

Planning for Safe Routes to Schools





Safe Routes to School Projects

- Often individual school-based rather than citywide/ district-wide
- May not be integrated with other master planning efforts
- May be reactive and focused on trying to meet grant application deadline



Benefits of Strategic Planning for Safe Routes

- Clear understanding of overall needs and priorities
- Coordinate infrastructure and non-infrastructure elements
- Efficient allocation of limited resources
- Integration into other city master plans
- Build local capacity / sustainability
- Position for future funding



Elements of SR2S Planning

- Prioritize schools
- Assess existing conditions and needs
- Outreach
- Develop project and program recommendations
- Prioritize schools
- Funding and implementation

Santa Clarita: Integrating SR2S into a Non-Motorized Plan

- 3 school districts
- 26 elementary schools
- Prioritized all elementary schools
- Identified 4 pilot schools
 - Walk Audits
 - Improvement Plans
- SR2S Chapter in plan



City of Santa Clarita
Non-Motorized Transportation Plan



Prepared by Alta Planning + Design
October 2007





Prioritization Criteria

- Readily available Census, SWITRS, roadway, land use data
 - Population density
 - Ped/bike collisions
 - Vehicle ownership (car-free households)
 - Arterials within school boundary
 - Arterials adjacent to school grounds

“Prioritizing Schools for Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Projects” by Carl Sundstrom et. al. (ITE Journal, Feb 2010) uses similar criteria.

GIS Based Matrix

Attachment A: Santa Clarita Elementary Schools
City of Santa Clarita

School Name	District	Grades	Enrollment	Population Density	Ped/Bike Collision Numbers	Frontage Street			Car-Free Households	Population Density (quartile)	Ped/Bike Collision Rate (quartile)	Frontage Street (actual number)	Arterial Crossing (quartile)	Car-Free Household (quartile)	Unweighted Score		Weighted Score
						1=residential	2=collector	3=arterial							4	Max 23	
Bouquet Canyon Elementary School	Saugus Union School District	K-6	561	3484	4	1	2	1.79%	2	3	1	4	1	11		13	
Bridgeport Elementary School	Saugus Union School District	K-6	903	1887	0	3	0	6.83%	1	1	3	2	4	11		11.5	
Canyon Springs Community School	Sulphur Springs School District	K-6	824	4728	19	1	0	2.27%	3	4	1	2	2	12		14.5	
Cedarcreek Elementary School	Saugus Union School District	K-6	691	3487	10	1	0	4.95%	1	4	1	2	4	12		15.5	
Emblem Elementary School	Saugus Union School District	K-6	264	3683	10	1	0	3.00%	2	4	1	2	2	11		14	
Helmers Elementary School	Saugus Union School District	K-6	973	5359	0	2	0	2.19%	3	1	2	2	2	10		9.5	
Highlands Elementary School	Saugus Union School District	K-6	703	6235	2	1	0	1.58%	4	2	1	2	1	10		10	
James Foster Elementary School	Saugus Union School District	K-6	678	6316	1	1	1	1.92%	4	2	1	3	1	11		11	
Leona Cox Community School	Sulphur Springs School District	K-6	496	2547	4	1	0	2.44%	1	3	1	2	2	9		11.5	
McGrath Elementary School	Newhall School District	k-6	674	3218	2	1	0	6.81%	1	2	1	2	4	10		11.5	
Meadows Elementary School	Newhall School District	k-6	719	6854	6	1	2	5.35%	4	3	1	4	4	16		17	
Mitchell Community School	Sulphur Springs School District	K-6	749	1777	3	1	1	3.90%	1	3	1	3	3	11		13.5	
Mountain View Elementary School	Saugus Union School District	K-6	1067	1752	0	1	1	0.29%	1	1	1	3	1	7		7.5	
Newhall Elementary School	Newhall School District	k-6	667	4848	22	1	2	10.93%	3	4	1	4	4	16		18.5	
North Park Elementary School	Saugus Union School District	K-6	919	4238	0	2	2	4.86%	3	1	2	4	4	14		13.5	
Old Orchard Elementary School	Newhall School District	k-6	517	5395	14	1	1	3.99%	4	4	1	3	3	15		17	
Peachland Elementary School	Newhall School District	k-6	571	4851	11	2	0	6.41%	3	4	2	2	4	15		17.5	
Pinetree Community School	Sulphur Springs School District	K-6	803	3542	1	1	0	1.55%	2	2	1	2	1	8		9	
Rio Vista Elementary School	Saugus Union School District	K-6	980	4165	12	1	0	1.58%	2	4	1	2	1	10		13	
Rosedell Elementary School	Saugus Union School District	K-6	731	3553	6	1	2	2.83%	2	3	1	4	2	12		14	
Santa Clarita Elementary School	Saugus Union School District	K-6	612	5088	2	3	2	1.82%	3	2	3	4	1	13		13.5	
Skyblue Mesa Elementary School	Saugus Union School District	K-6	490	2606	1	1	1	1.49%	1	2	1	3	1	8		9.5	
Sulphur Springs Community School	Sulphur Springs School District	K-6	761	1094	1	1	1	4.39%	1	2	1	3	3	10		11.5	
Valencia Valley Elementary School	Newhall School District	k-6	731	6095	5	1	1	3.79%	4	3	1	3	3	14		15	
Valley View Community School	Sulphur Springs School District	K-6	773	4082	0	2	1	3.48%	2	1	2	3	3	11		11	
Wiley Canyon Elementary School	Newhall School District	k-6	735	5147	3	1	1	2.92%	3	3	1	3	2	12		13.5	

Selected Schools

- Top ranked school in each school district
- Second ranked school in largest school district



Pilot School Activities

- Walking audits with teachers, parents and stakeholders
- Improvement plans
- Development of a 5 E's Toolkit
- Grant applications



NEWHALL ELEMENTARY SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

EXISTING CONDITIONS:
PROPOSED BULB-OUT LOCATIONS



Chestnut Street & 13th Street, looking southwest



Newhall Avenue & 13th Street, looking northwest



Walnut Street & 12th Street, looking southeast



Chestnut Street & 11th Street looking southwest



EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Yellow transverse crosswalks at adjacent intersections
- Standard yellow MUTCD school area signage
- Unprotected crossings at:
 - Newhall Avenue & 11th Street
 - Newhall Avenue & 13th Street
 - Chestnut Street & 13th Street
 - Walnut Street & 13th Street
 - Walnut Avenue & 12th Street
 - 11th Street & Chestnut Street
- Crossing guard at Newhall Avenue & 13th Street

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Install bulb-outs, ladder-style crosswalks, and fluorescent yellow green Assembly B signage at:
 - Newhall Avenue & 13th Street
 - Chestnut Street & 13th Street
 - Walnut Avenue & 12th Street
 - Chestnut Street & 11th Street
- Replace existing transverse crosswalks adjacent to school area with ladder-style crosswalks.
- Install pedestrian countdown signals at intersection of Lyons Avenue & Newhall Avenue.
- Install speed feedback signs in both directions on Newhall Avenue.
- Inventory school area signage to ensure compliance with 2003 California MUTCD. Add or remove signage as needed.
- Replace existing yellow school area signage with fluorescent yellow-green signage.
- Refresh pavement markings as needed.

LEGEND

- ☀ signalized intersection
- ▲ three-way stop
- four-way stop



MUTCD Assembly B



Aerial by GIS City of Santa Clara 2002-2006



How were the NMTP Pilot School Recommendations Used?

- City systematically applied for SR2S and SRTS grants (2007-present)
- Capital Funding Awarded: 12 school projects constructed, 3 designed totaling \$2.5 million
- 2 Year Federal SRTS Non Infrastructure Funded

Newhall School Before



Newhall School After



Newhall School Before



Newhall School After



Cedar Creek School Before



Cedar Creek School After



Cedar Creek School Before



Cedar Creek School After

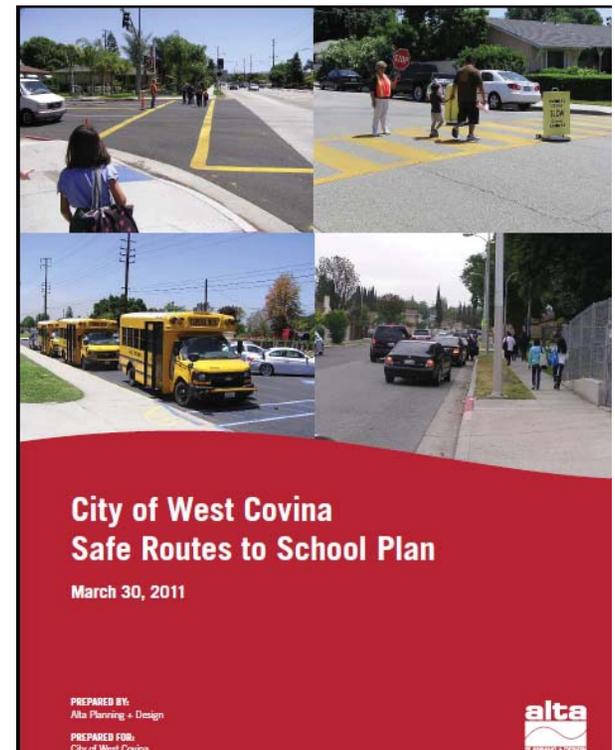
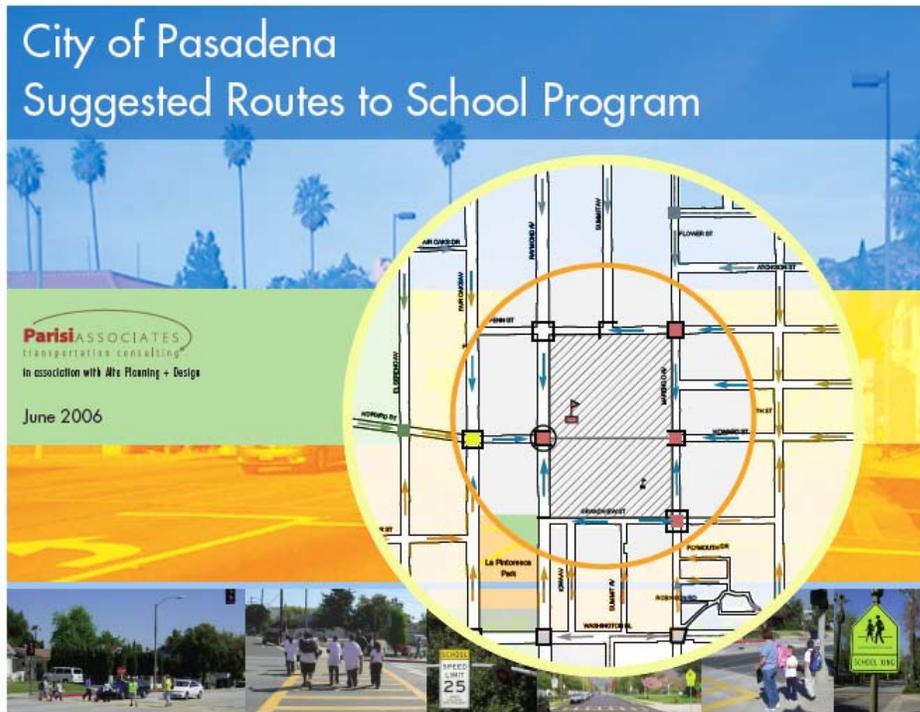


Non-Infrastructure Program

- Education, encouragement programs at 4 pilot schools
- Walking School Bus Training
- Outreach and needs assessments at remaining elementary schools



Developing Stand-Alone Safe Routes Plans





Advantages of Stand-Alone Safe Routes Planning

- Comprehensive citywide or district-wide needs assessment
- Prioritization occurs after all recommendations developed
- May allow more schools to receive some basic level of improvement (e.g. minor signing / striping)
- Supports Task Force structure



Data Gathering: Surveys

- Parent
- School Administrator
- Jurisdictional

Appendix C: Principal Survey

Background Information Form:

West Covina Safe Routes to School Study

Thank you for your assistance with this important plan. Please return your completed form, along with any supplemental maps, photos and documents, by April 3, 2020 in the self-addressed and stamped envelope provided.

1. Name of School _____

2. Contact Information

Principal's Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Fax _____

Email _____

3. Enrollment Information

Total Enrollment _____

Enrollment by Grade

K _____ 6 _____ 12 _____
 1 _____ 7 _____
 2 _____ 8 _____
 3 _____ 9 _____
 4 _____ 10 _____
 5 _____ 11 _____

Mapa de rutas recomendadas para ir caminando o en bicicleta hasta la escuela

- El objetivo del mapa es identificar las mejores rutas para que los niños vayan caminando o en bicicleta hasta la escuela. Necesitamos su ayuda para asegurarnos que los mapas son exactos y que muestran las mejores rutas en su barrio.
- Por favor ayude a su(s) niño(s) a resaltar en el mapa que figura al dorso, la ruta para ir caminando o en bicicleta hasta la escuela.
- Su aporte será utilizado para refinar nuestras fichas de rutas ciclistas y pedestres recomendadas y producirá un juego de mapas final que podrá ser distribuido en la escuela.
- Su aporte también ayudará a la ciudad a identificar las áreas problemáticas que necesitan atención, tales como veredas que faltan o intersecciones difíciles.

1. Si su niño va caminando o en bicicleta hasta la escuela, ¿qué ruta sigue?

POR FAVOR AYUDE A SU NIÑO A RESALTAR EN EL MAPA AL DORSO, LA RUTA PARA IR CAMINANDO O EN BICICLETA HASTA LA ESCUELA.

2. ¿Qué asuntos de seguridad dificultan que su niño vaya caminando o en bicicleta hasta la escuela? Los ejemplos pueden incluir veredas faltantes, cruces sin señales de detención o zonas de asensos y descensos muy congestionadas.

POR FAVOR ENCIERRE CON UN CÍRCULO LAS ÁREAS PROBLEMÁTICAS EN EL MAPA.

3. ¿Tiene alguna sugerencia para mejorar las preocupaciones de seguridad que haya identificado? ENUMERE LAS MEJORAS QUE LE GUSTARÍA VER PARA QUE LA RUTA CICLISTA/PEDESTRE DE SU HIJO SEA MÁS SEGURA.

Adjunte hojas adicionales de ser necesario.

Encuesta de los padres

1. ¿Cuántos niños tiene asistiendo a esta escuela?

2. ¿En qué grado(s) están sus hijos?

3. ¿Cómo va su niño a la escuela? ¿Días por semana?

4. ¿Cómo llega su niño DE la escuela? ¿Días por semana?

5. Si su niño no va caminando o en bicicleta a la escuela, ¿cuáles son los motivos?

Retroalimentación

¿Cómo podemos mejorar el mapa?

¿Es útil el mapa que figura al dorso de esta encuesta para ver cómo su niño debería ir caminando o en bicicleta hasta la escuela?

Washington Elementary

Summary of Survey Responses

Responses: 71 / 250 = 28%

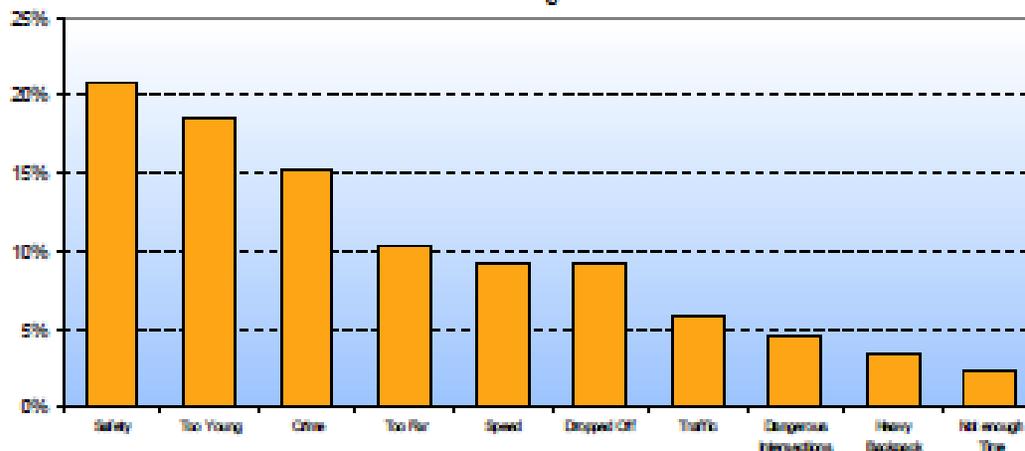
Enrollment: 630

Percent Responded: 11% of total enrollment

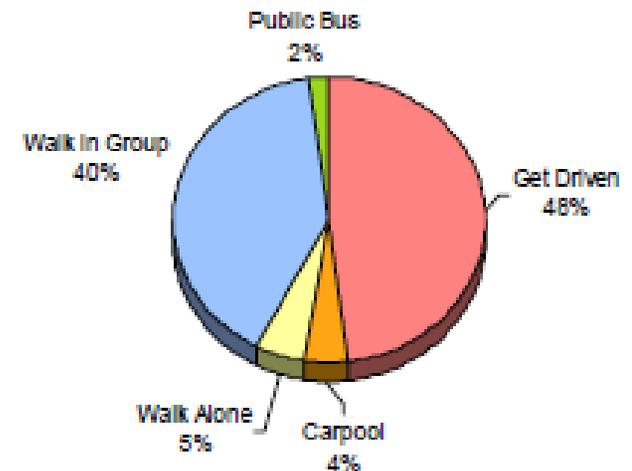
Key Issues Noted:

1. Cars speed at Fair Oaks/Howard and there have been many accidents
2. Raymond is too busy; parents park in the street; kids don't look before crossing; drivers don't come to a complete stop all make this a dangerous area
3. Crossing guards needed at Raymond/Grandview and at Marengo/Grandview
4. Would like parents to drop kids off in designated areas only
5. Does not trust the neighborhood; will only drive kids to school
6. Install pedestrian/flashing light at Raymond/Howard; install stop sign at Summit/Penn
7. Add stop lights on corner next to school
8. Install bigger sign on Marengo/Howard and repaint the crosswalks
9. Cars drive too fast on Howard and don't stop for pedestrians

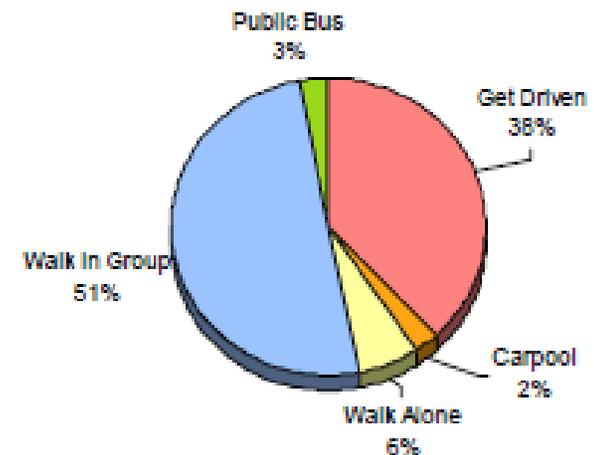
Washington Elementary School
Reasons for Not Walking to or from School



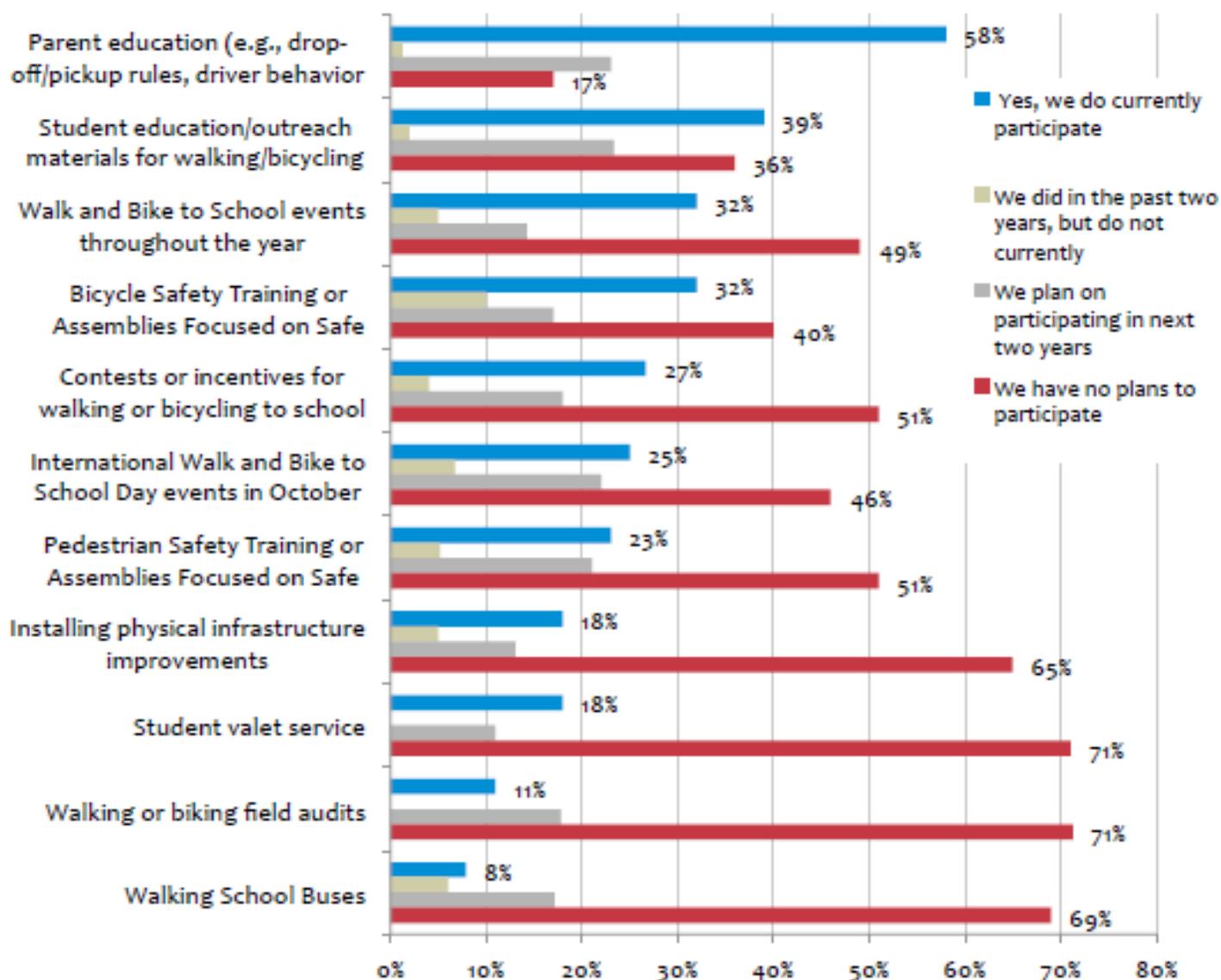
Washington Elementary School
Morning Mode Share 2005



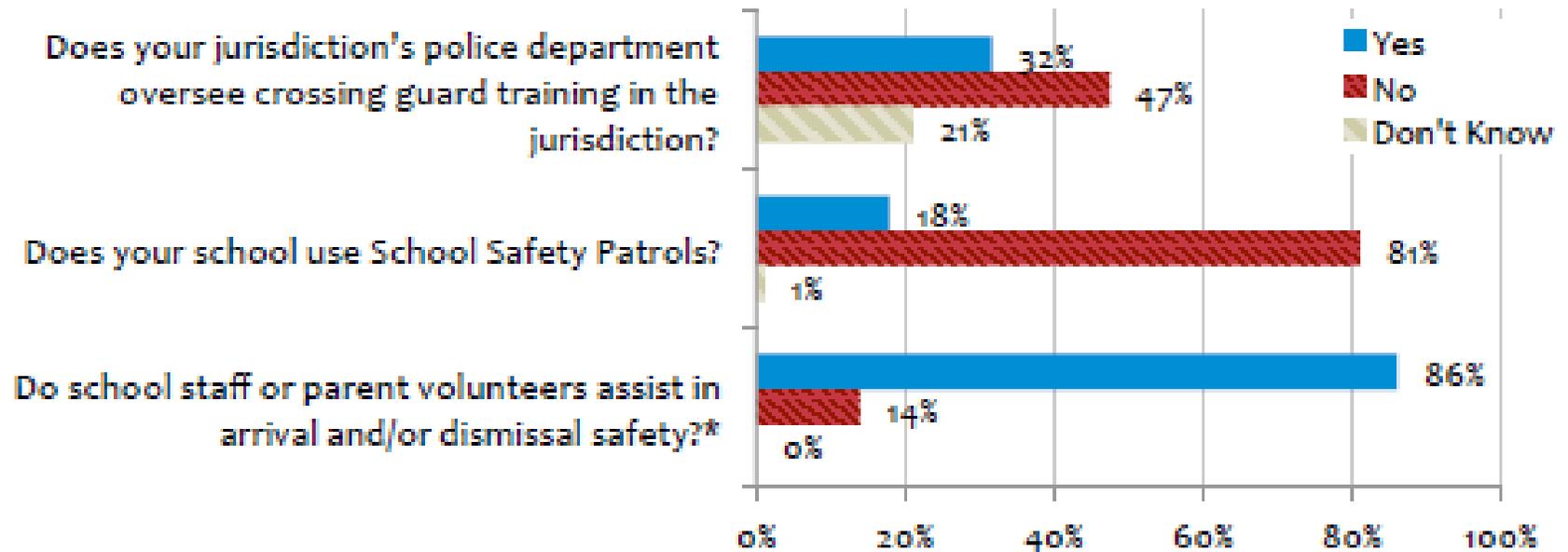
Washington Elementary School
Afternoon Mode Share 2005



Participation in Safe Routes Programs, Countywide



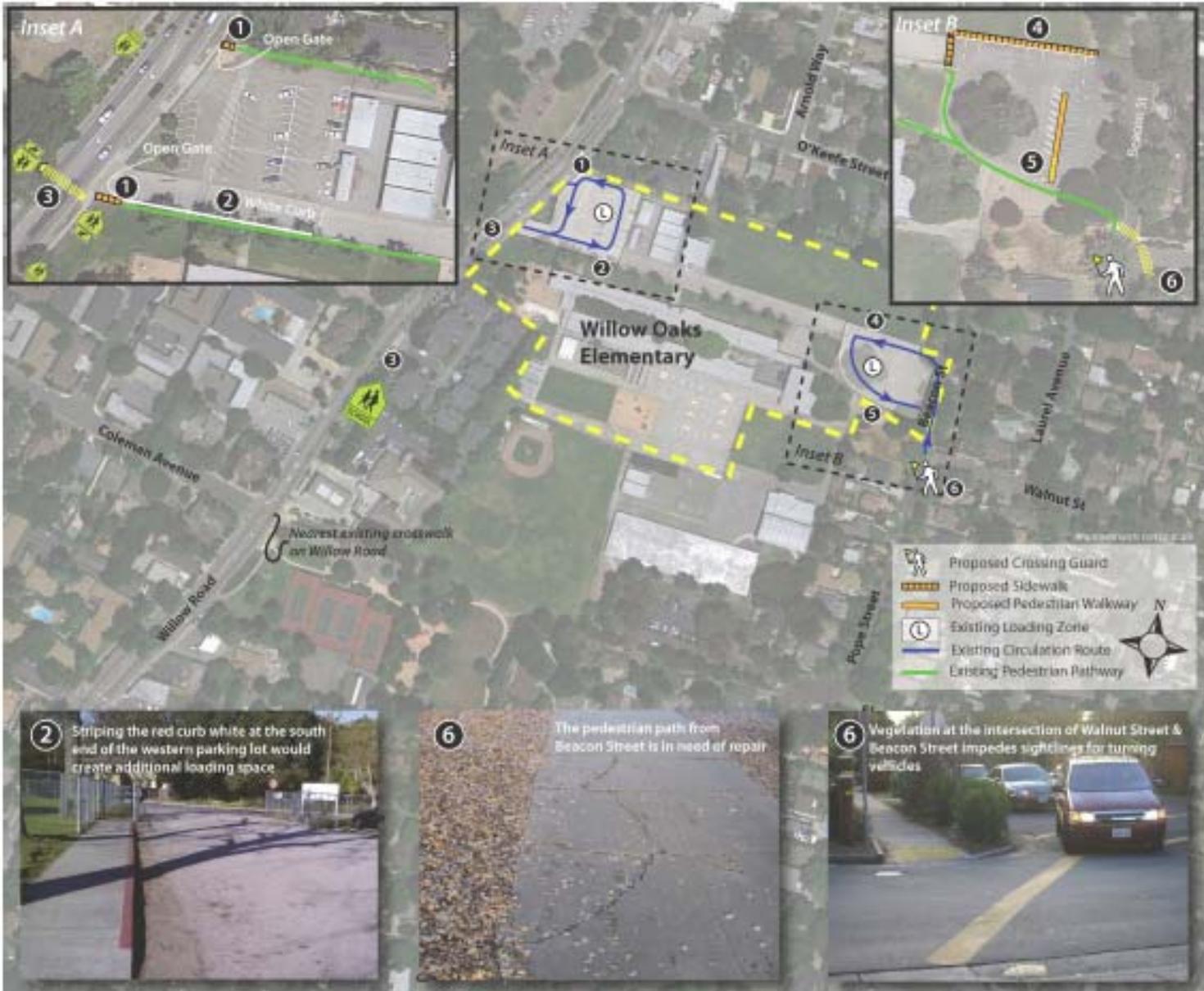
Safety at Schools, Countywide



Outreach

- Opportunity to establish city / district Safe Routes Task Force
- Walk Audits can effectively “kick off” and mobilize school based outreach
- Pick early wins, build on success





Willow Oaks Elementary Improvement Plan

- 1 West Parking Lot - Willow Road**
 - Construct sidewalk on school property to reach sidewalk on Willow Road
 - Open currently locked gate where the sidewalks will meet
- 2 West Parking Lot - Loading Zone**
 - Restripe red curb along southern loading zone with white paint
 - Assign staff or parent & student volunteers to assist pick-up and drop off; outfit with fluorescent yellow vests
 - Develop parking lot circulation plan for distribution among parents
- 3 Willow Road**
 - Stripe high-visibility yellow crosswalk on Willow Road immediately south of the parking lot entrance
 - Construct curb ramp on the west side of the crosswalk
 - Fit curb ramp on the east side of the crosswalk with yellow truncated domes
 - Install Assembly B signage at the crosswalk and Assembly D signage approximately 100 feet in advance of the crossing
 - Install Assembly A signage 500 feet in advance of the school on Willow Road in the northbound direction
- 4 East Parking Lot - Northern Loading Zone**
 - Construct walkway along northern edge of the east parking lot and stripe the curb white to formalize space as additional loading area
- 5 East Parking Lot - Southern Loading Zone**
 - Instruct school buses to pull fully into bus bay before unloading to provide additional parent loading space
 - Organize parent & student valet system
 - Consider restriping plan for parking lot to introduce hatched pedestrian walkways
- 6 Beacon Street at Walnut Street**
 - Consider a crossing guard for this location
 - Restripe existing transverse crosswalks with high-visibility yellow crosswalks
 - Trim vegetation in northeast corner to improve sightlines
 - Repair the pedestrian walkway from this intersection into school grounds



2 Striping the red curb white at the south end of the western parking lot would create additional loading space



6 The pedestrian path from Beacon Street is in need of repair



6 Vegetation at the intersection of Walnut Street & Beacon Street impedes sightlines for turning vehicles



San Mateo County/Reverwood Safe Routes to School

5 E's of Recommendations



See Our Updated Website
& New Route Maps



**Your Kids. Your School.
Your Community.**

www.solanosr2s.ca.gov

- Like Us on Facebook 
- Tell Us About Your Route to School
- Take the SR2S Parent Survey
- Volunteer for a Walking School Bus

bike car pool walk



Sign up for the new SchoolPool matching program. SchoolPool is a free service to help parents share the responsibility of getting their children to school.

- Register online and get a matchlist of other parents
- E-mail or call to arrange ridesharing
- Get acquainted with other parents and discuss ridesharing

Now that's cool!

Parents: Sign up today at www.schoolpool.511.org



511 school pool Let's explore the options in our neighborhood to carpool, walk or bike together to and from school. Synonym: WalkShare, Carpool.

The SchoolPool program is supported by the Fremont Unified School District, New Haven Unified School District and Milpitas Unified School District, San Ramon Valley Area CTA and SchoolPool technology is provided by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

**WALKING SCHOOL BUS
TRAINING GUIDEBOOK**



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
SantaClaraSR2S.org

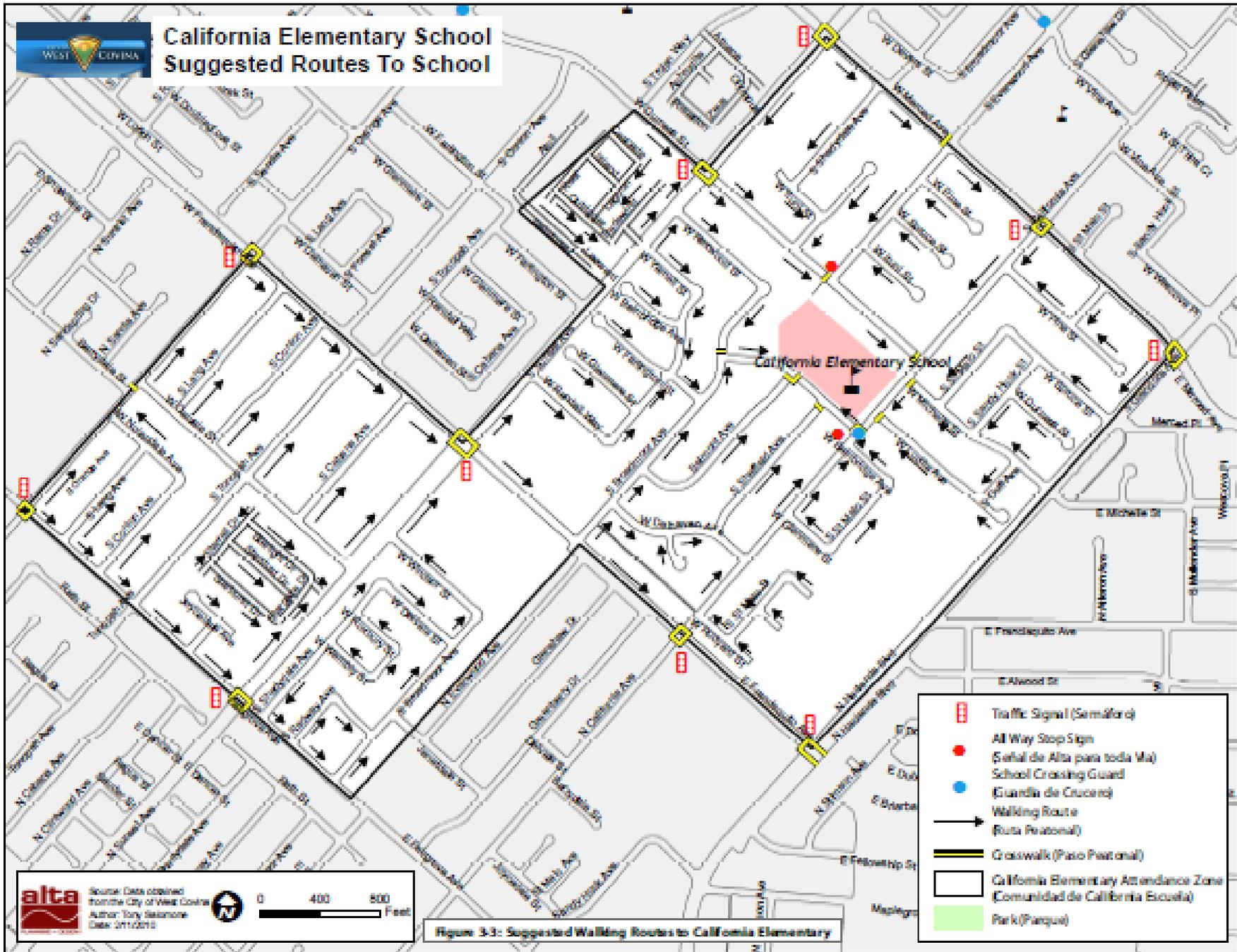


Prepared by Alta Planning + Design



California Elementary School Suggested Routes To School



alta Source: Data obtained from the City of West Covina
 Author: Tony Gasconero
 Date: 3/11/2015

0 400 500 Feet

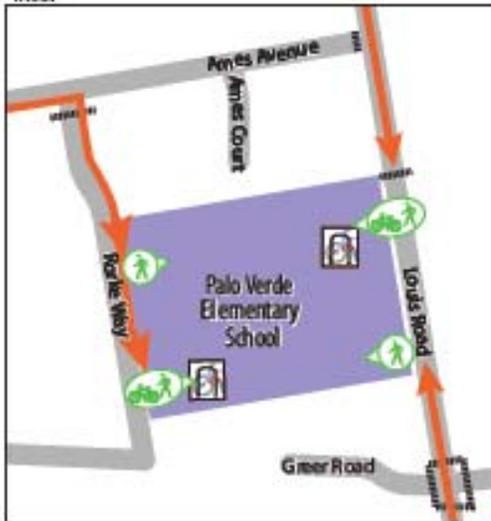
Figure 3-3: Suggested Walking Routes to California Elementary

Palo Verde Elementary School

WALK AND ROLL TO SCHOOL SUGGESTED ROUTES **DRAFT**

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
|  | School |  | Bicycle Parking |
|  | Suggested Route (Walking and Biking) |  | Traffic Signal |
|  | XX Minute Walk to School |  | All-Way Stop |
|  | XX Minute Bike to School |  | Marked Crosswalk |
|  | Crossing Guard Location |  | Enrollment Area |
|  | Pedestrian-Only Access |  | Parks and Open Space |
|  | Bicycle-Only Access | | |
|  | Pedestrian and Bicycle Access | | |

Inset



For more information on Palo Alto's bicycling resources and the City's bikeways map, please visit <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/pln/transportation/bicycling/default.asp>

It is the responsibility of parents to find the most appropriate route based on the experience level of the child and knowledge of conditions on the route between home and school.





Implementation

- Apply prioritization to citywide / district-wide list of recommendations
- Approach recommendations strategically
 - Identified needs
 - CIP
 - Planned street overlays
 - Upcoming grants
- Link infrastructure and non-infrastructure



Quick Fixes to Build Momentum

- Palo Alto: City traffic engineering staff attend all walk audits – develop work orders for immediate signage and striping upgrades



Thank you!



Contact Info

Brett Hondorp, Principal

Alta Planning + Design

448 S. Hill Street, Suite 501, Los Angeles, CA

bhondorp@altaplanning.com

510 206 3304

www.altaplanning.com

