

Costa Mesa Community 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 Costa Mesa CPBST was collaboratively planned and facilitated by the Planning Committee, Cal Walks, and SafeTREC (Project Team) to:

1. Improve walking and biking in Costa Mesa; and
2. Create a community vision with neighbors.

The August 28, 2020, training consisted of:

- An overview of the 3 E's strategies to improve walking and biking safety: Equity, Engineering, and Education;
- Walking and biking assessments along three (3) key routes; 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. From 2014 to 2018, there were 162 pedestrian victims and 238 bicycle victims in Costa Mesa. Over the 10-year period, 2009 to 2018, pedestrian injuries appeared to be mostly stable with a trend that remains constant while bicycle injuries appeared to be on a downward trend. A full discussion of pedestrian and bicycle collisions can be found in the CPBST report.

Costa Mesa Pedestrian Injury Collisions (2009 - 2018)

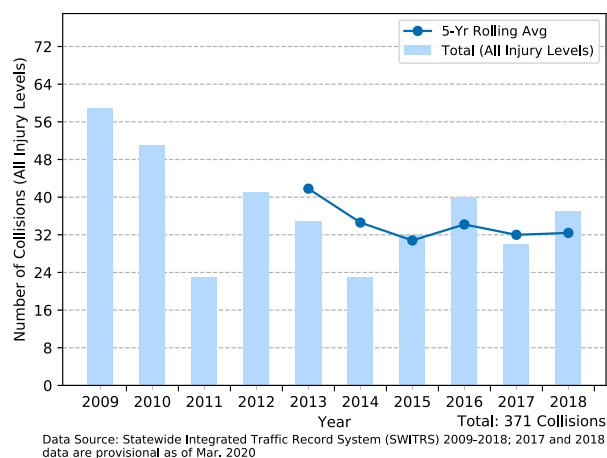


Figure 1: Pedestrian Injury Collisions (2014-2018)

Costa Mesa Bicycle Injury Collisions (2009 - 2018)

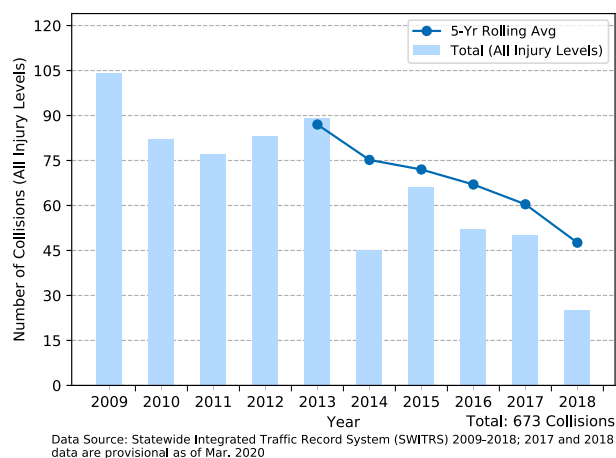


Figure 2: Bicycle Injury Collisions (2014-2018)

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Planning Committee consisted of representatives from the Costa Mesa City Council, the Newport-Mesa Unified School District, Costa Mesa Alliance for Better Streets, and members of the City's Bikeway and Walkability Committee.

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Workshop participants were community members and/or representatives from the Planning Committee, parents, and students from Orange Coast College.

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

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 Costa Mesa residents to walk, bike, drive, and use public transit along town. 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:

- Crossing challenges;
- Lack of bike infrastructure; and
- Driver behavior.

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:

- Pedestrian & Bicycle Infrastructure Enhancements along West 19th Street;
- A Bike Lane Demonstration; and
- A Community Engagement Campaign.

Cal Walks & SafeTREC Recommendations

The following are recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements:

- Implement a Safe Routes to School Walking School Bus for hybrid learning;
- Conduct a Shade Tree Assessment along the 19th Street Corridor;
- Start a Costa Mesa City Streets Bike Rack Program; and
- Administer a Senior Safety Zone Assessment.