

WALK AUDIT 2.0: CITY OF KEIZER

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Safe Routes to School National Partnership



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Keizer, OR

- Located in Marion County, north of Salem
- Population ~ 36,000
- Schools are part of the Salem-Keizer School District – second largest in the state
- Traffic Safety-Bikeways-Pedestrian Committee led the charge in identifying potential projects for ODOT grant

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ODOT Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Grant Program:

- New, dedicated state funding to address infrastructure barriers for students walking & biking to school.
- \$10M available annually, increasing to \$15M in 2023.
- Eligibility Criteria:
 - Safety projects on public road right of way
 - Consistent with jurisdictional plans
 - Supported by school or school district
 - Within 1-mile radius of a Title 1 School (40% or more low-income students)
- New program with quick turnaround:
 - July 23, 2018 – Call for proposals open
 - October 15, 2018 – Deadline to apply

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Let's Go For A Walk:
A Toolkit for Planning and
Conducting a Walk Audit

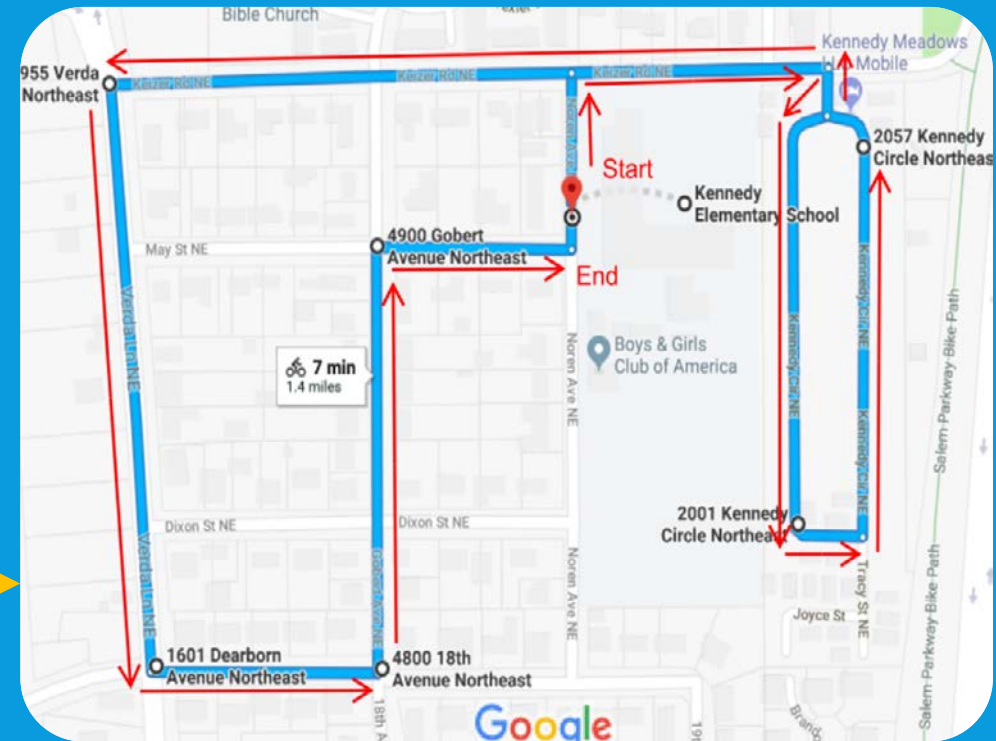


Photo Credit: Oregon County Health Care Agency



Planning the Walk Audit

- Met with Keizer Traffic-Bike-Ped Committee members and Public Works to identify top two schools of interest:
 1. Cummings Elementary
 2. **Kennedy Elementary**
- Met with school principal, parent group to discuss top safety concerns, informing the walking route
- Developed plan based on National Partnership Toolkit



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Walk Audit of Kennedy Elementary School

Participants included:

- City of Keizer Public Works & TBP Committee members
- Kennedy Elementary School parents & students
- AARP & Center 50+
- Just Walk Salem-Keizer
- Cherriots / Salem Area Mass Transit District



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Safe Routes
to School
**National
Partnership**

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

- Relied on the National Partnership Toolkit
- Completed surveys and discussed throughout walk
- Had time after to review observations as a group and finalize notes
- After walk audit, compiled & summarized group's observation, provided to all participants including Public Works for grant writing
- City inspired to do another walk audit at Cummings Elementary



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Kennedy Elementary School Walk Audit Summary

I. Summary of observations collected during walk audit (map/notes form):

Noren Avenue:

There are missing sidewalks or sidewalks are unmaintained and in need of repair near school. Sidewalks are not ADA-accessible and have many trip hazards. Landscaping is overgrown and encroaching on sidewalk near school. There is little or no lighting near school campus. The traffic calming speed humps are confusing – may need better or different paint/markings. Visibility is limited at Keizer Rd intersection, due to overgrown landscaping at corners.

Keizer Road:

Sidewalks are missing on north side of street. Some said there were good buffers between sidewalk and street – others said they were missing or poor. Sidewalks are not ADA-accessible, are uneven, narrow, damaged by tree roots, cause trip hazards, and are in need of repair. Blackberries and overgrown landscaping are encroaching in sidewalk. A crosswalk is needed at Keizer Rd & Gobert Avenue. The bus entry/exit location near school campus is unsafe.

Verda Lane:

This is a high-speed road with no crosswalks. Road feels unsafe and has a steep ditch/drop-off. Signs and markings are needed, including at roundabout at Verda & Keizer Rd.

May Street:

This is a narrow street with no sidewalks and is very busy on school days. Parents picking up students in cars back up onto this street. Drivers become impatient and use May and Dixon to cut through traffic. Students who walk and bike also use this road frequently.

Dixon Street:

This is another narrow street without sidewalks, used by kids walking and biking who have to share the road with cars during drop-off/pick-up traffic.

Dearborn Avenue:

Needs sidewalks – does not have ADA accessible corners at Gobert intersection.

Gobert Avenue:

Not ADA accessible, lacks sidewalks or sidewalks are disconnected.

Part 4: Project Details and Schedule

List the proposed improvements/countermeasures/methods and location to provide a detailed project description. Use the format below. Applicants may add multiple locations.

Location Information

Location 1

Latitude:

West end 44.59'36"N East end 44,59'
45.48"N

Longitude:

West end 123,00'43.75"W East
end 123,00'30.24"W

Use map generated from the [Safe Routes to School Web Application](#).

Name of street, road or highway on which the project is located:

May Street NE

Cross street or other reference point (include state highway milepost begin/end if applicable):

West end - Verda Lane NE, East end - Noren Avenue NE. Also Dearborn Avenue NE (sidewalk Completion)

Project length in feet:

980 feet

Which side of the street is the project located?

South

Is there a history of school-related crashes at this location that this project would address?

No

At the proposed project location what is the:

Posted travel speed (mph)?

25 mph

Optional: Posted travel speed (mph)?



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Key Takeaways:

- Open exchange of knowledge & observations between community members and City
- Walk Audits are a tool for community building
- Our audits strengthened and diversified two grant applications
- Challenges: time-sensitive grant, shifting priorities, continued public engagement
- Going Forward: opportunity for future infrastructure improvement, increased civic & public engagement



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