



OAK RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WALK AUDIT REPORT

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HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

This walk audit report is intended to guide infrastructure improvements near Oak Ridge Elementary School with the goals of improving safety for pedestrians and people on bikes, as well as enabling more students to choose active methods of travel to school. Safe Routes to School programs not only benefit students, but also benefit the broader community by slowing traffic in neighborhoods, improving access to destinations, and providing opportunities for physical activity and improved health outcomes. The recommendations in this report are informed and influenced through engagement with parents, students, community partners, and school staff.

Please note that this report is not a standard, specification, regulation, or official engineering study and should not be used for establishing civil liability. This report highlights needs and potential solutions within this community. The implementation of any strategy contained within this report should be made on the basis of an official engineering study at each location. Instead, this report should be used to further plan improvements and respond to identified needs within this community.

LOCAL AGENCY STAFF

Local agency staff should use this report to support funding applications for active transportation infrastructure projects. The recommendations in this report are informed by a community-based planning process, which is a critical component of grant competitiveness at the State and regional levels. Additionally, this report includes key data and community-identified priorities that can inform current or future planning efforts.

SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICT

The school should use this report to advocate for built environment change that impacts student health, wellness, and success. This report also includes education, encouragement, and enforcement recommendations that can be incorporated into an ongoing Safe Routes to School program.

The school district should use this report to identify and implement changes that can be made on site to improve walking and biking for students.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Community members should use this report to advocate for built environment change in the community. This report also includes education and encouragement recommendations that parents and community members may be able to implement in partnership with the school as well as their own students.

SCHOOL LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

Oak Ridge Elementary School is located at 4501 Martin Luther King Boulevard in the City of Sacramento. For the 2017-2018 school year, approximately 502 students were enrolled in grades K-6, of which 91% were eligible for free or reduced price meals.¹ The 2015-2016 attendance boundary is shown to the right.

Oak Ridge Elementary is situated within a disadvantaged community which ranks in the third highest percentile (71-80%) for social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities as defined by CalEnviroScreen 3.0². CalEnviroScreen 3.0 identifies communities most affected by pollution and where residents are vulnerable to adverse environmental impacts.

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard is a high speed arterial with inadequate pedestrian facilities. Oak Ridge Elementary is directly adjacent to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and many students cross this arterial to travel to and from school. Oak Ridge Elementary has been identified as one of the 20 High Injury Network Schools as part of the City of Sacramento's Vision Zero Action Plan. The schools were selected based on the number of collisions within ¼ mile of the school.³ Additionally, Highway 99 is located on the western border in the attendance boundary and impacts neighborhood streets where students live. The attendance boundary contains a major freeway and high speed arterials, drives up the speed of the neighborhood streets surrounding the school.

Although geographically located within a disadvantaged area, Oak Ridge Elementary School benefits from involvement from dedicated staff, parents, and community based organizations. This is critically important for ensuring access, attainment, and success. These partners are also valuable to ensuring the success of future Safe Routes to School efforts.



2015-2016 Attendance Boundary for Oak Ridge Elementary

¹ California Department of Education, Free/Reduced Meals Program and CalWORKS Data Files, 2018. Available from <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/sd/files.asp>. Accessed September 2018.

² CalEnviroScreen 3.0, California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, 2017. Available from <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>. Accessed September 2018.

³ City of Sacramento, Vision Zero School Safety Study. Available from <https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Public-Works/Transportation/Programs-and-Services/Vision-Zero/School-Safety-Study>. Accessed November 2018.

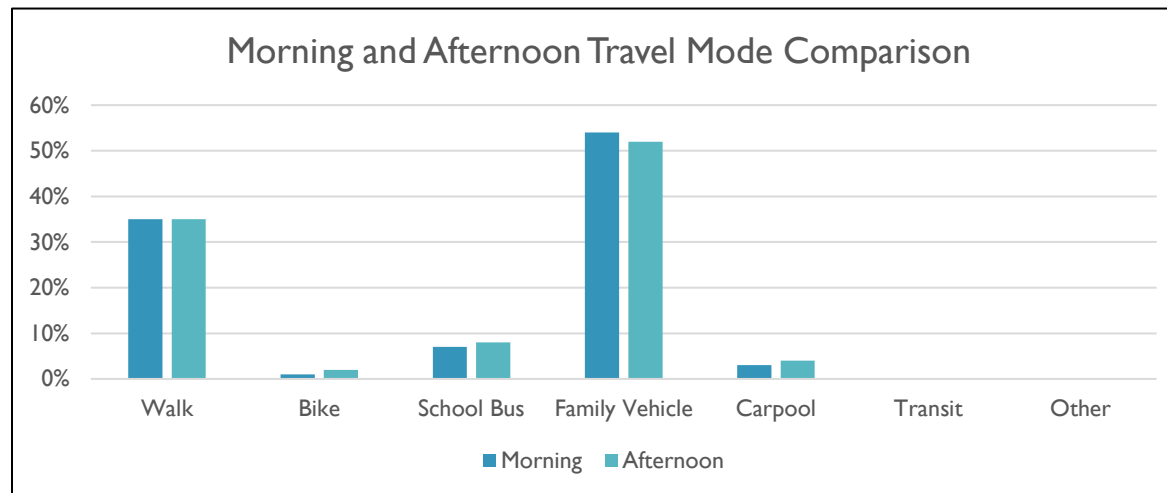
EXISTING CONDITIONS

MODE SPLIT

Using the National Center for Safe Routes to School Student Travel Tally⁴, in-class tallies of student travel mode were conducted over a period of three days in October 2018. 1,496 trips were tallied across 15 classes. While driving is the most popular mode, more than 1/3 of students walk to school. The tally results are shown below.

	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Tuesday AM	313	36%	0.6%	7%	55%	2%	0%	0%
Tuesday PM	289	34%	1%	8%	54%	3%	0%	0%
Wednesday AM	235	36%	1%	6%	52%	4%	0%	0%
Wednesday PM	213	37%	2%	8%	46%	6%	0%	0%
Thursday AM	238	33%	1%	7%	56%	3%	0%	0%
Thursday PM	208	32%	1%	7%	54%	5%	0%	0%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.



Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

⁴ National Center for Safe Routes to School, Evaluation: Student In-Class Travel Tally, 2009, available <http://saferoutesinfo.org/program-tools/evaluation-student-class-travel-tally>; Internet: accessed November 2018.

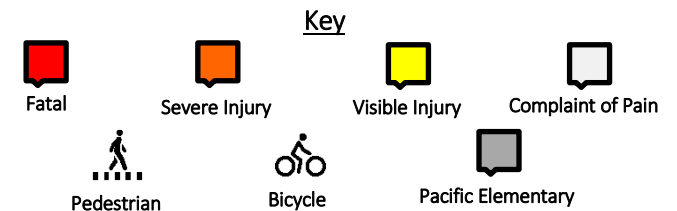
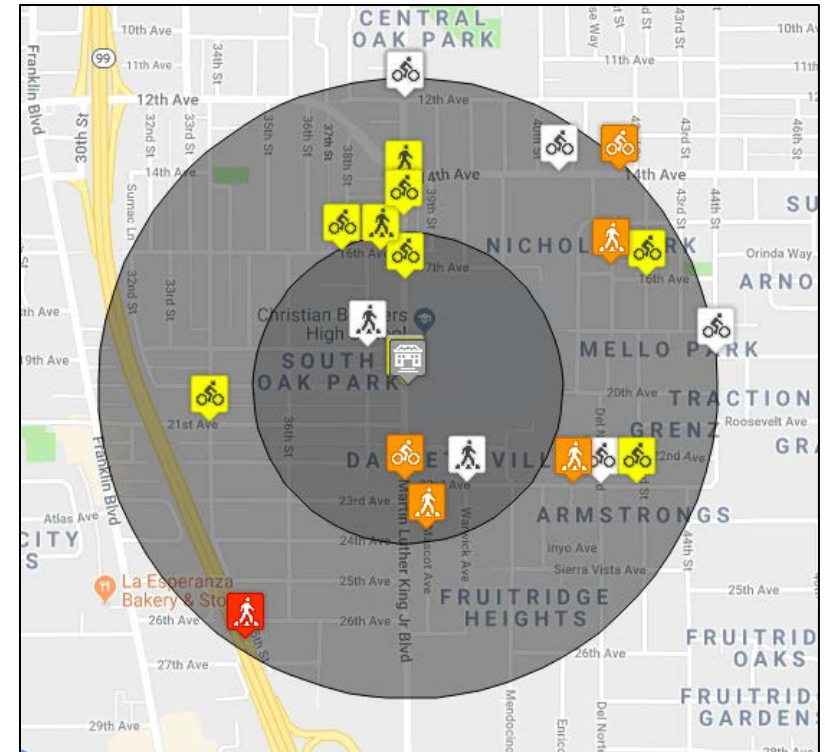
TRAFFIC INJURY MAPPING

Between 2012 and 2016, there were 23 reported collisions involving motorists and non-motorists within a ½ mile radius of the school.⁵ Most collisions occurred between 7:30am and 5:00pm on weekdays, which are popular student travel times. The majority of collisions occurred along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, which is a busy arterial street that many students must cross in order to get to and from school. Additionally, there are a number of severe collisions that occur on neighborhood streets surrounding the school, where students and community members often observe speeding and lack of safe crossing opportunities. A combination of infrastructure improvements, such as traffic calming and improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities, as well as pedestrian, bike and driver education may improve traffic safety conditions for students.

TIMS Injury Summary Statistics: Pedestrian and Bicycle Injuries 2012-2016 within ½ Mile of Oak Ridge Elementary School

Radius	Fatal	Severe Injury	Visible Injury	Complaint of Pain	Pedestrian	Bicycle	Total
< ¼ mi	0	2	4	3	4	5	9
¼ - ½ mi	1	3	5	5	4	10	14
Total	1	5	9	8	8	15	23

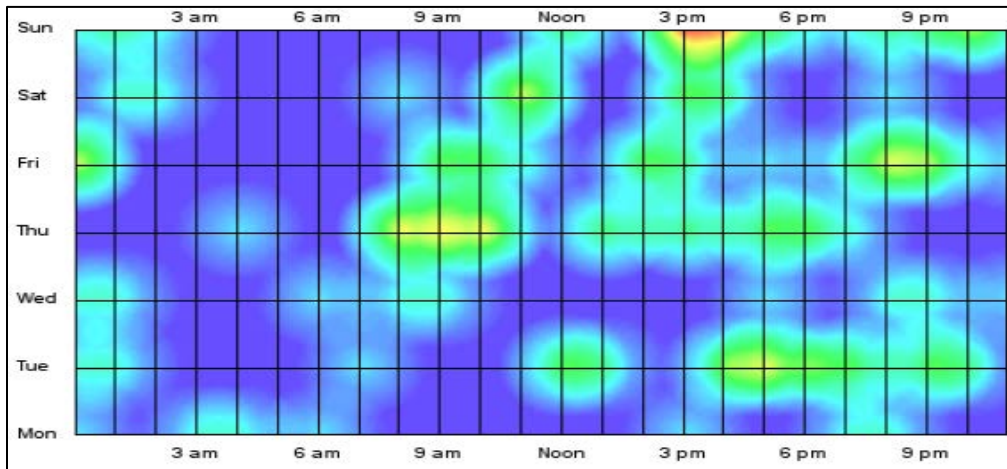
Traffic Injury Mapping System: Collisions reported within a ½ mile of Oak Ridge Elementary School January 2012 – December 2016.



⁵ UC Berkley Transportation Injury Mapping System: Safe Routes to School Collision Map Viewer, available at <https://tims.berkeley.edu/tools/srts/>. Accessed September 2018.

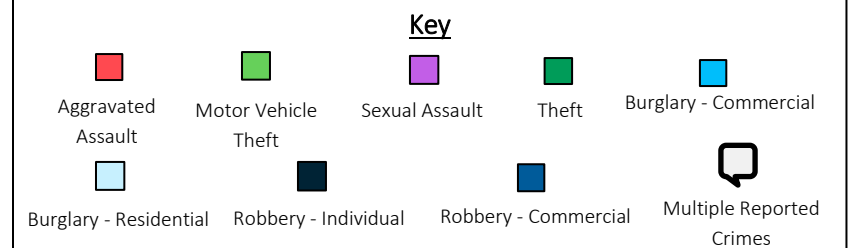
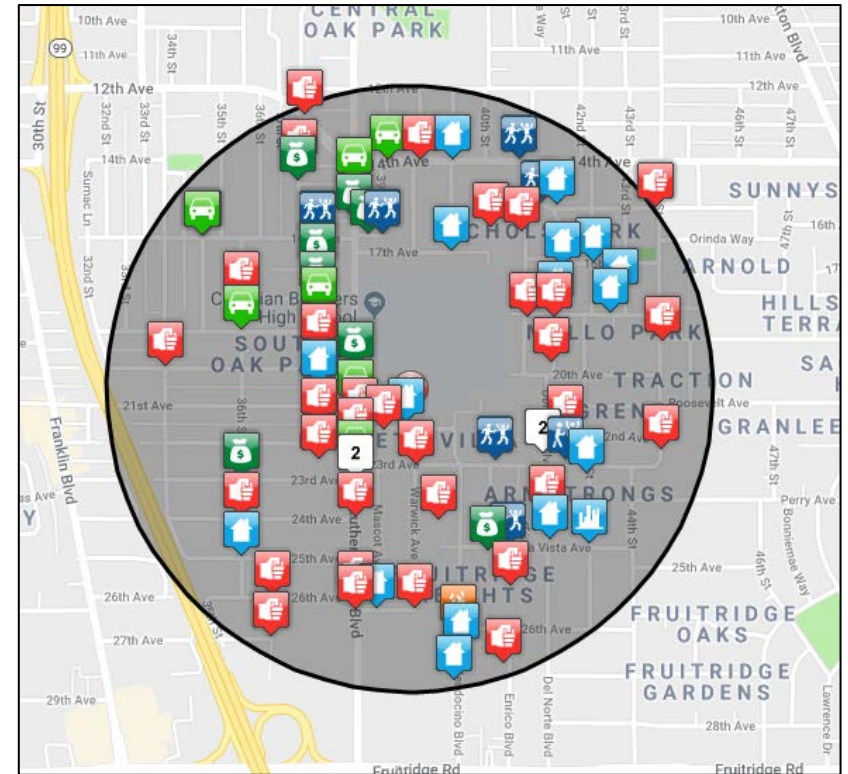
CRIME REPORTS

Between April 2018 and October 2018, there were 93 reported crimes within a ½ mile radius of Oak Ridge Elementary, most of which were classified as aggravated assault.⁶ Parents identified violence and crime as one of the primary factors preventing students from walking or biking due to concerns with personal safety. During the weekdays, crimes predominantly occurred in the mornings from 7:30 – 10:00 am and in the afternoon between 4:30 – 6:00 pm, around the time when students travel to and from school or after-school activities. This indicates the need for interventions beyond infrastructure change and education. Partnerships between the Sacramento Police Department, neighbors, and community based organizations to address personal safety are critically important.



Crime occurrence by time of day between April 2, 2018 – October 2, 2018 within a ½-mile radius of Oak Ridge Elementary School.

Community Crime Map: Crimes within a ½ mile radius from Oak Ridge Elementary between April 2018 – October 2018.



⁶ LexisNexis CommunityCrimeMap: available at www.communitycrimemap.com. Accessed October 2018.

SCHOOL CONCERNS

The primary concerns for the school are driver behaviors at the front of the school and personal safety of students on neighborhood streets. There is only one crosswalk that leads into the front of the school, which is located at 21st Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, denoted with an A on the figure adjacent. There is no crossing guard, however school staff monitor the crosswalk during morning and afternoon pick up and drop off times and facilitate safe crossings for students. Drivers often speed, run the red light, and ignore the pedestrian right of way at this intersection.

At the back of the school along Mendocino Boulevard, the school has concerns about the personal safety of students. There is homeless loitering, illegal dumping and overgrown trees that create an environment students do not feel safe in.

After discussions generated from a September 27th walk audit, the school has begun to implement a walking school bus program to address safety concerns for students. A parent volunteer has taken on the responsibility of serving as a crossing guard, which has relieved pressure on the school to staff that position.



Locations of concern.

IDENTIFYING BARRIERS TO WALKING AND BIKING

Infrastructure and non-infrastructure barriers to walking and biking to school were identified through a walk audit, traffic observations, and discussions with school staff, parents, students, and community members.

WALK AUDIT

Walk audits are community assessments where participants analyze current conditions and opportunities for improvement. WALKSacramento conducted a walk audit of Oak Ridge Elementary on September 27th, 2018. Participants included Oak Ridge Elementary staff, parents, students, City of Sacramento Police Department, South Oak Park Community Association, Sacramento Building Healthy Communities Collaborative, and WALKSacramento staff. There were two walking groups, both of which began with an examination of the front of the school and the intersection of 21st Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr, Boulevard. One group went west of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to observe conditions along 21st Avenue, 36th Street and 22nd Avenue. The second group observed the area around the back of the school along 23rd Avenue, Mendocino Boulevard and 22nd Avenue. The main barriers to safe walking and biking that were identified through the walk audit were unsafe crossings, driver behavior along arterial and neighborhood streets, and maintenance and code enforcement needs.

The discussion from the walk audit catapulted the school into action. Inviting the WALKSacramento back to family meetings to talk about the recommendations in the following report but to also brainstorm non-infrastructure action items for the community to do to create a safer walking and biking environment. This led to further action by motivated family members, the community started a speed bump campaign and has started to organize walking groups with an interest in organizing a community clean up in the future.

In addition to feedback received from many families during walk audits, input was gathered at a large Walk to School Day event and several parent meetings. This feedback has informed the recommendations within this report and future opportunities at the school.



Family members, community partners and students provide feedback on walking and biking conditions and Oak Ridge Walk Audit.



Students who regularly walk and bike to school shared their experiences and concerns about safety and existing conditions.

TRAFFIC OBSERVATIONS

Traffic observations are surveying events to analyze parent and student travel behaviors. Morning traffic observations were conducted at Oak Ridge Elementary on September 27, 2018. Observations were made at the following locations:

1. Parking lot in front of school
2. 21st Avenue and Martin Luther King Boulevard

Main issues included drivers running red light in front of school, speeding, and cars traveling into the bike lane to get around cars turning left into the school parking lot. In the parking lot, there is lack of clear signage and no clear direction of traffic. Both lanes of traffic are used to drop off students, causing students to dart between cars and creating unsafe conditions.



Oak Ridge Elementary parking lot and drop-off loop.



Crosswalk at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and 21st Avenue.

STUDENT EDUCATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT

Oak Ridge Elementary celebrated Walk to School Day on October 11, 2018, with over 400 students, staff, and parents participating. Many community partners participated in the event to hand out resources, prizes and support Walk to School Day including City Year, Office of Traffic Safety, Building Healthy Communities and more. Students received encouragement prizes and safety information for walking and biking. Many students joined one of two walking school buses that met at either Shiloh Arms Apartments on the corner of Mendocino Boulevard and 23rd Avenue or at Pleasant Hill Christian Praise on the corner of 16th Avenue and 36th Street. In addition, this event helped recognize the large number of students who already walk and bike to school and encourage those who may normally drive to use active modes of travel more often. The success of this event indicates greater potential for more students to walk if walking and biking conditions improved. This was further demonstrated when the school organized a second Walk to School Day in December to launch their walking groups and celebrate walking and biking on a more regular basis.

In addition to encouragement events, WALKSacramento hosted a pedestrian education day on October 26, 2018. Over 200 students between 1st and 3rd grade classes participated in the pedestrian and bicycle education activities, which taught students about safe crossing procedures, traffic safety, and the health and environmental benefits of walking and biking.



Agency partners participate in Walk to School Day and hand out prizes.



Students walk to school in a walking school bus on Walk to School Day.



Students and families receive prizes and resources from community organizations on Walk to School Day.

INFRASTRUCTURE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

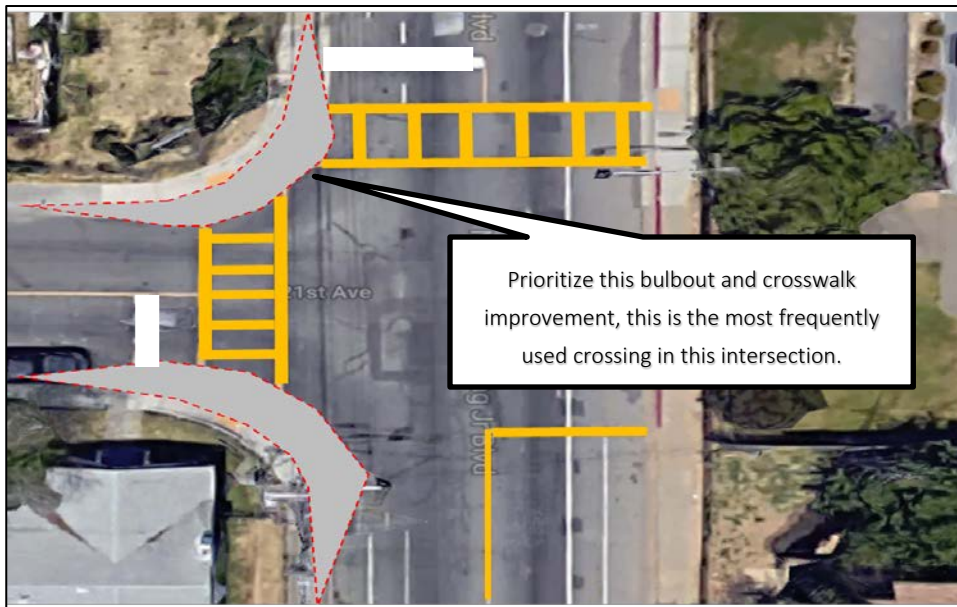
CITY RECOMMENDATIONS

ID	Location	Recommendations	Justification
1	21 st Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restripe and update crosswalk with flashing signs and a leading pedestrian interval in front of school.• Install bulb-outs to shorten crossing distances, prioritizing the northern crossing.• Restripe all stop bars and crossings.	<p>The intersection in front of the school has two marked crosswalks that students living west of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard must use to get to campus. Cars travel at high speeds and drivers run the light and ignore the pedestrian right of way. A volunteer parent or school staff person is stationed at the intersection during pick up and drop off times and have reported drivers not paying attention and exhibiting dangerous behaviors while students are crossing the street. Students reported on the walk audit “Too much traffic and it doesn’t stop even when the sign says walk.” Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restriping and updating the crosswalk across Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard with flashing signs and a leading pedestrian interval will improve pedestrian visibility and ensure the safety of students and families who use the crossing. Leading pedestrian intervals are especially important for small children who are difficult to see and may have a longer crossing time than the interval allows for. By having a leading pedestrian interval, it allows students and small children to have a longer time to cross and increases their visibility because they are already within the crosswalk when cars can begin to move.• Installing bulb-outs will reduce the crossing distances of students and other pedestrians crossing the intersection. Bulb-outs increase the visibility of pedestrians and can be an effective traffic calming strategy as it narrows the intersection.• Restriping all stop bars and crosswalks, prioritizing the northern most crossing, will increase visibility of pedestrians in the crosswalk and create driver awareness about pedestrian crossings.

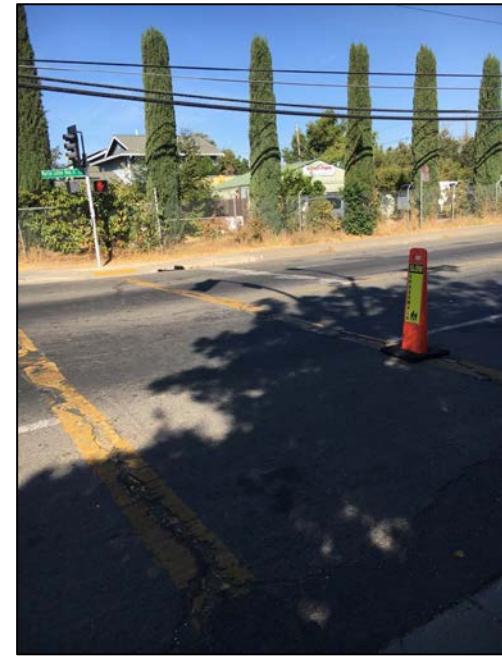
Visuals



Aerial view of existing facilities.



Proposed Facilities, with prioritized areas noted.



Existing facilities with faded crosswalk.



Example of bulb out in Alexandria, Virginia.

ID	Location	Recommendations	Justification
2	Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard between 12 th Avenue and 23 rd Avenue	<p>Use the following techniques and strategies to calm traffic along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design the street for a maximum 25 MPH speed limit. • Balance street design for multi modal travel (cars, bikes, pedestrians and transit). • Expand sidewalks to 7 ft. wide whenever feasible. • Create a more visible Class II bike lane with integrally colored asphalt. • Improve the pedestrian experience by bringing landscaping and trees closer to the street, which has the added effect of calming traffic. • Discourage parking on sidewalks. • Install Bulb-outs and high visibility crosswalks at every intersection, prioritizing intersections near schools. • Invest in underground utilities to eliminate sidewalk barriers and improve ADA accessibility and compliance. 	<p>Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard is a 2.85 north-south arterial that connects Broadway to Franklin Boulevard and feeds into major highways and other arterial networks. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard is primarily a neighborhood corridor, serving several neighborhoods in both the City of Sacramento and unincorporated County along with several schools and community centers. Currently the street prioritizes car travel as a way to move traffic flow between north and south portions of Sacramento. However, the proximity to neighborhood residences, schools and community centers highlights a need and opportunity for this corridor to better serve community-level destinations.</p> <p>Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard is located on the City of Sacramento's Vision Zero High Injury Network, which identifies corridors with the highest level of fatal and serious collisions for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. As home to several schools including Oak Ridge Elementary, Father Keith B. Kenny Elementary, and Christian Brothers High, it is critical to improve traffic safety conditions along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.</p> <p>A comprehensive planning process with the Oak Park community was completed in 2008 to re-envision Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The resulting Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Master Plan ⁷ contains a thorough analysis of existing conditions and community-supported recommendations, which have been reiterated here. Visual 2 below reflects the proposed streetscape improvements recommended by the Master Plan. Despite the plan, little has been done to improve ped/bike safety to date.</p> <p>The traffic calming techniques recommended in the Master Plan, such as narrowing vehicle travel lanes, widening sidewalks, and bringing landscape out to the street, would improve the aesthetic value of the street but more importantly, the safety of the students and families who use Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to get to school and other destinations. Currently, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard is not conducive to other modes of travel due to unsafe intersections and minimal bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Traffic calming Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard would result in slower traffic speeds and safer and more comfortable walking and biking conditions.</p>

⁷ Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Streetscape and Urban Design Master Plan, Community of Oak Park. June, 2008. <https://daviddelapenadotcom.files.wordpress.com/2016/10/mlk-master-plan-web.pdf>

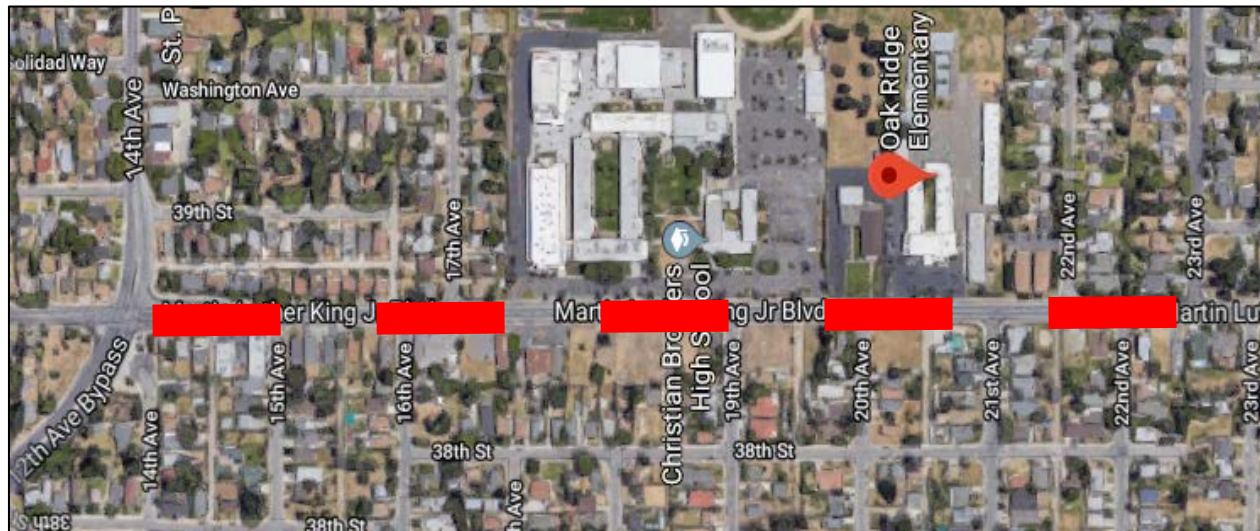
Visuals



High speed traffic along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, narrow sidewalks, faded bike lanes.



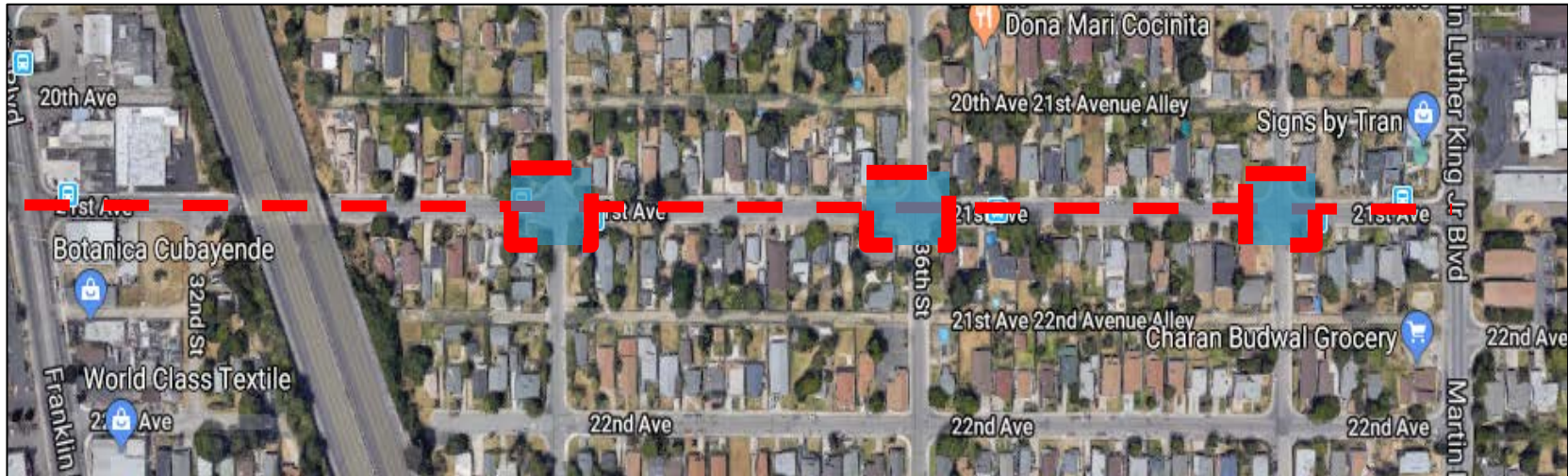
Proposed traffic calming from MLK Master Plan.



Location of proposed recommendations from 12th Avenue to 23rd Avenue.

ID	Location	Recommendations	Justification
3	21 st Avenue (From Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to Franklin Boulevard)	Install bulb outs and crosswalks at intersections throughout the segment.	<p>21st Avenue is a common route many students take to and from school. 21st Avenue also accommodates a major Sacramento Regional Transit bus route. The crossing at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and 21st Avenue should be prioritized as a safe route to school because the crossing is the most direct way to cross into the school from the west side of the school. There is a large amount of foot traffic of students traveling to school along this street. However, 21st Avenue is very narrow and have rolled curbs, which allows cars to park partially on the sidewalk and further limits the amount of space for pedestrians to walk safely.</p> <p>As part of the planning process for the Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Master Plan⁸, community members identified 21st Avenue as an important pedestrian connection to school and transit. The recommendation to calm traffic and improve the pedestrian experience along 21st Avenue through strategies such as bulb-outs and speed bumps is consistent with the recommendations outlined in the 2008 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Master Plan.</p>

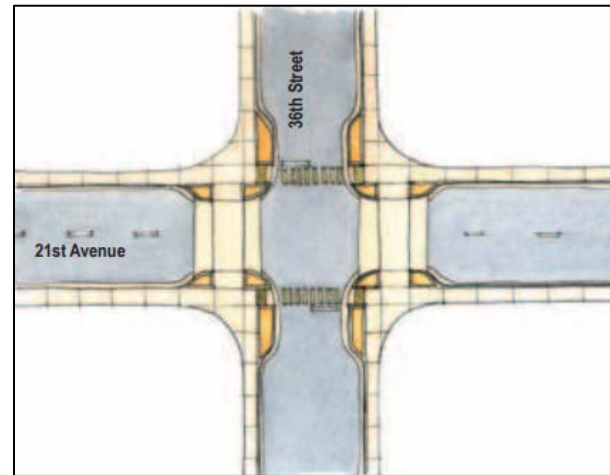
Visuals



Location of proposed facilities along 21st Avenue from Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to Franklin Boulevard.



Walk audit participants observe intersection of 21st Avenue and 36th Street, which has no marked crosswalks and narrow sidewalks.



Example of proposed bulb-out facilities.

⁸ Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Streetscape and Urban Design Master Plan, Community of Oak Park. June, 2008. <https://daviddelapenadotcom.files.wordpress.com/2016/10/mlk-master-plan-web.pdf>

ID	Location	Recommendations	Justification
4	Crosswalk on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard between 19 th Avenue and 16 th Avenue	Restripe crosswalk and install a Rapid Flashing Beacon (RFB).	A high visibility mid-block crosswalk is currently located at Christian Brothers High School, which is located just north of Oak Ridge Elementary. This crosswalk is commonly used by Christian Brothers and Oak Ridge students travelling southbound on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Driver behavior such as speeding, failure to yield to pedestrians, and driving around other cars through the bike lanes makes this crosswalk unsafe in its current condition. Additionally, the crosswalk striping has become faded. Increasing visibility through restriping and installation of a Rapid Flashing Beacon will help improve safety and yield rates.

Visuals



The existing marked midblock crosswalk is faded and has no additional safety measures for pedestrians.



Example of a Rapid Flashing Beacon in Albany, New York.



Example of Proposed Facilities.

COUNTY RECOMMENDATIONS

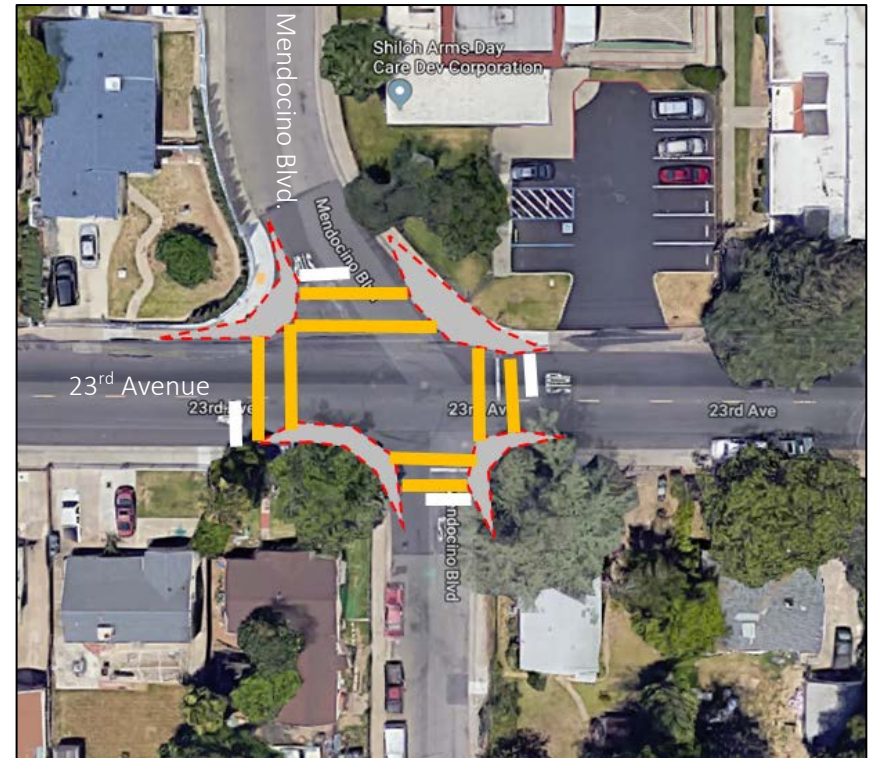
ID	Location	Recommendation	Justification
5	Mendocino Boulevard and 23 rd Avenue	Install crosswalks at all legs of the intersection, prioritizing the north and east sides. Square-up the intersection through curb extensions or bulb-outs to slow speeds and increase pedestrian visibility.	<p>Despite its frequent use by students living behind the school, there are no striped crossings at the intersection of Mendocino Boulevard and 23rd Avenue. The intersection is very wide and cars do not yield to pedestrians. Installing a crosswalk and bulb outs would facilitate a safer, more convenient crossing for students who travel to and from school along this route. Cars turning right onto Mendocino Boulevard from 23rd Avenue have ample room which allows for rolling stops, illegal high-speed turn movements, and illegal U-turns.</p> <p>High visibility crosswalks increase pedestrian visibility and driver awareness. Because this intersection leads to the entrance at the back of the school, many students and families cross here despite not feeling safe doing so. This intersection is already controlled by a four-way stop.</p> <p>The offset alignment of the intersection creates a wide road space that prioritizes vehicles over pedestrians. Squaring up the intersection with curb extensions or bulb-outs reduces the crossing distances and reduces vehicle turning speeds, making it safer for pedestrians and providing clearer direction for all road users.</p>
Visuals			



Drivers have limited visibility of pedestrians at corners due to the offset street and wide intersection. Donut marks can be seen in the center of the intersection.



The corner of Mendocino Boulevard and 23rd Avenue outside Shiloh Arms Day Care is a frequent gathering space for walking groups.

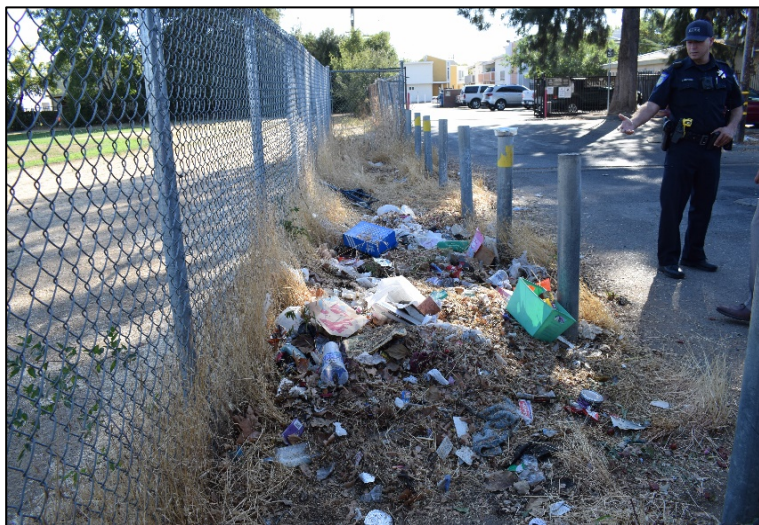


Proposed facilities, prioritizing marked crosswalks and bulb-outs at the north and east sides of the intersection, which are direct routes to school.

SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS

ID	Location	Recommendation	Justification
6	Mendocino Boulevard, back gate entrance to Oak Ridge Campus	Install pedestrian-scale lighting. Implement a maintenance plan to remove trash and overgrowth. Employ additional Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles such as landscaping to deter littering.	<p>Personal safety at the back of the school is a concern for families, the community and the school. With trash accumulation, overgrown trees and poor lighting, students do not feel safe entering the school at the back entrance. However, many continue to use the entrance due to its convenience and location along calmer neighborhood streets. This entrance has potential to provide a safe route to campus for students living east of the school. The school is currently working on recruiting volunteers to monitor the entrance and welcome students safely onto campus.</p> <p>Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design strategies can improve personal safety at the back entrance. For example, pedestrian scale lighting deters loitering and improves visibility, making it feel safer to access. Attractive landscaping in conjunction with regular maintenance of overgrowth can discourage illegal dumping.</p>

Visuals



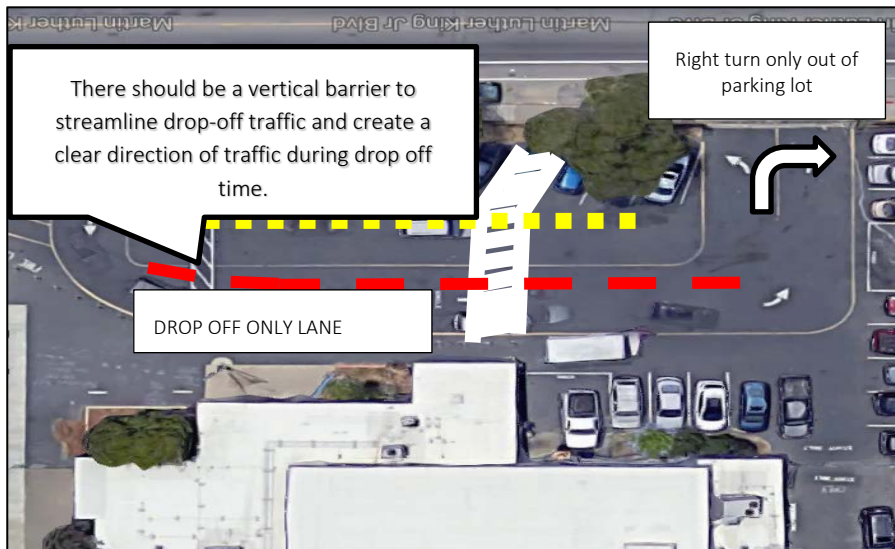
Trash accumulation outside the entrance at the back of the school.



Example of pedestrian scale lighting and personal safety enhancements in St. Louis.

ID	Location	Recommendation	Justification
7	Oak Ridge Parking Lot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrow the drop-off lane to one car width using temporary or permanent vertical barriers (such as cones, bollards, curb, etc) and designate as drop-off only with signage Create clear signage to direct traffic flow Restripe ADA crosswalk and install another crosswalk at the school entrance by removing one parking spot. Parking spot can be relocated elsewhere if needed. Consider making this a raised crossing. Right turn only out of parking lot 	<p>Currently, the lack of a clear drop-off lane leads to drivers dropping off students in two lanes, which creates unsafe conditions for students darting between cars. Drivers will park in the drop-off lane, causing others to go around them and potentially into the travel path of students and other cars. The parking lot is small which exaggerates the challenges of children darting between cars.</p> <p>Creating a more well-defined drop-off lane by using vertical barriers will streamline traffic flow and improve student safety preventing drivers from double parking or going around cars. Restriping and adding another crosswalk at the school entrance will increase driver awareness of students traveling through the parking lot.</p> <p>A right-turn only out of the parking lot will allow traffic to move more quickly through the drop-off queue by reducing waiting times. Because the street network around the school is well-connected, drivers can easily turn onto side streets to loop back to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard if headed southbound.</p>

Visuals



Proposed parking lot facilities



Oak Ridge parking lot, lacking signage, no clear flow of traffic.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping and upkeep can significantly improve the walking environment of a neighborhood. Where foliage does exist, many areas are not well maintained and encroach upon the walking path or hide school zone signage. Overgrown landscaping can contribute to personal safety concerns by creating hiding spaces for illicit activity. While the back of the school has been highlighted as a priority zone for these improvements, landscaping improvements are needed throughout the neighborhood.

Tree shading also improves walkability by increasing shading and adding to the aesthetic character of a neighborhood. Trees reduce the impacts of heat and provide a number of other physical health, mental well-being, air quality, and environmental benefits.

Recommendations:

- Cut back overgrown landscaping, ensuring that low shrubs and bushes are not higher than two feet and that tree branches are not lower than 6 feet above ground. (Property Owners/City/County)
- Partner with the Sacramento Tree Foundation to perform tree plantings to provide shade and address the urban heat island effect. (City/County/Property Owners/Residents)



MAINTENANCE AND ILLEGAL DUMPING

Vacant lots along 21st Avenue, 36th Street and Mendocino Avenue are popular sites for illegal dumping, resulting in trash blocking walking paths and bike lanes. Ensuring regular cleanup and maintenance of roadways and pedestrian bridge entrances will support more “eyes-on-the-street” to discourage illicit activity and improve safety for students.

Recommendations:

- Report maintenance needs and code enforcement violations to 311. (Property Owners/School/ Residents)
- Conduct regular and timely cleanings and trash removal. (City/County/Property Owners)



Illegal dumping on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

STUDENT SAFETY

Corner stores located near the school create an unsafe environment for students and other community members walking and biking. In particular, students and community members identified Sam's Market and Special Food Market as uncomfortable locations along routes to school due to solicitations for drugs and money from people hanging out at these storefronts. Property owners, code enforcement, and other community and agency partners can work towards creating a safer environment for students.

Students also identified dogs as a concern while walking to school. Dogs often rush fences and bark loudly as students walk by, startling students off the sidewalk into the street. This affects the perceived and real safety of students on their way to school and creates a stressful environment that impacts student wellbeing and readiness to learn. Neighbors can help create a safe, low stress walking environment for students bringing pets indoors school travel hours.

Recommendations:

- Partner with store owners to create a safer environment around store locations. (City/County/School/)
- Install wrought iron fences throughout the surrounding neighborhood to ensure the safety of students walking. (Property Owners/Residents)
- Work with neighbors to bring dogs inside during school travel hours (7-9 am and 2-4 pm) (School/Residents)



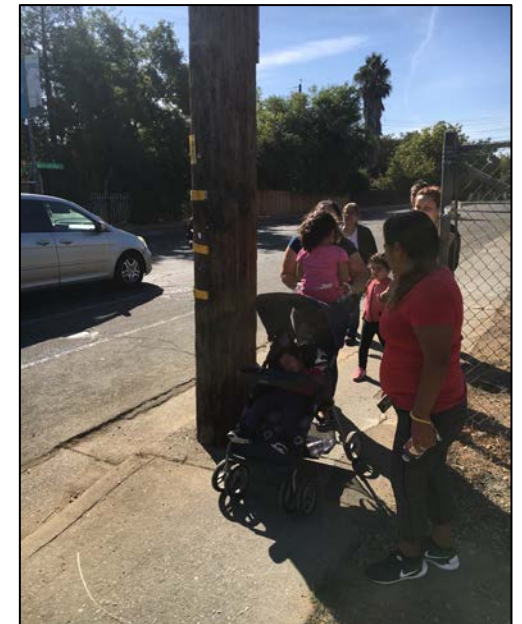
Dog rush to front gates and bark at students.

LIGHTING AND UTILITIES

Streets around Oak Ridge Elementary tend to have lighting that is oriented for cars rather than pedestrians, creating a dark and unsafe walking environment, particularly in the fall and winter when mornings are darker longer and evenings get darker sooner. Additionally, large utility poles tend to block sidewalks throughout the neighborhood. This creates a physical barrier for pedestrians and is a major concern for ADA accessibility.

Recommendations:

- Underground utilities. (City/County/SMUD)
- Install pedestrian-scale lighting along school corridors, prioritizing Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard. (City/County/SMUD)



Utility poles in sidewalk create barriers for pedestrians.

SCHOOL SIGNAGE

School zone signage is currently located along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard northbound and southbound. In many places the signage is covered by the overgrown landscaping mentioned above. Additionally, there are infrequent school zones signs that signal to drivers to be more alert and slow down near schools. Adding and enhancing signage may help increase awareness of the school zone and reduce speeding and poor driver behavior, particularly near school crossings.

Recommendations:

- Cut back overgrown branches around school signage (City/Property Owners)
- Add school crossing signage at the intersection of 21st St. and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in front of the school. (City/School District)
- Consider adding pavement markings along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to indicate school zone or school crossing. (City/School District)



Minimal school signage along Martin Luther King Jr. approaching the school from the south.

PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the recommendations for long-term built environment change to improve the pedestrian and bicycle environment, WALKSacramento recommends Oak Ridge Elementary School continues Safe Routes to School programming through the following approaches to continue building a strong safety pedestrian and bicycle culture.

EDUCATION

Education programs teach students, parents, and community members about traffic safety behaviors and benefits of walking and biking. Education can be done through regular class time, as part of after-school programs, or through club activities. Safety education campaigns are held during October and May to complement Walk to School Day and Bike to School Day events. Education can take the form of video voice projects, PE class activities, and bike rodeos to name a few.

An interactive pedestrian education activity was held with grades 1-3 on October 26, 2018 and included a mock intersection, environmental demonstration, and activity to learn traffic signs and signals. Planned educational activities include brief in-class lessons and video projects with leadership students in the spring.

For more information on bicycle and pedestrian education and resources, visit: <http://www.walksacramento.org/srts-resources/>



A mock intersection helps students learn and practice safe crossing skills. These types of interactive activities can be incorporated into PE classes or after school programs.

ENCOURAGEMENT

Encouragement activities are crucial because they help make the case for further infrastructure change and can make marked improvements in school-based traffic and local air quality by encouraging students who would otherwise be driven to school to walk or ride their bike. Establishing regular monthly walking school buses or celebrating Walk to School Day and Bike to School Day events help create broader support for SRTS programs and reinforce the “safety in numbers” concept. *Safety in numbers: more walkers and bicyclists, safer walking and bicycling*, a study conducted by Peter Jacobson in 2003, concluded that “Where, or when, more people walk or bicycle, the less likely any of them are to be injured by motorists. There is safety in numbers.”⁹

WALKING SCHOOL BUS

Walking school bus programs are recurring walking groups that allow students and families to walk and bike to and from school on a regular basis. Meeting locations can be rotated each month, to ensure all students have an opportunity to meet and walk to school together. During off days, students should be encouraged to use the identified locations as regular meeting points and remote drop-offs for students who live too far to walk or bike from their home.

Oak Ridge Elementary has begun organizing regular monthly walking school buses with the help of parent volunteers. The walking school bus flyer can be found in Appendix B.

For more information how to start a walking school bus, visit: <http://www.walkingschoolbus.org/>

WALK TO SCHOOL DAY AND BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY

Walk and Bike to School days are held in October during National Walking Month and in May during May is Bike Month. These events celebrate the benefits of walking and biking to school. Walk and Bike to School events are larger celebrations that can build upon monthly walking school bus or bicycle train programs and create interest with other families. These events are great opportunities to invite community partners such as law enforcement, youth-oriented organizations, and school board officials to celebrate.

For more information on how to organize a walking school bus, a Walk to School day, or a Bike to School Day Event, visit: <http://www.walkbiketoschool.org>

SAFE WALKING AND BIKING MAPS

Safe walking and biking maps encourage students to walk and bike to school and identify common meeting locations for students to walk to school together. Maps also provide reminders of areas for students to take additional precaution while walking or biking to school. WALKSacramento recommends including the maps in the school handbook and distribute to families at the beginning of each academic year.

⁹Jacobsen PL Safety in numbers: more walkers and bicyclists, safer walking and bicycling Injury Prevention 2003;9:205-209.

ENFORCEMENT

PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF PROCEDURES

School staff, law enforcement, and crossing guards can work together to enforce pick-up and drop-off procedures to provide daily safety reminders to be alert while in school zones and support an orderly process for traffic flow. WALKSacramento recommends pick-up and drop-off procedures be adopted into the school handbook and distribute to parents at the beginning of the year.

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD PROGRAMS

Schools can also develop a crossing guard program to assist with daily enforcement of safety for students and other pedestrians and bikers. Student crossing guard programs are a great opportunity for students to take ownership of pedestrian and bike safety.

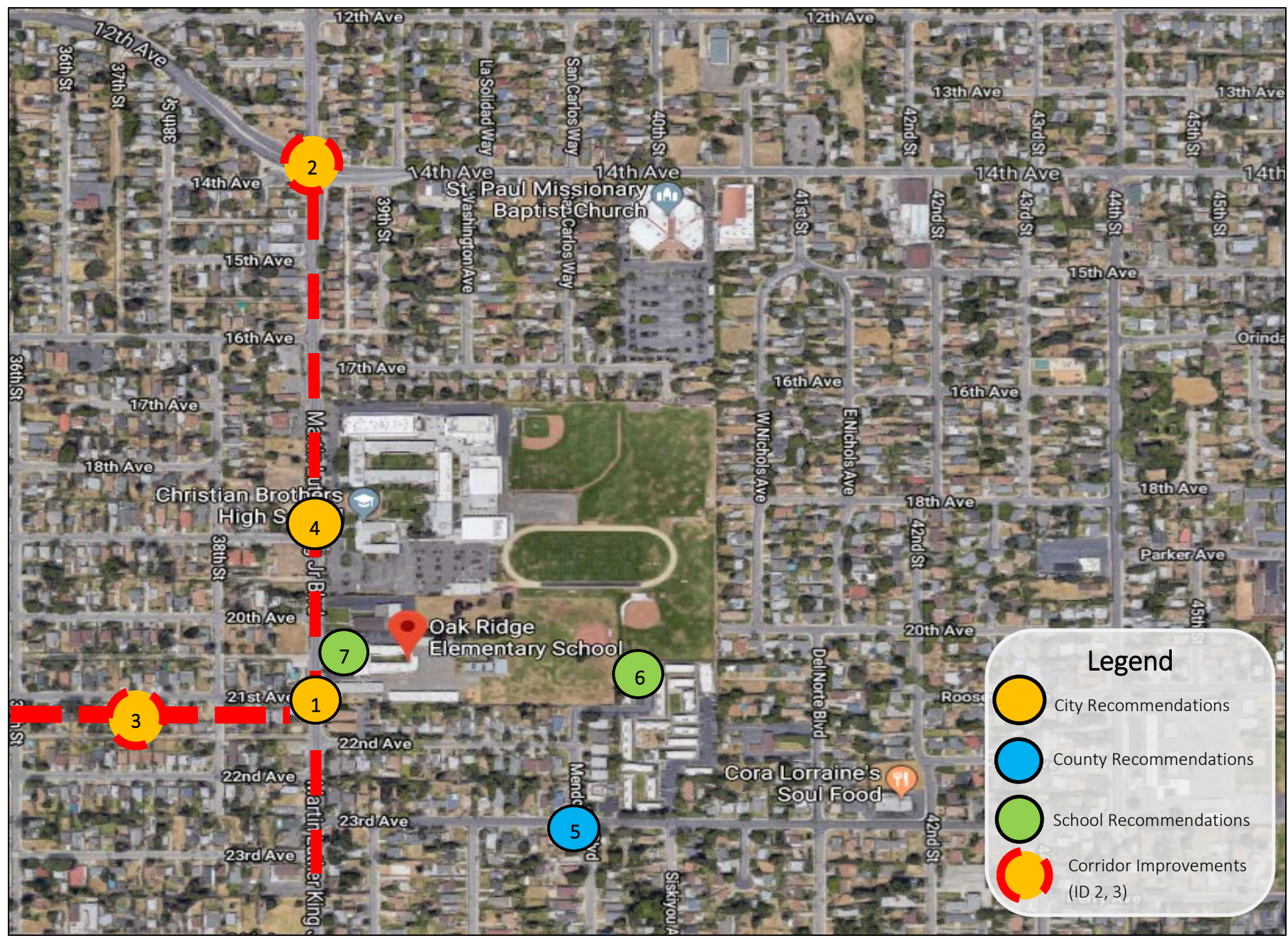
For more information on California School Crossing Guard Training, visit: <http://www.scusd.edu/post/california-school-crossing-guard-training>

For more information on how to establish a student crossing guard program, visit: <https://schoolsafety.calstate.aaa.com/>

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Partnerships with law enforcement help increase awareness and adherence to traffic safety laws and can reduce the prevalence of crime near schools. Enforcement programs can include working with local law enforcement officials to educate the public on traffic safety and safe speeds. Programs with law enforcement should consider the community's perception of law enforcement and should aim to be educational rather than punitive.

RECOMMENDATIONS MAP



APPENDIX

APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY RESOURCE CONTACTS

Community Resources

For service requests anytime, for code violations, water use complaints, illegal dumping. Concerns about streets and lighting, graffiti, stray animals, utilities and broken parking meters.

Call 3-1-1 or (916) 808-5011; If outside city limits: (916) 808-8563

can respond in 150 languages



For referrals for community services for seniors, employment, housing information, financial assistance, children's services, food programs and health care services:

Call 2-1-1 ***multiple languages available***

For non-emergency situations in your community:

City of Sacramento Police (916) 264-5471

County Sherriff's Department (916) 874-5115



For information about the Neighborwoods program, working to improving neighborhoods through planting trees and maintenance

Contact James Saetern (916) 974-4322 or at james@sactree.com

For free services and family works shops to give families tools to be happy, health and safe. Services include crisis prevention services, gym classes, extracurricular programs and more:

River Oak Family Resource Center (916) 226-2725 ***services available in English and Spanish***



For staying safe while on transit and reporting behavior of buses in school zones as well as a bus stop maintenance and more:

Download AlertSacRT for on bus safety

Call (916) 557-4545 with date, time and vehicle number to report complaint or compliment.

Call (916) 321-2877 for general customer service comments such as bus stop maintenance

For non-threatening situations involving homeless members in your community:

Call the Mobile Crisis Support Team (916) 808-4542





OAK RIDGE ELEMENTARY MONTHLY WALKING GROUP

WALK TO SCHOOL TOGETHER ON FRIDAY, DECMEBER 21st.

Oak Ridge Elementary is starting monthly walking groups for parents and students to walk to school together!
Meet at either of the locations on the map below on Friday, December 21th.

NEXT WALKING GROUP: Friday, December 21st



Benefits of Walking Groups:

- Safety in numbers. Students walk together in groups with adult supervision.
- Improved health through exercise.
- Reduced amounts of traffic congestion around the school.
- Families save time and money, and have peace of mind that their students arrive to school safely and on time.

It's Up to Students to...

- Look both ways before crossing
- Walk on sidewalks
- Make sure drivers see you before you cross
- Obey pedestrian signals

It's Up to Parents to...

- Use extra caution when children are near roadways
- Be alert near school zones
- Not stop in or block visibility of crosswalks
- Not pass cars stopped for pedestrians

Are you interested in leading a walking group from your neighborhood?

Please complete the form below and return it to the school. For more information, please contact Ashley Powers Clark at (916) 395-4668.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Street Address: _____

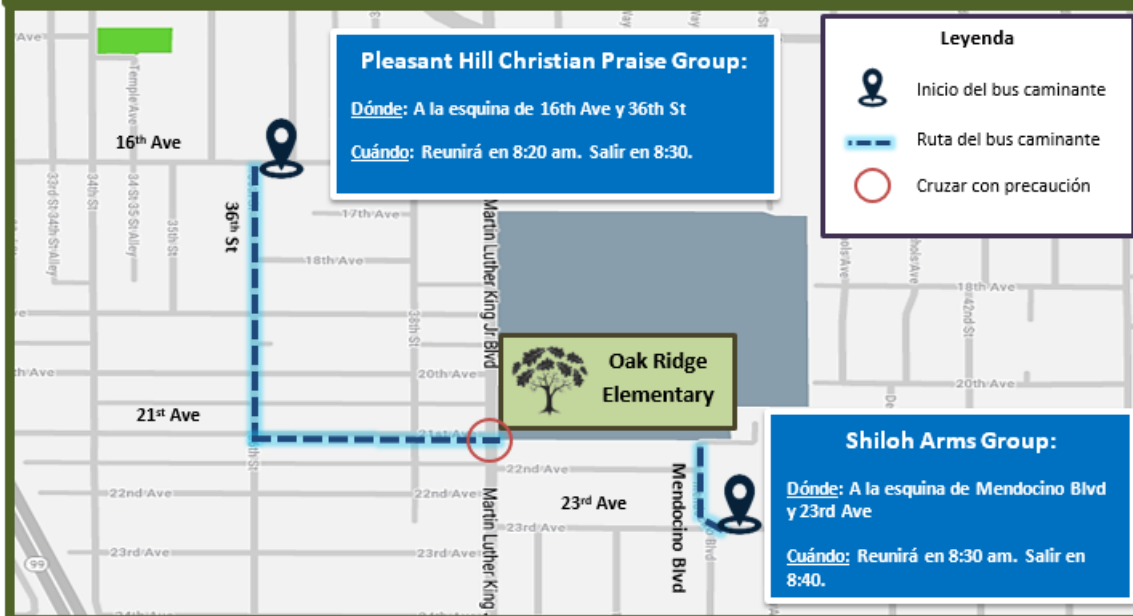


OAK RIDGE ELEMENTARY GRUPO DE CAMINATA MENSUAL

CAMINAR A LA ESCUELA JUNTOS VIERNES A LAS 21 DE DICIEMBRE

Oak Ridge Elementary está empezando grupos de caminata mensuales para padres y estudiantes para caminar a la escuela juntos. En el viernes, 16 de Noviembre, encontrar con los grupos a cualquiera de las ubicaciones del mapa debajo.

EL PRÓXIMO GRUPO DE CAMINATA: Viernes, 21 de Diciembre



Los beneficios de grupos de caminar:

- Seguridad en números. Estudiantes caminan juntos con supervisión de un adulto.
- Mejorar salud a través del ejercicio
- Reducción de congestión del tráfico alrededor de la escuela.
- Las familias ahorran tiempo y dinero, y tienen la tranquilidad de que sus estudiantes llegan a la escuela de manera segura y puntual.

Depende de los estudiantes...

- Mirar a ambos lados antes de cruzar las calles
- Caminar sobre las banquetas o andenes
- Asegurarse de que los conductores los vean antes de cruzar las calles
- Obedecer las señales de peatones

Depende de los padres...

- Tener más precaución cuando hayan niños cerca de los caminos o calzadas
- Estar alerta cerca de las áreas escolares
- No detenerse dentro de los cruces de calles o bloquear la visibilidad en los cruces de calles
- No sobrepasar a los vehículos que se detienen para dejar pasar a los peatones

¿Tienes interés en dirigir un grupo de caminata de su vecindario?

Por favor complete la siguiente forma y devuélvala a la escuela. Para más información, contacta con Ashley Powers Clark a (916) 395-4668.

Nombre: _____ Teléfono: _____ Correo Electrónica: _____

La dirección: _____