

Paving the Way for Safe Routes to School
Newcastle Elementary
Walkability and Active Design Report
April 2015



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With a special thank you to the participants who contributed to this report and their continued support in promoting safe routes to Newcastle Elementary.

| | |
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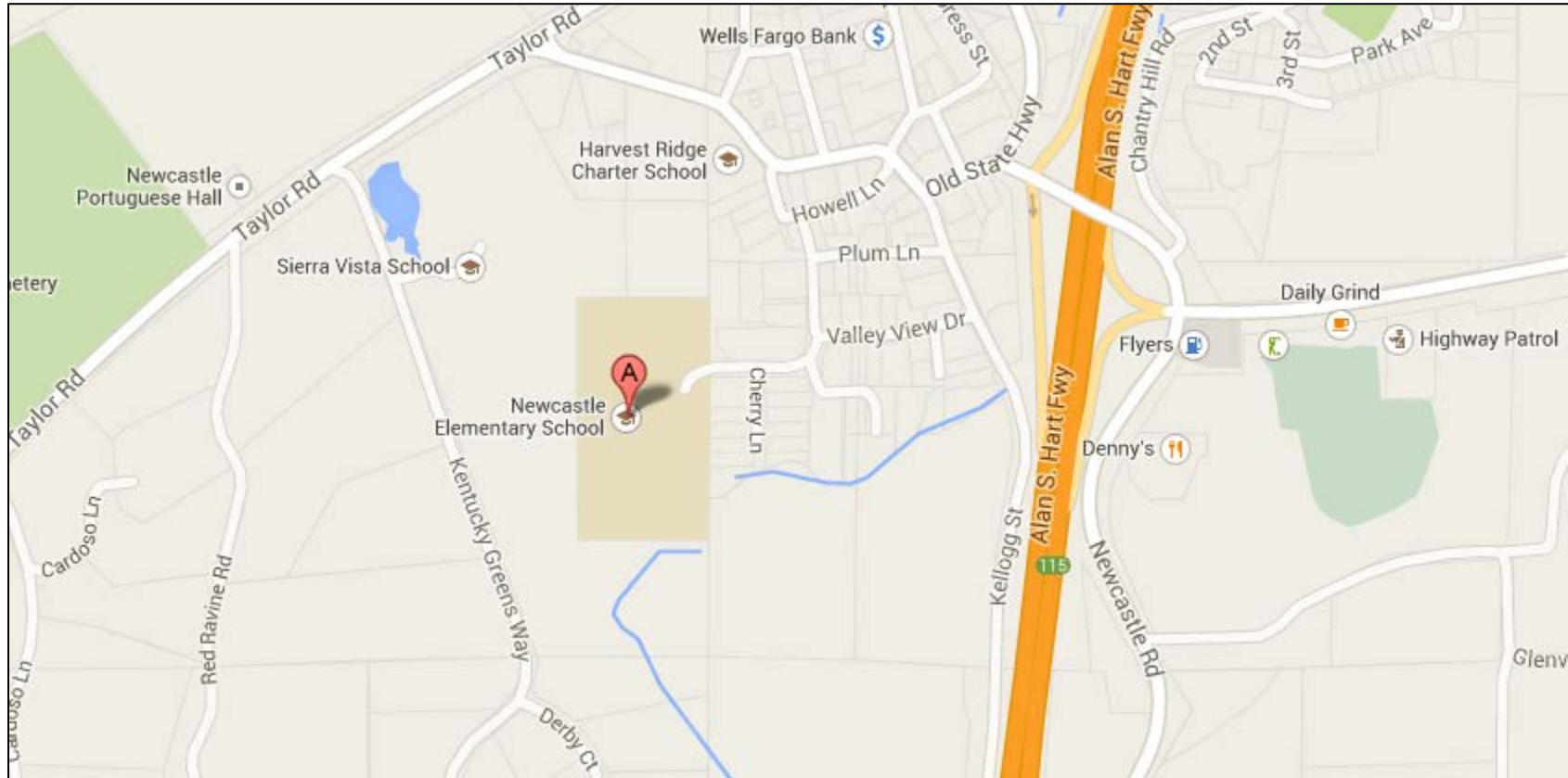
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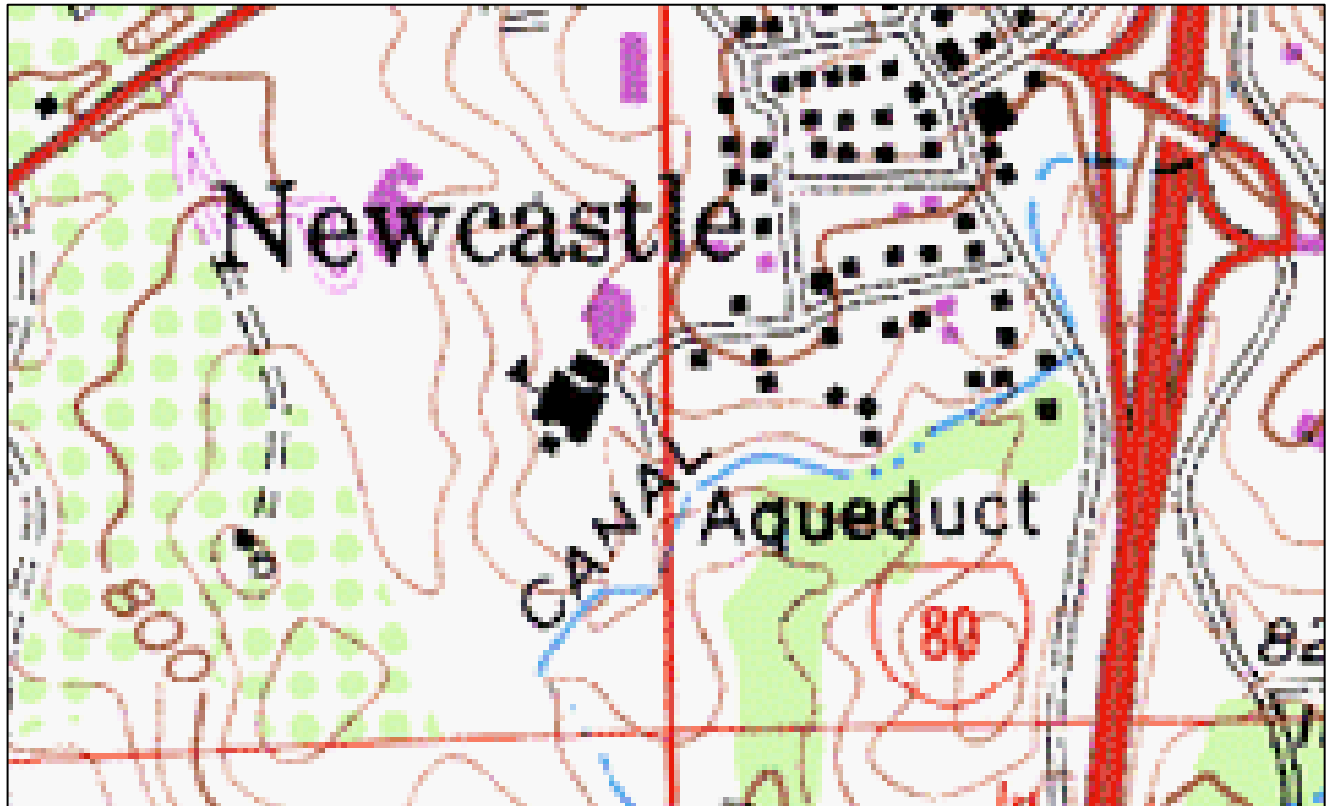
SCHOOL LOCATION

Newcastle Elementary/Charter is located at 8951 Valley View Drive, Newcastle, CA 95658. Newcastle, an unincorporated community in Placer County, is located in the Sierra Nevada foothills, and the presence of hills impact walkability. The school acts as a charter school, so many students do not live in the Newcastle community and travel on Interstate-80 to reach school. The school is located at the end of Valley View Road, the only access to the school and the source of traffic conflict at drop-off/pick-up times.



Map of Newcastle location (Source: Google Maps, 2015)

Topographic Map



The variation in elevation is indicated by the topographic map. The elevation increases as students travel from Interstate-80 to reach the school. The topography contributes to the amount of traffic congestion, as drivers navigate the elevation changes.

¹ Niemi, Ryan. *TopoQuest*. 2012. Source: <http://www.topoquest.com/place-detail.php?id=1723495>

EXISTING CONDITIONS

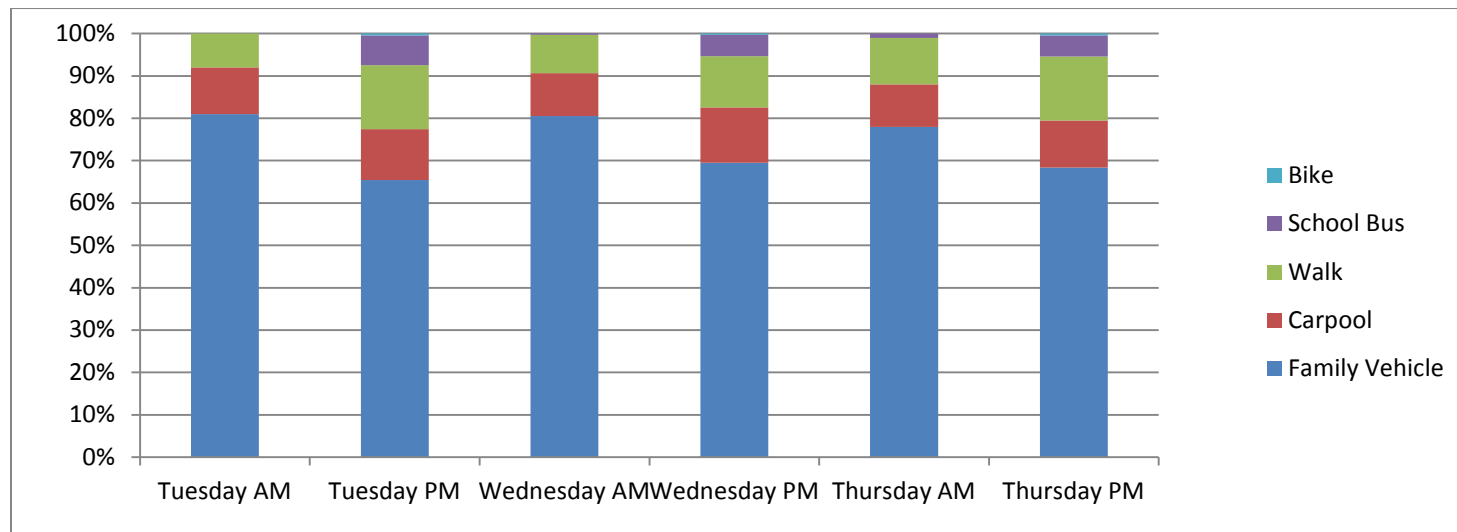
Mode Split

Using the National Center for Safe Routes to School Student Travel Tally², in-class tallies of student travel mode were conducted over a period of three days in December 2013. The tally results are shown below.

| | Number of Trips | Walk | Bike | School Bus | Family Vehicle | Carpool | Transit | Other |
|---------------------|-----------------|------|------|------------|----------------|---------|---------|-------|
| Tuesday AM | 253 | 8% | 0% | 0% | 81% | 11% | 0% | 0%% |
| Tuesday PM | 246 | 15% | 0.4% | 7% | 65% | 12% | 0% | 0% |
| Wednesday AM | 299 | 9% | 0% | 0.3% | 80% | 10% | 0% | 0% |
| Wednesday PM | 317 | 12% | 0.3% | 5% | 69% | 13% | 0% | 0% |
| Thursday AM | 262 | 11% | 0% | 1% | 78% | 10% | 0% | 0% |
| Thursday PM | 236 | 15% | 0.4% | 5% | 68% | 11% | 0% | 0% |

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Newcastle Elementary/Charter Mode Share Split



² 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 April 24, 2014.

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.³

Key Results

The issues most frequently reported to affect the decision to **not** allow a student to walk or bike to/from school are distance (71%), the lack of sidewalks (71%), and speed of traffic along the route (57%).

The majority of parents, 74%, estimated that the distance between home and school was greater than 2 miles.

The majority of parents reported the family vehicle as the typical mode of arrival (84%) and departure (75%) from school.

Traffic Congestion

One of the concerns voiced most by parents is the amount of traffic at pick-up and drop-off times. The school is located at the top of a hill with minimal circulation. There is only one way to enter and exit the school, along Valley View Drive. At peak travel times, drivers frequently back up along Valley View Drive. The school has experimented with different pick-up strategies, which have only increased the amount of cars that travel along Peach Lane.

Many parents included additional comments describing their inability to walk all the way from home to school, but expressed interest in an off-campus pick-up/drop-off meeting location. One parent wrote, "If the school had better sidewalks and a safer route I would arrange a place to meet [my student] to avoid the school pick-up traffic." Another parent wrote, "Another drop/off pick up safe route for children to get to that spot would encourage more walking/biking."

Due to these comments and many other similar comments, this walkability and active design audit report explores the possibility of a meeting location for a walking school bus.

Aggressive Driving

Many community members felt there was a strong prevalence of aggressive driving during pick-up and drop-off times. Parents are known to cut off the line of traffic waiting to drop-off students by traveling on Peach Lane rather than Valley View Drive. This aggression manifests in high speeds, and many neighbors are concerned that children may be a casualty of these speeds. It is also difficult for drivers to see when the sun is in their eyes, which



³ National Center for Safe Routes to School, Evaluation: Parent Survey, 2009, available <http://saferoutesinfo.org/program-tools/evaluation-parent-survey>; Internet: accessed May 2012.

is common driving around Newcastle at certain times of the day due to the topography. This can be dangerous for pedestrians, especially young students that may not be visible to drivers.

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 September 19, 2014. Participants included WALKSacramento staff, Safe Kids California, Safe Kids Placer County Coalition, a California Highway Patrol, Placer County Sheriff's Department, Auburn Parks and Recreation, a Parent-Teacher Committee member, and two Placer County Department of Public Works engineers.

Walk audit participants detailed three routes to cover paths most traveled by students to reach the school.

Traffic Observations

Follow-up traffic observations were conducted winter 2014. Participants noted pick-up and drop-off procedures in order to better inform suggestions for the school.

Walk to School Day

Students participated in Walk to School Day on Friday, October 10, 2014. The Walk to School Day planning team used recommendations developed at the walk audit to choose the best start location for the morning.

Community Meeting

On March 17, 2015 WALKSacramento and Safe Kids California hosted a community meeting to discuss the findings of the Newcastle Walk Audit Report. Neighbors and



INFRASTRUCTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

| Location | Recommendation | Justification |
|---|--|---|
| Valley View Drive, near school entrance | Repave street. | Valley View Drive is the only entrance to the campus. The road is cracked and sidewalks are crumbling. Paint on the curbs will serve as a visual reminder that drivers may not park in the loading queue. |
| | Reconstruct sidewalk curbs. Repaint curbs. | |

Visual



Valley View Drive, approaching the entrance of the school

| Location | Recommendation | Justification |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Trail to Harvest Ridge | Remove large boulders and sharp rocks from paths that are used as cut-thrus. | Students use the trail as a cut-through to reach parents waiting in the Harvest Ridge parking lot. To improve safety, remove potentially slippery and sharp rocks. Request that the fire department clears brush that may attract transients. |

Visual



Sharp rocks potentially hazardous for students using the trail

| Location | Recommendation | Justification |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Valley View Drive and Peach Lane | Relocate crosswalk. Repaint intersection with high visibility crosswalks. | This intersection is the source of much of the traffic congestion entering the school. The southern crosswalk is difficult to see when approaching from Valley View Drive due to the steep incline. Relocate and repaint improve crosswalk visibility. |

Visual



Figure A: Aerial view of Valley View Drive and Peach Lane with crosswalk relocation **Figure B:** Looking South at intersection

| Location | Recommendation | Justification |
|---|--|--|
| Valley View Drive between Peach Lane and Kellogg Street | <p>Construct sidewalks along Valley View Drive.</p> <p>Construct speed bumps along Valley View Drive.</p> <p>Limit parking along Valley View Drive during peak hours.</p> <p>Tag abandoned vehicles for removal.</p> | <p>Many students walk along Valley View to get to Newcastle and are forced to walk in the street. Valley View Drive frequently backs up during pick-up/drop-off hours. Community members expressed that parents speed south on Valley View after dropping-off or picking-up students. Motorists parked in the shoulder force students to walk in the street. Residents have noted that many cars remain in the same spot for an extended period of time and may be no longer functional.</p> |

Visual



Figure A: Looking East on Valley View Drive near intersection of Valley View Drive and Peach Lane **Figure B:** Walking East on Valley View Drive

| Location | Recommendation | Justification |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Valley View Drive and Kellogg Street | <p>Install stop signs to create an all-way stop.</p> <p>Design the intersection with a smaller curb turn radius.</p> <p>Construct a high visibility crosswalk to improve pedestrian access.</p> | <p>There is limited visibility for motorists at the corner of Kellogg Street and Valley View Drive. Stop signs are a low-cost form of intersection improvement. This will require drivers to take turns entering the intersection, resulting in fewer and less severe crashes.</p> <p>Large turning radii compromise pedestrian access because crossing distances are increased. Motorists can make the right turn at higher speeds and pedestrians are located outside of a driver's line of vision.</p> <p>The existing intersection does not include a crosswalk. A marked crosswalk will enhance the visibility of pedestrians crossing Kellogg Street to reach Newcastle Elementary.</p> |

Visual



Existing intersection of Valley View Drive and Kellogg Street

| Location | Recommendation | Justification |
|--|---|--|
| Kellogg Street, Old State Highway to Valley View Drive | <p>SHORT TERM IMPROVEMENT: Paint a shoulder line along Kellogg Street.</p> <p>LONG TERM IMPROVEMENT: Construct sidewalks along Valley View Drive.</p> | <p>Students walking along Kellogg Street are forced to walk in the street. A painted shoulder line will delineate space for pedestrians, as well as narrow the road which will decrease vehicular speeds. However, there are drainage ditches along the road shoulders, so the construction of sidewalks is a preferred alternative. Sidewalks will make the experience safer for both pedestrians and bicyclists.</p> |

Visual



Figure A: Looking north on Kellogg Street



Figure B: Drainage ditch on Kellogg Street

| Location | Recommendation | Justification |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Residential streets | Consider limiting vehicular traffic to one-way along narrow residential streets. (Example: Howell Lane) | Howell Lane is a narrow road and is a source of congestion at pick-up/drop-off times. The road is too narrow for students to walk beside traffic. A one-way flow of traffic will minimize the conflict at peak times. |
| | Consider signage that limits residential street traffic. | Signs such as “NO THRU TRAFFIC” may discourage drivers from using narrow roads as a short cut to reach Newcastle Elementary. |

Visual



Figure A: Looking East at intersection of Howell Lane and Peach Lane;

See: Map of Recommendations

| Location | Recommendation | Justification |
|---|--|---|
| Intersection of Old State Highway and Main Street | <p>Create an all-way stop.</p> <p>Construct ADA accessible curb ramps.</p> | <p>The steep incline makes it difficult to see the right of way at the top of the hill. Stop signs would require motorists to stop to look for crossing pedestrians, bicyclists, and oncoming vehicular traffic.</p> <p>Stepping up or down onto these elevated crosswalks is difficult and dangerous for students and the disabled. Accessible curb ramps are required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at all crosswalks.</p> |

Visual



Intersection of Old State Highway and Main Street

| Location | Recommendation | Justification |
|--|--|--|
| Intersection of Old State Highway and Kellogg Street | Remove and relocate handicapped parking space. Repaint and repave intersection. | ADA Accessible parking space painted on sidewalk in front of post office. It allows handicapped motorists to park on sidewalk, directly adjacent to crosswalk. This impairs sidewalk for pedestrians and limits visibility of pedestrians using the crosswalk. |

Visual



ADA parking space painted in front of post office

| Location | Recommendation | Justification |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Old State Highway and Howell Lane | <p>Construct a crosswalk across Howell Lane to improve path from Harvest Ridge Trail.</p> <p>Post a YIELD sign leading up to crosswalk.</p> <p>Paint path of travel.</p> | <p>Many motorists use this intersection to access Newcastle Elementary. Students have difficulty crossing Howell Lane to access the sidewalk on Old State Highway, travelling downtown from the trail between Newcastle and Harvest Ridge. Parents and neighbors have expressed that motorists travel through the intersection at high speeds and cut through the painted stop line.</p> |

Visual



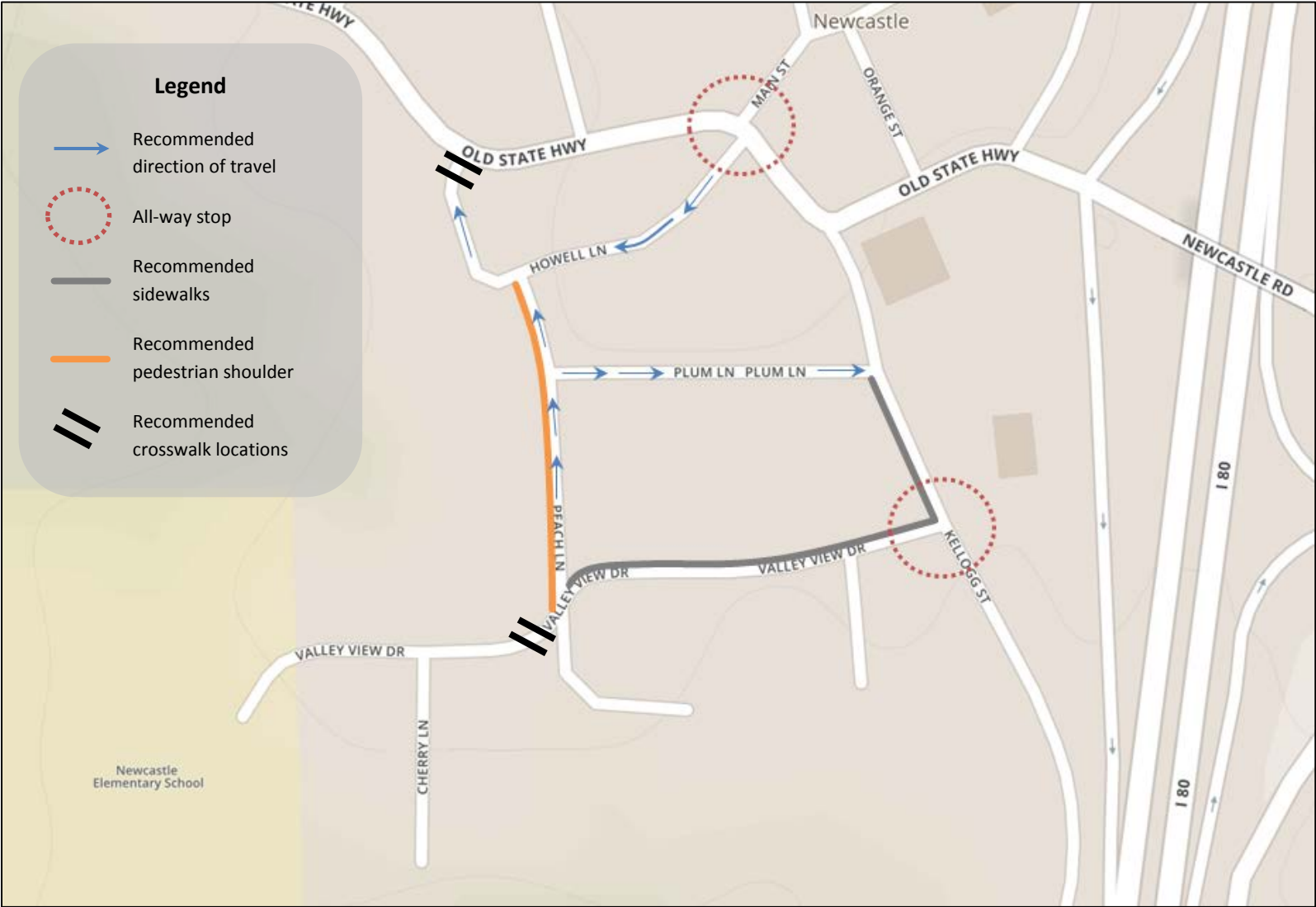
Intersection of Old State Highway and Howell Lane



Alternate view of intersection

Map of Recommendations

The following map includes WALKSacramento’s infrastructure recommendations.



General Recommendations

Many street corners throughout Newcastle do not have curb ramps that meet the American Disability Act standards. Construct curb ramps and locate truncated domes at lacking intersections.

Improve pedestrian-oriented lighting to increase safety and encourage walking after dark.

Curbs that are 10-12 inches above the street on Old State Highway need to be reconstructed to allow safe passage by pedestrians.



NON-INFRASTRUCTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Encourage increased enforcement by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to discourage aggressive driving. Work with CHP to create a plan which targets high-priority locations (such as exiting the freeway and the intersection of Valley High Drive and Peach Lane).
- Work with Harvest Ridge Charter School to create a staggered start and release plan. Offset times when each school begins and ends to minimize congestion on roads used by motorists transporting students to both schools. Consider reserving specific spaces for parents who are picking up students in multiple grade levels.
- Consider working with the Placer County School District to pick-up/drop-off students at a central Downtown location via school bus. This would decrease the congestion of parents using Valley View Drive to pick-up/drop-off students.
- Place school staff or parent volunteers along the trail between Newcastle Elementary and Harvest Ridge Charter School. Students will be encouraged to practice safe walking behaviors in the presence of an authority figure. There are many areas for children to wander off of the path such as under the bridge where dangerous objects and pools of water may be found. This is also a location with noted transient activity. Further, transients may avoid the area if school and community members are present at regular intervals.
- Organize community-wide clean up days hosted by the school or local neighborhood association. Focus on the nature trail to remove garbage and other potentially dangerous items. Large mangled scrap metal poses a significant threat to curious children. Remove large boulders and sharp rocks from paths that are used as a cut-through. Students will use cut-thru regardless, so to ensure safety, remove potentially slippery and sharp rocks.

CONCLUSIONS

Small roads with narrow shoulders constrict the small town of Newcastle. With one way in and out of the school, the surrounding roads are highly congested. Once major infrastructure improvements have been made, a “walking school bus” may be encouraged to guide students to walk to and from school as a group.

APPENDIX A: NATIONAL CENTER FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PARENT SURVEY FORM

| Parent Survey About Walking and Biking to School | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p>Dear Parent or Caregiver, Your child's school wants to learn your thoughts about children walking and biking to school. This survey will take about 5 - 10 minutes to complete. We ask that each family complete only one survey per school your children attend. If more than one child from a school brings a survey home, please fill out the survey for the child with the next birthday from today's date.</p> <p>After you have completed this survey, send it back to the school with your child or give it to the teacher. Your responses will be kept confidential and neither your name nor your child's name will be associated with any results.</p> <p>Thank you for participating in this survey!</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| + CAPITAL LETTERS ONLY – BLUE OR BLACK INK ONLY + | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>School Name:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>1. What is the grade of the child who brought home this survey? <input type="text"/> Grade (PK,K,1,2,3...)</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>2. Is the child who brought home this survey male or female? <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>3. How many children do you have in Kindergarten through 8th grade? <input type="text"/></p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>4. What is the street intersection nearest your home? (Provide the names of two intersecting streets)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Place a clear 'X' inside box. If you make a mistake, fill the entire box, and then mark the correct box. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>5. How far does your child live from school?</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Less than ¼ mile <input type="checkbox"/> ½ mile up to 1 mile <input type="checkbox"/> More than 2 miles <input type="checkbox"/> ¼ mile up to ½ mile <input type="checkbox"/> 1 mile up to 2 miles <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know </p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Place a clear 'X' inside box. If you make a mistake, fill the entire box, and then mark the correct box. + | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>6. On most days, how does your child arrive and leave for school? (Select one choice per column, mark box with X)</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;">Arrive at school</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;">Leave from school</th> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Walk</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Walk</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Bike</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Bike</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> School Bus</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> School Bus</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Family vehicle (only children in your family)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Family vehicle (only children in your family)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Carpool (Children from other families)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Carpool (Children from other families)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Transit (city bus, subway, etc.)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Transit (city bus, subway, etc.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other (skateboard, scooter, inline skates, etc.)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other (skateboard, scooter, inline skates, etc.)</td> </tr> </table> | | Arrive at school | Leave from school | <input type="checkbox"/> Walk | <input type="checkbox"/> Walk | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike | <input type="checkbox"/> School Bus | <input type="checkbox"/> School Bus | <input type="checkbox"/> Family vehicle (only children in your family) | <input type="checkbox"/> Family vehicle (only children in your family) | <input type="checkbox"/> Carpool (Children from other families) | <input type="checkbox"/> Carpool (Children from other families) | <input type="checkbox"/> Transit (city bus, subway, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Transit (city bus, subway, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (skateboard, scooter, inline skates, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (skateboard, scooter, inline skates, etc.) |
| Arrive at school | Leave from school | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walk | <input type="checkbox"/> Walk | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Bus | <input type="checkbox"/> School Bus | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family vehicle (only children in your family) | <input type="checkbox"/> Family vehicle (only children in your family) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpool (Children from other families) | <input type="checkbox"/> Carpool (Children from other families) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transit (city bus, subway, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Transit (city bus, subway, etc.) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (skateboard, scooter, inline skates, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (skateboard, scooter, inline skates, etc.) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| + Place a clear 'X' inside box. If you make a mistake, fill the entire box, and then mark the correct box. + | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>7. How long does it normally take your child to get to/from school? (Select one choice per column, mark box with X)</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;">Travel time to school</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;">Travel time from school</th> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Less than 5 minutes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Less than 5 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 5 – 10 minutes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 5 – 10 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 11 – 20 minutes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 11 – 20 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> More than 20 minutes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> More than 20 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Don't know / Not sure</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Don't know / Not sure</td> </tr> </table> | | Travel time to school | Travel time from school | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 5 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 5 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 – 10 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 – 10 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 – 20 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 – 20 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 20 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 20 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know / Not sure | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know / Not sure | | | | |
| Travel time to school | Travel time from school | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 5 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 5 minutes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 – 10 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 – 10 minutes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 – 20 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 – 20 minutes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More than 20 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 20 minutes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know / Not sure | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know / Not sure | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| + + | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| + + | |
|---|--|
| <p>8. Has your child asked you for permission to walk or bike to/from school in the last year? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> | |
| <p>9. At what grade would you allow your child to walk or bike to/from school without an adult? (Select a grade between PK,K,1,2,3...) <input type="text"/> grade (or) <input type="checkbox"/> I would not feel comfortable at any grade</p> | |
| Place a clear 'X' inside box. If you make a mistake, fill the entire box, and then mark the correct box | |
| <p>10. What of the following issues affected your decision to allow, or not allow, your child to walk or bike to/from school? (Select ALL that apply)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Distance.....</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Convenience of driving.....</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Time.....</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Child's before or after-school activities.....</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Speed of traffic along route.....</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Amount of traffic along route.....</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Adults to walk or bike with.....</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sidewalks or pathways.....</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Safety of intersections and crossings.....</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Crossing guards.....</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Violence or crime.....</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Weather or climate.....</p> | <p>11. Would you probably let your child walk or bike to/from school if this problem were changed or improved? (Select one choice per line, mark box with X)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My child already walks or bikes to/from school</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure</p> |
| + Place a clear 'X' inside box. If you make a mistake, fill the entire box, and then mark the correct box | |
| <p>12. In your opinion, how much does your child's school encourage or discourage walking and biking to/from school?</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Encourages <input type="checkbox"/> Encourages <input type="checkbox"/> Neither <input type="checkbox"/> Discourages <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Discourages </p> | |
| <p>13. How much fun is walking or biking to/from school for your child?</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Very Fun <input type="checkbox"/> Fun <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Boring <input type="checkbox"/> Very Boring </p> | |
| <p>14. How healthy is walking or biking to/from school for your child?</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Very Healthy <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unhealthy <input type="checkbox"/> Very Unhealthy </p> | |
| + Place a clear 'X' inside box. If you make a mistake, fill the entire box, and then mark the correct box. + | |
| <p>15. What is the highest grade or year of school you completed?</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Grades 1 through 8 (Elementary) <input type="checkbox"/> College 1 to 3 years (Some college or technical school) <input type="checkbox"/> Grades 9 through 11 (Some high school) <input type="checkbox"/> College 4 years or more (College graduate) <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 12 or GED (High school graduate) <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer </p> | |
| <p>16. Please provide any additional comments below.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> | |

APPENDIX B: NATIONAL CENTER FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL TRAVEL TALLY FORM

| Safe Routes to School Students Arrival and Departure Tally Sheet | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|-------------|-------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|---|--|
| + CAPITAL LETTERS ONLY – BLUE OR BLACK INK ONLY + | | | | | | | | | | | |
| School Name: <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div> | | | | | | Teacher's First Name: <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div> | | Teacher's Last Name: <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div> | | | |
| Grade: (PK,K,1,2,3,...) <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> | | Monday's Date (Week count was conducted) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: 0.8em;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: 0.7em; margin-top: 2px;"> 0 2 M M D D Y Y Y Y 1 5 </div> | | | | Number of Students Enrolled in Class: <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please conduct these counts on two of the following three days Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. (Three days would provide better data if counted) Please do not conduct these counts on Mondays or Fridays. Before asking your students to raise their hands, please read through all possible answer choices so they will know their choices. Each Student may only answer once. Ask your students as a group the question "How did you arrive at school today?" Then, reread each answer choice and record the number of students that raised their hands for each. Place just one character or number in each box. Follow the same procedure for the question "How do you plan to leave for home after school?" You can conduct the counts once per day but during the count please ask students both the school arrival and departure questions. Please conduct this count regardless of weather conditions (i.e., ask these questions on rainy days, too). | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Step 1. Fill in the weather conditions and number of students in each class | | | Step 2. AM – "How did you arrive at school today?" Record the number of hands for each answer. PM – "How do you plan to leave for home after school?" Record the number of hands for each answer. | | | | | | | | |
| Key | Weather | Student Tally | Walk | Bike | School Bus | Family Vehicle | Carpool | Transit | Other | | |
| | S = sunny R = rainy O = overcast SN = snow | Number in class when count made | - | - | - | Only with Children from your family | Riding with children from other families | City bus, subway, etc. | Skate-board, scooter, etc. | | |
| Sample AM | S N | 2 0 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 3 | | | 3 | 1 | |
| Sample PM | R | 1 9 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 2 | | 2 | | |
| Tues. AM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tues. PM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wed. AM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wed. PM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thurs. AM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thurs. PM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Please list any disruptions to these counts or any unusual travel conditions to/from the school on the days of the tally. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| + + | | | | | | | | | | | |

APPENDIX C: NOTES FROM COMMUNITY MEETING

Newcastle Community Meeting

March 17, 2015 5:00-7:00pm

Newcastle Portuguese Hall

Meeting Summary

The agencies represented at the Newcastle community meeting included:

California Highway Patrol, Newcastle Elementary, Newcastle Neighborhood Group, Newcastle School District, Placer County District 3, Placer County Public Works, Safe Kids California, Safe Kids Placer County Coalition, WALKSacramento

Introduction

Emily Alice Gerhart (WALKSacramento) welcomed the community group and local stakeholders.

Katie Smith (Safe Kids California) gave a brief background on the Paving the Way for Safe Routes to School grant, grant partners, and the goals of the grant for Newcastle Elementary.

The Paving the Way for Safe Routes to School grant is funded by the California Department of Public Health through the “Kids Plates” license plates. Partners WALKSacramento and Safe Kids CA lead pedestrian and bicycle safety education and encouragement programs at seven schools in the greater Sacramento region, including Newcastle Elementary. One goal of the grant is to engage the community to advocate for street improvements.

Miha Tomuta (WALKSacramento) described the walk audit performed at Newcastle Elementary. The purpose of a walk audit is to assess the existing infrastructure conditions, barriers to walking, and make recommendations for street improvements. Participants met in September 2014 and walked three routes around the Newcastle Elementary surrounding community. WALKSacramento compiled a report of the walk audit, presented this evening.

Emily Alice presented WALKSacramento’s recommendations and reasoning.

The group was encouraged to write down questions and comments on notecards, and engage in discussion regarding the report at the end of the evening.

Community Questions and Discussion

One group member asked why Newcastle was chosen. Katie clarified that the grant was focused on low income and/or rural schools. Kathleen Daugherty (Superintendent) said that she applied for the grant.

One resident asked how much money has been spent so far? A: Approximately \$250,000 allocated to WALKSacramento for all eight schools. No money spent of resident tax-payer dollars. No money has been used on physical infrastructure improvements, only encouragement and education.

One group member suggested that Newcastle Elementary and Harvest Ridge Elementary use County school parking lots that connect to trail to move student to each school. Use as drop off zone.

One community member noticed the decline of the street over last 2 years. Observed 168 motorists driving down Valley View Drive and Peach Lane to pick up students. The community is also concerned about vehicle emissions.

The community discussed two-way to one-way street conversion. Resident on Plum Lane worried about adding to Valley View Drive traffic. They would like “resident only” conversion. Resident mentioned Plum Lane is not wide enough for two vehicles.

Resident mentioned a rumor about 120 new students being added to the school. Superintendent and principal confirmed there is no more classroom space.

Resident requested Valley View Drive speed bumps so people don’t speed around Kellogg Street onto Valley View Drive. Stephanie Holloway (Placer County Public Works) said speed bumps are a possibility through County program. It requires majority support from neighbors through a petition and a funding piece. Stephanie offered the manual on how to accomplish this as a resource. She will provide to resident.

One resident expressed concern about foliage on Kellogg near Post Office blocking lines of sight. Stephanie said County goes out if it encroaches on right of way and safety issue. If not is the property owner’s responsibility.

School district proposed designated bus stop at park and ride location with reduced rates as a potential solution for pick up and drop off.

One resident said there were sensible suggestions, but irrelevant because of the current situation. Q: Wouldn’t it make sense to get them to a safe location then run them to school on a shuttle bus? A: Kathleen believes safest spot is Harvest Ridge pick up-and it is available. Staggering schedule a very real possibility, could start soon.

Resident on Valley View said her yard is directly adjacent to the street and asked if there is space for sidewalks. Stephanie addressed width of the street and requirements for sidewalks.

Howell Lane and Old State Highway by Harvest Ridge resident said WALKSacramento listened to her concerns and she feels heard and thankful for the thoughtful recommendation.

Stephanie expanded on the one-way conversion. Reasoning behind one-way pattern is to keep parents on certain streets and out of the grid with most traffic congestion.

One resident expressed that speed issues are worst from 4-6 pm because parents are going to pick up their kids at after-school programs and don't want to pay extra fees.

Parents drive wrong way on Valley View cutting off other cars trying to beat them to school. Resident supported implementing traffic management person.

Note Card Comments

The following notes were written down and submitted.

- Harvest Ridge Trail: will the grant pay for some maintenance?
- Do you know the make up for this school – 1/3 local students (walk/bike) 2/3 charter (must be driven by parents), 420 total
- The Newcastle Community Association did do a volunteer clean up – but we were refused by Superintendent Daugherty
- Recommendation – no new additional students in that school.
- It is not safe for children to either walk or bike on Valley View.
- A remote drop-off in town is not a viable alternative.
- How about a road from Kentucky Greens past the school.
- What is the potential for a drop-off spot at Taylor/OSH intersection and build a sidewalk along OSH to the historic steps, then use nature trail
- I am in favor of connecting with the Sierra Vista and Secret Ravine parking area
- Re: Howell/OSH intersection, why not make a new entrance to Harvest Ridge further west
- At Kellogg and Old State Hwy, why not have a no left turn certain hours
- Good idea to have adult crosswalk guards
- The street sign on OSH identifies Harvest Ridge as “Pine View”

- Can't the school require parents to use the bus drop-offs instead of driving?
- You didn't discuss Plumb Lane. School traffic uses it to make a loop over to VV, but Plumb is narrow and there is conflict with the residential traffic

Conclusion

WALKSacramento will incorporate neighborhood input into final walk audit report. The report will be sent to residents once completed. Future funding will need to be secured for infrastructure improvements such as sidewalks. The community is invited to participate in "Walk and Roll to School Day," on May 20, 2015.