



Agenda Abstract

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date:	Nov. 25, 2024
Department:	Public Space and Sustainability
Agenda Section:	Regular
Public hearing:	No
Date of public hearing:	N/A

PRESENTER/INFORMATION CONTACT

Stephanie Trueblood, Public Space and Sustainability Manager

ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED

Subject: Resolution adopting the Orange County Safe Routes to School Plan

Attachments:

1. Safe Routes to School Plan
2. Resolution
3. Presentation

Summary:

The 2014 Orange County Safe Routes to School Action Plan was updated with public involvement, field investigation and extensive analysis. This update includes and is not limited to:

- Planning level analysis of existing transportation around schools
- Evaluation of all Orange County public schools
- Youth involvement in the planning process
- Implementation opportunities – Surface Transportation Block Grant, Transportation Alternatives Program and others

Orange County worked with consultant WSP to analyze existing conditions, draft recommendations, and update the plan. The Existing Conditions Analysis involved a comprehensive field study of each Orange County public school, focusing on a 2-mile radius around the school property. Orange County Transportation Services hosted a virtual public meeting with all the school principals and administration.

Public Involvement:

- March 7, 2024 – Orange County Transportation Services, WSP, and Orange County Schools - Stakeholder Meeting
- July 8, 2024 – Public Engagement event with Orange County Schools
- July 9 to August 9 – Existing Conditions Report with Recommendations released for public review

Some of the key highlights of the plan include:

- Students walking and cycling to school include – Orange Middle and High School, Hillsborough Elementary, Efland Cheeks Global Elementary, Gravelly Hill Middle, River Park Elementary, Pathways Elementary, and Cedar Ridge High School
- Recommendations include:
 1. Crosswalks at intersections and mid-block crosswalks near schools
 2. Reduced speed zones and other traffic calming measures
 3. Extending sidewalks to rural areas and filling in gaps in urban areas
 4. Multi-use paths and greenways along major corridors and some secondary roads

Orange County's Transportation Advisory Service and Orange Unified Transportation Board recommended the Safe Routes to School Plan be approved by the Orange County Board of County Commissioners.

Orange County Board of County Commissioners adopted the Safe Routes to School Plan Update on Nov. 7, 2024.

Financial impacts:

There is no financial impact currently. Projects identified in the Safe Route to School Plan may be pursued through financial resources including but not limited to U.S. Department of Transportation, North Carolina Department of Transportation, Metropolitan and Rural Planning Organizations resources and the 2022 County Transit Plan Update.

Staff recommendation and comments:

None

Action requested:

Adopt resolution.