

REDWOOD CITY 2020

A healthy community partnership

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Redwood City 2020 Tuesday Tidbits

Inside this edition:
Safe Routes to School Report and Infrastructure Grant Funding

New Safe Routes Report Released

Get Healthy San Mateo County, a local collaborative working towards positive health outcomes through policy changes, has released a long awaited report regarding safe routes near schools. The report, [Creating Safer Streets Near Schools - Prioritizing Health in Transportation](#), looked at elementary schools located in census tracts with high rates of poverty and that were also located within 1/4 mile of streets with high rates of bicycle and pedestrian collisions. In combining this information, Get Healthy San Mateo County found 90 schools in the county that fit the criteria and narrowed this list down to fifteen elementary schools that are deemed "high-priority." Thirty percent of all bike/pedestrian collisions in the county occur near these schools, and twenty percent of all collisions occur near the top six schools. Of the fifteen high-priority schools, six are located in the Redwood City School District (Hoover, North Star, Hawes, Orion, Fair Oaks, and Taft) and three RCSD schools are in the top 6 (Hoover, North Star, and Hawes). These are compelling data that reinforce the need for the Redwood City 2020 Safe Routes to School program in the Redwood City School District.



**San Mateo County
Priority Schools**
High Collisions Involving a
Person Walking or Biking*

Bayshore
Hawes
Hoover
Los Centinos
North Star
Woodrow Wilson

**Collisions Involving a
Person Walking or Biking**

Belle Haven
Brentwood
College Park
Costano
Fair Oaks
Green Oaks
Orion Alternative
Taft
Westlake

*Due to five collisions within
a quarter mile of a public
elementary school happened
near one of these six schools.

From reducing traffic to increasing road safety, active transportation investments in our neighborhoods are critical to improving health outcomes. Addressing the safety of our children is a key strategy in developing long-term habits and a culture of health.

Children are healthier when they have safe active transportation choices such as walking or riding their bikes. Investing in high poverty neighborhoods near the 15 schools identified in this report can advance health and safety in communities that need it most.

The Issue

Traffic collisions are preventable. Equitable transportation investments in street design, traffic calming measures, and programs such as Safe Routes to School ensure that all communities have healthy transportation options.

470 collisions in San Mateo County a year, on average, involve a person walking or biking. That's more than one collision a day.

91% of youth living within a Census tract that includes one of the 15 schools identify themselves as a person of color.

27% of victims in a collision involving a person walking and biking near these schools are children.

Infrastructure Grant Awarded!

Safe Routes to School partners are collaborating to both identify unsafe locations on our community's streets and implement long-term solutions that enhance our infrastructure for the better. One major tool generated by Safe Routes to School partners is a walk audit. A walk audit is a report drafted in collaboration with professional



engineers, community stakeholders, school partners, and families. These reports help identify and prioritize improvements needed near schools and catalyze the advancement of these improvements. The audits in turn help projects garner funding from a variety of local and regional sources that add to existing infrastructure funds set aside by city and county partners.

An example of the leverage generated by this collaboration and of the walk audits is a recently awarded grant to the City of Redwood City for \$375,000 to improve the intersection of Cleveland Street and Jefferson Avenue near the North Star/McKinley campus. Addressed in a 2014 [Redwood City 2020 Safe Routes to School Walk Audit](#), this intersection is a major school crossing and is identified by school staff, parents/caregivers, and crossing guards as one of the most difficult intersections in the city to cross. Including infrastructure grants that were awarded earlier this year for projects near Fair Oaks and Taft community schools, projects around RCSD schools have received \$875,000 in infrastructure grant funds this fiscal year. In addition to matching funds from the city and the county, nearly \$1 million dollars has been secured for safer streets near our schools this year. Improving infrastructure and building safer streets truly requires a collaborative effort.

Missed a previous edition? Find it on our [Resources page](#).

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