

Paving the Way for Safe Routes to School:
Ione Elementary
Walkability and Active Design Audit
March 2015



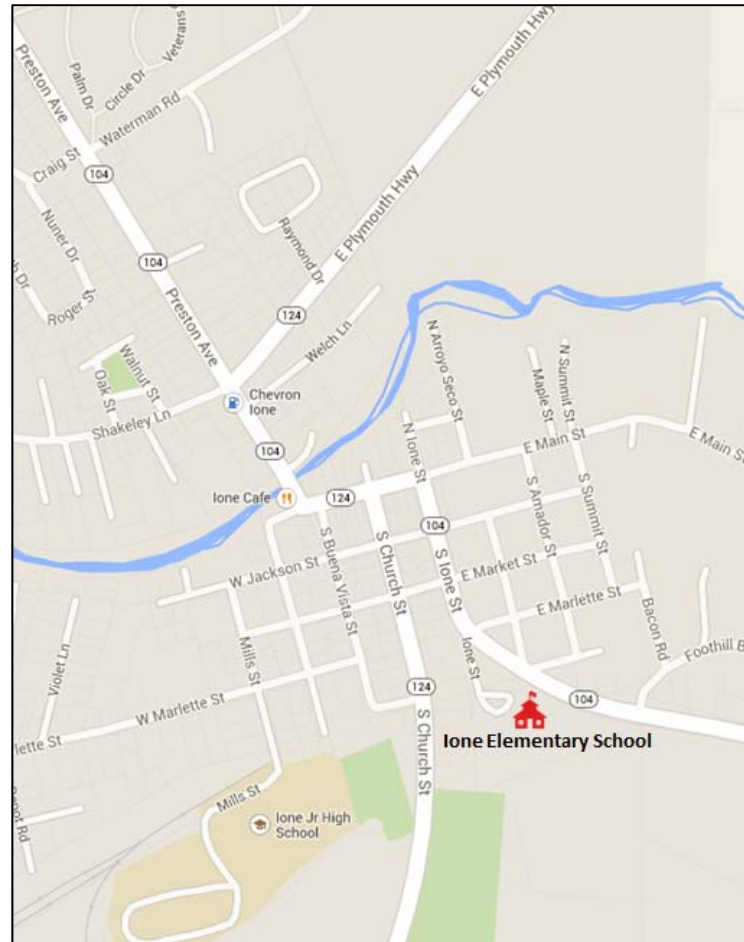
This material was developed by PedSafe, a program of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Funding for the duplication of this material is from an award from CDPH's Kids Plates program.

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SCHOOL LOCATION

Ione Elementary School is located at 415 South Ione Street in Ione, California. For the 2012-2013 school year, 459 students were enrolled, of which 47% were eligible for free or reduced price meals.¹ The school location is shown on the map below.



¹ California Department of Education, Free/Reduced Meals Program and CalWORKS Data Files, 2013. Available from <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/sd/filespp.asp>. Accessed on April 17, 2014.

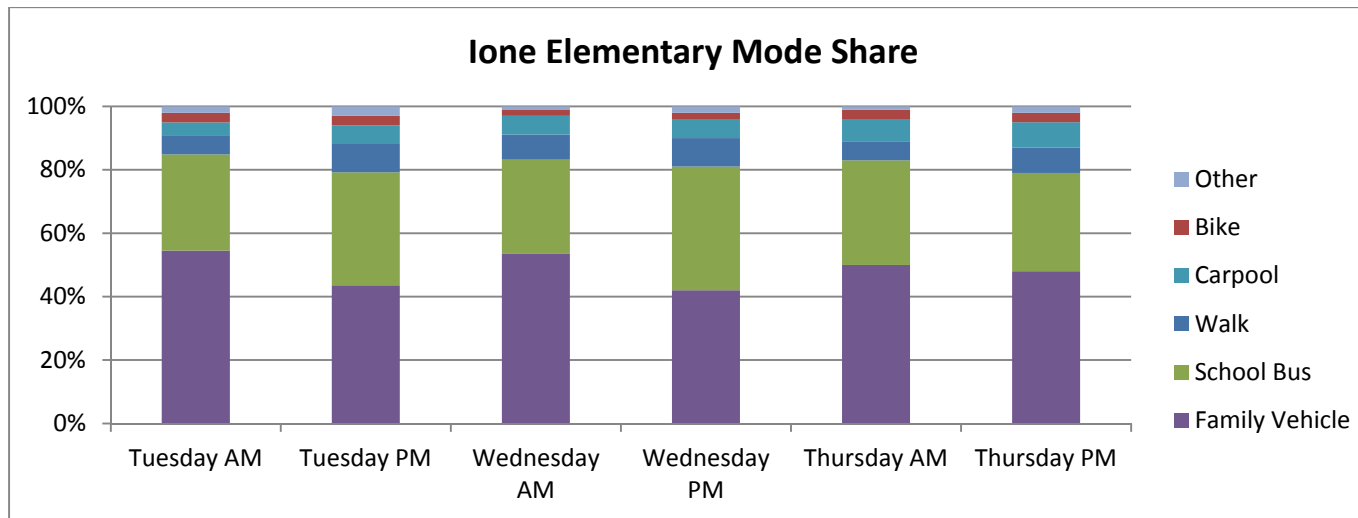
EXISTING CONDITIONS

Mode Split

Using the National Center for Safe Routes to School Student Travel Tally², in-class tallies of student travel mode were conducted over a period of three days in November 2013. The tally results are shown below.

	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Tuesday AM	327	6%	3%	30%	54%	4%	0%	2%
Tuesday PM	345	9%	3%	36%	44%	6%	0%	3%
Wednesday AM	395	8%	2%	30%	54%	6%	0%	1%
Wednesday PM	423	9%	2%	39%	42%	6%	0%	2%
Thursday AM	266	6%	3%	33%	50%	7%	0%	1%
Thursday PM	240	8%	3%	31%	48%	8%	0%	2%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding



² National Center for Safe Routes to School, Evaluation: Student In-Class Travel Tally, 2009, available <http://saferoutesinfo.org/program-tools/evaluation-student-class-travel-tally>; Internet: accessed May 2012.

Parent Concerns

Parents' attitudes toward walking and biking were surveyed using the National Center for Safe Routes to School Parent Survey.³ 107 out of 460 surveys were returned (23 %).

Key results:

- 40% of students living within ½ mile of school walk or bike to school, but only 9% of students living more than ½ mile of school walk or bike to school.
- 40% of students living within ½ mile of school walk or bike home from school, but only 15% of students living more than ½ mile of school walk or bike home.
- The issues most frequently report to affect the decision to not allow a child to walk or bike to school are distance from home to school (64%), speed of traffic along route (62%), and the safety of intersections and crossings (57%).
- In the write-in comments section, parents state they do not let their children due to the lack of sidewalks, the need for crossing guards at the school site, and worries about crossing the state highways.

³ National Center for Safe Routes to School, Evaluation: Parent Survey, 2009, available <http://saferoutesinfo.org/program-tools/evaluation-parent-survey>; Internet: accessed May 2012.


Identifying barriers to walking and biking


Infrastructure and non-infrastructure barriers to walking and biking to school were identified through a walk audit, field observations, and discussions with school staff and parents.


A walk audit was conducted on March 25, 2014. Participants included WALKSacramento staff, school administrators, local police, teachers, and the city engineer.


INFRASTRUCTURE RECOMMENDATIONS


City Recommendations

ID	Location	Recommendation	Justification	Visual
1	South Lone Street	Repair and install sidewalks along South Lone Street from the school towards downtown.	To date, sidewalks are present only on the eastern side of South Lone Street. They are intermittent, narrow, and in poor condition. Wider sidewalks would support the school's walking school bus program and improve pedestrian safety by providing a designated, and somewhat separated walking facility.	

ID	Location	Recommendation	Justification	Visual
2	Approaching lone on S Church Street	<p>Install a signs that say, "SLOW APPROACHING SCHOOL ZONE," and install time-activated flashing beacons to flash from 7 am to 4 pm.</p> <p>Things to consider: need to consult with Caltrans since this is on the State Highway System.</p>	<p>Parents and school officials express concern about drivers entering the school at relatively high speeds, discouraging active travel. Using signage to request that drivers slow down may reduce the risk of a potential collision.</p>	 An aerial photograph showing a residential area with a school building. A yellow vertical line is drawn on the road, labeled 'Install sign with flashing beacon'. The road is labeled 'S. Church St'. Another road, 'W. Marlette St', is visible to the left. A north arrow is located in the bottom right corner of the image.

ID	Location	Recommendation	Justification	Visual
3	Approaching lone on WB Highway 104	<p>Install a sign that say, "SLOW APPROACHING SCHOOL ZONE," and install time-activated flashing beacons to flash from 7 am to 4 pm.</p> <p>Things to consider: need to consult with Caltrans since this is on the State Highway System.</p>	<p>Parents and school officials express concern about drivers entering the school at relatively high speeds, discouraging active travel. Using signage to request that drivers slow down may reduce the risk of a potential collision.</p>	

ID	Location	Recommendation	Justification	Visual
4	South Lone Street near the school entrance	Redesign the outbound turn to align with Lone Street at a near 90 degree angle.	Doing so will make exiting the school easier and safer for drivers. Drivers leaving the school site will be able to scan for oncoming traffic better with this alignment.	 An aerial photograph showing a residential street intersection. A road labeled 'S. Lone St' runs vertically. A road branches off to the right, forming a sharp curve. A white arrow points from the school site (a large building with a blue pool) towards the intersection. A black arrow points along the curved road, indicating the proposed 90-degree turn alignment. The surrounding area includes houses, trees, and a parking lot.

ID	Location	Recommendation	Justification	Visual
5	Preston Avenue from Castle Oaks Drive to East Main Street	Install Class II bike lanes.	The lanes along Preston Avenue are wide enough to accommodate 12 foot lanes and a bike lane. Cyclists will have a designated space to ride, that reduces the ambiguity of the right-of-way.	 An aerial photograph of a residential area with a yellow line highlighting a section of Preston Avenue. The highlighted section starts at the intersection with Castle Oaks Drive in the upper left and ends at the intersection with East Main Street in the lower right. Other streets visible include E. Plymouth Highway. A north arrow is located in the bottom right corner of the map.

General recommendations:

The following general recommendations apply to both the Amador Joint Unified School District and Yuba County.

Lighting

Lighting throughout the community must be addressed in order to ensure safe routes to school in lone. Several lights have been identified by parents and walk audit participants as being out of commission. Adequate street lighting is a crucial safety component for all modes of transportation. WALKSacramento recommends fixing the lighting throughout the community and performing regular maintenance of streetlights around the school.

Neighborhood Outreach

A great way to ensure student safety is to have “eyes-on-the-street.” Consistent surveillance of a roadway creates a sense of familiarity and safety for children traveling to school. Community members should be contacted about performing outdoor activities such as mowing the lawn, walking their dog, or simply being outside to ensure surveillance of the roadway as students make their way to and from school.

Walking School Bus

Due to concerns including sexual predators, a lack of sidewalks and bike lanes, and speeding traffic, a walking school bus or bike train should be established. Walking school busses are groups of students who meet at a predetermined location to be led to school by a parent or teacher volunteer. Bike trains do the same for students on bicycles. Safety in numbers is a key concept and proven method within Safe Routes to School programs.

Law Enforcement

Due to concerns about sexual predators, crime, and unsafe driving habits, increased presence of law enforcement during commute times may improve the sense of safety in the community and thus the likelihood that a student walks or bikes to school. Either CHP or local law enforcement and law enforcement volunteers may consider drive throughs of the community and parking lot during commute times to reinforce proper driving behavior and provide additional surveillance of nearby neighborhoods.

Walking School Bus

A great opportunity exists to start a walking school bus at Lone Elementary School. Walking school busses are groups of children who walk to school together, usually with a parent or teacher. The program can be as informal as a few families offering to take turns walking the group to school or as a school sponsored weekly walking group. To start the program, inform regular and potential walkers of a convenient meeting place and designate an adult to facilitate the walk to school. An alternative to the walking school bus is a bicycle train.

APPENDIX A: National Center for Safe Routes to School Parent Survey Form

Parent Survey About Walking and Biking to School

Dear Parent or Caregiver,
 Your child's school wants to learn your thoughts about children walking and biking to school. This survey will take about 5 - 10 minutes to complete. We ask that each family complete only one survey per school your children attend. If more than one child from a school brings a survey home, please fill out the survey for the child with the next birthday from today's date.

After you have completed this survey, send it back to the school with your child or give it to the teacher. Your responses will be kept confidential and neither your name nor your child's name will be associated with any results.
Thank you for participating in this survey!

+ CAPITAL LETTERS ONLY – BLUE OR BLACK INK ONLY +

School Name: _____

1. What is the grade of the child who brought home this survey? Grade (PK,K,1,2,3...)

2. Is the child who brought home this survey male or female? Male Female

3. How many children do you have in Kindergarten through 8th grade?

4. What is the street intersection nearest your home? (Provide the names of two intersecting streets)
 _____ and _____

+ Place a clear 'X' inside box. If you make a mistake, fill the entire box, and then mark the correct box. +

5. How far does your child live from school?
 Less than ¼ mile ½ mile up to 1 mile More than 2 miles
 ¼ mile up to ½ mile 1 mile up to 2 miles Don't know

+ Place a clear 'X' inside box. If you make a mistake, fill the entire box, and then mark the correct box. +

6. On most days, how does your child arrive and leave for school? (Select one choice per column, mark box with X)

Arrive at school	Leave from school
<input type="checkbox"/> Walk	<input type="checkbox"/> Walk
<input type="checkbox"/> Bike	<input type="checkbox"/> Bike
<input type="checkbox"/> School Bus	<input type="checkbox"/> School Bus
<input type="checkbox"/> Family vehicle (only children in your family)	<input type="checkbox"/> Family vehicle (only children in your family)
<input type="checkbox"/> Carpool (Children from other families)	<input type="checkbox"/> Carpool (Children from other families)
<input type="checkbox"/> Transit (city bus, subway, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Transit (city bus, subway, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (skateboard, scooter, inline skates, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (skateboard, scooter, inline skates, etc.)

+ Place a clear 'X' inside box. If you make a mistake, fill the entire box, and then mark the correct box. +

7. How long does it normally take your child to get to/from school? (Select one choice per column, mark box with X)

Travel time to school	Travel time from school
<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 5 minutes	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 5 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 – 10 minutes	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 – 10 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/> 11 – 20 minutes	<input type="checkbox"/> 11 – 20 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/> More than 20 minutes	<input type="checkbox"/> More than 20 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know / Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know / Not sure

+ _____ +

+ _____ +

8. Has your child asked you for permission to walk or bike to/from school in the last year? Yes No

9. At what grade would you allow your child to walk or bike to/from school without an adult?
 (Select a grade between PK,K,1,2,3...) grade (or) I would not feel comfortable at any grade

+ Place a clear 'X' inside box. If you make a mistake, fill the entire box, and then mark the correct box. +

10. What of the following issues affected your decision to allow, or not allow, your child to walk or bike to/from school? (Select ALL that apply)

11. Would you probably let your child walk or bike to/from school if this problem were changed or improved? (Select one choice per line, mark box with X)

<input type="checkbox"/> Distance.....	<input type="checkbox"/> My child already walks or bikes to/from school
<input type="checkbox"/> Convenience of driving.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
<input type="checkbox"/> Time.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
<input type="checkbox"/> Child's before or after-school activities.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
<input type="checkbox"/> Speed of traffic along route.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
<input type="checkbox"/> Amount of traffic along route.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
<input type="checkbox"/> Adults to walk or bike with.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
<input type="checkbox"/> Sidewalks or pathways.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
<input type="checkbox"/> Safety of intersections and crossings.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
<input type="checkbox"/> Crossing guards.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
<input type="checkbox"/> Violence or crime.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
<input type="checkbox"/> Weather or climate.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure

+ Place a clear 'X' inside box. If you make a mistake, fill the entire box, and then mark the correct box. +

12. In your opinion, how much does your child's school encourage or discourage walking and biking to/from school?
 Strongly Encourages Encourages Neither Discourages Strongly Discourages

13. How much fun is walking or biking to/from school for your child?
 Very Fun Fun Neutral Boring Very Boring

14. How healthy is walking or biking to/from school for your child?
 Very Healthy Healthy Neutral Unhealthy Very Unhealthy

+ Place a clear 'X' inside box. If you make a mistake, fill the entire box, and then mark the correct box. +

15. What is the highest grade or year of school you completed?

<input type="checkbox"/> Grades 1 through 8 (Elementary)	<input type="checkbox"/> College 1 to 3 years (Some college or technical school)
<input type="checkbox"/> Grades 9 through 11 (Some high school)	<input type="checkbox"/> College 4 years or more (College graduate)
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade 12 or GED (High school graduate)	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer

16. Please provide any additional comments below.

APPENDIX B: National Center for Safe Routes to School Travel Tally Form

Safe Routes to School Students Arrival and Departure Tally Sheet

+
+

CAPITAL LETTERS ONLY – BLUE OR BLACK INK ONLY

School Name:

Teacher's First Name:

Teacher's Last Name:

Grade: (PK,K,1,2,3,...)

Monday's Date (Week count was conducted)

Number of Students Enrolled in Class:

0 2 M M D D Y Y Y Y 1 5

- Please conduct these counts on two of the following three days Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. (Three days would provide better data if counted)
- Please do not conduct these counts on Mondays or Fridays.
- Before asking your students to raise their hands, please read through all possible answer choices so they will know their choices. Each Student may only answer once.
- Ask your students as a group the question "How did you arrive at school today?"
- Then, reread each answer choice and record the number of students that raised their hands for each. Place just one character or number in each box.
- Follow the same procedure for the question "How do you plan to leave for home after school?"
- You can conduct the counts once per day but during the count please ask students both the school arrival and departure questions.
- Please conduct this count regardless of weather conditions (i.e., ask these questions on rainy days, too).

Step 1.
Fill in the weather conditions and number of students in each class

Step 2.
AM – "How did you arrive at school today?" Record the number of hands for each answer.
PM – "How do you plan to leave for home after school?" Record the number of hands for each answer.

	Weather	Student Tally	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
	S= sunny R= rainy O=overcast SN=snow	Number in class when count made	-	-	-	Only with Children from your family	Riding with children from other families	City bus, subway, etc.	Skate-board, scooter, etc.
Sample AM	S N	2 0	2	3	8	3		3	1
Sample PM	R	1 9	3	3	8	1	2	2	
Tues. AM									
Tues. PM									
Wed. AM									
Wed. PM									
Thurs. AM									
Thurs. PM									

Please list any disruptions to these counts or any unusual travel conditions to/from the school on the days of the tally.

+
+

APPENDIX C: WALKSacramento Traffic Observations Form

OBSERVATIONS OF STUDENT SAFETY BEHAVIORS WHEN CROSSING

School: _____ Date: ____/____/____ Observer Name: _____
 Address: _____ Begin Time: _____ Notes: _____
 Location: _____ End Time: _____

GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT INTERSECTION & MOVEMENT SURVEYED:

- | | |
|---|---|
| a) Is there a signal light at the intersection? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | d) Were the intersections difficult to negotiate? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| b) Is there a crossing signal for the movement surveyed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | e) Are motorists driving safely and obeying the law? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| c) Is the intersection assisted by Crossing Guard/Student Safety Patrol? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | f) In general, are drivers yielding (closest to intersection)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

OBSERVATIONS OF SAFETY BEHAVIORS: [Please use one (1) observation line per person]:

#	MODE	DEMOGRAPHIC (#)	Notes: Example- Arrived at crossing alone, pair, groups. Crossing behind cars.			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian <input type="checkbox"/> Cyclist, Helmet? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Preschool (0-5): ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Child (6-12): ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Teen (13-18): ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Adult (19-60): ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60+): ____	Crossing at designated crossing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Pushed signal button (individual or group)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Waited for light/ guard to cross? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Looked L/R/L before crossing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian <input type="checkbox"/> Cyclist, Helmet? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Preschool (0-5): ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Child (6-12): ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Teen (13-18): ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Adult (19-60): ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60+): ____	Crossing at designated crossing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Pushed signal button (individual or group)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Waited for light/ guard to cross? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Looked L/R/L before crossing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian <input type="checkbox"/> Cyclist, Helmet? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Preschool (0-5): ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Child (6-12): ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Teen (13-18): ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Adult (19-60): ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60+): ____	Crossing at designated crossing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Pushed signal button (individual or group)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Waited for light/ guard to cross? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Looked L/R/L before crossing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian <input type="checkbox"/> Cyclist, Helmet? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Preschool (0-5): ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Child (6-12): ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Teen (13-18): ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Adult (19-60): ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60+): ____	Crossing at designated crossing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Pushed signal button (individual or group)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Waited for light/ guard to cross? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Looked L/R/L before crossing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
#of Motorists:		# of Motorists parked in No Parking zone:	# of Motorists don't yield to pedestrians:	# of Motorists U-turn in street:	Other Motorist behavior:	