

Pico-Aliso Boyle Heights Executive Summary

Community Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Training

The Community Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Training (CPBST) is a statewide project of California Walks (Cal Walks) and the University of California at Berkeley's Safe Transportation Research and Education Center (SafeTREC). The CPBST engages residents and safety advocates to develop a community-driven action plan to improve walking and biking safety in their communities.

The Pico-Aliso, Boyle Heights CPBST was collaboratively planned and facilitated by Proyecto Pastoral, the Planning Committee, Cal Walks, and SafeTREC (Project Team) to:

1. Improve Safe Routes to School (SRTS) around Mendez High School, Utah Street Elementary School, and Dolores Mission School;
2. Engage local agencies to plan with community members and champion the implementation of walking and biking safety improvements; and
3. Create a community vision with neighbors for pedestrian and bicycle safety advocacy.

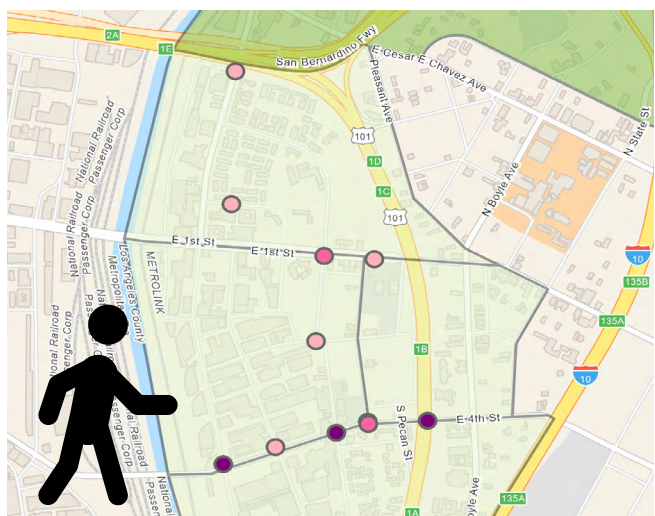
The March 4, 2020 training consisted of:

- Introduction play activity;
- Walking and biking assessments along three (3) key routes;
- An overview of the 6 E's strategies to improve walking and biking safety using the intersectional 6 E's framework including: Evaluation, Equity, Engineering, Education, Encouragement, and Enforcement; and
- Action-planning sessions to prioritize and plan for community programs and infrastructure projects.

Data

The Project Team and Planning Committee reviewed data which demonstrated a safety concern in the area. Over the 10-year period, 2009 to 2018, pedestrian injuries appeared to be mostly stable with a slight upward trend and bicycle injuries appeared to be mostly stable with a peak in 2018. From 2014 to 2018, there were 23 pedestrian victims and 13 bicycle victims in the Pico-Aliso neighborhood of Boyle Heights. A full discussion of pedestrian and bicycle collision can be found in the CPBST report.

Figure 1: Pedestrian Injury Collisions (2014-2018)



Collision Severity (2014-2018)

- Fatal 3
- Injury (Other Severe) 3
- Injury (Complaint of Pain) 7

Median Household Income

- < 35K
- 50K - 75K

Figure 2: Bicycle Injury Collisions (2014-2018)



Collision Severity (2014-2018)

- Fatal 1
- Injury (Other Severe) 7
- Injury (Complaint of Pain) 4

Median Household Income

- < 35K
- 50K - 75K

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The planning committee consisted of representatives from Proyecto Pastoral, Dolores Mission School and Church, Self-Help Graphics, and Partnership for Los Angeles Schools (Partnership LA).

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Workshop participants included the Planning Committee, community residents, and parents from Utah Elementary School, Mendez High School, and Dolores Mission School.

For a more detailed discussion of the workshop, please download the full report on SafeTREC's or Cal Walks' websites.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Walking & Biking Assessment

Workshop participants conducted walking and biking assessments along three (3) key routes used by students and their families to reach school. Participants were asked to:

- Identify community assets;
- Assess infrastructure conditions; and
- Observe how road users are engaging with the built-environment.

Participants expressed concerns around:

- Visibility issues including faded crosswalks;
- Pedestrians crossing challenges around schools;
- Lack of bike facilities and green open spaces that encourage physical activity;
- Sidewalk obstructions like bulky trash items and illegal dumping; and
- Unsafe road user behaviors such as speeding.

Community Recommendations

During the action-planning sessions, participants prioritized and outlined preliminary plans for the following community programs and infrastructure projects aimed at increasing the health and safety of the community:

- An annual community health and safety education fair to encourage parents and students at Mendez High School and Utah Elementary School to learn about walking and biking safety tips and advocacy, share community health resources, and build collaboration between parents;
- A community advocacy strategy for program and project implementation that details a plan for the CPBST Planning Committee and workshop participants to engage with agencies and city council staff to consistently work on the next steps outlined in this report;
- Crosswalk improvements around Utah Elementary School and Mendez High School at intersections that are highly frequented areas for all road users during school arrival and dismissal; and
- Safe arrival and dismissal program at Utah Elementary School and Mendez High School. This program would help create a safe arrival and dismissal process at Utah Elementary School and Mendez High School.

Cal Walks & SafeTREC Recommendations

The following are recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements:

- Install key pedestrian infrastructure improvements near Mendez High School, Utah Street Elementary School, and Dolores Mission School to improve the walking and biking safety of students and their families.
- Install bike route signage and additional school zone signage on East 1st Street, which is both narrow and traveled by various road users, including drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users.
- Install speed calming infrastructure throughout the Pico-Aliso neighborhood to increase traffic safety awareness and voluntary compliance with speeds.