

City of El Paso Capital Improvement Department

This text box is to remind you about the ASL translator service. Do NOT add any info in this space.

REMOVE THIS BOX ONCE THE PRESENTATION IS FINALIZED.



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER | 2024



VISION ZERO ACTION ITEMS

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.	\$ 👤 🤝			★	★	★
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.	\$ 👤			★	★	★
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.	\$ 🤝					★
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.	👤			★	★	★
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.	\$ 👤 🤝			★	★	★
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.	👤 🤝				★	★
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.	👤 🤝			★		★

This text box is to remind you about the ASL translator service. Do NOT add any info in this space.

REMOVE THIS BOX ONCE THE PRESENTATION IS FINALIZED.



COUNCIL DIRECTION

★ Vision Zero Adoption – June 2023

- Action Item Strategy #3 Expand the Safe Routes to School Program

★ 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

★ October 24, 2023

- Council directs CID & SAM Staff to begin formalized plan with focused outreach

★ July 1, 2024

- Staff presents a public draft for feedback

This text box is to remind you about the ASL translator service. Do NOT add any info in this space.

REMOVE THIS BOX ONCE THE PRESENTATION IS FINALIZED.

WHERE ARE WE?

1

Goal Setting with MAC & VZ Task Force

Focused outreach with the Mobility Advisory Committee and Vision Zero Advisory Committee formed the initial draft
October 2023 – March 24

2

Public Draft

CID Staff used stakeholder input to produce a second draft for public and council feedback
March – July 2024

3

Plan Adoption

Staff will recommend council adopt the final draft
September 2024

4

Implementation

The plan will clearly state the responsible partners for each implementation task and the Timeline for execution post-adoption
September 2024 +

This text box is to remind you about the ASL translator service. Do NOT add any info in this space.

REMOVE THIS BOX ONCE THE PRESENTATION IS FINALIZED.

OUTREACH OVERVIEW

- ❑ Survey shared on local news, in school, & social media (300+ responses)
- ❑ Public Open House
- ❑ Public review period online
- ❑ Ongoing conversations with stakeholders
- ❑ Three input sessions with EPISD, SISD, YISD, Mobility Advisory Committee, Technical Review Committee, and Vision Zero Task Force
- ❑ Meetings with:

- Planning and Inspections
- Streets and Maintenance
- Sun Metro
- International Bridges
- Public Health
- Community and Human Development
- Parks and Recreation
- ~~Police and Fire~~

This text box is to remind you about the ASL translator service. Do NOT add any info in this space.

REMOVE THIS BOX ONCE THE PRESENTATION IS FINALIZED.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL COMMUNITY MEETING

Initials	Name	Phone Number
SR	SERGIO REYES	(915) 487-487
SL	Sylvia Carrera	915-227-273
YK	Yoshua Leema	(915) 706-8519
NG	Nesley Gilley	915-212-61
AF	Natalia Floris	915-212-780
AF	Kevin Odensborg	915-873-2169
KLO	Baxtha Mendoza	915-937-0612
BM	Danilo Renner	915-411-8824
M	Scott White	915-240-2680
SK	S.B. Pizarro	915-801-4419
S.B.P.	Olivia Montalvo-Patrick	915-212-4375
CA	Jacy Norman	915-525-3374
as	Will Seelig	915-203-5128
CS	Christine Studer	512-539-2500
NB	Nelson Band	915-267-1578



SUGGESTIONS

DESCRIBE YOUR SUGGESTION

Create a safe schools Working Group w/ City of EP, TXDOT, County of EP and other governing bodies

HOW WOULD YOUR SUGGESTION HELP US

Coordinate efforts to implement complete streets across different jurisdictions

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Pursue funding via Rails-to-Trails Program to complement safe streets goals.

FINAL GOALS



Create a connected and comfortable infrastructure network for children to walk and bike safely 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 compliance



Engage in local partnerships to expand safety education and community participation

This text box is to remind you about the ASL translator service. Do NOT add any info in this space.

REMOVE THIS BOX ONCE THE PRESENTATION IS FINALIZED.



ACTION PLAN CONTENT

Section 1: Introduction and Background

Section 2: Inventory and Existing Conditions

Section 3: Solutions and Strategies

Section 4: Implementation and Performance Measures

Section 5: Legislative Priorities

Section 6: Equity Based Prioritization

Index: Survey Results & Data

This text box is to remind you about the ASL translator service. Do NOT add any info in this space.

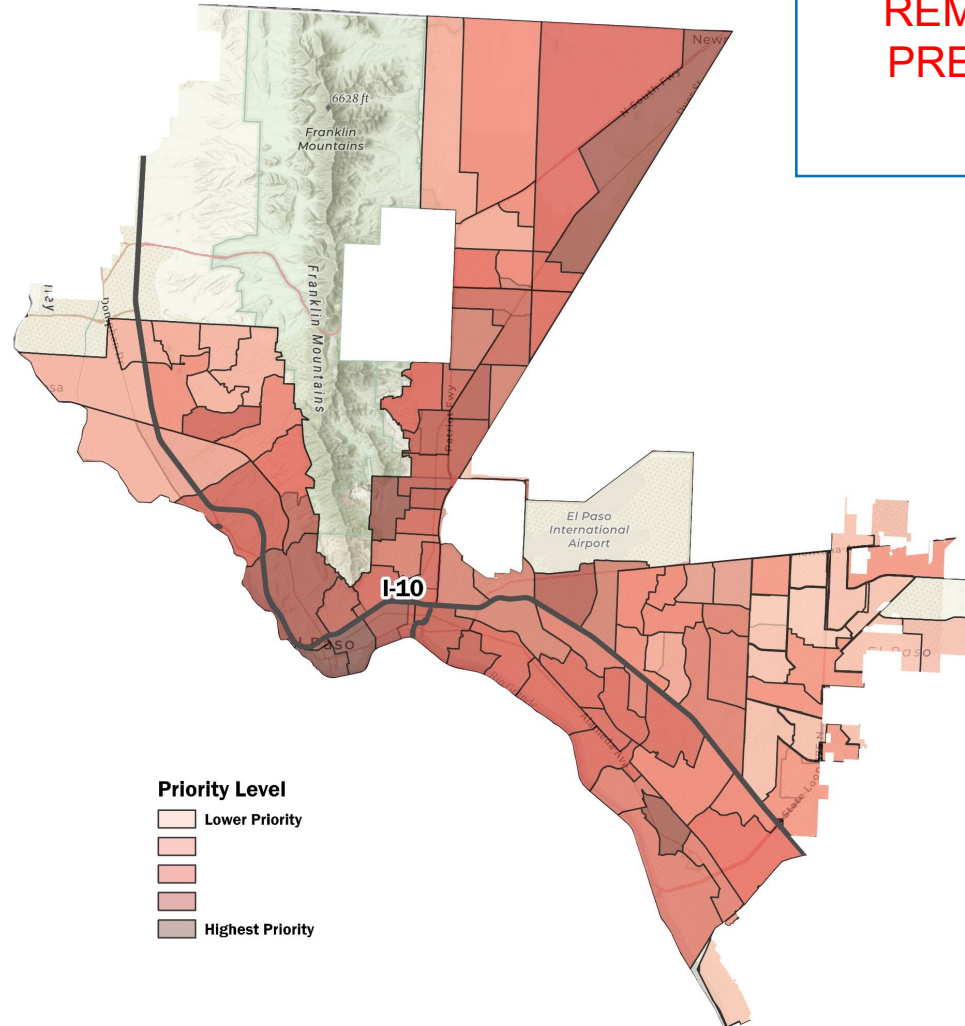
REMOVE THIS BOX ONCE THE PRESENTATION IS FINALIZED.



PRIORITY SCHOOLS

Ongoing conversations with school districts on infrastructure improvements for priority schools

1. DESERTAIRE
2. GUILLEN
3. BOWIE
4. BURGESS
5. AOY
6. NAVARRETE
7. IRVIN
8. CLENDENIN
9. HART
10. WIGGS
11. EL PASO HIGH



This text box is to remind you about the ASL translator service. Do NOT add any info in this space.

REMOVE THIS BOX ONCE THE PRESENTATION IS FINALIZED.

PILOT PROJECT: QUICK BUILD



This text box is to remind you about the ASL translator service. Do NOT add any info in this space.

REMOVE THIS BOX ONCE THE PRESENTATION IS FINALIZED.

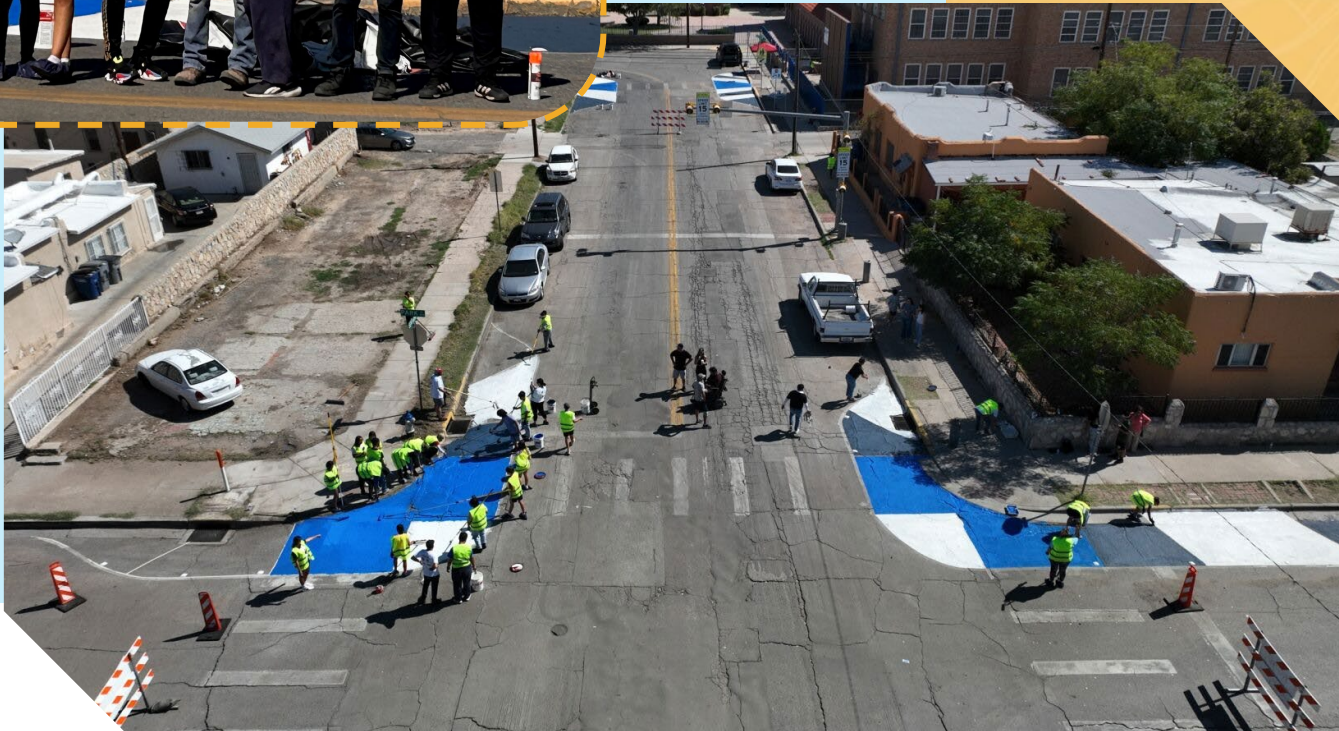


- Reduce the length of automobile space for pedestrians to cross
- Increases pedestrian visibility and space
- Narrows road, makes drivers naturally go slower
- Forces motorists to pay attention
- Reduce turning speed

COMMUNITY PAINTING EVENT & RESULTS

This text box is to remind you about the ASL translator service. Do NOT add any info in this space.

REMOVE THIS BOX ONCE THE PRESENTATION IS FINALIZED.



PLAN HIGHLIGHT:

COMMUNITY TOOLBOX INCENTIVE



Capital Improvement proposes we create a “toolbox” in collaboration with UMC of educational resources, curriculum, outreach events, and other resources to maximize engagement for schools.

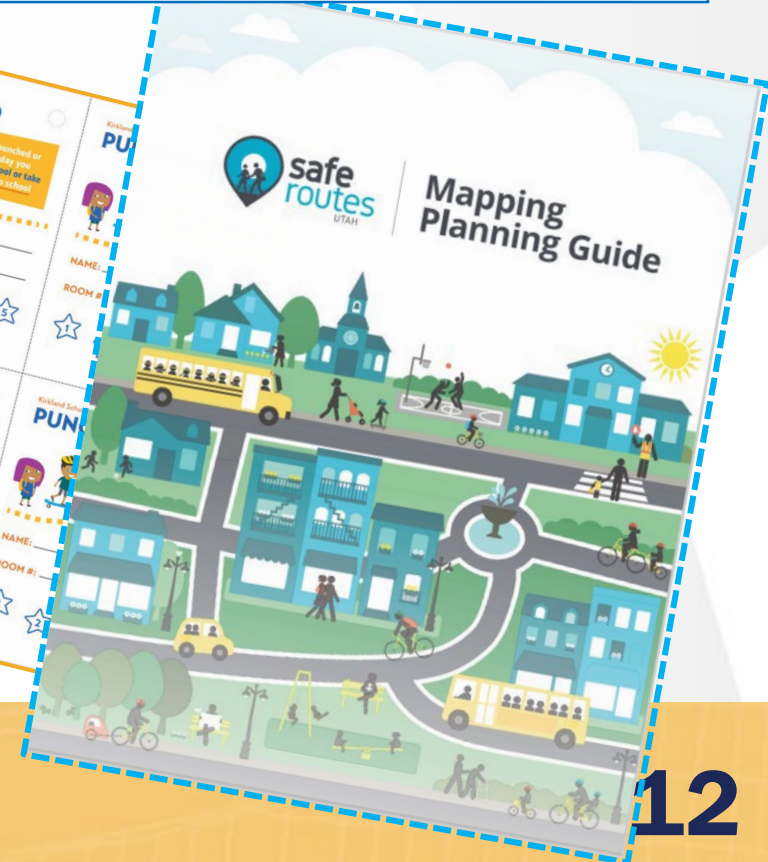


Schools participating in Safe Routes to School will be granted an official “Safe Routes to School” designation, plaque, and optional ceremonial tree planting from the city.



This text box is to remind you about the ASL translator service. Do NOT add any info in this space.

REMOVE THIS BOX ONCE THE PRESENTATION IS FINALIZED.



PLAN HIGHLIGHT:

SCHOOL ZONE ROUTINE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM


This text box is to remind you about the ASL translator service. Do NOT add any info in this space.

REMOVE THIS BOX ONCE THE PRESENTATION IS FINALIZED.

SECTION 3: SOLUTIONS AND STRATEGIES

Infrastructure

The following infrastructure improvements have been identified through outreach and research as appropriate and effective measures for traffic calming and improved safety in school zones. Recommendations will be catered to the unique conditions of each school. All infrastructure improvements should be paired with education and engagement to ensure students have all the necessary tools to safely walk, bike, and roll to school.



School Zone Maintenance Program

The City of El Paso Streets and Maintenance Department handles repairs, maintenance, and installation of crosswalks and signage within school zones. The maintenance program outlined below aims to ensure the safety and functionality of pedestrian infrastructure, particularly around schools. This proposed program encompasses scheduled maintenance cycles, technological upgrades, new and missing signage, and additional resource allocation. The Streets and Maintenance Department will expand its personnel to include additional teams dedicated to this school zone maintenance program.

Maintenance Cycles

All schools will run on a scheduled 18-month maintenance cycle for evaluation, refurbishment, and/or replacement of all traffic control devices and roadway lighting within school zones. Crosswalks specifically will run a 12-month maintenance cycle for streets that contain heavy traffic, poor roadway geometric design conditions, on or abutting the High Injury Network. Signage will go on a 5-year replacement schedule to ensure retro-reflectivity compliance. Additionally, the City will evaluate and update its GIS inventory monthly for school zone traffic control devices to ensure detailed accuracy.

Technology Upgrades

The following technology upgrades will be implemented by the school zone maintenance team


- Wireless connectivity on all existing HAWK pedestrian and school zone flashers to facilitate remote monitoring and adjustment of operating schedules to enhance responsiveness and efficiency
- Identification of locations to install Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons and other Intelligent traffic control systems


Additional Personnel Required

The Streets and Maintenance Department will expand their personnel to include an additional team dedicated to school zone maintenance. This expansion includes 4 additional crews containing 3 employees each dedicated to marking and striping, 2 employees dedicated to signage, and 2 additional technicians to oversee the installation, site selection, and maintenance of Intelligent Traffic Control Systems.

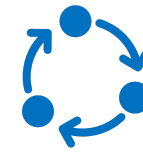
Project Request Program

The Streets and Maintenance Department and Capital Improvement will collaborate to develop a formal Safe Routes to School Project Request Program. This program will allow schools and parents to request improvements and maintenance for their schools. The program will provide clear guidance on eligible requests and project selection.



18 

The City of El Paso | Safe Routes to School Action Plan 19



The Streets and Maintenance Department outlines a scheduled program for routine maintenance



Will include a project request program with specific selection criteria

PROPOSED TOOLS, SOLUTIONS & STRATEGIES

- Utilizing isolated drop/off & pick/up zones in dense areas
- Partnerships for education & outreach in schools
- Incentivizing walking and biking for students
- Formalized and expanded crossing guard program
- Partnership with Senior and Retired Volunteers
- “Park a Block and Walk”
- “Walking School Bus”
- Bike Bus
- Walk Audits
- Expanding School Zones
- Expanded Enforcement
- Reduced Speeds
- **Deferred Disposition for School Zone Citations**
- Street Closures
- Quick Builds & Asphalt Art

This text box is to remind you about the ASL translator service. Do NOT add any info in this space.

REMOVE THIS BOX ONCE THE PRESENTATION IS FINALIZED.

CASE STUDY: AUSTIN TEXAS

DEFERRED DISPOSITION FOR SCHOOL ZONE CITATIONS

This text box is to remind you about the ASL translator service. Do NOT add any info in this space.

REMOVE THIS BOX ONCE THE PRESENTATION IS FINALIZED.

- For speeding and distracted driving citations in school zones.
- Option to participate in safe routes to school programs which upon completion keeps the offense from the defendant's record or reporting to their insurance provider.
- Defendant to assist a crossing guard during two shifts.
- During the first shift the defendant counts people walking.
- Second shift the defendant counts cars.
- Austin reports a 99+ percent positive feedback rating and has only 1 repeat offender.

WHAT'S NEW!

This text box is to remind you about the ASL translator service. Do NOT add any info in this space.

REMOVE THIS BOX ONCE THE PRESENTATION IS FINALIZED.

Safe Routes to School Designation Tree Planting Incentive

Those achieving the safe routes to school designation may apply to be acknowledged with a tree dedication and ceremonial planting from the City and Eco-El Paso. Three to six trees appropriate to the site will be selected and donated from the City's approved tree and plant list. The trees will provide aesthetic enhancements to the school while also providing shade for students. A planting event partnered with a plaza is an opportunity to involve students and increase awareness while also facilitating a sense of school pride.

Enforcement

Due to finite resources, the City of El Paso Police Department currently monitors select school zones daily based on demand and driver behavior. Their presence and enforcement have proven effective in reducing unsafe driver behavior in the zones they monitor. To ensure thoughtful and efficient use of resources, El Paso Police will continue to follow demand and areas of need and should consider utilizing the equity-based prioritization data to target areas of high risk.

Enforcement was identified as an area of priority for parents in survey results and contributes greatly to perceived safety inside school zones. The City of El Paso advocates for automatic traffic camera enforcement inside school zones in Section 5 of this document - Legislative Priorities.



Case Study: Deferred Disposition for School Zone Citations, Austin, Texas

The Safe Routes to School Program in Austin offers deferred disposition for speeding and distracted driving citations in school zones. When deferred is offered, the defendant has the option to participate in safe routes to school programs which upon completion keeps the offense from the defendant's record or reporting to their insurance provider.

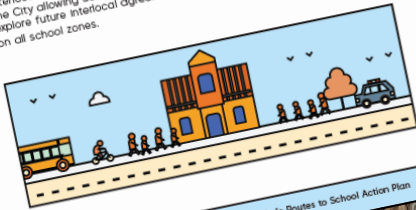
The Safe Routes Deferred Disposition program requires the defendant to assist a crossing guard during two shifts. During the first shift, the defendant counts people walking. In the second shift, the defendant counts cars. Austin reports a 99% percent positive feedback rating and has only one repeat offender.

Increased Fines In School Zones

The City of El Paso Capital Improvement Department will explore increasing fines in school zones. Further research is necessary to determine the possibility and effectiveness of increased fines.

School District and City Police Collaboration

In the past, congestion surrounding local high schools has initiated informal agreements between school district police departments and the City allowing School PD to enforce City ordinances. The City will explore future interlocal agreements to ensure enforcement coverage on all school zones.



The City of El Paso | Safe Routes to School Action Plan

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Benefits of Safe Routes to School

Health & Improved Academic Performance

Walking, biking, or rolling to school offers numerous health and academic benefits for students. Daily exercise reduces the risk of chronic disease, mental health problems, diabetes, and obesity. It also is an opportunity for school each day would fulfill two-thirds of the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) recommended daily sixty minutes of physical activity.

Student health has been linked to academic performance by neurologists nationwide, and grade school students specifically are an important age for cognitive development. Learning, memory, focus, content retention, and energy are all found to be positively correlated with physical activity. According to the Safe Routes to School Partnership Association, fit children have larger hippocampal volume and basal ganglia, brain regions both connected with learning. Walking and biking to school ensure students arrive ready to learn.

Safe Routes to School is one of the most effective evidence-based health strategies in the chronic disease team. Safe Routes to School is one of only fourteen approaches that the CDC has selected as a based strategy that has a positive health impact and is cost-effective over five years (known as H-5 interventions).

Equity and Air Quality

A designated area of non-attainment by the State Implementation Plan (SIP) by reducing overall automobile trips and emissions. Pollution can be linked to asthma, permanent lung disease, risk of heart and lung problems in adults. The Safe Routes to School will also reduce overall traffic congestion

at schools, and other schools. The City of El Paso is one of the few cities that has a positive health impact and is cost-effective over five years (known as H-5 interventions).

Cost and Savings

Transportation is the second highest household expense in the United States. When students walk, bike, and roll to school every day it reduces gas consumption and car mileage, overall reducing transportation expenses. Safe Routes to School is an evidence-based strategy that has been proven cost-effective within five years by the CDC.

These expense savings extend to school district resources. Improving walking conditions near schools could reduce the cost of transportation substantially, by decreasing the need for school bus service for students who live close enough to walk, bike, and roll to and from school.

Recent studies show \$230 million in national savings from long-term costs due to injury prevention and 800 million-1.2 billion savings in bus and driving costs nationwide. New York City's current program costs \$5 million annually with an estimated reduction in health costs for injury, disability, and death of \$221 million.

Since the adoption of Safe Routes to School, the City of Austin has allocated \$2.75 million of its Mobility Bond to Safe Routes to School. Improvements to be evenly distributed between the City's ten Council Districts. In Austin's project selection, they evaluate cost-benefit and select alternative approaches that may prove more feasible or cost-effective.



Staff used input from the public review period to create the Final Draft

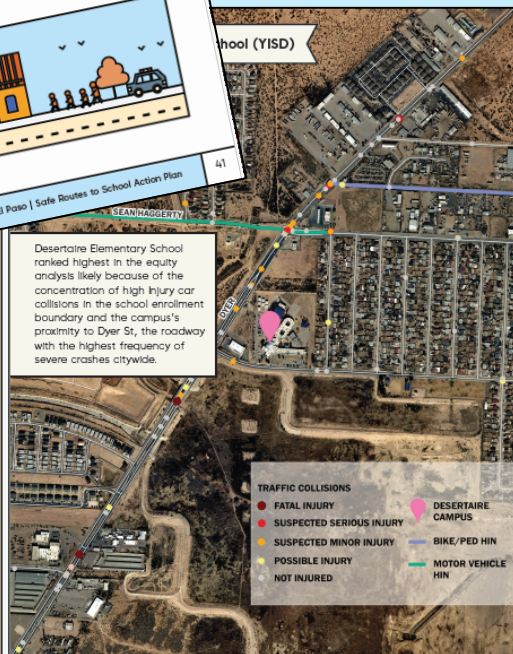
- Costs and savings info
- Maps of historic crash data at priority schools
- Added countermeasures from the public
- School District and PD collaboration
- Portland bike bus case study

Context

Four of the eleven highest priority schools are located in South El Paso's Segundo Barrio. These priority schools' catchment areas overlap, and they are all within 1.5 miles of each other. The schools are connected by the Motor Vehicle High Injury Network, Bike and Pedestrian High Injury Network, and the El Paso High-Risk Roadway Network. Because of the proximity, risk, programmed improvements, and social connections, this area will be evaluated semi-holistically. There is dense residential development in the Segundo Barrio and a semi-complete sidewalk network.

The High Injury Network consists of City-maintained local streets with the highest concentrations of injury crashes. The High Injury Network identifies areas where investment can have the highest impact in reducing serious crashes.

Desertaire Elementary School ranked highest in the equity analysis likely because of the concentration of high injury car collisions in the school enrollment boundary and the campus's proximity to Dyer St, the roadway with the highest frequency of severe crashes citywide.



WHAT'S NEXT!

- Infrastructure improvements funded by the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant at priority schools
- Vision Zero projects near schools
- Community painting events
- National Walk & Roll to School Day on October 9
- Events at schools
- Outreach, outreach, and more outreach!!!

This text box is to remind you about the ASL translator service. Do NOT add any info in this space.

REMOVE THIS BOX ONCE THE PRESENTATION IS FINALIZED.

SECTION 4: IMPLEMENTATION PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Strategy	Description	Time Frame	Involved Parties	Performance Measure	Performance Measure Timeline
Maintenance & Special Project Installations	Hire additional required personnel to begin the routine maintenance plan outlined in Section Three.	Short	City of El Paso Capital Improvement & Streets and Maintenance.	This strategy will be measured by percent completed from schedule and number of projects installed.	Annually
Infrastructure Improvement Priority Projects	Priority infrastructure improvement projects as identified in Section Six.	Short	City of El Paso Streets & Maintenance Sun Metro, Capital Improvement	This strategy should be assessed on a case-by-case basis. All project conditions should be well documented before and after improvements.	This strategy should be assessed on a case-by-case basis. All project conditions should be well documented before and after improvements.
Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities	Improvements Identified in Section Three.	Long	City of El Paso Streets and Maintenance & Capital Improvement	This strategy will be measured by number of projects completed, speed and collision data, and community satisfaction.	This strategy should be assessed on a case-by-case basis. All improvement conditions should be well documented before and after improvements.
Traffic Calming	Quick Builds, asphalt art, and other traffic calming measures are identified in Section Four.	Medium	City of El Paso Streets and Maintenance & Capital Improvement	This strategy will be measured by number of projects completed, speed and collision data, and community satisfaction.	This strategy should be assessed on a case-by-case basis. All improvement conditions should be well documented before and after improvements.
Educational & Outreach Toolbox & Safe Routes School Designation	The Safe Routes to School Designation Program is outlined in Section Four.	Short	City of El Paso Capital Improvement, Paso Del Norte Health Foundation	This strategy will be measured by participation and community satisfaction.	This strategy should be annually re-assessed.
National Walk & Bike to School Day	Adopt a resolution for the first Wednesday of October and encourage schools to participate	Short	City of El Paso City Council, Public Health Department, YISD, SISD, SIDS, UMC, Action for Healthy Kids, American Heart Association	This strategy will be measured by participation	This strategy should be annually re-assessed
Continue to Seek Funding	Vision Zero 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.	Ongoing	City of El Paso Capital Improvement Department	This strategy will be measured by the funding received	N/A
Formalized & Expanded paid Crossing Guard Program	Seek funding to create a paid crossing guard program. Partner retired and senior volunteers into safe routes to school programs.	Medium	City of El Paso Capital Improvement, EPISD, YISD, SISD	This strategy will be completed when the program is funded, and guards are hired.	N/A
Hire a full time Safe Routes to School Coordinator	Vision Zero A-3a Identify and expand SRTS policies and coordination and hire a dedicated El Paso SRTS coordinator.	Medium	City of El Paso Capital Improvement, EPISD, YISD, SISD	This strategy will be completed when the position is funded and filled.	N/A
Encourage & Expand Safety Town Program	Encourage the enrollment, advertisement, and expansion of Safety Town.	Short	City of El Paso (Capital Improvement Parks & rec, Police Department), Bascom Plaza Mall	N/A	N/A
Route Mapping and Wayfinding	Identify and publish routes for students to walk, bike, and roll to school.	Short	City of El Paso Capital Improvement, EPISD, YISD, SISD.	This strategy will be measured by participation and community satisfaction.	This strategy should be bi-annually re-assessed.
Deferred Disposition for School Zone Citations	Develop a formalized program for school zone citations	Medium	City of El Paso Police Department & EPISD, SISD, YISD, El Paso Municipal Court	This strategy will be measured by participation and community satisfaction.	This strategy should be bi-annually re-assessed.