



La Tercera Elementary School SRTS Walk Audit

Tuesday, April 16th, 2024



In attendance: Christina Panza (SRTS Director), Bjorn Gripenburg (Active Transportation Planner, City of Petaluma), Ken Eichstadt (Engineer, City of Petaluma), Sergeant Walt Spiller (Petaluma Police Department), Catherine Larkin (Principal, La Tercera), Katie Sellmann (Parent of 6th Grader), Dale Walsh (School Crossing Guard), Deb Fox (Cool Petaluma). Also joined by Cindy Friberg, District Co-Superintendent, for a period of time.

Route: Met at school entrance at 1600 Albin Way. Observed drop off from main entrance, then headed north on Marguerite Way to the intersection of Marguerite & Caulfield Ln. Then, headed west on Caulfield to Crinella Drive, south on Crinella Drive to Albin Way, then east on Albin Way back to the school entrance.

Pick up/Drop off: Morning drop off and afternoon pick up for La Tercera takes place primarily on Albin Way in front of the school, in the designated loading zone between Marguerite Way and St. Louis Ct, between 7:45am-8:25am, with the busiest time from 8:10am-8:25am. Although there is a school driveway loop in front of the school, parents are instructed not to drop off in that area. One large school bus for regular students drops off students in the school driveway loop at approximately 8am, and two small buses drop off South County Consortium students at approximately 8:15am. Some parents park and walk from either St. Louis Court or Marguerite Way, but the majority appear to drop off on Albin Drive, primarily on the south side.

Students enter/exit the school from the front of the school. For safety reasons, a single entry/exit point for the school has been designated, and students/families are not able to access the school from the back gate (through La Tercera park).

There are three crosswalks across Albin Way in/near the drop off area front of the school, two on the east and west side of Marguerite Way, and one at St. Louis Ct. A long-time crossing guard, Dale Walsh, is stationed at the Marguerite Way crosswalks, and goes back and forth helping students

cross both the crosswalk east and west of Marguerite Way. The school has obtained mid-block crosswalk signs for 5 crossings in the vicinity of the school, which Dale inserts and removes daily.

School Information:

Address	1600 Albin Way
Morning Bell(s)	8:25am
Afternoon Bell(s)	M, T, Th-F: 2:50pm (TK-3 rd), 3:00pm (4 th -6 th) W: 1:45pm (all grades)
Grade levels	Tk-6
Enrollment	231
School type	Neighborhood
Student's proximity to school	231 geocoded students in 2023-24 209 live within 2 miles of school (90%) 179 live within 1 mile of school (77%) 93 live within ½ mile of school (40%) 40 live within ¼ mile of school (17%)
Participating School in Sonoma County SRTS program?	No
Student Travel Mode info (Sept 2023 student arrival/departure tally data)	Student arrival/departure tallies have not been collected at La Tercera
Safe Routes to School Non-Infrastructure Programming (2023-24)	n/a in 2023-24

CONCERNS &/or POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:

Please note that all recommendations on the following pages are meant to capture potential solutions to issues or ideas raised during the walk audit. Each of these recommendations are subject to additional design, analysis, outreach, funding, prioritization, and approval by the City of Petaluma and/or Old Adobe School District prior to implementation.

Concerns and observations:

- The volume of traffic & driver behavior on Albin Way at drop off was a general concern expressed by parents and school staff. On some days, cars back up all the way from Marguerite Way to Crinella Drive, blocking crossings along the way. Parent Katie Sellmann stated that there is a “total disregard for drop-off rules” amongst parent drivers.
- The pedestrian-activated flashing beacon & pavement lights at the crosswalk west of Marguerite Way are not working.
- It is very challenging for Dale, the crossing guard, to assist students with crossing Albin at the crosswalks on BOTH the east and west sides of Marguerite Way.
- Parents frequently do not pull forward in the drop off line to drop off their students, impeding the flow of traffic in the drop off line.
- Many parents stop for longer than necessary to drop off students, sometimes leaving their driver-side door open, obstructing traffic. A few parents were observed waiting to watch students walk into school, obstructing the flow of traffic even further.
- Several parents were observed making illegal U-turns from the curb on Albin Way.
- Several parents were also observed dropping off in the school driveway loop, despite the fact that this is not permitted.
- It is extremely challenging to make a left turn from Marguerite Way onto Caulfield Lane, due to views obstructed by a hedge in front of the property at the southwest corner.

- Caulfield Lane is a busy road that feels unsafe and unpleasant to walk along, bicycle along, and cross at any given intersection.
- The intersection of Caulfield Lane & Crinella Drive and also Caulfield Lane & Ely Blvd. are both busy and extremely challenging to cross.
- Participants expressed that drivers, particularly high school students in the afternoon, often speed down Crinella Drive, “blast through intersections”, make rolling stops and/or do not obey pedestrian right of way at the intersection of Albin Way & Crinella Drive, as well as the intersection of Baywood Drive & Crinella Drive.

Ideas & Potential Solutions:

District/School:

- Develop clear English/Spanish drop off/pick up procedures, including demonstration videos, and share with parents/students via Back-to-School Night, Parent Square, School newsletters, PTA, etc.
- Consider enrolling in/participate in the County SRTS program, to support continued collection of student arrival/departure tally data, to participate in Walk/Roll initiatives, and to be eligible to receive SRTS services such as bicycle and/or pedestrian safety lessons and/or on-bicycle education programming.
- Consider sharing the following SRTS tip-sheet(s) and videos to support safe walking, bicycling, drop-off, and parking & walking:
 - Walking Safety Tip Sheet [English](#) [Spanish](#)
 - Bike Safety Tip Sheet [English](#) [Spanish](#)
 - Driver Awareness for Safe Arrival/Dismissal [English](#) [Spanish](#)
 - Park & Walk Video [English](#) [Spanish](#)
- Consider enrolling with AAA to establish a student [AAA School Safety Patrol](#) (or alternatively assigning school staff if feasible) to support a smoother, safer drop off. Student Safety Patrols (or staff) can help kids exit vehicles, enable parent drivers to move along more quickly, and even help kids who require support to get to/from class.
- Consider establishing & promoting “Walking School Bus” (WSB) meet up spots, and identifying a school “SRTS Champion” (may be school staff or a parent or a team that includes both) to facilitate promotion and community participation. School administration, teacher(s), or even parents may lead a group of students on the Walking School Bus in the morning on special event days, and also encourage students & parents to walk together on non-event days and as well as model safe walking behavior. Walking School Buses can operate a couple times a year, once a month, or even once a week during certain months, depending on capacity. The following potential WSB “meet up spots” were discussed during the SRTS audit:
 - **La Tercera Park** (<.4 miles to school): A walking school bus route that begins from this location could be a drop-off spot for students who live farther away and a meet-up spot for students and parents who live in the neighborhood, an approximate 10 minute walk to school. .4 miles is the distance from the curve on Peggy Lane, to Crinella Drive, to Albin Way and the front of the school. Students can cut through the park for an even shorter route. Students could meet at the park at 8am and be at school with time to spare.
 - **Crinella Park** (<.75 miles to school): A walking school bus OR bike train from this location (or from a nearby side street) could pick up families along Crinella Drive on the route to school. Currently, a large number of students live in the neighborhood between Crinella Drive, Caulfield Lane, S. McDowell Blvd, and Casa Grande Rd.
- Report incidents to Petaluma Police Department when they occur (i.e., if someone is hit in a crosswalk but not hurt, etc), as well as ongoing concerns, such as parents continuing to make U-turns, opening doors into traffic, etc.

City of Petaluma Public Works:

- Albin & Marguerite Way:
 - Fix flashing beacon (completed the day after the audit)
 - Add red curb & bulb-outs
 - Consider painting edge-line stripes along Albin Way as a safety feature to provide road users with guidance re: where they should be traveling, induce them to lower speeds, etc.
 - Explore conversion to an all-way stop
 - Coordinate with school/district to explore opportunities to make crossing guard's job more efficient
- Consider installing a "No U-turns" sign on Albin Way where those violations occur
- Caulfield Lane:
 - Calm traffic & improve safety for bicyclists & pedestrians on Caulfield Lane between Payran and Garfield with "a road diet" that would include reducing/narrowing travel lanes, a protected bicycle lane, and bulb outs at intersections to shorten crossing distances, including the one at Crinella Drive & Caulfield Lane.
 - Pavement project with lane reduction and bike/ped improvements scheduled for 2026.
 - Install roundabout at Caulfield Lane and Ely Blvd
- Crinella Drive:
 - At Albin Way, add red curb & bulb-outs to shorten crossing distances and improve visibility
 - Consider improvements to convert to neighborhood greenway (low traffic, low speed street with priority for people walking & bicycling; alternative to Ely Blvd. S and S. McDowell Blvd.) including signage, lane markings, and other traffic calming measures.
- Ely Blvd South:
 - Consider lane reduction with buffered or protected bike lanes between E. Washington and Frates Rd.
 - Consider a new bike/pedestrian crossing linking Capistrano Way with Meadowview Drive

Petaluma Police Department:

- Contact code enforcement re: the bush obstructing sightlines at Marguerite & Caulfield (completed as of writing of this report)
- Enforce speed and other moving violations (including illegal U-turns and doors open in traffic) along Crinella Drive & Albin Way
- Support school requests to enforce continued violations.

Safe Routes to School Program Information

- The SRTS program coordinates a Safe Routes to School Task Force to bring together representatives from schools/school districts (school administration, staff and/or parents), city planning/engineering, law enforcement, and SRTS program staff. The goal of the Task Force is to:
 - Seek input from Task Force members and the public, in order to identify barriers to active transportation, opportunities for improvement and collaboration, and set priorities for future infrastructure projects within the city of Petaluma.
 - Provide a venue for sharing of program initiatives and projects in the city of Petaluma, as well as inter-agency collaboration.

Petaluma Task Force meeting notices, agendas, and meeting notes & handouts can be found on our SRTS Task Force page [HERE](#).

- Enrollment for participation in the SRTS program takes place in April each year (deadline is April 30th). Schools must enroll each year to be eligible to receive visiting education services & ongoing technical support. Enrolled, comprehensive sites agree to:
 - Meet with SRTS program staff 3x per year to discuss/plan programming
 - Collect student travel tally data in September
 - Provide data for the SRTS program to enable creation of an annual SRTS “study map” showing where students live in relation to the school
 - Engage with/implement a minimum of 5 walk/roll encouragement initiatives per year.
 - Support scheduling & implementation of education programming.
- SRTS encouragement “Walk/Roll” initiatives and promotional materials are emailed to enrolled school contacts every month via our SRTS E-Newsletter, and may also be accessed at www.sonomasaferroutes.org. To request to receive our SRTS E-Newsletter directly, email christina@bikeosnoma.org

Appendix: Walk Audit Pictures:

Issues and Challenges Observed or Raised

- 1) Lynch Creek Trail Crossing improvements
- 2) Monroe loading zone used for parking
- 3) Driveway conflicts with pedestrians
- 4) Congestion on Maria Drive
- 5) Poor sidewalk conditions
- 6) Stop sign compliance at E. Madison Street





Albin & Marguerite Way intersection (and Dale the crossing guard)



Drop off line in front of school (#1)



Drop off line in front of school (other direction)



Bush obstructing sight-lines at Marguerite & Caulfield



Crinella Drive & Caulfield Lane intersection



Crinella Drive & Caulfield Lane intersection (closer view)



Crinella Drive & Albin Way
