Scripps Kensington Pedestrian Safety Workshop

with

California WALKS

May 6th, 2010
Table of Contents

Introduction ........................................................................................................................................ 2

Workshop day ............................................................................................................................... 2
  Workshop introduction ................................................................................................................ 2
  Presentation on existing conditions .......................................................................................... 3
  Presentation on pedestrian safety for older adults ................................................................. 3
  Walkability assessment ............................................................................................................. 3

Small group work ........................................................................................................................ 3
  Group 1: ...................................................................................................................................... 4
  Group 2: ...................................................................................................................................... 4
  Group 3: ...................................................................................................................................... 4
  Group 4: ...................................................................................................................................... 4

Large group discussion and priority development ..................................................................... 4
  Working with the City: .............................................................................................................. 4
  Neighborhood residents - Forming partnerships and taking action: .................................... 5

Next steps ......................................................................................................................................... 5

Workshop Evaluation .................................................................................................................. 6

Appendix: ..................................................................................................................................... 7

California WALKS
Wendy Alfsen and Rhianna Babka

PO Box 13143
Berkeley CA 94712-4143
510 685-5705
californiawalks@gmail.com
http://www.californiawalks.org/
Introduction

California WALKS was invited by residents of Scripps Kensington deliver a workshop on pedestrian safety. The workshop’s goal was to empower residents through knowledge, group work, and by creating an action plan to improve pedestrian safety around Scripps Kensington. The workshop was sponsored by the Residents Council. Mary Duncan, Ida Donahue, and Michael Fiumefreddo, residents of Scripps Kensington, were integral in the workshop development and outreach. Scripps Kensington administrative staff support of this workshop was also integral to the success of this workshop.

Outreach was conducted to residents of Scripps Kensington, neighbors and several additional nearby retirement communities in Alhambra and Pasadena. Special invitations were made to several local elected officials and city staff. Media outreach included news articles in the *Pasadena Star*¹ on April 30, 2010 and *Around Alhambra*² May 2010 edition.

Participants came to the workshop ready to learn about pedestrian safety and identify priorities for next steps in improving pedestrian safety in Alhambra. The training resulted in a concrete list of priorities and next steps.

Workshop day

The workshop took place on May 6th, 2010 at Scripps Kensington on 1428 South Marengo Ave. and W. Valley Blvd. in Alhambra, Ca. The workshop started at 10 am, included lunch, and ended at 2 pm. A total of 35 participants signed in for the workshop and were provided with workshop materials.

The workshop included six distinct parts:
1. Introductions
2. Presentation on existing conditions
3. Presentation on pedestrian safety for older adults
4. Walkability assessment
5. Small group work
6. Large group discussion and priority development

Workshop introduction

Ida Donahue, resident, introduced the workshop and California WALKS staff. Ms. Donahue also presented the Proclamation sent from Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Fifth District, congratulating the group on their efforts in pedestrian safety.

Presentation on existing conditions
Prior to the workshop, Michael Fiumefreddo assessed walking conditions around the Scripps Kensington and took pictures of known pedestrian concerns around the property. He presented these existing conditions at the beginning of the workshop to illustrate many of the issues that the older residents face on a daily basis.

Presentation on pedestrian safety for older adults
California WALKS used the pedestrian workshop curriculum Pedestrian Safety Workshop: A Focus on Older Adults. This curriculum engages community residents in addressing pedestrian safety and provides strategies and examples for safer walking and community engagement. The curriculum emphasizes why walking is important for older adult health and how pedestrian safety is particularly important for older adults. Both pedestrian and driver behavior is discussed as well as engineering, enforcement, education, and engagement strategies. The curriculum provides examples of real situations where older adults have worked to successfully improve pedestrian safety in their communities.

Walkability assessment
As part of the learning experience, California WALKS led workshop participants on two (one short and one longer) walkability assessments around Scripps Kensington. California WALKS staff encouraged walkers to identify both assets and areas of concern for pedestrian safety. Many of the participants were very familiar with the walking routes, and were eager to point out favorite (preferred) routes and hazards for pedestrians. Assets in the walking environment included the presence of sidewalks, buffer zones (eg: street parking and grass), and destinations within walking distance (eg: post office). Identified hazards for pedestrians included uneven pavement, not enough time to safely cross the street on West Valley Blvd., overgrown trees and foliage obstructing pedestrian paths, and bus stop locations in relation to commercial driveways.

Small group work
After the walking assessment, participants worked in small groups to develop a list of priorities for the group. Working in small groups provided an opportunity for residents and neighbors to work together to brainstorm their top concerns, solutions and ideal outcomes. Four groups were formed and were encouraged to write down their concerns and priorities on large poster paper. These group notes were then presented to the large group.

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3 Pedestrian Safety Workshop: A Focus on Older Adults. Developed by the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center (UNC HSRC) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
Group 1:
• Longer crossing time across West Valley Blvd. Especially at Benito Ave where timing is shorter than at other locations on West Valley Blvd.
• Pedestrian countdown signals on West Valley Blvd.
• Sidewalk repair around Scripps Kensington, especially on West Glendon Way and Benito Ave.
• No bikes on sidewalk

Group 2:
• “Buddy” walk
• Carrying a sign to cross the street
• Balloon sign on a stick (at crossings)
• Group “note” takers (to count pedestrian trips and collect pedestrian data)

Group 3:
• Longer crossing times on West Valley Blvd.
• Organize partner walks

Group 4:
• Longer crossing times on West Valley Blvd.
• Bicycle lanes on West Valley Blvd.
• Repair broken sidewalks
• Extend signal time to 20 seconds
• Look for federal/state Safe Routes to School grants
• No right turn on red on West Valley Blvd.
• Enforce complete stops (e.g. stop prior to right turn on red)

Large group discussion and priority development
After the small group work sessions, the participants came together as a large group to identify top priorities and next steps. As evidenced from the small group priorities there were several common issues that the participants would like to work on. During the discussion participants and California WALKS staff grouped the priorities into two themes: working with the City, and neighborhood residents.

Working with the City:
• Traffic engineering department: Engage traffic engineers in a discussion about extending crossing times on West Valley Blvd.
• Public works: Call public works to identify broken sidewalk locations, burnt out streetlights, increasing pedestrian signage, etc.
• Traffic enforcement: Work with local law enforcement officers to enforce complete stops and discuss no right turn on red strategies in high pedestrian volume areas. Within a month of the workshop, a camera has been installed at the intersection of Valley Blvd. and Marengo Ave.
Neighborhood residents - Forming partnerships and taking action:

- **City Council**: Organize a group of residents to speak at a City Council meeting to raise awareness of pedestrian safety for older residents. Fran, Scripps Kensington resident, began organizing a list of participants who are interested in going as a group to the next City Council meeting. If a large enough group of Scripps Kensington residents go to the City Council meeting together is it possible that a van can be reserved to drop-off and pick-up the residents. Within a month of the workshop, organization for this Council speaking delegation is well underway.

- **Weekly walking groups**: Scripps Kensington residents currently have a weekly walking group as well as several unofficial walking groups. Continuing to have walking groups and identifying pedestrian issues while walking can help in continued engagement. Groups can also begin to develop additional activities such as walking challenges that can be an outgrowth of the walking clubs.

- **“Eyes on the Street” Group note taking activity**: As a group, residents can stand at intersections and take notes on pedestrian and driver behavior and frequency. Collecting baseline data of pedestrian counts, signal crossing time adequacy and pedestrian/auto conflicts can be valuable when speaking to city staff and elected officials. Within a month of the workshop, a group of residents has formed to collect data at Bonita and Marengo Aves. This data will be used when speaking to the City Council.

- **Send letters**: Sending letters as a group with group identified concerns, to the City Council and other city departments can be an effective way to initiate engagement. (e.g. specific requests to Public Works for sidewalk repair, signage, signal crossing timing changes).

- **Volunteer crossing guards**: Partner with the local schools to expand the work of crossing guards in the neighborhood. Scripps Kensington residents can also work as volunteer crossing guards.

**Next steps**

Several next steps were identified:


2. Exchange contact information among workshop participants for future City Council, SRTS and group walk/count efforts.

3. Gather a group of residents to speak at the next City Council meeting. During the workshop, Fran began collecting names and contact information for those interested in going to the next meeting. Check if Scripps Kensington shuttle can provide transportation to Council meeting.
4. Contact Traffic Engineering and Identify other partners at the two local schools to apply for state or federal Safe Routes to School annual grants, including the state grant due July 15 to fix sidewalks, change to longer crossing times and install countdown signals on W. Valley, and make improvements suggested by traffic engineering.

5. Attend Community Pedestrian Safety Engagement Workshop, Sat., June 5, 10-2, Neighborhood Resource Center, 425 Atlantic, Long Beach, CA

**Workshop Evaluation**

Results from the first Older Adult Pedestrian Safety self-reported evaluation, in Alhambra Ca, were overwhelmingly positive. A total of 12 evaluations were collected and tabulated. All of the respondents identified themselves as being an older adult or community member.

Participants had very positive remarks regarding their overall impression of the workshop. Remarks included “Very informative – It ‘stirred’ us to now do something” and this is “very important for our community”. Participants identified a wide range of activities that were the most helpful for them during the workshop, however several of the participants remarked that the focus of concrete strategies and ideas for moving forward was the most helpful. The visual aspect of the presentation (to help explain all aspects of pedestrian safety) was also praised as being very helpful. There were a couple of comments regarding speaking slower and louder, a good reminder when working with older adults. This feedback will be incorporated into subsequent trainings.

One area of improvement that participants noted was the lack of invited City Council members and professionals at the workshop. This concern was translated during the workshop into an action to take pedestrian safety concerns to a City Council meeting and reaching out to professionals. Collecting pedestrian volume data and calling public works to repair broken sidewalks were also action items resulting from this workshop.

Overall, residents have a variety of concerns about pedestrian safety around Scripps Kensington ranging from safety concerns when crossing Valley Blvd. to cracked and broken sidewalks in the area.
Appendix:

1. Photos
2. *Pasadena Star – News* Article
3. *Around Alhambra* Article
4. Workshop Agenda
5. City of Alhambra Departments
Appendix 1: Photos

Ida Donahue introducing the workshop.

Workshop attendees.

Looking down Valley Blvd. at Bonito Ave.

Proclamation from Supervisor Michael Antonovich’s office.

Workshop attendees.

Workshop participants.

On the walk assessment.

Working in small groups.

Marked crossing at Valley Blvd. and Benito Ave.

Working in small groups.

Working in small groups.

Michael Fiumefreddo speaking on existing pedestrian safety hazards around Scripps Kensington.
Working in small groups.

Uneven sidewalks around Scripps Kensington.

Turning vehicles on Valley Blvd and Marengo Ave.

Pedestrian crossing Valley Blvd at Marengo Ave.

Valley Blvd and Bonito Ave.

Bus stop at Valley Blvd and Marengo Ave.

Bicycles on the sidewalk.
Appendix 2: Pasadena Star – News Article

Scripps plans workshop on pedestrian safety in Alhambra

Posted: 04/30/2010 04:41:47 PM PDT
Members of California WALKS will lead a pedestrian safety workshop from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday in the Bloy Center at the Scripps Kensington retirement community, 1428 S. Marengo Ave.

The focus of the program will be on vulnerable people - seniors, school-age students and the disabled. Officials from the city's Police Department, Department of Public Health, and Traffic Engineering will discuss pedestrian safety.

Seniors are at disproportionate risk for traffic fatalities and injuries in Alhambra, organizers said.

To register, or for more information, call Mary Duncan, 626-576-1963.
Appendix 3: Around Alhambra Article

Scripps Kensington to host pedestrian safety workshop

The Scripps Kensington Resident Council will sponsor a pedestrian safety workshop on campus, 1928 S. Marengo, Thursday, May 6. It will focus on issues faced by vulnerable people (seniors, school-age students, and the disabled).

The workshop will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Alumni Hall. It will be conducted by representatives of California WALKS, a partner of the Healthy Transportation Network (a project of the Safe and Active Communities branch within the California Department of Public Health) with funding from the California Department of Transportation.

Representatives from nearby senior living facilities, schools, and public safety officials are invited to attend.

To make reservations, phone 626-576-1963.
Appendix 4: Workshop Agenda

AGENDA
Alhambra Pedestrian Safety Workshop
Scripps Kensington Bloy Center May 6, 2010, 10am to 2pm

10:00-10:10 am Welcome, Ida Donahue, Scripps Kensington Residents’ Council
LA County Supervisor Antonovich Proclamation
Alhambra City Council Dr. Placido; Police Chief Jim Hudson (invited)

10:10:10:30 am Introductions, Sharing Walk Stories
Walking Conditions Near Scripps Kensington - Michael Fiumefreddo
10:30-11:30 am Increasing community pedestrian safety and engaging communities using NHTSA’s Pedestrian Safety Workshop: A Focus on Older Adults:

1. Pedestrian safety issues faced by older adults.
2. Strategies that older adults can use to make walking safer.
3. Education, encouragement, enforcement, and improving the physical walking environment (engineering and built environment) can improve pedestrian safety.
4. Identifying actions and available resources to help create safer environments for pedestrians of all ages.
5. Identifying community assets and barriers to walking in area.

11:30-12:10 pm Walkability Assessment walking around Scripps Kensington
12:10 - 1:00 pm Networking lunch - Working in small groups on priorities
1:00 - 1:20 pm Priorities Presentations to large group
1:20 - 1:55 pm Reaching Consensus and Pedestrian Safety Action Next Steps

- Tuesdays, May 11 and weekly, 9 am, Walk Scripps Kensington
- Sat., June 5, Community Pedestrian Safety Engagement Workshop, 10-2, Neighborhood Resource Center, 425 Atlantic, Long Beach, CA

1:55 - 2:00 pm Wrap Up and Goodbye – Mary Duncan, Scripps Kensington
Appendix 5: City of Alhambra Departments

City of Alhambra Departments

RESIDENTS OF ALHAMBRA

COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

ALHAMBRA CITY COUNCIL

CITY ATTORNEY (JOSEPH MONTES)

CITY MANAGER (JULIO FUENTES)

MANAGEMENT SVCS (JULIO FUENTES)

POLICE DEPT (JIM HUDSON)

ADMINISTRATIVE SVCS (TARA SCHULTZ)

FIRE DEPT (BRUCE STEDMAN)

PUBLIC WORKS (MARY CHAVEZ)

FINANCE DEPT (HOWARD LONGBALLA)

PUBLIC LIBRARY (CARMEN HERNANDEZ)

UTILITIES DEPT (MARY SWINK)

DEVELOPMENT SVCS (VANESSA REYNOSO)

PERSONNEL DEPT (RICHARD BACIO)

COMMUNITY SVCS (CYNTHIA JARVIS)

Council Members:
Stephen Sham (1st Dist); Barbara Messina (2nd Dist);
Gary Yamauchi (3rd Dist.); Dr. Steven Placido (4th Dist); Luis Ayala (5th Dist.)

Scripps Kensington Pedestrian Safety Workshop with California WALKS
Page 13 of 13