

Key to Route Ratings

GREEN



Most favored route. May have a detached sidewalk and/or a bike lane. May be a path that has no vehicle traffic. (A detached sidewalk is separated from the roadway, often by a strip of grass, dirt or rocks.)

ORANGE



Has attached sidewalks that are wide enough for 2 people to walk side by side. (An attached sidewalk is right next to the roadway.)

YELLOW



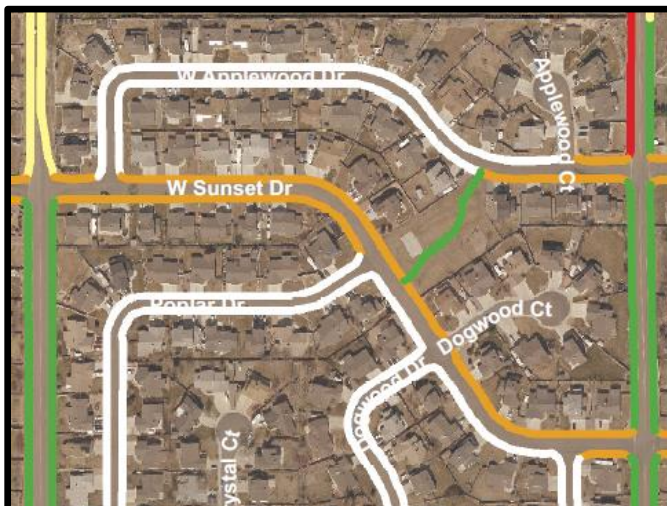
Has a place to walk or ride that may be a sidewalk, but could be a path or simply sufficient unpaved space on the side of the road.

RED



Least favored route. Pedestrians and bicyclists must use the vehicle lanes to walk or ride. (No sidewalk and little or no space beyond the white edge line on the side of the road.)

WHITE



Un-rated streets. Normally a connecting streets out of a subdivision or neighborhood used to get onto a rated street.

Practice and Reinforce: Most children are not ready to cross a street alone until age 10. However, children vary in their developmental readiness to make decisions about where and when to walk or bicycle and cross a street. You are the best judge of when your child is ready to walk or bicycle without an adult. If you have decided your child is ready for this level of responsibility, review the Walking Boundary Map and decide on an appropriate route for your child to and from school. Once you have decided on a route, review the route with your child and walk or bicycle with your child on the chosen route. Children have the best chance of retaining and applying walking and bicycling skills if they have a chance to practice them with supervision and reinforcement. If you have decided to allow your child to walk or bicycle to school without adult supervision, **please review the walk to school safety tips or the bicycling safety tips.** Go over the information with your child. As you walk or bicycle with your child on the chosen route, reinforce the safety tips and practice safe behavior.

What Can You Do?: Parents worry about children encountering bullies or strangers on the way to school and there may be a fear of kidnapping or assault. While the actual occurrences are extremely rare, there are solutions to address these concerns. Parent accompaniment of children on the walk to school is one way to solve this concern. Some communities use walking school buses as a way to have an adult presence on the street. Check with your child's school to see if they have any programs for group walking or bicycling. If not, consider starting one. There are links to various web sites on the walk to school safety tips and the bicycling safety tips documents that can assist you in starting a program. When there are more adults and children walking and biking on the road, the community becomes accustomed to their presence which creates a safer environment.