

Liberty Center Local Schools

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN

August 11, 2022



SECTION 1: OUR SCHOOL/S

School District	School Name	School Address	Grades served
Liberty Center Local School District	Liberty Center Local Schools	100 Tiger Trail, Liberty Center, Ohio 43532	K-12

Students 2021-2022										
Average Daily Student Enrollment	Black, non-Hispanic	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Multi-Racial	White, non-Hispanic	Economically Disadvantaged	Limited English Proficient	Students with Disabilities	Migrant
970	NC	NC	NC	5.3%	3.8%	89.0%	21.7%	NC	16.3%	NC

If enrollment is less than 10, results are Not Calculated (NC).
Information from [district's report card](#)

Community Stakeholders and the Safe Routes to School Team:

School Representatives:

Name	Email address	5 E Role:
Richard Peters, Superintendent	rpeters@libertycenterschools.org	Encouragement, Engineer, Evaluation
Sheri Stacey, Transportation	sstacey@libertycenterschools.org	Encouragement

Community Representatives:

Name	Email address	5 E Role:
Kristi Gyurasics, Parent	Kgyurasics@gmail.com	Encouragement
Celeste Coey	celesteisarockstar@hotmail.com	Encouragement

Local Government Representatives:

Name	Email address	5 E Role:
Jay Branson, Mayor	lcmayor@embarqmail.com	Encouragement, Engineer
Dave Mohler, Township Trustee	dmohler44@hotmail.com	Encouragement, Engineer

Education Representative:

Name	Email address	5 E Role:
Rita Bare	rbare@libertycenterschools.org	Education, Encouragement

Health Representatives:

Name	Email address	5 E Role:
Brandi Valle, Nurse	Inurse@libertycenterschools.org	Education, Encouragement
Tante Lovins, Health Department	tlovins@henrycohd.org	Education, Encouragement

Public Safety Representatives:

Name	Email address	5 E Role:
Kathy Zumfelde, Resource Officer	kzumfelde@libertycenterschools.org	Enforcement, Education, Encouragement

Other:

Name	Email address	5 E Role
Chris Hibbett, ODOT District 2	Christopher.hibbett@dot.ohio.gov	Evaluation
Christina Deehr, MVPO	Planner2@mvpo.org	Evaluation
Faria Amin, MVPO	gisplanner@mvpo.org	Evaluation
Kim Lammers, MVPO	mobility@mvpo.org	Evaluation

1A. The lead contact for our Plan is:

Name: Jay Branson

Affiliation: Mayor of Liberty Center

Phone Number: 419-533-3321

Email address: lcmayor@embarqmail.com

Mailing address: 110 East Street, Liberty Center, Ohio 43532

SECTION 2: OUR SRTS VISION

Our SRTS Vision:

Proposed vision: The Village of Liberty Center, school system, and parents will continue to work together to improve:

- Safe, visible, and efficient paths for walking and biking (Engineering);
- Develop clear and concise policies for vehicle traffic and active transportation during the school arrival and dismissal processes (Education);
- Engage countermeasures to enforce policies (Enforcement);
- Conduct fun educational programming that encourages physical activity, health, and pedestrians safety (Encouragement); and
- Ensure progress of SRTS programs by evaluating effectiveness (Evaluation).

SECTION 3: CURRENT STUDENT TRAVEL

Distance From School	Number of Students	% of Student Body
Within 1/4 mile of school	100	9.2
Within 1/2 mile of school	200	18.4
Within 1 mile of school	324	29.8
Within 2 miles of school	407	37.4

Distances are cumulative; meaning that “within 1/2 mile of school” would include students within ¼ mile as well.

3-Day Tally	Walk	Bike	School bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Public Transit	Other
Number of students (morning trips)	103	24	784	1644	28	0	0
Number of students (afternoon trips)	139	24	943	1442	29	0	0
Primary walking/bicycling routes	State route 109, Maple Street, Young Street						

District Bus Policies

Policy: Children living beyond one (1) mile shall be entitled to bus transportation. Exceptions to the foregoing limits may be made in the case of a temporarily or permanently –disabled child who has been so certified by a physician and in the case of adverse safety conditions.

How it affects student travel modes (3-5 sentences): The one mile policy may cause more families to choose personal vehicles versus walking/biking. This is particularly true during the cold weather months. The increase in personal vehicles causes a dangerous back-up onto State Route 109. Using school bus transportation can be an effective way of cutting down congestion.

School Travel Policies

Policy: There are no additional school travel policies related to active transportation.

How it affects student travel modes (3-5 sentences): Having no policy on arrival and dismissal may make it confusing for parents and students on expectations during this process. Families may struggle on what safe walking/biking paths are best to use for their children.

School Arrival and Dismissal Process.

<p>Do school buses and parent vehicles use the same driveway for arrival and dismissal?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, all vehicles use the same driveway.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, there are separate driveways for family vehicles and school buses.</p>
<p>Do all students use the same entrance to the school building in the morning?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, all students enter the building at the same location.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, students can use different entrances.</p> <p>If no, in three sentences or less, describe how students enter the building: Students riding a bus enter the building at door 16 on the north side of the school building. Car riders and drivers enter the building on the east side of the building through either Door 1, 2, or 20.</p>
<p>Are all students released at the same time during dismissal?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, all students are released at the same time.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, we use a staggered release process (walkers are released first, bus riders second, etc.).</p> <p>If no, in two sentences or less, describe how dismissal is staggered at your school: Elementary students are released at 2:50pm and the middle school and high school students are released at 3:00pm. Car riders are released first at the elementary, then walkers, and then bus riders. Elementary students are picked-up in the pick-up loop. Older students must find their family vehicle in a parking spot.</p>
<p>Is school staff involved in either arrival or dismissal?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, we have school staff help students enter and exit the campus safely.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, school staff is not involved in either arrival or dismissal.</p> <p>If yes, in two sentences or less, describe how school staff are involved in school arrival and dismissal: Elementary, middle school, and high school paraprofessional staff are involved in supervising students upon arrival to school before they are released to the classrooms at 7:50am. Students enter the building at 7:40am.</p> <p>After school, elementary staff all assist with dismissal of elementary students.</p>
<p>Are there any adult crossing guards located along student walking routes?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, we have at least one adult crossing guard that helps students on their walking routes.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, we do not have any adult crossing guards serving our school.</p> <p>If yes, please list the locations for each adult crossing guard: The crossing guard helps students cross State Route 109 at West Young Street.</p>
<p>Are there police officers that help with arrival or dismissal procedures at this school?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, we have at least one police officer helping direct traffic around our school.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No we do not have police officers who help direct traffic around the school.</p> <p>If yes, in two sentences or less, explain how many officers help and what role they play in arrival or dismissal:</p>

Are students involved in any arrival or dismissal process (i.e. student safety patrol)?

- Yes, we have a student safety patrol.
- No, we do not have a student safety patrol.

If yes, in two sentences or less, describe the role of the student safety patrol at both arrival and dismissal:

Parent Attitudes towards walking and biking.

Reasons for not allowing children to walk or bicycle to school:
Distance
Amount of traffic along the route
Speed of traffic along the route
Safety of intersections and crossings
Weather or climate

Safety Issues and Concerns.

During arrival and dismissal, traffic will back up onto State Route 109. This causes back-up lines and dangerous passing. The back up on the State Route 109 begins prior to the school zone lights flashing. Thru traffic will weave in and out of travel lanes.

Congestion and speed are part of parents' concerns about letting their child walk or bike to school. High traffic and speed volumes are dangerous for pedestrians at Young Street and State Route 109. This intersection is a main crossing location for students.

Walkers and vehicles do not always follow expected guidelines for arrival and dismissal. Family vehicles have created an un-official drop-off area in the teacher parking lot. Students are not always following sidewalks to the entry of the school. Instead, some will cut through the teacher parking lot. Causing unsafe conditions in this location.

Signage and painted crosswalks need improved throughout the entire community. This includes on and around school grounds.

Various sidewalks within the village need improved i.e. too close to road, debris-covering sidewalks, and uneven sidewalks, narrow or non-existing sidewalks.

Relevant traffic crashes.

There was 141 crashes within 2 miles radius of the school from (2018 to 2022). Five of these crashes caused severe injuries.

There was 1 pedestrian crashes within the STP study area.

The crashes resulted in 0 pedestrian fatalities.

There were 0 bicycle-related crashes within the STP study area.

The crashes resulted in 0 bicyclist fatalities.

Walking and bicycling encouragement activities at the school.

Liberty Center Local Schools does not currently participate in any activities that encourage students to walk or bike to school. However, through this planning process the district has developed encouragement activities to host in the future.

SECTION 4: KEY ISSUES IMPACTING SAFE WALKING AND BICYCLING TO SCHOOL

Issue/Description
1. Issue: Speed of traffic on St. Rt. 109 , E. Maple, and S. Damascus
2. Issue: Non-compliance of arrival and dismissal expectations and policies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are no identified safe, complete walking and biking routes.
3. Issue: More students are arriving in family vehicles, which adds to the congestion during arrival and dismissal. Congestion causes stopped traffic on St. Rt. 109 and unsafe parking lot behavior.
4. Issue: Lack of visibility of school zone. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need improved signage within village and around school.• Clear markings for crosswalks.
5. Issue: Do not have quality sidewalks throughout the village <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Needs improved to allow for connectivity with school.• There is low/mixed confidence that walking and biking to school is safe.

SECTION 5: RECOMMENDED SRTS COUNTERMEASURES

Non-infrastructure Action Plan

Strategy #1: Reduce vehicle speed and congestion on State Route 109, E. Maple, and S. Damascus

Schools: District-wide.

	Action Steps	Leaders	Timeframe
1A	<i>Move school zone signage</i>	<i>Richie Peters</i>	<i>2 year</i>
1B	<i>Add sign to not block intersection</i>	<i>Jay Branson</i>	<i>1 year</i>
1C	<i>Add a dynamic feedback sign</i>	<i>Jay Branson</i>	<i>2 years</i>
1D	<i>Supply resource officer with radar gun</i>	<i>Sherriff's Office</i>	<i>1 year</i>

Strategy #2: Education on safe pedestrian behavior

Schools: District-wide.

	Action Steps	Leaders	Timeframe
2A	<i>Create a safe travel map for students</i>	<i>SRTS Team</i>	<i>1 year</i>
2B	<i>Adapt a recognized safety program for students i.e. safety city, bike rodeo, etc.</i>	<i>SRTS Team</i>	<i>2 year</i>

Strategy #3: Encouraging Physical Activity and Health

Schools: List School(s) involved in Strategy or list District-wide.

	Action Steps	Leaders	Timeframe
3A	<i>Walk/Bike to school day</i>	<i>SRTS Team</i>	<i>6 months</i>
3B	<i>Purchase books that encourage safe travel for library</i>	<i>School Librarian</i>	<i>6 month</i>

Strategy #4: Evaluation

Schools: District-wide.

	Action Steps	Leaders	Timeframe
4A	<i>Conduct a parent/student survey like the one done for this application to determine if SRTS program is working</i>	<i>Maumee Valley Planning Organization, Christina Deehr</i>	<i>This evaluation program will be carried out throughout the 24-month period timeframe of receiving funding</i>

Infrastructure Countermeasure Recommendations

****A map will be created with MAP ID at time of final plan approval****

Map ID	Location	Need	Countermeasure	Timeframe	Priority	Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Possible Funding Source	Status
A	Intersection of Young and St. Rt. 109	Safely crossing St. Rt. 109 when crossing guard is not present	Install a Rapid Flashing Beacon across St. Rt. 109 to help motorists see pedestrians attempting to cross the street	Short Term	High	Village of Liberty Center	High	ODOT SRTS funds	Conceptual
B	State Route 109 and school entrance	Too many vehicles which causes a dangerous back-up onto St. Rt. 109	Creating a secondary drop-off and pick-up loop. Alternative locations for drop-off and pick-up.	Long Term	High	Liberty Center Schools	Low	School funds	Conceptual
C	Tiger trail and Young St.	Create a safe crossing for pedestrians that is highly visible to motorists	High visibility crosswalk with signage	Short Term	High	Liberty Center Schools	Low	School funds	Conceptual
D	Teacher parking lot	Pedestrians cutting across parking lot and not in designated pedestrian areas i.e. sidewalks	Add barrier to hinder pedestrians from using parking lot such as fencing or hedge row	Long Term	Low	Liberty Center Schools	Medium	School funds	Conceptual
E	Teacher parking lot	Motorists are utilizing parking lot as an unofficial drop-off/pickup area adding to congestion	Add signs and painted arrows directing traffic in and out in one direction. Or close parking lot access during arrival and dismissal to dissuade use.	Long Term	Low	Liberty Center Schools	Low	School funds	Conceptual

F	Throughout Village	Sidewalks for students to walk and bike on	Every street within village limits has a minimum of one sidewalk	Long Term	Medium	Village of Liberty Center	High	ODOT SRTS funds and/or ODOT TAP funds	Conceptual
G	State Route 109	Signage to identify school, school zone speed limits, not block intersection	Signage to identify school, school zone speed limits, not block intersection	Short Term	High	Village of Liberty Center	Low	ODOT SRTS funds and/or ODOT TAP funds	Conceptual
H	W. Maple Street	Signage to identify school and school zone speed limits	Signage to identify school and school zone speed limits	Short Term	High	Village of Liberty Center	Low	ODOT SRTS funds and/or ODOT TAP funds	Conceptual
I	Throughout Village	Safe crosswalks and intersections for walkers	Paint high visibility crosswalks and install ramps	Short Term	High	Village of Liberty Center	Low	ODOT SRTS funds and/or ODOT TAP funds	Conceptual

STEP 6: PUBLIC INPUT

*****This section will be completed at the end of the public comment/input period*****

STEP 7: FINAL PLAN – PLEDGE OF SUPPORT

*****This section will be completed after the public comment input and the SRTS team approves the final plan*****

