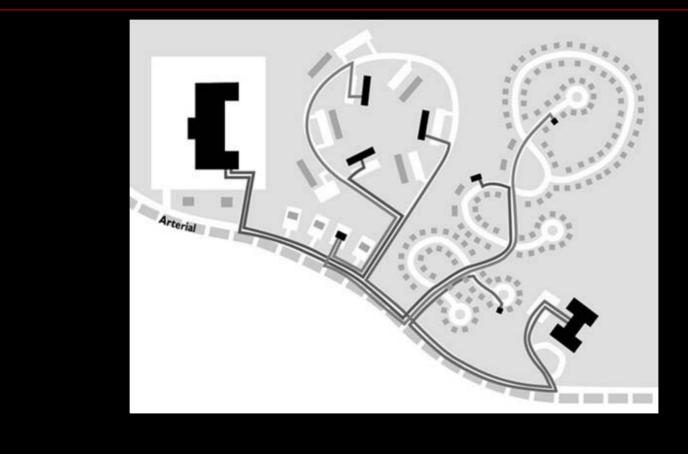
The Impact of School Siting on Children's Health and Physical Activity

David Salvesen Center for Urban and Regional Studies University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

The Built Environment

- Land use density, mix of uses
- Transportation system roads, sidewalks, street pattern, accessibility, connectivity
- Urban design trees, aesthetics, scenery

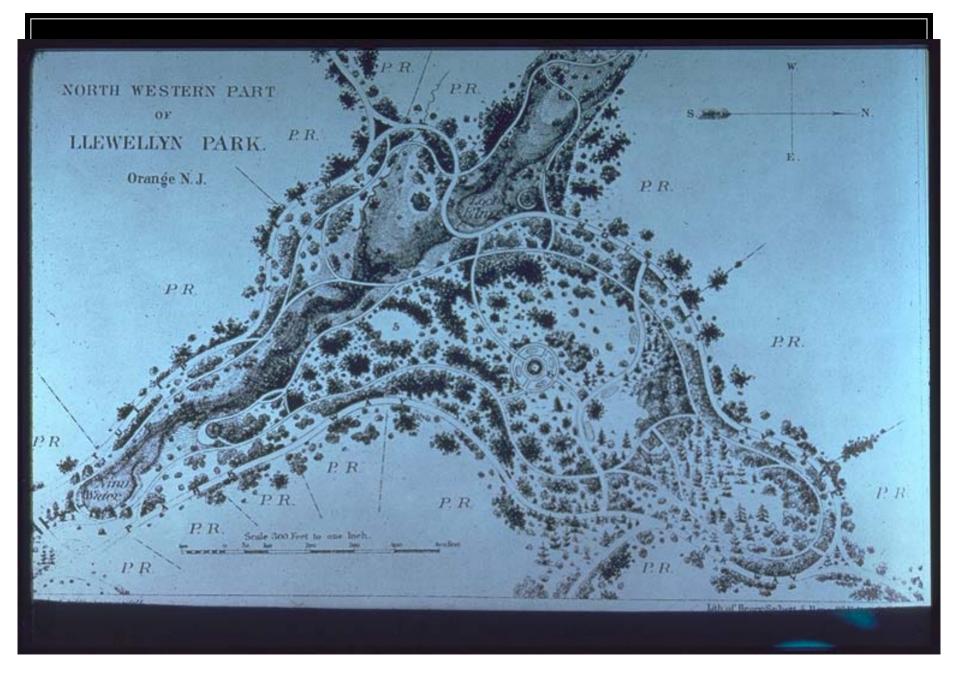
Land Use





Land Use Pattern: Low-density Subdivision





Separation vs. Integration of Uses



Transportation System



Design

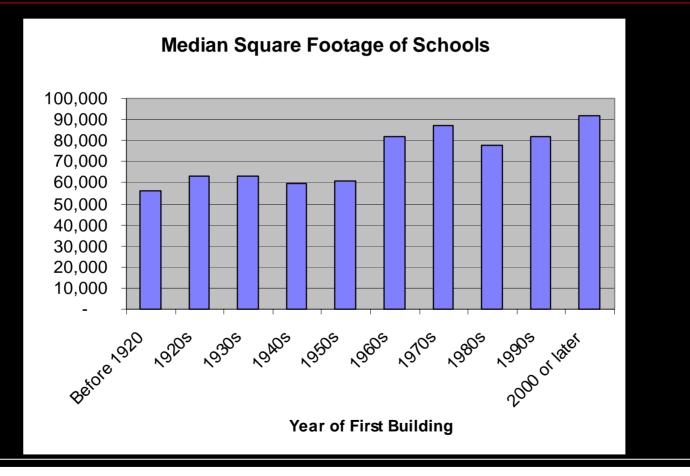


School Siting Trends

 Larger schools on bigger sites
 More distant locations



Schools Getting Larger





Factors Driving School Siting Trends

Suburbanization Build where the kids are **Economics** Economies of scale Land cheaper on suburban fringe **State Policies** Consolidation Facilities guidelines

NC Policies: Facilities Guidelines

K-6	10+1/100 ADM			
5-8	15+1/100 ADM			
7-9	20+1/100 ADM			
9-12	30+1/100 ADM			

Impacts of the Trends

- More students arriving by car
 Traffic jams at schools
- Fewer kids walking or biking to school



Decline in Walking & Biking to School

In 1969, 48% of students between the ages of five and 15 walked/biked to school.

In 2001, less than
 15% walked and only
 1% rode bikes



Obstacles to Walking

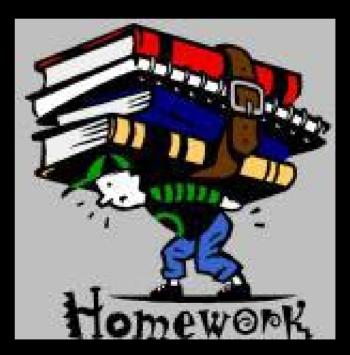
National survey (800 adults) in 2002
Reasons for not walking:

Too far (66%)
No safe route (17%)
Not convenient (15%)

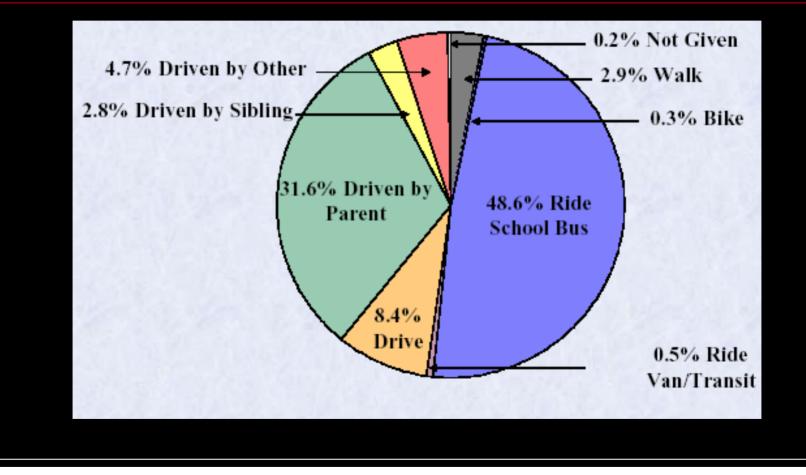
STTP, 2002

Other Obstacles

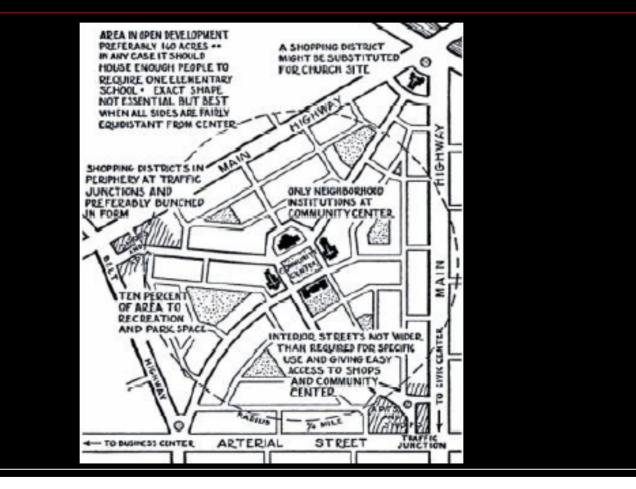




Travel to School



Neighborhood Unit (Perry, 1929)



Mary Scroggs Elementary



Site Plan: Southern Village



Concluding Remarks

- Walkable schools require walkable neighborhoods
- Need for collaboration between school boards and local governments
- Changing built environment isn't sufficient, attitudes & perceptions matter too.
- Tradeoffs between walking and diversity
- Encouraging more children to walk or bike to school may put them at greater risk