



# UNIVERSITY TRANSPORTATION CENTER RESEARCH BRIEF

**PROJECT TITLE:** Washington State School Walk Score

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**INSTITUTION:** UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

**ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE:** AUGUST 2019

**SPONSORS:** THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION CONSORTIUM, WSDOT



## **Background**

Active travel to school helps children be healthy. It also reduces air pollution and noise, as well as traffic congestion. To ensure the support of parents and teachers, active school travel must be safe. We will develop a School Walkability Score which can

be applied to all K-12 schools in Washington State. The score will help parents and teachers assess walkability levels around individual schools, and it will guide DOT staff in selecting strategies which will increase walkability and safety. The score will be derived from measures of the built and transportation environment around each school (to include sidewalks, crosswalks, traffic volumes, as well as parks, vacant lands, etc.). It will be validated using school-level mode splits from the Washington State Student Travel Surveys.



## **Research Project**

We have developed and tested an approach to the School Walk Score as part of the National Institute of Health Walking School Bus project (Walking School Bus R01CA163146, J. Mendoza, PI; in collaboration with TAMU, C. Lee, PI). We will be working closely with Ms. Charlotte Claybrooke, WSDOT Safe Routes to School Coordinator, and other stakeholders to produce walkability scores for schools in Washington State. The methods will be open-sourced so others can apply them as needed.

