



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL UPDATE

JULY 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.		👥	🤝				★	★

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

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



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
July 2024

4

Implementation

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

- 5

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL COMMUNITY MEETING

Initials	Name	Phone Number	E-mail Address	Date
SL	SERGIO			6-5-24
SL	Sylvia			6-5-24
NT	Joshua			6-5-24
NT	Lesley			6-5-24
NT	Natalia			6/5/24
KLO	Kevin			6/5/24
BM	Baila			6/5/24
SL	John			6/5/24
SL	Sam			6/5/24
SDP	SD			6/5/24
CM	Olivia			6/5/24
CM	Stacy			6/5/24
CM	Christina			6/5/24
CM	Nelson			6/5/24

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.

5

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

ACTION PLAN CONTENT

Section 1: Introduction and Background

Section 2: Inventory and Existing Conditions

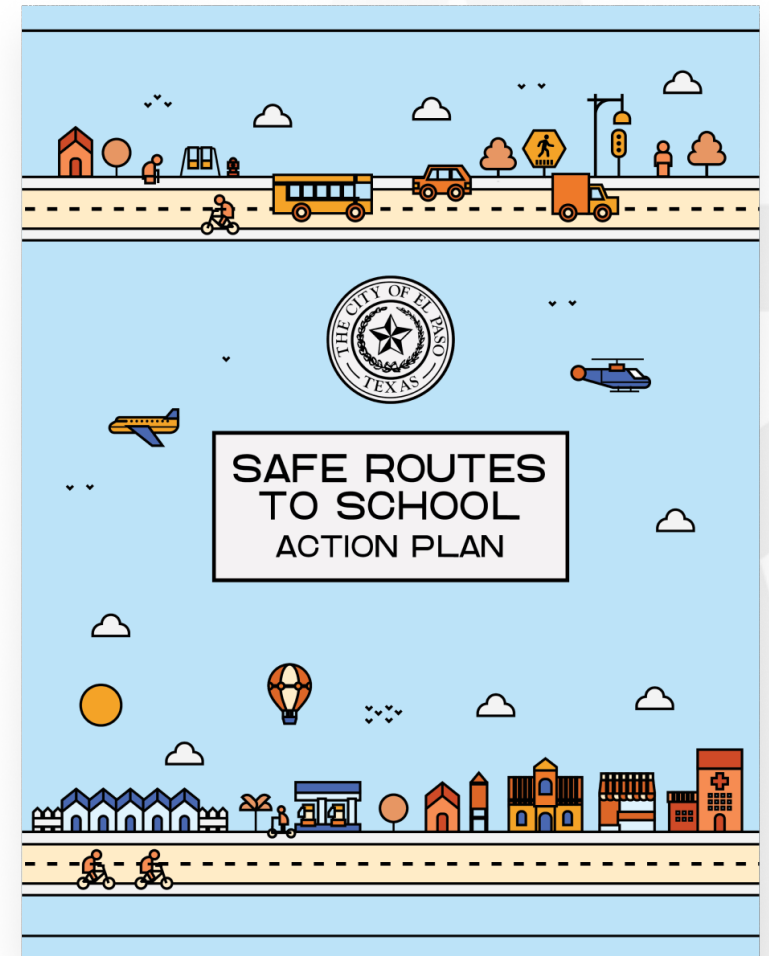
Section 3: Solutions and Strategies

Section 4: Implementation and Performance Measures

Section 5: Legislative Priorities

Section 6: Equity Based Prioritization

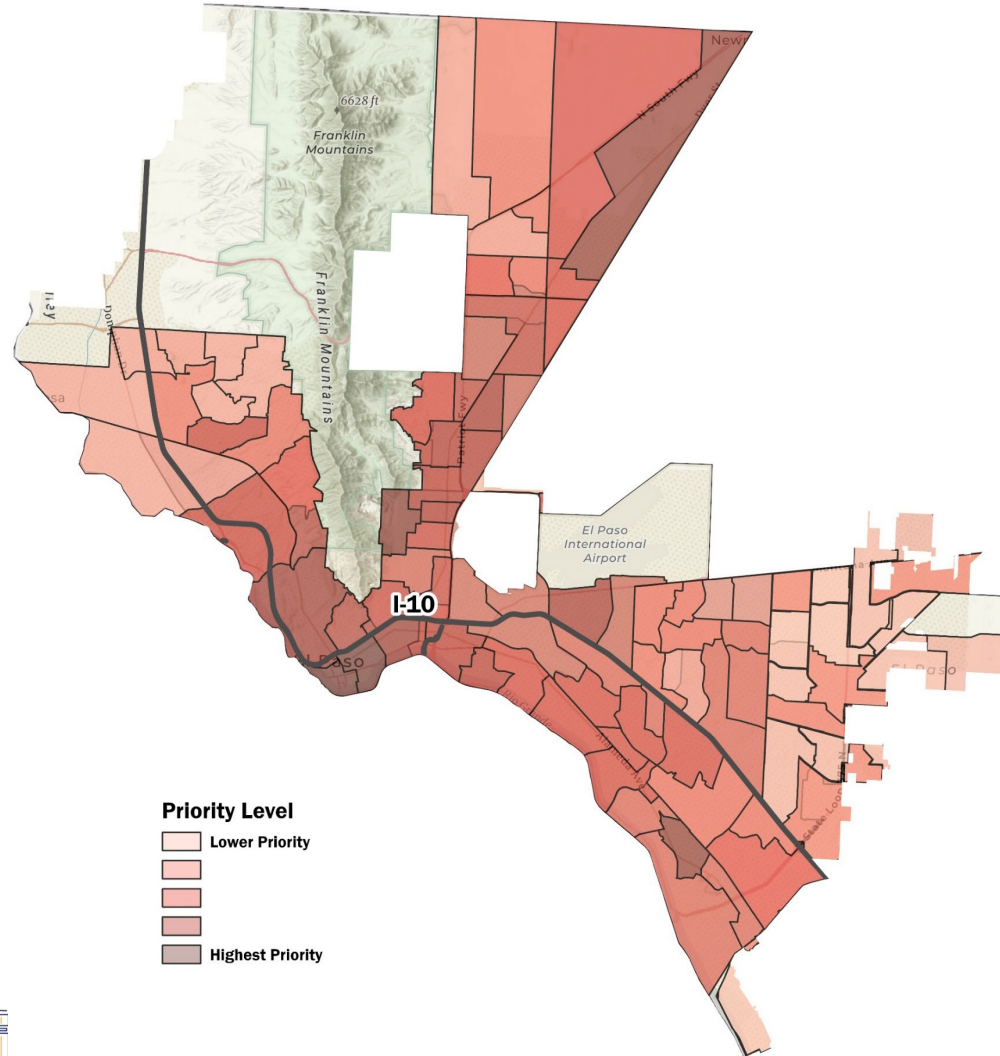
Index: Survey Results & Data



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. **WIIGS**
11. **EL PASO HIGH**



Priority Level
Lower Priority
Highest Priority

PILOT PROJECT: QUICK BUILD

- 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

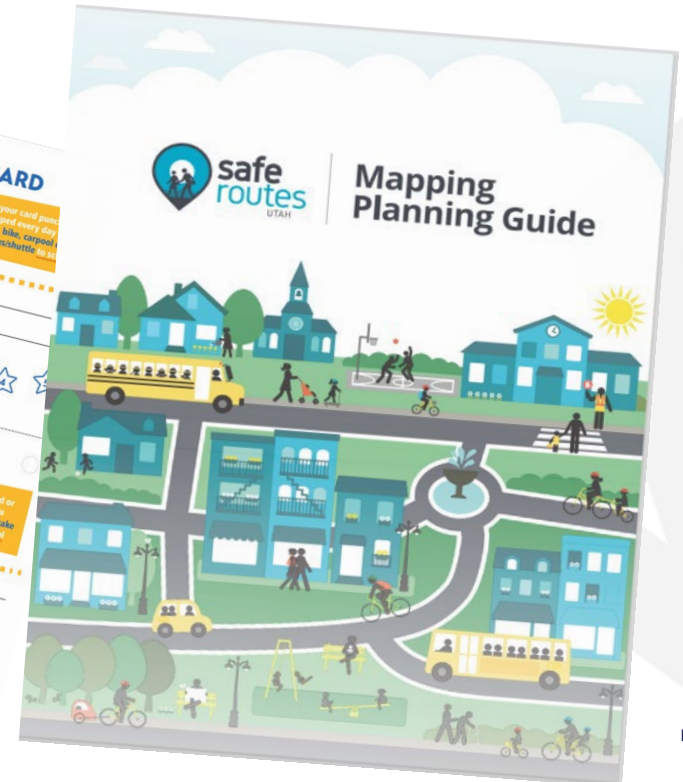


PLAN HIGHLIGHT: COMMUNITY TOOLBOX INCENTIVE



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.



PLAN HIGHLIGHT: SCHOOL ZONE ROUTINE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM



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



Will include a project request program with specific selection criteria.

SECTION THREE 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 tailored 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. Streets and Maintenance requested a new school zone maintenance and Vision Zero quick deploy team in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. This action is Vision Zero Action Item D-1h, Add staff capacity specifically for implementing safety work.

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 ⁸, 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
- Using technology (such as A.I.) to help identify which school zones need to have improved traffic control devices or similar maintenance activities

⁸ "Heavy Traffic" will be based on traffic study data.

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.

Additional Personnel Required

The Streets and Maintenance Department has requested additional funds to 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.

Quick Builds & Asphalt Art

Quick builds are infrastructure improvements that are typically done with paint, vertical delineators, planters, cones, and other low-cost semi-permanent materials. Quick-Build improvements are affordable solutions that can be implemented city-wide and used to measure the effectiveness of infrastructure improvements and ensure thoughtful permanent investments. Quick-Build projects are not meant to be maintained rather than analyzed and post-implementation, adjusted accordingly, and evaluated to inform long-term design and modifications.

Using paint, infrastructure quick builds can double as local art canvases. In 2022, consulting firm Sam Schwartz released a Historical Crash Analysis and Observational Behavior Assessment of Asphalt Art Sites. The study thoroughly analyzed intersection murals, crosswalk art, painted plazas, and painted sidewalk extensions and found significant improvement in safety performance across a variety of measures during periods when asphalt art was installed, including a 50% reduction in crashes involving pedestrians and cyclists and a 27 percent increase in drivers yielding to pedestrians with the right of way.

PROPOSED TOOLS, SOLUTIONS, AND 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”
- Expanded & Improved Infrastructure
- Traffic Calming
- Bike Bus
- Walk Audits
- Expanding School Zones
- Expanded Enforcement
- Reduced Speeds
- **Deferred Disposition for School Zone Citations**
- Street Closures
- Quick Builds & Asphalt Art
- Improved Crossings
- Signage

CASE STUDY : AUSTIN TEXAS

DEFERRED DISPOSITION FOR SCHOOL ZONE CITATIONS

- **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.**

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produce a second
draft for public and
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March – July 2024

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Plan Adoption

Staff will
recommend
council adopt
the final draft
July 2024

4

Implementation

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