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MEMORANDUM

To: Chelsea Biklen and David Stillman, City of Cupertino

From: Lola Torney, Alta Planning + Design

Date: June 21, 2017

Re: Cupertino High School Walk Audit Recommendations

Introduction

The City of Cupertino conducted a walk audit for Cupertino High School with staff from Alta Planning + Design. The audit was held in the morning of April 4, 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 Cupertino High School in a narrative and graphical format.

This memo provides programmatic and project recommendations for Cupertino High 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

Cupertino High School is located on Finch Avenue between Stevens Creek Boulevard and Tilson Avenue. Drop-off areas are located in the northern drop-off loop and the southern parking lot, both off of Finch Avenue. Staff can park in both the northern and southern parking lots. Visitors and students can park in the southern parking lot.

Bicycle and pedestrian access from the north is available from Finch Avenue at Sorenson Avenue. Bicycle access from the south is located at the emergency access gate north of the baseball field. Pedestrian access from the south is located at the southern end of the southern parking lot.

Project Recommendations

1. Stevens Creek Boulevard/Finch Avenue
 - Reconfigure intersection to tighten radius on southeast corner to eliminate slip lane.
 - Removing the slip lane will slow drivers down as they approach the intersection, increasing visibility for other roadway users.
 - Tighten radius and install ADA-compliant curb ramps on southwestern corner of intersection.
 - Install yellow high-visibility crosswalks on east side and south side of intersection.
 - Long term: Install protected intersection and bicycle signal with Lead Bicycle Interval when separated bikeway is installed along Stevens Creek Boulevard.
 - Conflict was identified between bicyclists and vehicles making a right turn. Bicyclists ride on the sidewalk to avoid this conflict, creating a new conflict with pedestrians on the sidewalk.
2. Finch Avenue/Sorenson Avenue and Finch Avenue/Craft Drive
 - Install ADA-compliant curb ramps.
3. Southern Parking Lot
 - Install raised pedestrian walkways across driveways and reconfigure curbs.
 - Install painted walkway through parking lot to increase visibility and yielding compliance.
 - It was observed that drivers leaving the parking lot do not yield to students as they walk through the parking lot or through the driveway to access the school.
4. Miller Avenue/Calle de Barcelona (location not shown on map)
 - Study traffic signal timing to add protected left-turn phase onto Calle de Barcelona from Miller Avenue.
 - It was reported that there is a significant backup of vehicles waiting to turn left onto Calle de Barcelona, prompting some drivers to make dangerous maneuvers such as waiting to turn in the intersection or running the red light.
5. Finch Avenue
 - Widen sidewalk between Tilson Avenue and emergency access gate north of the baseball field to approximately eight feet.
 - Formalize existing space between sidewalk and baseball field fencing (currently dirt).
6. Calle de Barcelona/Finch Avenue
 - Install KEEP CLEAR marking in intersection.
 - Move crosswalk/stop sign closer to Finch Avenue.
 - Install curb extensions and ADA-compliant curb ramps to tighten turning radii and shorten crossing distance across Finch Avenue.

Program Recommendations

1. Conduct bicycle skills/rules refresher courses to remind students about using hand signals and other safety skills.

2. Place cones in driveway to narrow southern parking lot driveway exit during drop-off and pick-up.
3. Install signs to make drop-off loops no idling zones.
4. Remind parents in school welcome packets to not use the Citibank parking lot as a drop-off area.