- January 16 – Project kick off at CRTPA Retreat
- February 7 & 8 – Second stakeholder meetings conducted
- April 9 & 10 – Third stakeholder meetings conducted
- Spring/Fall – Conduct site visits & survey selected schools
- Fall – Develop study/recommendations
- November – Project complete

Ultimately, the “Take the Safe Route - Safe Access to School Study” will result in the identification of needed bicycle and pedestrian improvements from which implementation efforts can occur, including the identification of potential funding sources. The project is scheduled for completion in late 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – DRAFT Presentation

C RTPA Board Meeting

Project Update
Tuesday, May 21, 2024



TAKE THE SAFE ROUTE

Safe Access to School Study

Take the Safe Route: *What is it?*



Through the evaluation of existing conditions and recommendations at schools throughout the region, this plan seeks to:

- ✔ Ensure students have safe routes to walk and bike to school
- ✔ Identify schools in the Capital Region with the most need
- ✔ Make recommendations for infrastructure and other improvements for selected schools
- ✔ Encourage a culture of walking and biking
- ✔ Strategically engage teachers and parents
- ✔ Streamline Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funding requests



Take the Safe Route: *Project Phases*



This project is being initiated in two phases:

Phase I

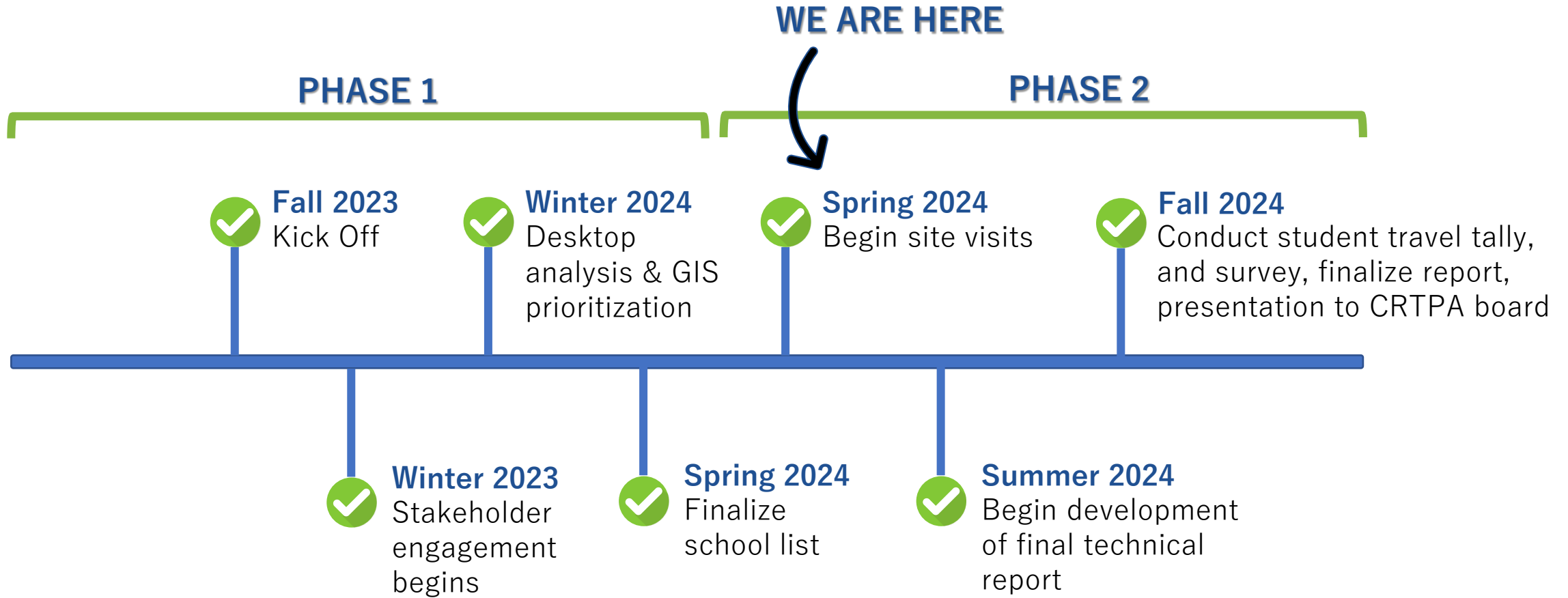
- ✓ Stakeholder meetings
- ✓ Data collection and desktop analysis
- ✓ Prioritization
- ✓ Identification of ten (10) schools for further evaluation

Phase II

- ✓ Conduct survey and student travel tally at identified schools
- ✓ Conduct multimodal safety assessments at those schools
 - Physical improvements with a focus on roadways, sidewalks, etc.
 - Cost estimates and potential funding sources



Anticipated Timeline



What's been completed?



- ✓ Project initiated in November 2023
- ✓ Data collection
- ✓ Prioritization methodology
- ✓ GIS prioritization - February 2024
- ✓ Additional desktop analysis and memo - March 2024
- ✓ Site Visits – May 2024

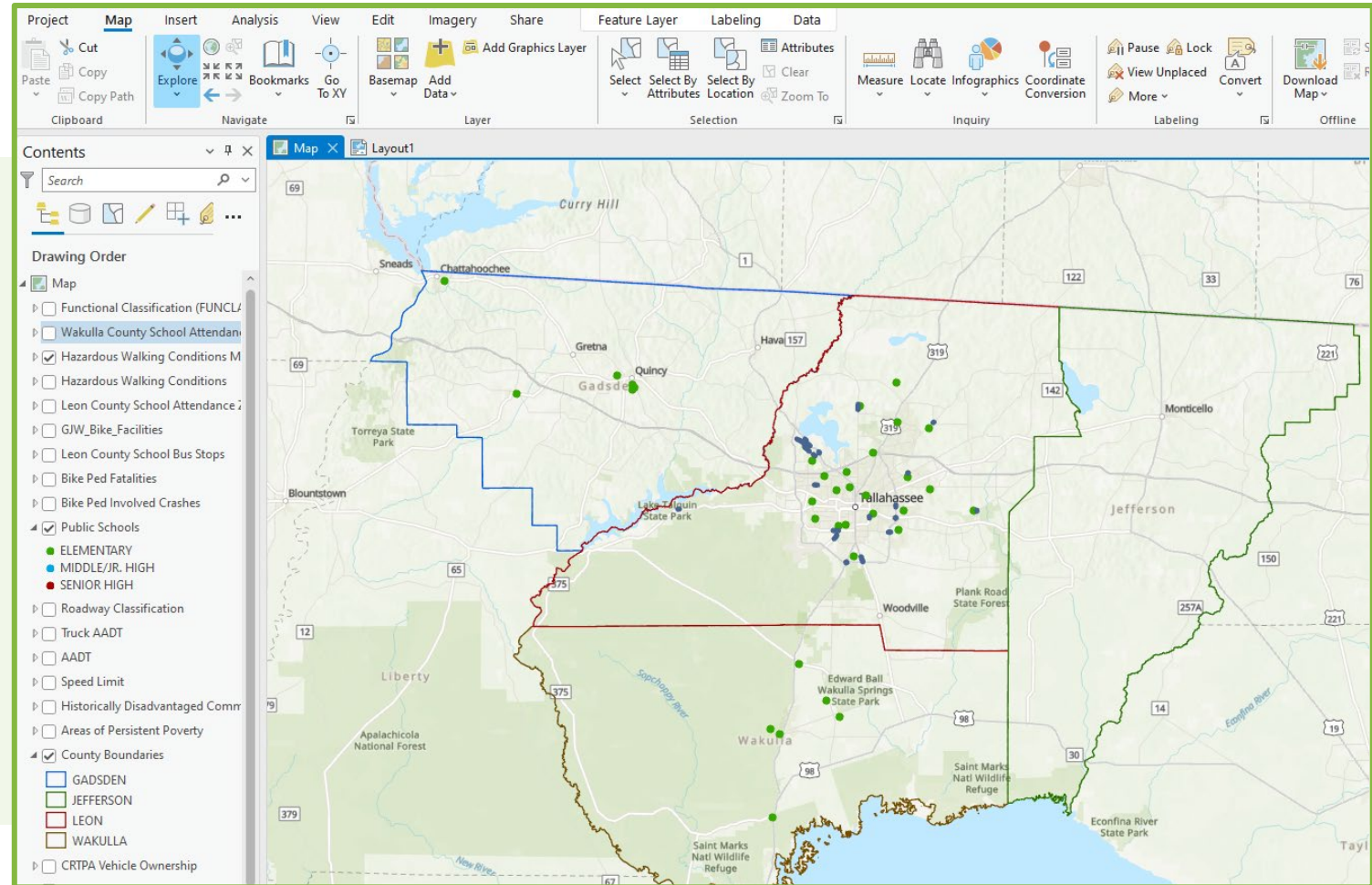


GIS Analysis & Prioritization



✓ The initial analysis included a GIS based prioritization using:

- School attendance zone
- Hazardous walking conditions (as determined by school districts)
- Bicycle and pedestrian crash data
- Socioeconomic and demographic data
- Transportation data
- Other school related factors such as school hours, crossing guard presence and speed zone boundaries



GIS Analysis & Prioritization: Methodology



	Criteria	Description	Data Source	Scoring (0-20)
1	USDOT Equitable Transportation Community (ETC) Disadvantaged Census Tract	School attendance zone is within or includes an area designated as disadvantaged by USDOT's ETC data.	USDOT, 2023	1 point
2	Area of Persistent Poverty (APP)	School attendance zone is within or includes an area designated as an APP.	USDOT, 2023	1 point
3	Vehicle ownership	School attendance zone is within or includes a Census block group where greater than 10 percent of households do not own a vehicle.	US Census, 2023	1 point
4	High Injury Network (HIN)	The school attendance zone includes an HIN segment	CRTPA, 2023	1 point
5	Hazardous Walking Conditions (HWC)	The school attendance zone includes an HWC segment	Leon County School District, 2022	1 point
6	Free or reduced cost lunch	Percentage of students at a given school who receive free or reduced cost lunches.	School Districts, 2023	0-3 points per quartile
7	Total bicycle / pedestrian crashes	Total number of bicycle/ pedestrian crashes within school attendance zone.	Signal Four Analytics, 2019-2023	0-3 points per quartile
8	Fatal and serious injury bicycle / pedestrian crashes	Number of bicycle/pedestrian crashes resulting in a fatality or serious injury within school attendance zone.	Signal Four Analytics, 2019-2023	0-3 points per quartile
9	Total fatal and serious injury crashes	Total number of crashes resulting in a fatality or serious injury within school attendance zone.	Signal Four Analytics, 2019-2023	0-3 points per quartile
10	Potential Crossing Conflicts	Number of intersections with major collectors or major arterials in school attendance area. Includes anywhere any road intersections with major collectors or major arterials.	KHA created, 2023	0-3 points per quartile

Preliminary Lists



Leon County:

Prioritization	School	Score
1	R. FRANK NIMS MIDDLE SCHOOL	20
2	JOHN G RILEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	20
3	AMOS P. GODBY HIGH SCHOOL	19
4	BOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	19
5	JAMES RICKARDS HIGH SCHOOL	18
6	RAA MIDDLE SCHOOL	17
7	GRIFFIN MIDDLE SCHOOL	17
8	LEON HIGH SCHOOL	17
9	RUEDIGER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	16
10	FAIRVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL	15
11	PINEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	15
12	FRANK HARTSFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	14
13	KATE SULLIVAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	14
14	OAK RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	14
15	ELIZABETH COBB MIDDLE SCHOOL	13
16	SABAL PALM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	13
17	APALACHEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	13

Gadsden County:

Prioritization	School	Score
1	JAMES A. SHANKS MIDDLE SCHOOL	17
2	GEORGE W. MUNROE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	7
3	GADSDEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL	7
4	STEWART STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	6
5	WEST GADSDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL	5
6	CHATTAHOOCHEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	5
7	GREENSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	3

Wakulla County:

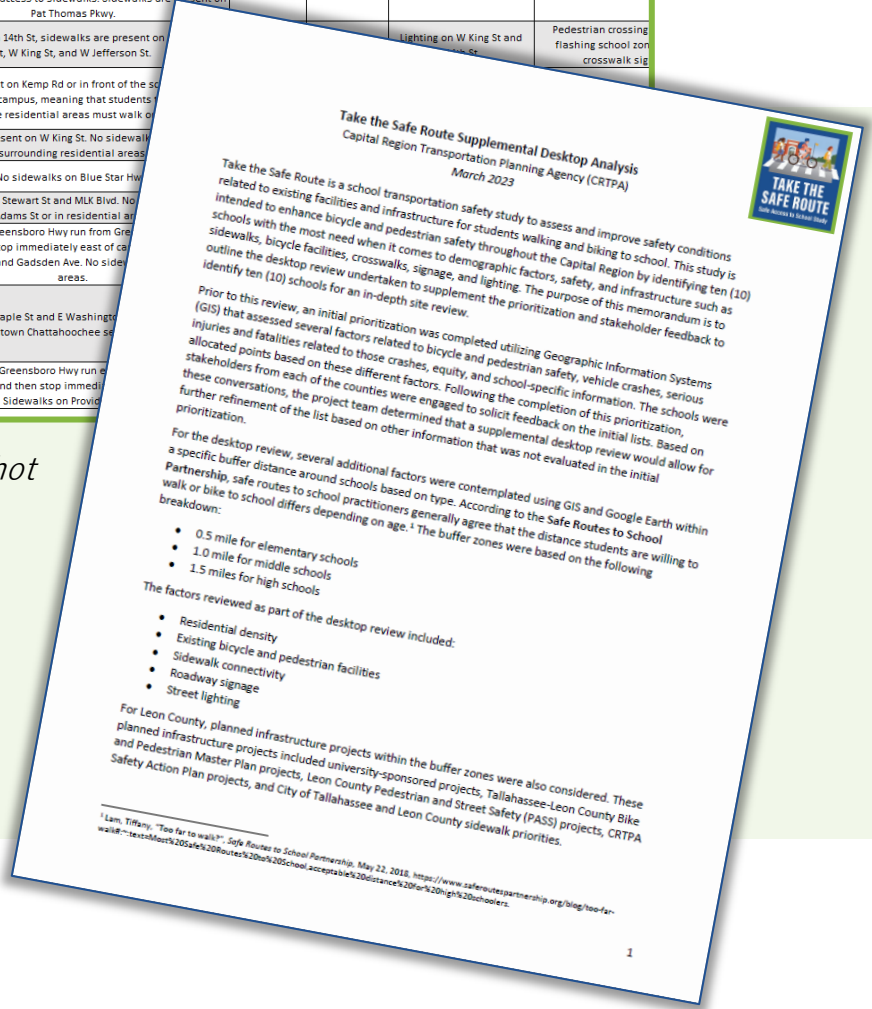
Prioritization	School	Score
1	WAKULLA HIGH SCHOOL	7
2	MEDART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	5
3	WAKULLA MIDDLE SCHOOL	4
4	RIVERSINK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	3
5	SHADEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	2
6	RIVERSPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL	2
7	CRAWFORDVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1

Additional Desktop Review



A	B	C	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
			Percent Residential (%)	Sidewalks in Front of School	Sidewalk Connectivity (Y/N)	Notes	Crosswalks in School Vicinity	Bike Lanes in Front of School	Lighting	Other Amenities
1	CARTER PARRAMORE ACADEMY		21%	Y	N	Sidewalk present on MLK Blvd and S Stewart St. No sidewalk present on Adams St past Clark St, meaning that the residential areas on this road are not located near sidewalks. It seems that about half of the residential neighborhoods surrounding the school have access to sidewalks. Sidewalks are present on Pat Thomas Pkwy.	5	N	Street lighting present on S Stewart St and MLK Blvd	Flashing school speed sign, pedestrian crossing
2	JAMES A. SHANKS MIDDLE SCHOOL		26%	Y	N	No sidewalks on 14th St, sidewalks are present on 15th St, W King St, and W Jefferson St.			Lighting on W King St and W Jefferson St	Pedestrian crossing flashing school zone crosswalk sign
3	HAVANA MAGNET SCHOOL		28%	N	N	Sidewalk present on Kemp Rd or in front of the school directly east of campus, meaning that students walking from the residential areas must walk on Kemp Rd.				
4	GEORGE W. MUNROE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL		21%	Y	N	Sidewalk present on W King St. No sidewalk present on surrounding residential areas.				
5	GADSDEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL		1%	N	N	No sidewalks on Blue Star Hwy				
6	STEWART STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL		20%	Y	N	Sidewalks on Stewart St and MLK Blvd. No sidewalk present on Adams St or in residential areas.				
7	WEST GADSDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL		18%	Y	N	Sidewalks on Greensboro Hwy run from Greensboro Hwy east and then stop immediately east of Providence Rd and Gadsden Ave. No sidewalks present on these streets.				
8	CHATTAHOOCHEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL		8%	Y	Y	Sidewalks on Maple St and E Washington St. Sidewalks in downtown Chattahoochee school zone.				
9	GREENSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL		20%	Y	N	Sidewalks on Greensboro Hwy run from downtown and then stop immediately east of downtown. Sidewalks on Providence Rd.				

Gadsden County Desktop Analysis Snapshot



Additional review was conducted to further evaluate schools using data related to:

- Residential density
- Existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Sidewalk connectivity
- Signage
- Street lighting

Final Schools List



- ✓ Analysis started with 25 schools from Gadsden, Leon, and Wakulla counties
- ✓ Final list includes 12 schools:

School	County
AMOS P. GODBY HIGH SCHOOL	Leon
JOHN G. RILEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Leon
RAA MIDDLE SCHOOL + RUEDIGER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Leon
GRIFFIN MIDDLE SCHOOL	Leon
LEON HIGH SCHOOL	Leon
NIMS MIDDLE SCHOOL	Leon
RICKARDS HIGH SCHOOL	Leon
PINEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Leon
FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Leon
WAKULLA MIDDLE SCHOOL	Wakulla
SHANKS MIDDLE SCHOOL	Gadsden

Focused Safety Analysis – Site Visits



- ✓ Site visits
- ✓ Identify the needs for infrastructure improvements to accommodate students walking and biking to each school

Focused on:

- Roadways
- Sidewalks
- Other multimodal facilities



SPRING – SUMMER 2024

What's Next? *Final Technical Report*



- ✓ Final prioritized lists of schools in the Capital Region
- ✓ Documentation of school analyses
- ✓ Detail identified improvements and recommendations
- ✓ Planning level cost estimates & opportunities for funding



SUMMER – FALL 2024

What's Next? *Survey and Student Travel Tally*



Coordination with appropriate officials at 12 identified schools



Development of tally and survey to record how children arrive and depart school each day

Based on National Center for Safe Route to School Data Collection System

The image shows three overlapping forms used for data collection. The top form is a 'Parent Survey About Walking and Biking to School' which asks for school name, child's grade, and travel details. The middle form is a Spanish version of the parent survey, 'Encuesta sobre ir caminando o andando en bicicleta a la escuela'. The bottom form is a 'Tally Sheet' for recording student arrival and departure methods (Walk, Bike, School Bus, Family Vehicle, Carpool, Transit, Other) on a daily basis.



SUMMER – FALL 2024

Questions or Comments?

