

Draft Memorandum

Date: April 20, 2022

To: Lisa Silva, Hillsborough TPO
Kelly Fearon, City of Tampa

From: Kathrin Tellez, Fehr & Peers

Subject: School Transportation Safety Study – School Selection

OR21-0009

Introduction

Fehr & Peers is working with the Hillsborough Transportation Planning Transportation Organization (TPO) and the City of Tampa to update the 2018 *School Safety Study* (2018 Study). The 2018 Study focused on multimodal safety and mobility reviews to identify engineering countermeasures at twelve schools within the Hillsborough County Public School (HCPS) district. Schools for the 2018 Study were selected based on numerous factors, including transportation safety, number of students living near the school, socioeconomic factors, and other school specific information. This study builds upon the 2018 Study and will select a set of schools for multimodal safety and mobility reviews, with physical improvements identified for up to five school and an educational and encouragement campaign developed for up to three schools.

The identification of school facilities to include in the focused assessment builds upon the process developed for the 2018 Study, using the most recently available data. Although the school ranking will be conducted for all schools in the district, the more detailed school assessments will focus on schools in the City of Tampa as the City requested this study.

HCPS is the 7th largest school district in the country, with over 224,000 students across 274 school sites, including 137 K-5 schools, 45 middle schools, 28 high schools, nine K-8 schools, four career centers, four technical colleges and 54 charter schools. The career centers, technical colleges and charter school are not considered in this assessment. Each school is in a unique setting, with different transportation advantages and challenges. As there are limited resources to conduct Safe Routes to School assessments, the prioritization process is intended to identify schools that would benefit the most from a focused assessment; schools that were included in the



2018 Study or other recent Safe Routes to School studies were included in the updated prioritization process but are not expected to be included in the focused assessments. This memorandum is organized to outline the data and weighting criteria used in the selection process analysis, the results of the preliminary weighting process.

Evaluation Criteria

Various data sets were provided by the Hillsborough TPO and HCPS. Additionally, Fehr & Peers summarized Census Data and collision data from the CDMS collision database system. Data used in the prioritization process includes:

- School location and enrollment
- Size/dimensions of enrollment boundary area
- Underserved community designations
- Percent of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch
- High Injury Network
- Bicycle and Pedestrian fatality and serious injury locations (2017-2021)
- All Traffic crashes that involve school aged people during travel to/from school times and other times
- Roadway network characteristics
- Proximity to other schools, libraries, and recreation centers

Based on the available data, the following weighting criteria was developed to help identify school locations that should be included in the detailed study. Scoring is out of 100 points, with up to 40 points awarded to criteria that relates to equity, 40 points awarded to criteria that relates to transportation safety, and 20 points awarded for all other criteria. The evaluation criteria used for this initial assessment is presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Description/Data	Max Points/Category
1. Within a designated underserved community	An underserved community is a census block group that has a high proportion of two or more protected classes, such as racial minorities, low-income groups, persons with disabilities, zero vehicle households, female head of household, and those with limited English proficiency. Ten different characteristics are considered by the Hillsborough TPO. Schools in communities with the most protected classes would receive the most points.	20 / Equity
2. Percent of students who receive a free or reduced cost lunch	Schools with the highest level of students receiving free or reduced cost lunches would receive the maximum points with others based on the proportionate difference.	20 / Equity



Table 1: Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Description/Data	Max Points/ Category
3. Enrollment area includes Top 50 Corridor	The TPO Vision Zero Plan identifies 50 Corridors in the County that experience disproportionately high rates of fatal and serious injury collisions (KSI). These roadways can serve as barriers to walking and biking to school, and schools that have one of these roadways in their enrollment area would receive priority.	5 / Safety
4. Number of Bike/Ped KSIs within school enrollment boundary	Data representative of 2015 to 2021 was obtained from the CDMS system and all KSI collisions involving a person walking or bicycling were mapped to enrollment areas. Crashes that occurred during school hours and to school aged children were weighed higher, but all bicyclist and pedestrian related crashes were considered as they can be indicative of a barrier to walking and biking to school.	20 / Safety
5. Number of Total KSIs within school enrollment boundary	Data representative of 2015 to 2021 was obtained from the CDMS system and all KSI collisions regardless of mode were mapped to enrollment areas. Areas with high rates of crashes may serve as a barrier to people allowing their student to walk or bicycle to school. Crashes that occurred during school hours and to school aged children were weighed higher, but all crashes were considered.	15 / Safety
6. Density of students within enrollment area	Based on enrollment information from the 2021-2022 school year, the greater the density of students in the enrollment area, the greater the number of people who would benefit from an improvement or program.	5 / Other
7. Roadway network characteristics	Enrollment areas that have a higher percentage of arterial and collector roadways may have greater barriers to walking and bicycling access to school and select crossing improvements could help reduce those barriers.	5 / Other
8. Within a half mile of a school/library/community activity hub	Project could provide co-benefits to other nearby activity centers, including other schools.	10 / Other

Source: Fehr & Peers.

Other data that will be considered in individual school studies is presence/absence of sidewalks and bicycle facilities, HCPS bus stops and ridership, and the location of hazardous conditions as identified by HCPS.

A survey has been sent to all households with students in the district to identify current commute modes to school, transportation challenges and specific locations where improvements might be considered. A separate survey was also sent to all school administrators to learn about specific



school transportation challenges, as well as identify what schools in the district are doing to promote walking and bicycling to school. The results of these surveys will be used to help identify specific improvement projects, identify best practices related to safe access to school programs within the district, and to identify schools that might benefit the most from development of a customized safe access to school campaign, or identification of roadway network improvements.

Initial Ranking

Based on the data described above and the evaluation criteria, each school in the district was scored, with the top ranked for each school type identified, as shown in **Table 2** for K-5 schools, **Table 3** for middle schools, **Table 4** for high schools, and **Table 5** for K-8 schools. The majority of the top locations in each category are within the City of Tampa. This is due to several factors, including that the city has more underserved communities than other parts of the county, and as the city has a large proportion of the roadway network, a higher proportion of roadways are on the high injury network. **Table 6** presents the Top 20 schools within the City of Tampa that will be considered for more detailed evaluation as a part of this study. Top ranked schools not selected for inclusion in this focused assessment will be considered for evaluation as more funding becomes available.

After the application of the evaluation criteria, elementary schools in the district scored a high of 53 points and a low of 7 points, with the top 11 locations presented in Table 2. The top locations scored between 53 and 44 points. The 2018 study only included one elementary school, which did not make it into the updated top ranked school list. Two schools participated in past educational programs, but those occurred prior to 2015 and none of the students that participated in those programs are currently enrolled.

Table 2: Districtwide K-5 School

Name	Location	Points (out of 100)	Notes
Shaw Elementary	11311 N 15th St, Tampa	53	Located adjacent to Copeland Park that was evaluated as a part of the Safe Access to Parks Study in 2021; Walking school bus/bicycle rodeo and safety education prior to 2015
Alexander Elementary	5602 N Lois Ave, Tampa	50	
Lomax Elementary Magnet	4207 N 26th St, Tampa	49	
Clair-Mel Elementary	1025 S 78th St, Unincorporated County	48	



Table 2: Districtwide K-5 School

Name	Location	Points (out of 100)	Notes
West Tampa Elementary	2700 W Cherry St, Tampa	48	
Just Elementary	1315 W Spruce St, Tampa	48	
Potter Elementary	3224 E Cayuga St, Tampa	47	Safety education prior to 2015
B.T. Washington Elementary	1407 Estelle St, Tampa	45	
Dunbar Elementary Magnet	1730 W Union St, Tampa	45	
Kenly Elementary	2909 N 66th St, Unincorporated County	44	
Crestwood Elementary	7824 N Manhattan Ave, Unincorporated County	44	

Source: Fehr & Peers.

The scoring for middle schools ranged between 11 and 57, with the top school scoring between 45 and 57. Three of the middle schools on the top ten list were evaluated as part of the 2018 Study, as noted in Table 3.

Table 3: Districtwide Middle School

Name	Location	Points (out of 100)	Notes
Young Middle Magnet	1807 E Martin Luther King, Tampa	57	Evaluated as a part of the 2018 Study
Ferrell Middle Magnet	4302 N 24th St, Tampa	53	Evaluated as a part of the 2018 Study
Orange Grove Middle Magnet	3415 16th St, Tampa	50	
Dowdell Middle	1208 Wishing Well Way, Unincorporated County	50	
Pierce Middle	5511 N Hesperides St, Unincorporated County	49	Evaluated as a part of the 2018 Study
McLane Middle	306 N Knights Ave, Brandon	48	
Stewart Middle Magnet	1125 W Spruce St, Tampa	47	
Shields Middle	15732 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin	47	
Giunta Middle	4202 S Falkenburg Rd, Riverview	45	
Madison Middle	4444 W Bay Vista Ave, Tampa	45	

Source: Fehr & Peers.



The scoring for high schools ranged between 19 and 53, with the top school scoring between 38 and 53. Three of the high schools on the top ten list were evaluated as part of the 2018 Study, as noted in Table 4.

Table 4: Districtwide High School

Name	Location	Points (out of 100)	Notes
Blake High School	1701 N Boulevard, Tampa	53	
Spoto High School	8538 Eagle Palm Dr, Riverview	52	
Middleton High School	4801 N 22nd St, Tampa	50	Evaluated as a part of the 2018 Study
Leto High School	4409 W Sligh Ave, Unincorporated County	48	Evaluated as a part of the 2018 Study
Hillsborough High School	5000 N Central Ave, Tampa	46	
Chamberlain High School	9401 N Boulevard, Tampa	45	Evaluated as a part of the 2018 Study
East Bay High School	7710 Old Big Bend Rd, Gibsonton	44	
Lennard High School	2342 E Shell Point Rd, Ruskin	42	
Jefferson High School	4401 W Cypress St, Tampa	41	
Armwood High School	12000 E US Highway 92, Seffner	38	

Source: Fehr & Peers.

The scoring for 5-8 schools ranged between 7 and 49. One of the K-8 schools was evaluated as part of the 2018 Study, as noted in Table 4.

Table 5: Districtwide K-8

Name	Location	Points (out of 100)	Notes
Sulphur Springs Elementary	8412 N 13th St, Tampa	49	Evaluated as a part of the 2018 Study
Dr. Carter G. Woodson K-8 School	8715 N 22nd St, Tampa	41	
Roland Park K-8 Magnet	1510 N Manhattan Ave, Tampa	35	
Rampello Downtown Partnership K-8	802 E Washington St, Tampa	35	
Pizzo Elementary	11701 USF Bull Run Dr, Tampa	31	



Table 5: Districtwide K-8

Name	Location	Points (out of 100)	Notes
Maniscalco Elementary	939 De Buel Rd, Lutz	15	
Lutz Elementary	202 5th Ave SE, Lutz	14	
Turner/Bartels K-8	9020 Imperial Oak Blvd, Unincorporated County	13	Safety education prior to 2015
Tinker Elementary	8207 Tinker St, Tampa	7	

Source: Fehr & Peers.

The top 20 ranked schools within the City of Tampa are presented in Table 6, with a scoring range between 45 and 57. Seven of the top 20 schools were evaluated as part of the 2018 Study. Although those schools will not be included in the set of schools for a detailed engineering countermeasure assessment, they could be included as a focus study location for educational and encouragement programs. Of the top 20 schools in the City of Tampa, there are 8 elementary (of 74), 1 K-8 (of 7), 6 middle schools (of 25) and 5 high schools (of 15). Middle schools and high schools are over-represented in the top 20 ranking, likely due to their large enrollment areas that are more likely to include corridors with high crash frequencies.

Table 6: City of Tampa Schools – Top 20

Name	Location	Points (out of 100)	Notes
Young Middle Magnet	1807 E Martin Luther King, Tampa	57	Evaluated as a part of the 2018 Study
Shaw Elementary	11311 N 15th St, Tampa	53	Located adjacent to Copeland Park that was evaluated as a part of the Safe Access to Parks Study in 2021; Walking school bus/bicycle rodeo and safety education prior to 2015
Ferrell Middle Magnet	4302 N 24th St, Tampa	53	Evaluated as a part of the 2018 Study
Blake High School	1701 N Boulevard, Tampa	53	
Middleton High School	4801 N 22nd St, Tampa	50	Evaluated as a part of the 2018 Study
Orange Grove Middle Magnet	3415 16th St, Tampa	50	
Alexander Elementary	5602 N Lois Ave, Tampa	50	
Lomax Elementary Magnet	4207 N 26th St, Tampa	49	



Table 6: City of Tampa Schools – Top 20

Name	Location	Points (out of 100)	Notes
Sulphur Springs Elementary	8412 N 13th St, Tampa	49	Evaluated as a part of the 2018 Study
West Tampa Elementary	2700 W Cherry St, Tampa	48	
Just Elementary	1315 W Spruce St, Tampa	48	
Stewart Middle Magnet	1125 W Spruce St, Tampa	47	
Potter Elementary	3224 E Cayuga St, Tampa	47	Safety education prior to 2015
Hillsborough High School	5000 N Central Ave, Tampa	46	
Chamberlain High School	9401 N Boulevard, Tampa	45	Evaluated as a part of the 2018 Study
B.T. Washington Elementary	1407 Estelle St, Tampa	45	
Dunbar Elementary Magnet	1730 W Union St, Tampa	45	
Madison Middle	4444 W Bay Vista Ave, Tampa	45	
Cleveland Elementary	723 E Hamilton Ave, Tampa	43	
Memorial Middle	4702 N Central Ave, Tampa	43	
Tampa Bay Boulevard Elementary	3111 W Tampa Bay Blvd	43	
Desoto Elementary	2618 Corrine St	43	
Shore Elementary Magnet	1908 2nd Ave	43	

Source: Fehr & Peers.

Next Steps

We look forward to discussing with the Hillsborough TPO and the City of Tampa schools to include in more focused assessments.

The completes our initial screening to select the schools to include in the Safe Access to School study. Please contact [Kathrin Tellez](#) at (321) 754-9902 if you have questions.