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MEMORANDUM

To: Chelsea Biklen and David Stillman, City of Cupertino

From: Lola Torney, Alta Planning + Design

Date: December 22, 2016

Re: Homestead High School Walk Audit Recommendations

Introduction

The City of Cupertino conducted a walk audit for Homestead High School with staff from Alta Planning + Design. The audit was held in the morning of November 15, 2016 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, nearby residents, 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 Homestead High School in a narrative and graphical format.

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

Existing Conditions

Homestead High School is located on Homestead Road, southeast of Mary Avenue. Vehicle access is only available on Homestead Road, although vehicles can turn into the parking lot south of Mary Avenue. Drop-off areas are located in the Mary Avenue parking lot and the Homestead Road drop-off area known as the "Horseshoe." Staff and visitors can park in the Mary Avenue parking lot while students use the parking lot on the northeastern edge of campus.

Bicycle and pedestrian access is available from Homestead Road and the Mary Avenue Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge (Don Burnett Bridge). On-campus bicycle parking is located on the southeastern side of the school.

Project Recommendations

1. Mackenzie Drive at Homestead Road:
 - Install ADA-compliant curb ramps.
 - Tighten turn radii at corners by constructing curb extensions.
 - Install high-visibility crosswalk.
2. Mary Avenue at Homestead Road:
 - Install high-visibility crosswalks on all four legs.
 - Work with City of Sunnyvale to study potential adjustment to signal timing for all-red pedestrian phase during arrival and dismissal times at school. Extend the signal phase long enough to allow pedestrian to cross two legs of the intersection in one signal phase.
 - Reconstruct southwestern corner to tighten turning radius.
 - Close sidewalk ramps the south side Homestead Road at Samedra Street, approximately 185 feet west of Mary Avenue. Install bicycle ramp approximately 25 feet west of curb ramp located on southwest side of Homestead Road and Mary Avenue intersection. Note, ramp does not require truncated domes as it will not be used by pedestrians. Include signage on ramp for bicyclists to yield to pedestrians on sidewalk. Possibly include waiting area for bicyclists. Install bicycle path behind bench shelter to connect to Mary Avenue Bridge path.
 - Upgrade existing bike lane to buffered bike lane and add flexible delineators in buffer space up to 50 to 100 feet prior to intersection. Reducing vehicle lane widths to 11 feet will provide space for buffered bike lane.
3. Kennewick Drive at Homestead Road:
 - Install high-visibility crosswalks on roadway crossings.
 - Work with City of Sunnyvale to conduct study to reconfigure traffic signal to allow for bi-directional travel in driveway. Allow for protected left turns into the parking lot as well as protected left turns out of parking lot.
4. Horseshoe:
 - Install “THRU LANE” pavement markings on the north side of the Horseshoe. Provide loading zone signage and markings adjacent to southern curb. Paint southern curb white. Improve signage and pavement markings to better highlight right-turn-only rule.
 - Install flexible delineators on Homestead Road in the double yellow line to block vehicles from turning left into the Horseshoe.
 - Extend double yellow lines in center turn lane for length of Horseshoe. Install flexible delineators in the southern double yellow line to block vehicles from turning left from the Horseshoe onto Homestead Road.
5. Student Parking Lot:
 - Update the western driveway of Student Parking Lot to allow for bi-directional “right-in, right-out only” travel in driveway.
 - Add flexible delineators on Homestead Road to block vehicles from turning left out of the parking lot.

Homestead High School Walk Audit Recommendations

6. South Mary Avenue Parking Lot Access:

- Short term: Pave informal path to allow for safer bicycle access.
- Long Term: Install mini-roundabout.

7. General Recommendations:

- Install additional secure bicycle parking on campus, especially on the western side of campus. It was observed that several students lock their bikes to poles along the Mary Avenue Bridge pathway or to the bench shelter at the Homestead Road/Mary Avenue Bridge intersection.
- Expand the sidewalk into the buffered bike lane on the south side of Homestead Road to create a bi-directional shared use path in front of the school. This is a long-term solution for students riding the wrong way on Homestead Road.