



## **COMPLETE STREETS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA**

**5:30 PM - Wednesday, October 26, 2022**  
*Virtual Online Meeting*

**Members of the Public may join the conference with the following methods:**

**Join via personal computer: [https://losaltosca-](https://losaltosca.gov.zoom.us/j/81297265367?pwd=ZzIhTVhYwckdrWmFNSVlid2tTNDgyUT09)**

**gov.zoom.us/j/81297265367?pwd=ZzIhTVhYwckdrWmFNSVlid2tTNDgyUT09**

**Enter Meeting ID: 812 9726 5367**

**Passcode: 691803**

**Call in with phone + 1 (346) 248-7799**

**Enter Meeting ID: 812 9726 5367**

**Passcode: 691803**

**Participants who join the meeting via phone number will not be able to view presentation slides during the meeting.**

### **ESTABLISH QUORUM**

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Members of the Public may only comment during times allotted for public comments. Public testimony will be taken at the direction of the Commission Chair. Members of the public are also encouraged to submit written testimony prior to the meeting at [Transportation@losaltosca.gov](mailto:Transportation@losaltosca.gov). Emails received prior to the meeting will be included in the public record. Participants who join the meeting with personal computer will have access to “raise hand” feature. Please use this feature when prompted by the Commission Chair for public comments. Participants who join by phone will not have access to “raise hand” feature.

### **CONSENT ITEMS and (TARGET START TIME)**

1. Approve CSC Meeting Minutes of August 31, 2022 (5:35 pm)
2. Form Workplan Subcommittee (5:40 pm)

### **UPDATE ITEMS and (TARGET START TIME)**

3. Project Update (5:45 pm)  
Receive an update on ongoing projects status within the City of Los Altos.
4. Citywide Police Department Traffic & Pedestrian safety Update And Back To School (6:00 pm)  
Receive update on pedestrian safety, Los Altos High School drop-off zone, back to school drop-off at other schools, and crossing guard program.
5. Safe Routes to School Update (6:20 pm)

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS and (TARGET START TIME)**

None

## COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS (6:50 pm)

## POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

## ADJOURNMENT

### SPECIAL NOTICES TO PUBLIC

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Altos will make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Engineering Division 72 hours prior to the meeting at (650) 947-2780.

Agendas, Staff Reports and some associated documents for Complete Streets Commission (CSC) items may be viewed on the Internet at <https://www.losaltosca.gov/completestreets>.

On occasion, the Complete Streets Commission may consider agenda items out of order.

All public records relating to an open session item on this agenda, which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act, and that are distributed to a majority of the legislative body, will be available for public inspection at the City Hall, Engineering Division, City of Los Altos, located at One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to the legislative body. Any draft contracts, ordinances and resolutions posted on the Internet site or distributed in advance of the Commission meeting may not be the final documents approved by the Commission. Contact the CSC Liaison at 650-947-2626 for the final document.

If you wish to provide written materials, please provide CSC with **10 copies** of any document that you would like to submit to the CSC for the public record.

For other questions regarding the meeting proceedings, please contact the CSC Liaison at 650-947-2626.

MINUTES OF THE COMPLETE STREETS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS,  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2022 AT 5:30 PM  
HELD OVER ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

PRESENT: Stacy Banerjee (Chair), Suresh Venkatraman (Vice Chair), Nadim Maluf, Cynthia O'Yang, Tom Gschneidner, Steve Katz, Marisa Lee (Staff Liaison)

ABSENT: Suzanne Ambiel

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

1. Approve CSC Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2022  
Upon motion by Vice Chair Venkatraman, seconded by Commissioner Maluf, the Commission moved to approve the July 27<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes with the following amendment.
  - On Discussion Item 5 (Cuesta Drive Traffic Calming Redesign), revise the Abstained vote to state "Recused".

Vote passed with 6-0 (1 Absent).

**UPDATE ITEMS**

2. Workplan September 2022 – February 2023  
Marisa Lee, Staff Liaison presented the draft work plan for the next 6 months of CSC meetings. September 2022 meeting is canceled.
3. AB 43 Informational / Educational Update  
Transportation Consultant Jaime Rodriguez presented an informational presentation on AB 43, which allows cities to establish safety zones with lower speed limits.
4. LAHS - Communications and Messaging to Parents and Students Update  
Marisa Lee, Staff Liaison provided update on the various messaging to parents and students of LAHS on the topics of transportation during morning and afternoon commute.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

5. City-wide Traffic Model

Transportation Consultant Jaime Rodriguez, and Staff Liaison, Marisa Lee, presented this item and provided background on how traffic models work and what they are used for, the City's motivation for developing the model, the goal of the model, data that has been collected and how it will be used, and features of the model.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Safe Routes to School Resurfacing and Signage and Striping will be rewarded during next City Council meeting.

### **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS AND POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **Comments**

The wrong zoom link is on the CSC City website, we shall delete it.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Stacy Banerjee adjourned the meeting at 8:26 PM

MINUTES OF THE COMPLETE STREETS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS,  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2022 AT 5:30 PM  
HELD OVER ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

PRESENT: Stacy Banerjee (Chair), Suresh Venkatraman (Vice Chair), Nadim Maluf, Cynthia O'Yang, Tom Gschneider, Marisa Lee (Staff Liaison)

ABSENT: Suzanne Ambiel, Steve Katz

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

1. Approve CSC Meeting Minutes of May 25th, 2022  
Upon motion by Vice Chair Venkatraman, seconded by Commissioner Maluf, the Commission moved to approve the May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.  
  
Vote passed with 4-0 (1 Abstained - 2 Absent).

**UPDATE ITEMS**

2. Hetch Hetchy Trail Crossings  
Nafis Majd, City Staff, presented updates on the Hetch Hetchy Trail Crossing ADA Improvement project and the recent San Francisco Public Utilities Commission feedback provided by the Project Review Committee.
3. Schoolroutes.org  
Transportation Consultant Jaime Rodriguez presented a demonstration of the Schoolroutes.org application and its capabilities.
4. Updated VTA Bike Parking Guidelines  
Lola Torney, Transportation Planner with VTA, presented recent updates to the Bicycle Parking Chapter of the Bicycle Technical Guides. These updates supersede the original document, written in 2007. VTA Board of Directors adopted the updated chapter in March 2022.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

5. Cuesta Drive Traffic Calming Redesign

The City Manager, Gabriel England, and Staff Liaison, Marisa Lee, presented this item and answered questions from the Commission. Three options A, B, and C were proposed along Cuesta Drive between El Monte Avenue and Springer Road, and staff recommended design alternative that includes removal of existing Asphalt speed tables (required) and installation of prefabricated rubber speed tables with offset design, along with other improvements minor features including hardened centerline, delineator at edge of roadway, and speed feedback signs.

Upon motion by Commissioner Maluf, seconded by Commissioner Gschneidner, the Commission moved to adopt Option A in Cuesta Drive Traffic Calming Redesign item with the following conditions and recommendation:

Conditions:

- Establishing safety metrics and targets to be defined by the City

Recommendation:

- Consulting with the residents on the speed table placement
- Taking into account the movement of pedestrian and bicyclists
- Performing another speed survey after the project completion and reassessing the situation
- Enhancing PD commitment on enforcement (e.g., crossing yellow line)

Vote passed with 4-0 (1 Recused - 2 Absent).

#### 6. Optional meetings for June and July

Marisa Lee, Staff Liaison presented the commission two options: (1) Establish one summer month (June, July, August) as the annual month when the CSC meeting will not be Held, and (2) Establish June and July as optional meeting months.

Commissioners recommended City Staff to update the monthly meeting schedule for CSC and bring it back to the commission for next CSC meeting.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

A member of Transportation team (Gaku Watanabe) has left the City and the City will be advertising for the vacant position soon.

The City had slight restructuring and have had two hires in the new Capital Improvement Project department, Morgan Loatfi and David Fisch.

City of Los Altos was awarded to be part of the Beacon Program to share data and collaborate and best practices in climate changes, sustainability, emission reductions, energy saving, and meeting aggressive state standards fir climate change.

The City is working with Galen and Andre-Anne regarding LAHS, regarding Loading Zone on Jardin Dr, and the City has submitted ATP application and meanwhile will be installing drop off/pick uploading zone before the school year starts.

The City submitted two OBAG grant applications for Loyola Corners Plan as part of Complete Street Master Plan and Pavement Rehabilitation and Complete Streets Project for San Antonio Rd.

VTA submitted ATP and OBAG grant applications for VTA Homestead Road SR2S project.

## **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS AND POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Comments**

VTA BPAC: The OBAG grant Complete Street Checklist was reviewed, and one of the projects was Homestead Rd.

Traffic Safe Communities Network Meeting: Upcoming meeting is on Thursday August 11<sup>th</sup>, 10am, and Stacy is not available. Commissioners are asked to inform Stacy if they could join that meeting.

### **Future Agenda**

2023 CSC meeting schedule update

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Stacy Banerjee adjourned the meeting at 8:59 PM



DATE: October 26, 2022

AGENDA ITEM # 5

**TO:** Complete Streets Commission  
**FROM:** Marisa Lee, Transportation Services Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Safe Routes to School Update

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Summary of LAHS Walk Audit
- Walk & Roll to School Safety Tips Flier

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive update on ongoing Safe Routes to School programs.

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**INTRODUCTION**

The City of Los Altos has been engaged in ongoing work with SRTS consultants Alta Planning + Design for Safe Routes to School programs across Los Altos Schools. Recent programs included in this update are listed below:

- Los Altos High School Walk Audit
- Walk & Roll to School Day/Month
- Pedestrian and Bike Safety Curriculum
- Messaging Toolkit

**DISCUSSION**

**Los Altos High School Walk Audit**

Staff and Consultants worked with Los Altos High School to hold a ‘Walk Audit’ at Los Altos High. A Walk Audit is the standard term for the observational site visit that occurs at schools to accompany and inform Safe Routes to School planning, including infrastructure and programmatic recommendations. Walk audits typically include a SRTS consultant, transportation professionals, school administrators, City staff, parents / PTA, and/or students. Attendees meet in advance of the morning or afternoon school commute, discuss instructions and what to look for, then disperse around the school entrances and important intersections to observe parent and student behavior, travel patterns, and infrastructure.

A summary of the LAHS walk audit is attached to this Staff Report.

Next steps for LAHS include:



- Installation of improvements per the Citywide SRTS Signage & Striping Plan, construction scheduled for Fall / Winter 2022 and Spring 2023
- Collaboration with Mountain View via Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)
- Next round of travel choice data collection via survey April 2023 (following initial data collection in spring of 2022)
- Ongoing communication to parents and students via Monthly Messaging regarding morning and afternoon commute travel
- Ongoing strategic data collection based on industry best practice and updated MTC Guidelines

Staff has received input from the Los Altos Police Department, parents, and LAHS Administration to the effect that traffic this year is improved as compared to last year, and that the drop-off loading zone on Jardin Drive is helpful, functioning well, and making a positive impact on drop-off and pick-up operations.

### **Walk & Roll to School Day/Month Update**

October is National Walk & Roll to School Month, with many schools participating nationwide. Los Altos developed and circulated a Walk & Roll to School Safety Flier as well as information for schools on how to organize a Walk & Roll to School Day event.

The Safety Tips flier is attached to this Staff Report.

Next steps:

- Collect data on volumes of students walking and rolling to school as part of the event
- Continue to promote this event in future years and track data related to school and student participation over time

### **Bike and Pedestrian Safety Curriculum**

City Staff and SRTS consultants have been working with physical education teachers and administrators at Los Altos schools to implement the Bike and Pedestrian Safety Curriculum that has been shared previously with the Complete Streets Commission. We have received feedback on the Curriculum from teachers, administrators, and the CSC, and the feedback has been incorporated. We are now working with the teachers to design the curriculum for an assembly format, developing themes for four different breakout stations, and discussing strategic ways to engage students of various ages.

### **Messaging Toolkit**

Los Altos Safe Routes to School Program developed a messaging toolkit to help school administrators communicate to parents, caregivers, and students about safe and active travel to school. The toolkit contains templates of monthly themed messages that are easy to use and adaptable for each school. These materials took the back-to-school messaging originally developed for Los Altos High and expanded on them, making them into a

template that could be used for all schools. Additionally, messaging was developed to be shared periodically throughout the school year based on seasons and events. These themes are designed to be iterative and may be expanded on and updated as the year progresses.

The messages can be included in a back-to-school packet (printed or digital), shared through the school newsletter, email blasts, social media posts, text messages, or during a school assembly. The messaging can also be made into a short video by school administrators or SRTS Champions, that can then be shared with families via email, on the school website, or broadcast on the school video channel, or shared with students at assemblies.

Topics and themes are listed below.





Month	Themes	Format
August / September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morning and afternoon commute reminders</li> <li>• Plan your routes to school/find walking, biking, and carpooling friends</li> <li>• Drive safely near the school</li> </ul>	Newsletter template Social media post Announcement script
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Walk to School Day</li> <li>• Walking school bus</li> <li>• Halloween Safety Tips</li> </ul>	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daylight Savings Safety Tips</li> <li>• Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day</li> </ul>	
December/January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter Walk to School Day</li> <li>• Dress for the winter</li> <li>• Winter driving safety</li> </ul>	
February/March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lovin' Walk or Wheel Day</li> <li>• Walking school bus</li> <li>• Back from winter break reminder</li> </ul>	
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earth Day</li> <li>• Biking safety tips</li> </ul>	
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May Bike Month</li> <li>• Biking safety</li> </ul>	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay active this summer</li> <li>• Prepare your route for next school year</li> </ul>	

# WALK OR WHEEL TO SCHOOL



If you live within two miles of school, walk or roll to school! **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.**

## SAFETY TIPS

-  **Stop** at the curb's edge.
-  **Look** left, right, and behind you.
-  **Make** eye contact with drivers.
-  **Cross** at corners and crosswalks.

## DO'S AND DON'TS

- ★ DO cross with heads up and looking around.
- ★ DO be visible and predictable.
- ★ DO stay off your phones! DON'T text or talk on the phone while walking.

## PLAN YOUR ROUTE

- ★ Plan your walk with your school's Suggested Routes to School Map at [losaltosca.gov/saferoutes](https://losaltosca.gov/saferoutes).
- ★ Find a neighbor or friend and walk or wheel together!
- ★ If you must drive to school, please park a few blocks away from campus and walk.
- ★ Visit [SchoolRoutes.org](https://SchoolRoutes.org) or download the app to walk, roll, bike or carpool to school.

## GET INVOLVED!

**Plan a Walk or Wheel to School Day at your school:** Los Altos SRTS Program has developed a guide to help SRTS champions, school administrators, parents, and community members prepare for and foster participation in Walk or Wheel (WoW!) to School Day events by providing monthly resources, flyers, poster templates, safety tips, and fun activity ideas. Visit [losaltosca.gov/saferoutes](https://losaltosca.gov/saferoutes) for more information.

**Start a Walking School Bus:** Each "bus" walks along a set route with one or more adults leading it, picking children up at designated stops along a predetermined route and walking them to school. Many families in your neighborhood may already walk to school.



## MORE RESOURCES

[SRTS Champion Toolkit](https://losaltosca.gov/saferoutes) provides resources, flyers, poster templates, safety tips, and fun activity ideas ([losaltosca.gov/saferoutes](https://losaltosca.gov/saferoutes)).

[GreenTown School WoW!](https://greentownlosaltos.org/schoolswow) The Walk or Wheel! (WoW!) Program encourages biking, walking and carpooling to school ([greentownlosaltos.org/schoolswow](https://greentownlosaltos.org/schoolswow)).

[SchoolRoutes.Org](https://SchoolRoutes.org) website and app to plan your trip to school and connect with friends and neighbors to start a walking group.



# THE READINESS CHECKLIST TO WALK ALONE TO SCHOOL

**PARENTS:** Depending on the age and experience level of your child, you may opt to accompany them on their trip.

## BEFORE WALKING ALONE TO SCHOOL, STUDENTS SHOULD BE CONFIDENT IN:

- Following walking rules
- Looking left, right, and behind before crossing at corners
- Following traffic signals
- Using paths and sidewalks, where provided
- Walking predictably
- Walking, not running, across the street
- Watching for cars turning or pulling out of driveways
- Having a safety plan (develop a plan with a caregiver in case of an incident while walking)
- Staying aware
- No texting or talking on cell phones while walking
- No listening to music with headphones while walking



Los Altos

Safe Routes to School

**WALK AUDIT**

**TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM**



**LOS ALTOS HIGH**

201 Almond Avenue, Los Altos

Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District

September 2022



## LOS ALTOS HIGH

The study team conducted a walk audit at Los Altos High in Los Altos during the morning arrival and afternoon dismissal on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The audit was attended by representatives from the City of Los Altos, Alta Planning + Design (Alta), Los Altos High (LAHS) staff, students and residents.

Participants included:

- ◆ Aarthi Venkatraman, LAHS Green Team
- ◆ Andre-Anne Cadieux, Planner, Los Altos Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Alta
- ◆ Galen Rosenberg, Assistant Principal, LAHS
- ◆ Joe Paull, Engineer, Alta
- ◆ Lynn Emrick, Resident
- ◆ Marisa Lee, Transportation Service Manager, City of Los Altos
- ◆ Michael Young, LAHS Green Team
- ◆ Mike Emrick, Resident
- ◆ Nafiseh Shahbazi, Civil Engineer, City of Los Altos
- ◆ Seth Tasman, Student Conduct Liaison, LAHS

A walk audit is a site assessment centered around a school campus. A walk audit typically includes an analysis of campus access and egress, as well as adjacent streets, sidewalks, trails, and crosswalks within typically within one-quarter to one-half mile around campus. The observations, combined with input from stakeholders who observe and travel through the area regularly, create an understanding of existing conditions with particular attention to where there may be safety and circulation concerns for people walking and biking. Programmatic and infrastructure recommendations are then developed based on the observation and input collected.

In 2021, the infrastructure around the LAHS campus was audited as part of the Los Altos Complete Streets Plan, but a formal walk audit was not conducted at that time because school was out of session due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This memo summarizes the existing conditions and feedback received from stakeholders during the observation period and discussion conducted in September 2022. The document provides educational and encouragement programmatic recommendations that the school can pursue with the Los Altos SRTS Program. An Improvement Plan Map is also included and contains infrastructure recommendations that the City of Los Altos, Los Altos High (LAHS) and the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District can implement.

## School Information

### Location & Enrollment

Address:	201 Almond Ave, Los Altos, 94022
Morning Bell(s):	8:40 am
Afternoon Bell(s):	Monday: 3:37 pm Tuesday and Thursday: 3:41 pm Wednesday and Friday: 2:59 pm
Grade Levels:	9-12
Enrollment:	2,209
School Type (neighborhood/ magnet/charter):	Neighborhood

### Student Travel Data

Student Travel Mode Info:	Data collected by the school in April 2022: Walk: 16% Bike/Roll: 30% Public transit: 3% Family Car/Student Driver: 50% Carpool: 3%
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### Bicycle and Pedestrian Commute Procedures

LAHS administration has noticed a significant increase in students biking to school from both Los Altos and Mountain View in the past years with approximately 500 bicyclists traveling to school each day.

- ◆ Pedestrians are encouraged to enter the campus at the Almond Avenue main entrance, or at the pedestrian (west) entrance on Jardin Drive.
- ◆ Bicyclists are encouraged to enter the campus at the Almond Avenue main entrance, or at the bike (east) entrance on Jardin Drive, near the intersection with Casita Way.
- ◆ There are five bike parking locations on the campus: two near the entrances on Almond Avenue, one near the intersection of Jardin Drive and Panchita Way and two in the middle of the campus. On the day of the observation, the bike racks at the entrance of the school looked fully utilized.



### Pick-up/drop-off procedures

The school administration estimates that approximately half of students are dropped off at school. Los Altos High encourages student drop-off and pick-up along Jardin Drive (north of the campus), where there is one pedestrian entrance and one bicycle entrance. Drop-off and pick-up also happen on Alicia Way and Valencia Drive. LASH administration encourages:

- ◆ Parents or caregivers to drop off 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students on Jardin Drive and drop off 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students a few blocks away from school and to walk to campus.
- ◆ Staggered drop-off and pick-up by grade.
- ◆ Drop-off and pick-up at specific neighborhood locations better suited to efficient passage.
- ◆ No drop-off, pick-up or stopping allowed on Almond Avenue.

### Pedestrian- and Bicycle-Involved Collision Summary (2016-2020)

For the five-year period between 2017-2021<sup>1</sup>, six bicycle and pedestrian collisions happened within one-half mile (1/2) of the school. These collisions may or may not be school-related travel.

Bicycle Collisions (Minor Injury)	Pedestrian Collisions (Minor Injury)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Jardin Drive/ Valencia Drive</li> <li>◆ Jardin Drive/Casita Way</li> <li>◆ Almond Avenue/San Antonio Road</li> <li>◆ Almond Avenue/Beverly Lane</li> <li>◆ Almond Avenue, near Gordon Way</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Almond Avenue/ Gordon Way</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> UC Berkeley – Transportation Injury Mapping System, Safe Transportation Research and Education Center, University of California, Berkeley, 2021. Data downloaded in December 2021. [berkeley.edu/](https://berkeley.edu/)



## Community Health and Demographics (Data from the census tract of school site)<sup>2</sup>

Percent of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Priced Meals ('20-'21 school year)	MTC Equity Priority Communities (2018) <sup>3</sup>	Healthy Places Index Score (2021) <sup>4</sup>	CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Percentile (2021) <sup>5</sup>
17.2%	Part of the attendance area between Central Expy and Middlefield Road, Rengstorff Avenue, Permanente Creek Trail (High)	98.9	0

## Context and Transportation Demand Management Efforts

Over the last several years, LAHS Administration has pursued efforts to promote sustainable school travel and encourage walking, rolling, carpooling and bussing to school. These initiatives include:

- ◆ Regular communication with the students and their families to encourage walking, rolling, bussing or carpooling to school.
- ◆ Sharing of maps with recommended routes for walking and biking that makes routes safer and more efficient.
- ◆ Encouraging no left turns to enter or exit the campus.
- ◆ Walk/Roll days with rewards.
- ◆ Signage and announcements promoting walking, biking, carpooling, and transit.
- ◆ Collaboration with GreenTown Los Altos and Silicon Valley Bike Exchange on bike collection and repair events. GreenTown Los Altos provides bikes to LAHS students for free. Over the last three years (excluding the pandemic years), GreenTown has given away more than 40 bikes to LAHS students after hosting the bike collection event at LAHS.
- ◆ The school administration distributes approximately 120 VTA passes per month.
- ◆ Occasionally, the administrators and other staff direct stand at the school entrances to direct the drivers dropping off or picking up students at the school entrances and hand out fliers about alternative transportation modes.

In April 2022, LASH Administration distributed a student survey to collect information on how students travel to and from school, how they enter on campus and their level of comfort on the new cycle track on Almond Avenue.

<sup>2</sup> California Department of Education, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Public Health Alliance of Southern California, and California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment [caschooldashboard.org/](https://caschooldashboard.org/)

<sup>3</sup> MTC Equity Priority Communities, 2018 (ACS 2012 - 2016), Updated June 3, 2021. [opendata.mtc.ca.gov/maps/MTC::mtc-equity-priority-communities-in-2018-acs-2012-2016/explore](https://opendata.mtc.ca.gov/maps/MTC::mtc-equity-priority-communities-in-2018-acs-2012-2016/explore)

<sup>4</sup> Public Health Alliance of Southern California. Healthy Places Index Score, 2021. [map.healthyplacesindex.org/](https://map.healthyplacesindex.org/)

<sup>5</sup> CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Percentile, 2021. [experience.arcgis.com/experience/4af93cf9888a424481d2868391af2d82](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/4af93cf9888a424481d2868391af2d82)

Additionally, LAHS Administration and the City of Los Altos have been collaborating for the past few years regarding the congestion and driver behaviors in the streets near the LAHS campus in the morning and the afternoon. With the support of the Los Altos Safe Routes to School Program, a flier on morning and afternoon commute guidelines was created along with communication to families on walking, rolling, carpooling as the preferred transportation modes to travel to and from school. The materials were also distributed during back-to-school night in August.

# EXISTING CONDITIONS

## Overview

Los Altos High is located along Almond Avenue in the City of Los Altos and serves 2,209 students from the cities of Los Altos and Mountain View.

The LAHS front entrance contains the driveway to the staff and student parking lot. The staff and student parking lot is located along Almond Avenue. In 2021, a cycle track (Class IV Protected Bike Lane) was installed on Almond Avenue, between San Antonio Road and Gordon Way. There is a crossing guard in the morning and in the afternoon who helps students crossing the street on Almond Avenue, at the intersection with Gordon Way.

- ◆ There is one pedestrian and one bicycle entrance on Jardin drive, on the north side of campus. The west entrance is the pedestrian entrance and is located near the intersection of Jardin Drive and Panchita Way, between the tennis court and the baseball field. The east entrance is the bicycle entrance and is located at the intersection of Jardin Drive and Casita Way. There are Class II bike lanes on Jardin Drive. Parking is allowed on the south side of the road only. In August 2022, after discussions with the school administration and the Los Altos Complete Streets Commission, the City has installed a new loading zone on the south side of Jardin, between Los Ninos Way and Distel Drive, to facilitate the drop-off/pick-up procedures and encourage pedestrians to enter the campus by the west entrance.



*Diagram of the school campus included in a flier on Morning and afternoon commute guidelines created by the Safe Routes to School Program in August 2022.*

## Observations

The following conditions and behaviors were observed or reported by participants during the school walk audit.

### 1. Almond Avenue/School Entrance

- ◆ The LAHS front entrance is located on Almond Avenue.
- ◆ Almond Avenue is a two-lane street with a cycle track (Class IV Protected Bikeway) between San Antonio Road and Gordon Way.
- ◆ There are parking restrictions at all times along the cycle track on Almond Avenue.
- ◆ Around 8:30 am, vehicles started to back up on Almond Avenue to Sunkist Lane.
- ◆ The vehicle lines dissipated after the morning bell.
- ◆ In the morning, the peak activity occurred between 8:15 am to 8:40 am and between 3:00 pm and 3:15 pm in the afternoon.
- ◆ 77 drop-offs were counted in the parking lot at the school entrance.
- ◆ In the morning, the main challenge is the conflict between bicycles and pedestrians entering the campus and drivers exiting the parking lot/loading zone.
- ◆ In the afternoon, right after the bell, there is a large volume of students exiting the school on Almond Avenue.



*Driver dropping off a student at the school entrance.*

### 2. Intersection of Almond Avenue and Gordon Way

- ◆ There is a crossing guard at the intersection each morning and afternoon.
- ◆ Drivers are most of the time respectful of the crossing guard.
- ◆ Drivers were observed not stopping at the yield line but just before the crosswalk. The crossing guard had to act as a physical barrier between the students and the cars.
- ◆ Lots of bicyclists were observed riding in the crosswalk.



*Crossing guard stopping traffic on Almond Avenue.*

### 3. Gordon Way

- ◆ Gordon Way is a two-lane residential street. There is no sidewalk on the street.
- ◆ There are parking restrictions on both sides of Gordon Way, between Almond Avenue and Andela Drive. On the west side of Gordon Way, parking restrictions on weekdays between 8 am and 4 pm. On the east side of Gordon Way, parking is restricted at all times.
- ◆ In the afternoon, parents were waiting for their students along Gordon Way and along Merritt Road in segments where parking is restricted.

### 4. Valencia Drive

- ◆ Valencia Drive is a two-lane residential street. There is no sidewalk and no pavement marking to designate the lanes.
- ◆ There are parking restrictions on both sides of Valencia Drive, between Almond Avenue and Biarritz Cir on weekdays between 8 am and 2 pm.
- ◆ At 8:10 am, students started being dropped off on Valencia Way.
- ◆ Many drivers doing U-turns were observed.
- ◆ Drivers stopped at the “No parking signs” (sandwich board) near the intersection with Almond Avenue to drop off students.
- ◆ The peak activity was around 8:25 am-8:35 am.
- ◆ Cars were not able to turn on Almond Avenue (left or right) and blocked the crosswalk.



*Left: Children walking on Alicia Way, toward Almond Avenue.*



*Right: Children crossing Alicia Way at mid-block after being dropped off. Driver is doing a U-turn.*

## 5. Alicia Way

- ◆ Alicia Way is a two-lane residential street. There is no sidewalk and no pavement marking to designate the lanes.
- ◆ There are parking restrictions on both sides of Alicia Way, between Almond Avenue and Jardin Drive on weekdays between 8 am and 2 pm.
- ◆ Parents dropped off students on Alicia Way both near Jardin Avenue and Almond Avenue.
- ◆ 102 vehicles were observed dropping off students on Alicia Way between Jardin Drive and Almond Avenue and 31 U-turns were counted.
- ◆ Fewer than a dozen bikes or pedestrians used Alicia Way to access the campus.
- ◆ Drivers were dropping off students very close to the intersection of Alicia with either Almond or Jardin and therefore obstructing traffic.



*Left: Driver blocking a driveway to drop off a child on Alicia Way.*



*Right: Driver waiting to turn right on Almond Avenue is blocking the crosswalk at Alicia Way.*

- ◆ Drivers were not able to turn right or left on Almond Avenue and blocking the crosswalk while waiting to turn.
- ◆ After the morning bell, only a few vehicles were parked in the street.
- ◆ Cars were observed blocking driveways.
- ◆ Students were dropped off mid-block and seemed to cross the street difficulty.
- ◆ In the afternoon, after 3:00 pm students waited for their parents/caregivers on Alicia Way.
- ◆ Around 3:10 pm, drivers were idling while waiting to pick up students.

#### 6. Jardin Drive/Loading Zone (Pedestrian Entrance)

- ◆ There is a loading zone on the south side of Jardin Avenue, between Los Ninos Way and Distel Drive.
- ◆ Speeding was observed along the Jardin Drive corridor.
- ◆ A large number of students were observed using the bike lanes.
- ◆ The new loading zone operated as intended and there were no vehicles parking within the loading zone.
- ◆ The loading zone did reach its maximum capacity towards the end of the drop-off window, which created a queue on Jardin Drive.
- ◆ Queued vehicles were observed to wait in the bike lane, creating a conflict with bicyclists approaching the school entrance.

#### 7. Intersection of Jardin Drive and Casita Way (Bicycle Entrance)

- ◆ Students were observed standing in the crosswalk across Jardin Drive, blocking eastbound traffic, during the afternoon pick-up period.
- ◆ Students walking and biking were observed to utilize the existing crosswalk across Jardin Drive.
- ◆ The existing crosswalk across Jardin Drive does not have ADA ramps on either side.
- ◆ Vehicles were observed parking in the bike lane on the north side of Jardin Drive at this intersection to drop off students.
- ◆ A large number of vehicles were observed performing westbound U-turns at this intersection.
- ◆ Vehicles were observed to block driveways on Casita Way when drivers were parking.
- ◆ The East Entrance/bicyclist entrance appeared to be the most utilized exits for students riding bikes.
- ◆ Pedestrians gathered at the intersection.
- ◆ The red curb paint in front of the east entrance is faded.



*Above: New loading zone on Jardin Drive.*



*Left: Drivers stopping in the bike lane on the north side of Jardin Drive to drop-off students.*

*Right: Students being dropped off in the intersection at Jardin Drive/Casita Way.*

#### 8. Casita Way

- ◆ Six U-turns were counted along Casita Way, after dropping off students.
- ◆ Vehicles were observed speeding.
- ◆ Drivers dropping off students were observed double parking. At the peak hours, cars were aligned bumper to bumper.
- ◆ Student drivers parked all along Casita Way.
- ◆ At 2:30 pm, parents already were already parking and waiting to pick up students.
- ◆ Drivers were observed blocking driveways.
- ◆ Lots of students were observed biking on Casita Way.

#### 9. Intersection of Jardin Drive and Panchita Way

- ◆ There are no crosswalks at this intersection.
- ◆ Vehicles were observed to block driveways on Panchita Way when parking.

#### 10. Intersection of Jardin Drive and Los Ninos Way

- ◆ There are no crosswalks at this intersection.
- ◆ Students were observed crossing Jardin Drive at various locations and between queued vehicles that were waiting to use the loading zone.
- ◆ Drivers were observed parking in the bike lane on the north side of Jardin Drive at this intersection.
- ◆ A large number of drivers were observed performing westbound U-turns at this intersection.
- ◆ Vehicles were observed to block driveways and mailboxes on Los Ninos Way when drivers were parking.
- ◆ Red paint at the intersection with Jardin Drive is faded.





*Left: Parked vehicle blocking a mailbox on Los Ninos*

*Middle: Vehicle parked in the intersection of Jardin Drive and Los Ninos*

*Right: Paint of the red curb is faded at the intersection of Los Ninos and Jardin Drive.*

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## Engineering Recommendations

Recommendations to improve infrastructure and/or operations surrounding Los Altos High School Campus are included in the conceptual improvement plan found below. Some recommendations can also be found in the [Los Alto High SRTS Improvement Plan](#) created in 2021 as part of the Los Altos Complete Streets Plan.

### 1. Almond Avenue/School Entrance

- ◆ Install “Keep Clear” pavement markings in front of main school driveway
- ◆ Install stop sign and advance stop bars at the main and the west driveway exits
- ◆ Install “Turning Vehicles Yield to Bikes and Pedestrians” signage at the main and the west driveway exit
- ◆ Install right turn only signs at driveway exits

### 2. Valencia Drive

- ◆ Upgrade the existing transverse crosswalk at the intersection with Almond Avenue to high-visibility
- ◆ Consider adding pavement markings to designate the lanes
- ◆ Install a pedestrian path on the east side of Valencia
- ◆ Install all-way stop at the intersection of Valencia Drive and Jardin Drive
- ◆ Install high-visibility crosswalks at the intersection with Jardin Drive
- ◆ Designate Bike Boulevard as recommended in the Complete Streets Plan

### 3. Alicia Way

- ◆ Install a high-visibility crosswalk across Alicia Way at the intersection with Almond Avenue
- ◆ Install a high-visibility crosswalk across Alicia Way at the intersection with Jardin Drive
- ◆ Consider adding pavement markings to designate the lanes
- ◆ Install a pedestrian path on the west side of Alicia Way
- ◆ Install curb extensions to reduce curb radii and pedestrian crossing distance at the intersection with Jardin Drive
- ◆ Designate Bike Boulevard as recommended in the Complete Streets Plan

### 4. Jardin Drive

- ◆ Continue exploring the possibility of converting the existing Class II bike lane into a two-way Class IV bikeway on the south side, and pushing the travel lanes up
- ◆ Consider installing traffic calming measure on Jardin between Panchita Way and Alicia Way, such as speed bumps and/or raised crosswalks
- ◆ Consider adding striping and signage warning roadway users on Jardin Drive of bicyclists exiting the eastern school driveway

### 5. Intersection of Jardin Drive and Casita Way (Bicycle Entrance)

- ◆ Consider extending curbs to reduce curb radii and pedestrian crossing distance at the intersection with Jardin Drive and to prevent drivers from stopping in the intersection

- ◆ Install a high-visibility crosswalk across Casita Way
- ◆ Refresh the red curb paint on Jardin Drive in front of the pedestrian and bicyclist entrance
- ◆ Designate Casita Way Bike Boulevard as recommended in the Complete Streets Plan

#### 6. Intersection of Jardin Drive and Panchita Way

- ◆ Install a high-visibility crosswalk across Panchita Way at the intersection of Jardin Drive
- ◆ Install a high-visibility crosswalk across Jardin Drive
- ◆ Consider extending curbs to reduce curb radii and pedestrian crossing distance at the intersection with Jardin Drive
- ◆ Designate Panchita Way Bike Boulevard as recommended in the Complete Streets Plan

#### 7. Intersection of Jardin Drive and Los Ninos Way

- ◆ Install a high-visibility crosswalk across Los Ninos Way at the intersection of Jardin Drive
- ◆ Install a high-visibility crosswalk across Jardin Drive
- ◆ Install a curb extension to square the radius of the intersection and reduce the width to cross
- ◆ Refresh the curb red paint at the intersection with Jardin Drive
- ◆ Consider extending curbs to reduce curb radii and pedestrian crossing distance at the intersection with Jardin Drive

## Policy & Program Recommendations

In addition to engineering improvements, the [Los Altos Safe Routes to Schools Program](#) has many encouragement and educational activities that can benefit students and the campus community at LAHS. The Los Altos Safe Routes to School Coordinator can provide technical assistance to schedule, organize, and promote education and encouragement activities and events.

The following improvements are recommendations for policy and program implementation at LAHS to increase safety and active commutes to school.

- ◆ **Transportation Demand Management:** Implement events and programs to encourage walking, biking, carpooling or bussing to school. This can include:
  - Offer incentives to use alternative transportation modes
  - Host a Park & Walk program: review the Park & Walk locations identified in LAHS Suggested Routes to School map
  - Develop messaging around the importance of walking, biking and carpooling
  - Hold encouragement events (weekly or monthly Walk or Wheel to School days, Cocoa for Carpooling, etc.)
- ◆ **Encouragement events** can be student-led (e.g., by the school Green Team) and include activities to engage students such as challenges, video/poster contest, etc. The SRTS Coordinator can help the school and students with the Safety Campaign.
- ◆ Promote the **LAHS Suggested Routes to School Map** and the mobile app [schoolroutes.org](http://schoolroutes.org).
- ◆ **Driver/Student Education:** The school should educate parents and students on safe behaviors and habits during drop-off/pick-up periods, e.g., no U-turns, safe and appropriate crossing habits for students at crosswalks and intersections, no idling, watch for bicyclists when open the doors, be mindful of neighbors, remind parents of designated areas for drop-off/pick-up.

- ◆ Consider collecting feedback from the community and students on the street improvements (e.g., new loading zone, signage, etc.) and quick-build to be implemented.
- ◆ **Morning and Afternoon Commute Guidelines**
  - Continue to work with the City and the Los Altos SRTS Program to create messages to the families, students and neighbors about the school morning and afternoon commute guidelines and TDM efforts.
  - Train a staff person to be in charge of metering the cars in the loading zone on Jardin Drive and in the main driveway to ensure a smooth process.
  - Add signage at the pedestrian and bicycle entrances.
- ◆ **Enforcement:** Work with the Los Altos Police Department to enforce good driver behaviors during the morning and afternoon.