

Commodore Sloat Elementary School

Walk Audit Report

Walk Audit held April 07, 2025

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to Principal Fowzigiah Abdolcader at Commodore Sloat Elementary, Safe Routes to School Staff Sara Brown, District 7 legislative aide Mike Farrah, and SFMTA staff Ben Frazier. Five people in total participated in the Audit.

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Introduction

Walking Audits of San Francisco elementary, middle and high schools are a part of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency’s School Area Safety Program, which includes School Traffic Calming and School Area Engineering Operations as well as non-infrastructure programs like Safe Routes to School.

A “Walking Audit” is an organized group walking tour of each school area to identify and address obstacles to safe and comfortable walking in the area around the school. Participants are typically a group of 6-12 people, including school staff, parents, advocates, and students. Each Audit identifies both Near- and long-term improvements.

Schools are chosen for Walk Audits based on recent injury collisions in the school area, the potential to increase walking among the student population, and whether or not recent safety work has been done in the school area. Near-term improvements for each walking audit school, such as traffic calming devices, may require review and legislation before they can be implemented. Longer term and more costly improvements will be recorded and recommended for inclusion in larger projects on that street.

The Walking Audit for Commodore Sloat Elementary School was conducted on Monday, April 7, 2025, from 9:30 am – 11:00 am under cloudy skies with moderate temperatures and light rain. The walk audit team included 5 people total, including SFMTA staff Jacob Henke and Ben Frazier, Principal Fowzigiah Abdolcader, Safe Routes to School staff Sara Brown, and District 7 legislative aide Mike Farrah.

The Walking Route

The walking route was the immediate block perimeter around the school beginning at the school entrance mid-block on Darien Way. The walk headed east on Darien Way to San Fernando Way, then right on San Fernando way south to Ocean Avenue, then right on Ocean Avenue west to Junipero Serra Boulevard, then right on Junipero Serra Boulevard north to Darien Way, then right on Darien way heading east returning to the school entrance on Darien Way. The walk audit also walked the mid-block pedestrian pathway between San Fernando Way and San Leandro Way to discuss concerns on San Leandro Way. See the aerial photograph of the walking route below:



School Area Pedestrian Issues Identified

Participants were given note sheets with an introduction and an explanation of the “Tool Kit” of measures (including photos) that are available to address both near- and long-term issues and concerns. These sheets were used by each participant to take notes and record issues. SFMTA staff then compiled participant comments in this report. Participants were asked to be inclusive in their comments, recording all issues that impact them on their walk, NOT just those issues that can be addressed by the SFMTA.

General School Area Issues/Concerns:

- Need better visibility at crosswalks
- Drivers making turns often don't yield to pedestrians
- Vehicles don't stop behind the crosswalks
- Double parking in the afternoon
- Schedule work during summer recess to not disrupt the school year
- More families with children are moving into the neighborhood
- Students often walk to Merced Branch library
- Walking school busses come from Aptos Middle School, the Ingleside Sundial, and Lakeside Landing
- Most staff or teachers drive – 1 person who takes transit, and 1 who e-bikes to work
- Handful of families bike to drop off kids at school
- Needing more assistance or staff people to help with drop off / pick up times
- Yellow school buses only for field trips – Students are dropped off in private vehicles, walk, or take MUNI



Darien Way

Near-Term Issues/Concerns:

- Curb ramps at Darien and Junipero Serra but no yellow marked crosswalk
- Midblock crosswalk not daylighted
- Parents don't comply with angle parking during school drop off hours, need more support during drop off
- People leave vehicles unattended in the loading zone
- Used to have crossing guard on Darien
- People will park in the loading area blocking the midblock crosswalk and curb ramps

- People parking in the no parking zone south side of Darien Way east of the loading zone up to San Fernando Way – sometimes parking halfway up on the sidewalk

Long-Term Issues/Concerns:

- Vehicles encroaching or blocking crosswalks



San Fernando Way

Near-Term Issues/Concerns:

- Vehicles encroaching on the crosswalks
- Faded crosswalk paint at Ocean Avenue
- Vehicles park in loading zone long term – blocking passenger loading on this block

Long-Term Issues/Concerns:

- Vehicles encroaching on the crosswalks



San Leandro Way

Near-Term Issues/Concerns:

- Drivers do not obey stop signs
- Reports of conflict between school traffic and neighborhood traffic and parking
- Faded crosswalks at Ocean Avenue
- Vehicles encroaching on the crosswalk at Ocean Avenue
- Missing Daylighting

Long-Term Issues/Concerns:

- Vehicles encroaching on the crosswalk at Ocean Avenue



Ocean Avenue at Junipero Serra Boulevard

Near-Term Issues/Concerns:

- Vehicles speeding
- Considered by participants as the most dangerous intersection around the school – Student/car collision happened when student was crossing from the Muni train stop to the school
- Desire for more crossing guards, specifically at the SW corner of the intersection –multiple other schools surrounding this intersection
- Unpredictable turns
- Unpredictable movements and speeding through intersection
- Not enough time to cross in both directions
- People use the Junipero serra boulevard frontage road as a cut-thru to avoid lights or traffic
- No school zone signage on Ocean Avenue Between San Leandro Way and San Fernando Way

Long-Term Issues/Concerns:

- Speeding
- Long distance to cross across Junipero Serra Boulevard and Ocean Avenue

Commodore Sloat Elementary School Walk Audit Recommendations

General School Area Recommendations:

- Improve visibility at crosswalks by adding Daylighting wherever possible
- Explore turn calming at multiple intersections
- Refresh Crosswalk paint and other road paint where necessary



Darien Way

Near-Term Recommendations:

- Paint a crosswalk across Darien Way at Junipero Serra Boulevard
- Review passenger loading zone for ways to improve compliance with angle parking and daylighting of midblock crosswalk within the loading zone
- Explore additional signage or red curb to reinforce no parking area and alleviate possible conflict with illegally parked vehicles
- Connect school with Safe Routes to Schools team to collaborate on creating a graphic to help educate parents/caregivers of the rules for drop off
- Share crossing guard application for school to request additional support

Long-Term Issues/Concerns:

- Evaluate adding curb extensions at Junipero Serra Boulevard and San Rafael Way



San Fernando Way

Near-Term Recommendations:

- Add painted safety zones at San Fernando and Ocean Avenue north of Ocean on both sides of San Fernando Way
- Refresh yellow crosswalks at Ocean Avenue and San Fernando way
- Evaluate adding advanced limit lines at San Fernando way and Ocean Ave intersection
- Check for Leading pedestrian intervals at Ocean Avenue

Long-Term Recommendations:

- Evaluate adding curb extensions at Ocean Avenue

San Leandro Way

Near-Term Recommendations:

- Coordinate with SFMTA Transportation Engineering Operations to review improving stop sign visibility and compliance at Darien Way
- Neighbors exploring petitioning for an extension of RPP zone to this block – Check in with Parking and D7 staff
- Add painted safety zones at San Leandro and Ocean Ave north of Ocean on both sides of San Leandro
- Refresh Crosswalks across Ocean Avenue at San Leandro Way

Long-Term Recommendations:

- Evaluate adding curb extensions at Ocean Avenue -

Ocean Avenue at Junipero Serra Boulevard

Near-Term Recommendations:

- Share crossing guard application for school to request additional support
- Explore separating turn phases at this intersection, especially North bound right turns from Ocean Ave onto Junipero Serra Boulevard
- Refresh intersection guidelines and explore adding them for all movements, especially Southbound left turns from Ocean Avenue onto Junipero Serra Boulevard
- Check for Leading pedestrian intervals
- Add a school zone sign for drivers on Ocean Ave Between San Leandro Way and San Fernando Way

Long-Term Recommendations:

- Evaluate adding curb extensions at all corners
- Shorten Crossing distance and give more time to pedestrians



Next Steps and Projected Near-Term Timeline:

Prioritizing Recommendations

Upon completion of this report, SFMTA School Engineering Program manager and staff will evaluate the recommendations and recommend and prioritize near- and long-term improvements for implementation. Staff will prioritize improvements at each school to maximize the safety benefit for the student population.

Legislation of Prioritized Recommendations

SFMTA Schools Engineering staff will then legislate prioritized items that require interdepartmental or SFMTA Board approval. Some items, such as “Daylighting” or additional advisory signage, do not require legislation. Others, like speed humps, certain parking restrictions, and traffic signal timing modification, require legislation or review by committee that typically takes 2-3 months.

Construction/Implementation of Near-Term Measures

Implementation or construction of the approved measures will vary depending on the complexity of installation. Simpler measures, such as daylighting, roadway striping, and signs can be installed more quickly than speed humps, raised crosswalks, signal timing modifications and more complex measures.

Phase 1 will include the simpler measures: signs, curb paint, and roadway paint.

Phase 2 will include speed humps, raised crosswalks, and signal timing modifications

Near-Term Project Timeline

<i>Projected Timeline</i>	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Prioritize Recommendations	P1, P2	P1, P2							
Approval of Simple Measures		P1							
Legislation of Other Measures			P2	P2					
Submit Work Orders			P1	P1	P2	P2			
Installation of Measures				P1	P1	P1	P2	P2	P2

P1 = Phase 1

P2 = Phase 2

Long-Term Recommendations

Measures recommended for long-term implementation will be incorporated into larger construction efforts as feasible, and will not have a projected timeline at this point. These



recommended measures will be re-evaluated for their efficacy at such a time as they may be included in the scopes of larger construction projects in the immediate area. These types of projects often include Sewer and Water main replacement, re-paving, sidewalk reconstruction, or possibly undergrounding of utilities.