



Planning and Transportation Commission STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: January 17, 2023

ITEM TITLE: Receive a presentation on the Safe Routes to School improvements and provide staff with any comments or feedback on the proposed recommendations and maps.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

None for this action.

BACKGROUND:

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan ("Master Plan") was approved by City Council on June 9, 2020. As part of the master plan process, school walk audits were scheduled in the Spring of 2020 for all six school sites. However, the audits were delayed due to remote learning because of the pandemic. Therefore, the Master Plan was approved before the walk audits were performed with the intention of adopting the Safe Routes to School improvements stemming from the audits as an amendment to the Master Plan.

The school walk audits were conducted in November 2021 to January 2022. The resulting recommendations were sent to the San Carlos School District for review and comment from April to May 2022. In June 2022, the community was invited to comment on the recommendations and maps that were posted on the City's website. Over a hundred comments were posted and the comment period was extended twice by request from the community to September 2022.

ANALYSIS:

Each walk audit provided an opportunity for stakeholders, including parents, School District staff and City staff to observe behavior and circulation in and around the school site, assess infrastructure, and discuss barriers and opportunities for improving student safety during the commute period. The qualitative and quantitative data collected at the walk audits were compiled and analyzed. Improvement recommendations were developed for both the City and the School District that highlighted infrastructure and circulation improvements and identified potential park and walk sites. Suggested Routes to School Maps were also developed. These maps show the preferred streets for walking and biking, which will help parents decide the best routes for their children to walk and bike to school.

After presentation to the Planning and Transportation Commission, the Safe Routes to School improvements and maps will be presented to the City Council for approval.

ALTERNATIVES:

Options available to the Planning and Transportation Commission include:

1. Provide staff with additional feedback and comments; or
2. Proceed with proposed recommendations and maps.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lisa Porras, Planning Manager

ATTACHMENT(S):

Improvement Recommendations and Routes to School Maps for six school sites.

1. Arroyo/Central
2. Arundel
3. Brittan Acres
4. Heather
5. Tierra Linda/ Mariposa/ San Carlos Charter
6. White Oaks