



SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY STRATEGY

OCTOBER 2023



COUNCIL ACTION

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Vision Zero Adoption – June 2023

- **Action Item Strategy #3** Expand the Safe Routes to School Program
- **A-3a** Identify and expand SRTS policies and coordination, and hire a dedicated El Paso SRTS coordinator
- **A-3b** Develop a **Safe Routes to School Plan**, including an audit of the schools that have the highest crash rates within their school zone. Develop safety recommendations including both quick build opportunities and long-term improvements
- **A-3e** Develop suggested route maps for each school to identify preferred walking and biking routes; these maps will support communication with school communities and **can guide prioritization** of capital investment

Sept 12, 2023

- Discussion and action to direct the City Manager to evaluate existing ordinances, policies, and procedures related to school zone safety in collaboration with the Vision Zero task force and the Mobility Advisory Committee to draft any necessary updates to ensure safe crossings, intersection treatments, and appropriate signage at all schools within the City

STRATEGY OVERVIEW

Understand Existing Conditions

- Inventory of missing or outdated infrastructure
- Identify outdated ordinances

On-Going Maintenance

- Identify additional budget and staffing
- Typical 24-month scheduled for crosswalk refurbishing

Data-Driven Prioritization

- Focus resources (quick-build, O&M, enforcement) on high-risk schools based on mobility data and crash frequency

Adopt a formal “Safe Routes to School” Action Plan

- In-House (CID)
- Engagement driven by MAC and VZ Task Force

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VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN



STRATEGY 3: Expand the Safe Routes to School Program

A-3a. Hire an El Paso Safe Routes to School (SRTS) coordinator.	Short	City of El Paso - Capital Improvement Department	El Paso Independent School District	Identify and expand SRTS policies and coordination and hire a dedicated El Paso SRTS coordinator.	\$	People	Handshake		★	★	★
A-3b. Develop a Safe Routes to School Plan, including an audit of the schools that have the highest crash rates within their school zone. Develop safety recommendations including both quick build opportunities and long-term improvements.	Short	City of El Paso - Capital Improvement Department	El Paso, Ysleta, and Socorro Independent School Districts	Identify the schools located within disadvantaged communities that have the highest crash rates and the highest number of existing students who walk or bike to school. Conduct a road safety audit of each school zone to identify and implement improvements.	\$	People			★	★	★
A-3c. Expand the Love Your Block grant program's geographic reach and increase awareness of the program to implement pop-up safety and placemaking initiatives, particularly near schools.	Short	City of El Paso - Community and Human Development		Increased awareness of the Love Your Block grant program and number of grants awarded.	\$	Handshake					★
A-3d. Using the results of school zone road safety audits, apply for Transportation Alternatives funding through the El Paso MPO to implement safety improvements at high priority schools.	Mid	City of El Paso - Streets and Maintenance		Apply for TA funding to support implementation of high priority school zones improvements.		People			★	★	★
A-3e. Develop suggested route maps for each school to identify preferred walking and biking routes; these maps will support communication with school communities and can guide prioritization of capital investment.	Mid	City of El Paso	El Paso Independent School District	Develop suggested route maps in coordination with school zone road safety audits; prioritize schools with the highest crash rates to be completed first.	\$	People	Handshake		★	★	★
A-3f. Develop and implement safe walking and biking curriculum for elementary and middle school students.	Long	El Paso Heart Association	City of El Paso - Public Health	Identify SRTS curriculum best practices and work with partners to integrate SRTS principles into curriculum.		People	Handshake			★	★
A-3g. Develop targeted engagement for middle and high school students and families in traffic safety through the Safe Routes to School program, with a focus on empowering youth leadership to promote safe transportation in their own school communities, prioritizing Communities of Concern.	Long	El Paso Heart Association	City of El Paso - Public Health; El Paso Independent School District	Identify SRTS curriculum best practices and work with partners to integrate SRTS principles into curriculum.		People	Handshake			★	★

PILOT PROJECTS AND QUICK BUILDS

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Guillen Middle School Curb Extensions and Community Painting Event

- Partnership with the American Heart Association and EPISD



September 30, 2023

PILOT PROJECTS AND QUICK BUILDS

El Paso High School Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB)

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ADDITIONAL CONTEXT

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SRTS methodology promotes walking and bicycling to school through infrastructure improvements, enforcement, tools, safety education, incentives, and community collaboration



Nationally, 10%–14% of car trips during morning rush hour are for school travel



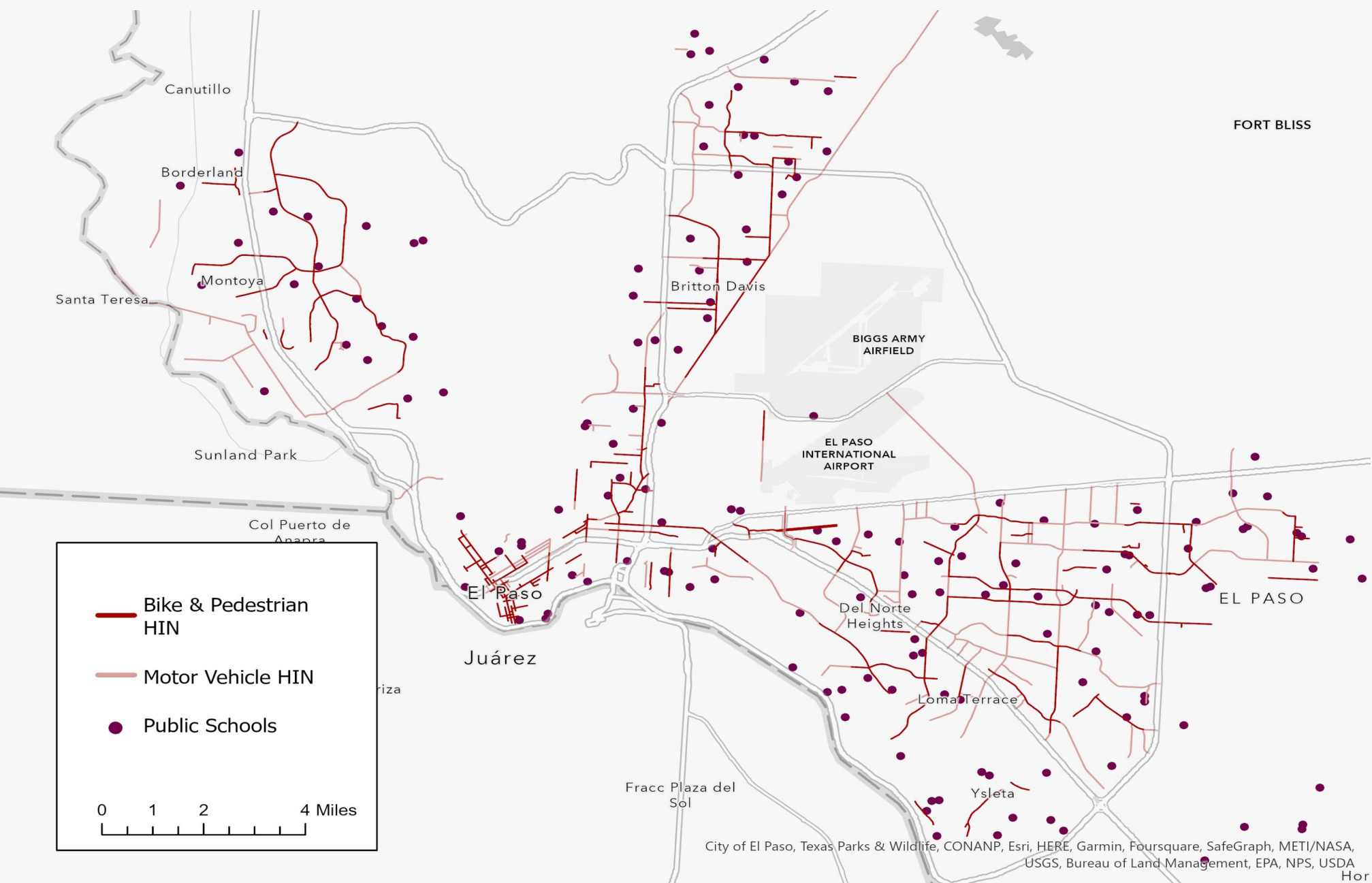
Walking & biking to school increases children's pedestrian safety skills, provides health and educational benefits, and reduces automobile congestion & emissions



Requires collaboration with community partners (EPPD, EPISD, Etc.)



Reducing auto dependency and improving public health are overall goals for the City as identified in Plan El Paso



16% OF BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN KSI CRASHES OCCUR NEAR SCHOOLS BETWEEN 2017-2021

EXPECTED ACTION PLAN CONTENT

Existing Conditions & Data Analysis

Equity-Based Prioritization Outline

Solutions and Strategies

Decision Making Matrix

Relevant State Legislation & Policies

Implementation Matrix

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GOALS



Create a safe, connected, and comfortable infrastructure network for children to walk and bike themselves to school



Prioritize areas that are at risk, underrepresented, and highly utilized



Provide a clear and implementable pathway for future improvements



Effectively reduce vehicle speeds through design and enforcement

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SRTS ACTION PLAN PHASES

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1

Goal Setting with MAC and VZ Task Force

Focused outreach will occur with the Mobility Advisory Committee and Vision Zero Advisory Committee

2

Data Analysis & Public Draft

CID Staff will produce a draft in coordination with Streets and Maintenance and seek input from council and focused outreach groups

3

Plan Adoption

Staff will recommend council adopt the final draft

4

Implementation

The plan will clearly state the responsible partners for each implementation task and the Timeline for execution post-adoption

NEXT STEPS

- **Update current school zone traffic installation inventory**
 - Identify missing or deficient school zone installations
 - Retrofit missing or deficient school zone installations
 - Enhanced infrastructure improvements require school district funding
- **Continue to support quick build and demonstration projects with willing partners**
- **Develop a formal Safe Routes to School Action Plan**
- **TMC Upgrade Project**
 - Implementation of an Intelligent Traffic System (ITS) network

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