Paving the Way for Safe Routes to School

Camellia Basic Elementary

Walkability and Active Design Report

March 2015







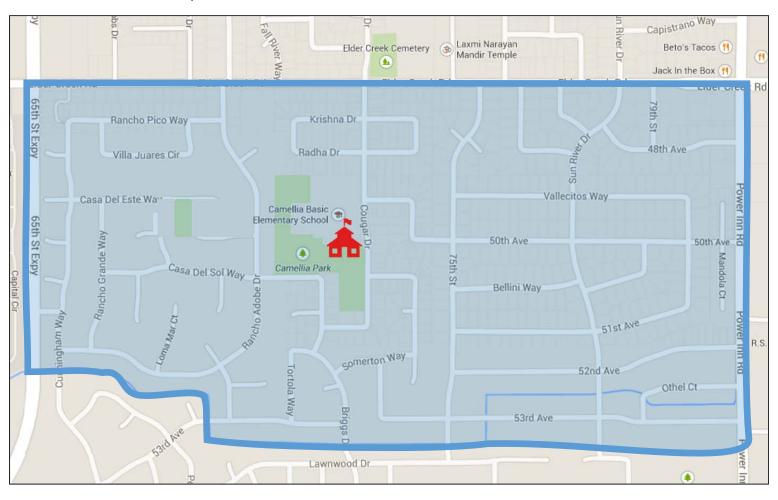
This material was developed by PedSafe, a program of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Funding for the duplication of this material is from an award from CDPH's Kids Plates program.

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School Location

Camellia Basic Elementary School is located at 6600 Cougar Drive in Sacramento. For the 2013 – 2014 school year, 478 students were enrolled, of which 87% were eligible for free or reduced price meals. The campus is a kindergarten through sixth grade academic prep school, so many students commute from outside the area. The 2013 – 2014 attendance boundary is shown below.



Existing Conditions

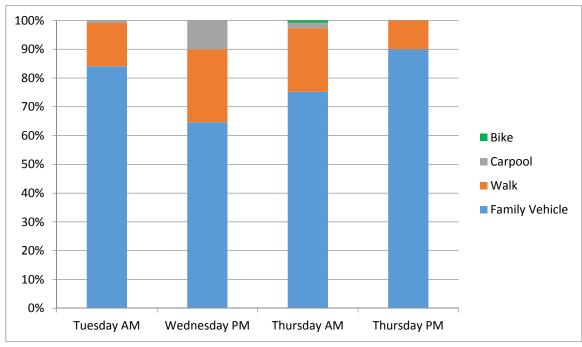
Mode Split

Using the National Center for Safe Routes to School Student Travel Tally¹, pre and post project in-class tallies of student travel mode were conducted over a period of three days in October 2013 and January 2015. The tally results are shown below.

Camellia Basic Elementary Mode Share Split-Pre

	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Tuesday AM	111	15%	0%	0%	84%	0.9%	0%	0%
Wednesday PM	59	25%	0%	0%	64%	10%	0%	0%
Thursday AM	150	22%	0.7%	0%	75%	2%	0%	0%
Thursday PM	62	10%	0%	0%	90%	0%	0%	0%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

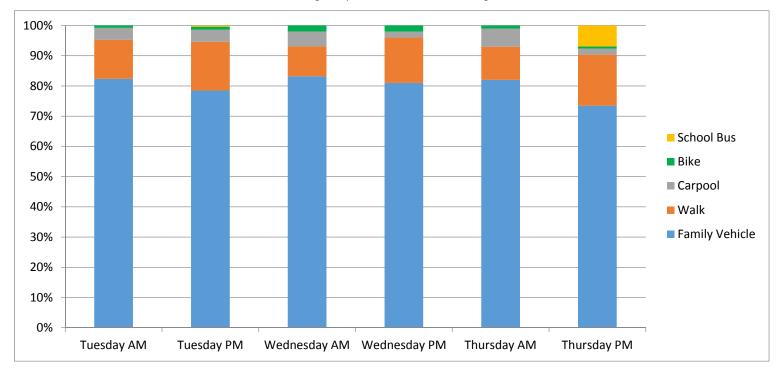


¹ National Center for Safe Routes to School, Evaluation: Student In-Class Travel Tally, 2013, available http://saferoutesinfo.org/program-tools/evaluation-student-class-travel-tally. Accessed March 19, 2015.

Camellia Basic Elementary Mode Share Split-Post

	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Tuesday AM	246	13%	0.8%	0%	83%	4%	0%	0%
Tuesday PM	249	16%	1%	0.4%	78%	4%	0%	0%
Wednesday AM	220	10%	2%	0%	84%	5%	0%	0%
Wednesday PM	218	15%	2%	0%	81%	2%	0%	0%
Thursday AM	270	11%	1%	0%	82%	6%	0%	0%
Thursday PM	272	17%	0.7%	7%	74%	2%	0%	0%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.



National Center for Safe Routes to School Parent Survey

Parents' attitudes toward walking and biking were surveyed using the National Center for Safe Routes to School Parent Survey.²

Key Results:

- 43% of surveyed students living within one-fourth of a mile of the school walk or bike to campus, while only 13% of students living within one-fourth and 1 mile of the school do the same.
- 52% of surveyed students living within one-fourth of a mile of school walk or bike from campus, while only 17% of students living within one-fourth and 1 mile of the school do the same.
- The issues most frequently cited in a parent's decision to **not** allow their child to walk nor bike to school include the distance from school (~70%), violence or crime in the neighborhood (~65%), and the safety of intersections and crossings (~50%).
- It should be noted that in observations during various SRTS events and through conversations with parents it became clear that some students who walk or bike to school are often picked up by parents who are concerned about unsafe activities in the surrounding neighborhoods after school.

Identifying Barriers to Walking and Biking

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

Walk Audit

A walk audit was conducted on May 13, 2014 by WALKSacramento staff and participants included Safe Kids California, Safe Kids Greater Sacramento, youth from the George Sims Community Center, and nearby residents. The walk audit focused on an approximate 1/2 mile radius around the school as well as the immediate access points to campus. Special attention was paid to walking comfort, crossing comfort, and driver behavior along the walking routes.

² National Center for Safe Routes to School, Evaluation: Parent Survey, 2009, available http://saferoutesinfo.org/program-tools/evaluation-parent-survey. Accessed March 19, 2015.

Traffic Observations

Pre- project traffic observations were conducted in November 2013. Follow-up traffic observations were conducted in February 2015. Participants noted pick-up and drop-off procedures and walking, biking, and driving behaviors in order to better inform suggestions for the school. The 2015 observation areas are shown below.



LOCATION 1: Camp Verde Way near schools back entrance gate

DROP-OFF

- Motorists double park to drop off students. Students walk behind and in between vehicles to reach sidewalk near entrance gate.
- Motorists make illegal U-turns at the turn in the road. Many do so at high speeds and it is unclear if they are turning right or making the U-turn.
- Motorists driving down Camp Verde Way from Rancho Adobe Drive and from Cougar Drive approach bend in the road at high speed. Many come to a halting stop to drop off students. Others continue at high speeds around the turn and drive in on-coming lane or in the middle of the road.
- Motorists park on both sides of Camp Verde Way at peak drop-off time. Some parents drop off students and they walk/run across the street alone. Some parents park and walk students to the entrance gate. As they cross the street they walk between vehicles.
- Students pull backpacks out of car trunks as other vehicles park behind parent's vehicle.

PICK-UP

- Student ran across Camp Verde Way towards the school without looking left-right-left. Adult yelled "Watch the cars!"
- Another student ran across Camp Verde Way but first looked left-right-left.
- Motorist driving on sidewalk, stops and parks with wheels on the sidewalk.
- Adult picking up student with vehicle parked across the street from the school entrance gate directs student to pass through traffic to cross street.
- Motorists driving down Camp Verde Way from Rancho Adobe Drive and from Cougar Drive approach bend in the road at high speeds. Many continue at speeding around the turn and drive into on-coming traffic lane or in the middle of the road.
- Motorists pull up to school entrance gate and stop in the middle of the road blocking traffic.
- Motorists double park along school side of Camp Verde Way as they wait to pick-up students.

LOCATION 2: Sidewalk outside teacher-only parking lot on Cougar Drive

DROP-OFF

- Teacher honking at parents who are blocking entrance to driveway.
- Motorists is on a cell phone as they drop-off a student.
- Motorists make illegal U-turns on Cougar Drive after they drop-off students.
- Motorists park in fire lane.

LOCATION 3: Crosswalk on Cougar Drive at the front entrance

DROP-OFF

- Motorists speed down Cougar Drive after dropping off students.
- Motorists do not YIELD to crossing guard.
- Pedestrians cross at designated crossing and majority wait for crossing guards direction when they are present.

PICK-UP

- Cyclist biking with child's bike in hand. Not wearing a helmet. No helmet for the student.
- Pedestrians cross at designated crossing but majority don't look left-right-left when crossing guard is present.
- By 1:57pm 40 vehicles are parked along both sides of Cougar Drive waiting for school to let out. One vehicle left engine running about 15 minutes and was parked right in front of the school.
- Motorists make illegal U-turns on Cougar Drive after and before picking up students.
- Motorists park in fire lane.

Walk to School Day and Bike to School Day

Students participated in International Walk to School Day on October 8, 2014. The Walk to School Day planning team used recommendations developed at the walk audit to choose the walking routes. In order to help students walk and cross the street safely, washable paint in the schools color was used to mark three walking paths. Safe Kids Greater Sacramento and FedEx volunteers walked with students and distributed safety prizes at the entrance to the school.

Infrastructure Recommendations

District Recommendations

These recommendations, both infrastructure and non-infrastructure, would fall under the purview of the Sacramento City Unified School District.

ID	Location	Recommendation	Justification
1	Rear entrance of the school along Casa Del Sol Avenue	Extend the internal pathway west along Casa Del Sol Avenue. Relocate the entrance gate at the west end of the pathway.	Casa Del Sol at the South end of the school is used as a primary drop-off and pick-up zone. An internal campus pathway provides access to the site. Vehicles begin queuing and double parking at the end of the current pathway causing back-ups into the surrounding community and requiring some students to enter and exit a vehicle within the street. Students walk in-between, in front, and behind vehicles to get to the entrance gate. Continuing the path west along the school's gate will encourage students and their parents to travel further west on Casa Del Sol Avenue. Lengthening the queuing distance will allow more opportunities for students to enter or exit vehicles at a curb and directly onto the sidewalk while simultaneously lessening the traffic impact on the surrounding community. Furthermore, by encouraging students to exit and enter the school grounds closer to a marked crosswalk, parents may be encouraged to drop off and pick up their students on the south side of the street. This would also serve to reduce traffic congestion in this
			area.



City Recommendations

These recommendations, both infrastructure and non-infrastructure, would fall under the purview of the City of Sacramento.

ID	Location	Recommendation	Justification	Visual
2	Along 53 rd Avenue	Place advanced warning signs along 53 rd Avenue.	Speed humps improve pedestrian safety and reduce the risk of accidents on residential streets. Placing advanced warning signs prior to the speed humps would forewarn drivers of the need to slow down. If drivers are unaware of the speed humps, the efficacy of the control may be diminished and not lead to the intended traffic calming effect.	
ID	Location	Recommendation	Justification	Visual
3	Intersection of 53 rd and Peck Drive	Paint a crosswalk across Peck Drive on both sides of 53 rd Avenue and advance the painted STOP bars toward the oncoming vehicle. Consider weekly street upkeep on 53 rd Ave.	53 rd street is used as an East – West corridor for students walking and biking to school. Crosswalks along 53 rd at these locations would improve pedestrian connectivity and access. Advancing the STOP bars would encourage drivers to stop in advance of the new crosswalks, improving pedestrian safety. More frequent upkeep of 53 rd Ave. would help reduce the prevalence of debris in bike lanes and along the street.	

ID	Location	Recommendation	Justification	Visual
4	Intersection of 53 rd Avenue and Pontiac Court	Install a new chain link fence separating the drainage area from the sidewalk.	Holes in the chain link fence at this location are wide enough to allow children to pass through. The drainage area could pose threats to student's health and safety in their travel to and from school.	53rd Ave
ID	Location	Recommendation	Justification	Visual
5	Intersection of Elder Creek Road and Cougar Drive	Paint a high visibility crosswalk on the eastern leg of the intersection.	Some students walk to and from school from residences north of Elder Creek Road. North of the school site, there are three crosswalks only on the eastern legs of the intersections. This encourages students to travel to and from school along this side of the road. However at Elder Creek Road, there is no crosswalk on the eastern leg of the intersection, prompting students to either cross twice at the busy intersection or cross in an unmarked crosswalk.	Elder Creek Rd

ID	Location	Recommendation	Justification	Visual
6	Intersection Cougar Drive and Krishna Drive. Intersection of Cougar Drive and Radha Drive.	Paint high visibility crosswalks on the western legs of the intersections.	Alternatively (to recommendation 5), painting high visibility crosswalks on the western side of Cougar Drive at the intersections or Krishna and Radha Drives would provide marked crossings the entire distance between residences North of Elder Creek Road and the School. This would also reduce the need for students to cross Cougar drive during busy commute times such as pick up and drop of.	Cowger Dr

Additional City Recommendations

ID	Location	Recommendation	Justification
7	Neighborhoods within walking distance of the school.	Street sweeping and cleanup. Landscaping of sidewalks.	The walk audit revealed a number of areas where trash and debris littered the walking and biking path creating obstacles for active modes of transportation. Vegetation often encroaches upon the walking path.







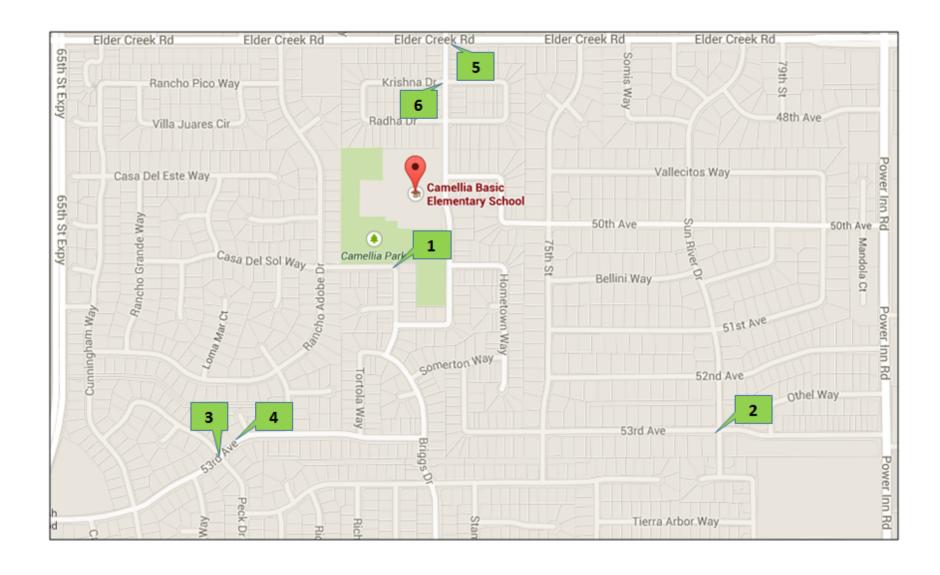
ID	Location	Recommendation	Justification
8	Neighborhoods	Targeting the City of	Large quantities of debris were observed on the walk audit from resident dumping or infrequent clean up.
	within walking distance of the school.	Sacramento's Neighborhood Code Compliance awareness, education, and enforcement efforts	With multiple storm drains nearby this action will also help prevent street flooding and dumping into waterways.





ID	Location	Recommendation	Justification	Visual
9	Neighborhoods within walking distance of the school.	Landscaping around the stop sign at 53 rd avenue and Cunningham Boulevard.	The walk audit revealed the sign is hidden by overgrowth.	STOP

Map of Recommendations



APPENDIX A: National Center for Safe Routes to School Parent Survey Form

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			My ch	ild already wa	lks or bikes to/from sch	lool
Distance			Yes	☐ No	Not Sure	
Convenience of driving			Yes	☐ No	Not Sure	
Time			Yes	No No	Not Sure	
Child's before or after-school activities			Yes	☐ No	Not Sure	
Speed of traffic along route			Yes	No No	Not Sure	
Amount of traffic along route			Yes	☐ No	Not Sure	
Adults to walk or bike with			Yes	☐ No	Not Sure	
Sidewalks or pathways			Yes	No No	Not Sure	
Safety of intersections and crossings			Yes	No No	Not Sure	
Crossing guards			Yes	No	Not Sure	
Violence or crime			Yes	No No	Not Sure	
Weather or climate			Yes	No No	Not Sure	
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APPENDIX B: National Center for Safe Routes to School Student Travel Tally Form

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APPENDIX C: WALKSacramento Traffic Behavior Observation Form

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	there a signal light at t		10	Yes			sections difficult to negotiate?
		for the movement surve		Yes			riving safely and obeying the law? drivers yielding (closest to intersection)? Yes No
;) IS	the intersection assist	ed by Crossing Guard/Stu	ident Safety F	atroi? Yes	NO T)	in general, are o	drivers yielding (closest to intersection)? Yes No
nes:	FRVATIONS OF SAFFTY	BEHAVIORS: [Please us	e one (1) ohs	eruation line ner ne	erson!		
#	MODE	DEMOGRAPHIC (#)	c one (1) obse	vacion nne per pe	. raonj.		Notes: Example- Arrived at crossing alone, pair, groups. Crossing
							behind cars.
\dashv	Pedestrian	Preschool (0-5):	Crossing at	Pushed signal	Waited for	Looked L/R/L	
	Cyclist,	Child (6-12):	designated	button (individual	light/ guard	before	
	Helmet? Yes No	Teen (13-18):	crossing?	or group)?	to cross?	crossing?	
	Other (specify):	Adult (19-60):	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
_		Senior (60+):	No	No	No	No	
	Pedestrian Cyclist,	Preschool (0-5):	Crossing at	Pushed signal	Waited for	Looked L/R/L	
		Child (6-12):	designated crossing?	button (individual or group)?	light/ guard to cross?	before crossing?	
	Helmet? Yes No	Teen (13-18): Adult (19-60):	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	Other (specify).	Senior (60+):	No	No No	No	No	
\dashv	Dedestrian	Preschool (0-5):	Crossing at	Pushed signal	Waited for	Looked L/R/L	
	Pedestrian Cyclist,	Child (6-12):	designated	button (individual	light/ guard	before	
	Helmet? Yes No	Teen (13-18):	crossing?	or group)?	to cross?	crossing?	
	Other (specify):	Adult (19-60):	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Senior (60+):	No	□No	No	■No	
\dashv	Pedestrian	Preschool (0-5):	Crossing at	Pushed signal	Waited for	Looked L/R/L	
	Cyclist,	Child (6-12):	designated	button (individual	light/ guard	before	
	Helmet? Yes No	Teen (13-18):	crossing?	or group)?	to cross?	crossing?	
	Other (specify):	Adult (19-60):	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Senior (60+):	No	No	No	No	
of I	Motorists:	# of Motorists parked in	l	s don't yield to	# of Motorists	U-turn in	Other Motorist behavior:
		No Parking zone:	pedestrians:		street:		