



DATE: August 31, 2022

AGENDA ITEM # 4

**TO:** Complete Streets Commission

**FROM:** Marisa Lee, Transportation Services Manager

**SUBJECT:** Los Altos High School Messaging to Parents and Students

**ATTACHMENTS:** None

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive update on the messaging and materials that have been distributed to the LAHS community.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Staff and Commission have held discussions with the public regarding congestion and operations surrounding Los Altos High School during morning and afternoon commute. Over the spring and summer, staff has worked with SRTS consultants and the school administration to develop messaging, materials and guidelines for morning and afternoon commutes, as well as goals for coming years and collection of baseline data. This work has been based Commissioner input and feedback as well as public input.

**DISCUSSION:**

Staff has worked with consultants and school administration on the following:

- Installation of a loading zone for drop-off/pick-up on Jardin Drive
- Presence at Back to School Night with a table of materials, maps, messaging, and Schoolroutes.org promotion
- Development of maps guiding the flow of traffic through the LAHS neighborhood
- Recommendation for mode choice based on distance from school (included at the end of this report)
- Diagram of school with bike and pedestrian entrances and guidelines for commute (included at the end of this report)
- Letter to Parents with transportation guidelines (included at the end of this report)
- Video message to parents containing commute guidelines
- Distribution of Suggested Routes to School Map and safety tips for walking and biking (generated during CSMP process)
- Promotion of the health benefits of walking and biking
- Data collection on transportation mode choice to and from school
- Data collection on user experience of the cycletrack on Almond Ave
- Development of Goals

Goals for LAHS Commute:

- Reduce vehicle trips by 10% within 2 years for families that live within 2 miles
- Collect data on carpooling; increase carpooling by 5% within 2 years
- Conduct walk audit and formulate additional recommendations
- Measure reach of messaging program (percentage of parents who received letter and video, survey to parents about messaging effectiveness)
- Develop goals and metrics for Schoolroutes.org mobile app usership

Next Steps:

- Schedule Walk Audit in September (will invite parents, commissioners, residents) and develop additional recommendations
- Collect travel data on an annual or biannual basis and track trends in comparison to goals
- Monitor effectiveness of new loading zone
- Monitor school area circulation on an ongoing basis and assess whether messaging was effective in impacting commute behavior and circulation
- Conduct surveys on effectiveness and reach of messaging
- Continue delivering video and written messaging to parents with additional information, updated guidelines, and reminders of previous messaging
- Monitor usership of Schoolroutes.org for carpool, walk and bike commute groups
- Reassess circulation after completion of school construction

Hello LAHS Parents and Students,

Welcome back to school! The Los Altos Safe Routes to School Program is thrilled to be back this school year to support safe school travel, promote active transportation and healthy commutes.

The City of Los Altos recognizes that morning and afternoon commutes at LAHS have been challenging. We are working to make **transportation at LAHS a smooth, painless, and safe experience for everyone**. Over the spring and summer, the City worked closely with LAHS administration to address the transportation issues around the school. We have commissioned consultants from a highly experienced transportation planning and design firm that specializes in Safe Routes to Schools. Ultimately, success will be determined by your choices and behaviors. **We ask you to help us and do your part to make LAHS a safer and more pleasant place.**

Los Altos High has a large student population, and the school took root in the Almond Avenue neighborhood in 1954, during an era when walking and biking were more common, and vehicle traffic was significantly less. For this reason, **it is extremely important that walking and biking is utilized as a primary way to get to school**, and that vehicle traffic moves through the neighborhood with maximum efficiency by following the guidance provided below.

- **If you live within two miles of school, we highly recommend walking or biking to LAHS.** Walking, biking, or rolling one mile to and from school each day is two-thirds of the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity a day for young people. Physical activity in the mornings is good for students' health and focus.
- Los Altos is a great place for walking and biking! **Use the new cycletrack on Almond Ave or the multi-use path and bike lanes on El Monte.** Students can build stronger friendships and relationships through walking and biking together. You can check the LAHS Suggested Routes to School map at [losaltosca.gov/saferoutes](https://losaltosca.gov/saferoutes) to plan your walk or ride. The City is continually working on new bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Email us ([transportation@losaltosca.gov](mailto:transportation@losaltosca.gov)) if you have suggestions or requests.
- **If you are choosing to drive to campus or drop off your student**, we request that you join us in making the LAHS drop-off as smooth as possible for everyone. **Be a courteous and thoughtful driver.** Please remember that LAHS is located in a neighborhood that many people call home. When you enter the neighborhood, please proceed through the loops designated in the maps provided by the school. Plan your route in advance for your efficiency and convenience. **Do NOT make U-turns**, as they are extremely disruptive to the efficient flow traffic. **Do not block driveways** to people's homes **or park illegally.**
- **Drop-off on Jardin Drive (For students grades 9-10):** To help with congestion, the City has installed a **new loading zone on Jardin Drive** at the back of the school. LAHS Administration recommends dropping off only 9th and 10th graders on Jardin Drive. Please enter the school area from the west end (Valencia Drive) and drive East on Jardin to access the drop off zone. Follow arrows in the map from LAHS to facilitate smooth traffic flow. **Do NOT make U-turns and do NOT double park.**
- **Park or Drop-off and Walk (For students grades 11-12):** We all need to work together to reduce congestion during school drop-off and pick up. Please help us by doing your part! If your student is a junior or senior, please drop them off 1-2 blocks from LAHS and let them walk onto campus.
- **No Stopping on Almond Ave:** Like last year, there is no drop-off, pick-up, or parking allowed on Almond Ave. Keep the cycletrack clear for people biking!

Thank you for your collaboration in getting the school year off to a good start and helping us promote safe commutes for everyone. Happy Back to School!

Marisa Lee  
Transportation Services Manager, City of Los Altos, CA

# Los Altos High School

## MORNING & AFTERNOON COMMUTE GUIDELINES



★ *Use the new loading zone on Jardin Drive!*

### 9<sup>TH</sup> & 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS

Drop-off on the south side of Jardin Drive, at the new loading zone between Los Ninos Way and Distel Drive.

### 11<sup>TH</sup> & 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS

Park or drop-off and walk. If your student is a junior or senior, please park or drop-off 1-2 blocks from LAHS and let them walk onto campus.

- \* Do NOT make U-turns
- \* Do NOT double park
- \* No stopping, drop-off or pick-up on Almond Ave





If you live within two miles of school, walk or bike to LAHS. Walking, biking, or rolling one mile to and from school each day is two-thirds of the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity a day for young people.

You can check the LAHS Suggested Routes to School map at [losaltosca.gov/saferoutes](https://losaltosca.gov/saferoutes) to plan your walk or ride.

- \* Find a neighbor or friend and walk or roll together!
- \* If you must drive to school, please carpool
- \* Visit [SchoolRoutes.org](https://SchoolRoutes.org) or download the mobile app to walk, roll, bike or carpool to school



*Did you know that 44% of LAHS students walk or roll to school? Do your part this school year and help us increase the trend!*