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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: Hyde Middle School Walk Audit Recommendations**

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### Introduction

The City of Cupertino conducted a walk audit for Hyde Middle School with staff from Alta Planning + Design. The audit was held in the morning of April 26, 2017 to observe the morning drop-off 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 Hyde Middle School in a narrative and graphical format.

This memo provides programmatic and project recommendations for Hyde Middle 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

Hyde Middle School is located on Bollinger Road between Hyde Avenue and Miller Avenue. The main drop-off area is located in the parking lot off of Bollinger Road. Staff and visitors also park in this lot. Informal drop-offs occur on Hyde Avenue, in the West Valley Presbyterian Church parking lot next to the school, and the Safeway parking lot across the street from the school.

Bicycle access is available on Bollinger Road, but most students arrive by bicycle from Hyde Avenue via Shadygrove Drive. Bicycle parking is available on Hyde Avenue. Pedestrian access is available in the front of the school, on Hyde Avenue, and two access gates on Disney Lane and from the West Valley Presbyterian Church parking lot. Students are not allowed on campus prior to 9:15am.

## Project Recommendations

1. Shadygrove Drive/Hyde Avenue
  - Conduct stop sign warrant analysis for Hyde Avenue.
    - People driving on Hyde Avenue tend to not yield to those currently in the intersection.
  - Install yellow high-visibility crosswalk on east side of intersection.
  - Trim vegetation around intersection.
    - Visibility around this intersection is low, causing potential conflicts that could be reduced with lower hedges.
2. Disney Lane/Miller Avenue
  - Install yellow high-visibility crosswalk.
3. Willowgrove Lane/Hyde Avenue
  - Install curb extension on west side of intersection.
    - Will require new ADA-compliant curb ramp.
4. Bollinger Road/Miller Avenue
  - Install yellow high-visibility crosswalks on all legs of intersection.
    - Including slip lane.
5. School Drop-Off
  - A) In staff parking area, shift parking spaces east and install painted walkway between property line and parking stalls.
    - Install wheel stops in parking spaces.
    - Remove two parking spaces in staff parking area and cut through landscape area to connect new walkway to existing sidewalk.
      - This new walkway will eliminate any potential conflicts with students who walk through the parking lot from the west and drivers leaving the drop-off area.
      - Long term: Install raised walkway through parking lot.
  - B) Widen walkway between tree and school to approximately seven feet to increase the walkway space in front of the school.
    - Long term: Extend curbed drop-off area.
  - C) Assign at least two spaces to staff parking in the eastern parking area.
    - This will reduce the number of parents who drop off their students in these spaces then back into the drop-off loop, causing more congestion.
      - Install sign at existing flexible delineator to indicate drop-off line or thru line.
  - D) Install five foot walkway between school sign and tree.
    - Students are currently walking through the grass or through the driveway to access the front of the school.
6. Hyde Avenue/Bollinger Road
  - Trim vegetation on Bollinger Road.
    - Visibility around this intersection is low, causing potential conflicts that could be reduced with lower hedges.

## Program Recommendations

1. In the school welcome packets, remind parents to not drop students off at intersections.
2. Conduct bike rodeo to ensure all students understand and practice proper signaling while riding a bicycle.

3. Install signs to make frontage a no-idling zone.
  - o Remind parents of this in school welcome packets.
4. Unlock bicycle cage at 9:00am for waiting students to store their bicycles.
  - o Gate currently swings outward, blocking the sidewalk. Fix the gate to open inward.
5. Encourage bicyclists to dismount prior to crossing at crosswalks.