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MEMORANDUM

To: Chelsea Biklen and David Stillman, City of Cupertino

From: Lola Torney, Alta Planning + Design

Date: May 4, 2017

Re: Sedgwick Elementary School Walk Audit Recommendations

Introduction

The City of Cupertino conducted a walk audit for Sedgwick Elementary School with staff from Alta Planning + Design. The audit was held in the morning of March 9, 2017 to observe the morning arrival time at the school.

A walk audit is an assessment of travel behaviors for drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians (both parents and students), developed by observing a school pick-up or drop-off period on and around school grounds. Walk audits provide insight into the specific barriers to walking and biking at each school. The assessment team included Alta Planning + Design staff; City of Cupertino staff, and concerned parents. The audit began with a discussion of current challenge areas and the types of issues to focus on for the walk audit. The team then observed student and parent travel activities during the drop-off period, and reviewed the immediate school zone area for quality of sidewalks, curb ramps, signage, and other engineering elements and patterns of activity. After the audit period was over, audit participants returned to discuss and document their findings on a large scale school area map. Based on observations and input provided by school staff, audit participants, and others, the project team developed recommendations which are presented for Sedgwick Elementary School in a narrative and graphical format.

This memo provides programmatic and project recommendations for Sedgwick Elementary School. It includes both on-campus recommendations that can be implemented by the school district and off-campus improvements that can be implemented by the City. The map of recommended projects is attached to this memo.

Existing Conditions

Sedgwick Elementary School is located on Phil Lane. There are two drop-off areas: one on Phil Lane and one on Tantau Avenue. Staff and visitors park in both lots. There is a drop-off loop for buses only off of Phil Lane.

The school reports that few students ride their bicycles to school. This is most likely due to the school attendance boundary, which is mostly within walking distance (approximately 0.6 miles). However, Tantau Avenue is heavily used by adult bicyclists. Many parents who live farther away park their vehicles on side streets and walk with their children to school.

Project Recommendations

1. Phil Lane/Finch Avenue
 - Shift crosswalk across Phil Lane to make crosswalks perpendicular.
 - Install ADA-compliant curb ramps.
2. Tilson Avenue/Tantau Avenue
 - Install ADA-compliant curb ramps on western corners.
 - Install high-visibility crosswalks.
3. Phil Lane Drop-Off
 - Widen sidewalk on Phil Lane.
 - Install Loading Zone During School Hours signs on south side of Phil Lane between western drop-off loop driveway and Tantau Avenue.
 - Refresh red curb between driveways.
 - Trim bushes on western side of drop-off loop and bus loop exit.
4. Phil Lane/Tantau Avenue
 - Install ADA-compliant curb ramps.
 - Install detectable warning surface at either end of median refuge.
5. Tantau Avenue/Barnhart Avenue
 - Replace existing beacon with Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon or other LED flashing beacon.
 - Current beacon is difficult to see and is not as effective as a rapid flashing beacon.
 - Install curb extension at intersection corners.
 - Widen sidewalk on Tantau Avenue to match existing paint on street.
 - This will reduce crossing distance for pedestrians.
 - Realign high-visibility crosswalk on Barnhart Avenue to increase visibility.
6. Tantau Avenue Drop-Off
 - Reconstruct curb to make drop-off loop longer.
 - Include driveway for maintenance vehicle access.
 - Install sidewalk on southern end of driveway.
7. Shadygrove Drive/Ferngrove Avenue/Tantau Avenue
 - Install ADA-compliant curb ramps.
 - Install school Assembly D signage on Tantau Avenue.

Program Recommendations

1. Implement a Walking School Bus program.
 - Consider reaching out to First Baptist Church of Cupertino for permission to use their parking lot.
 - Consider coordinating with Hyde Middle School to combine walk to school routes and Walking School Bus leaders.
2. Implement a valet system at drop-off loops in the mornings.
 - This will decrease wait times for drivers.
3. Encourage crossing guard to continue holding groups of pedestrians prior to stopping traffic and allowing them to cross.
 - This can increase vehicle traffic flow.

Sedgwick Elementary Safe Routes to School Improvement Plan

4. In the school welcome packets, remind parents to not drop students off at intersections.
5. Install signs to make drop-off loops no-idling zones.
 - o Remind parents of this in school welcome packets.