



School Safety Assessment Technical Memorandum

Yu Ming Charter School

Alameda County Board of Education

March 2018



The Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program is funded by the Alameda County Transportation Commission. Your transportation dollars at work!

YU MING CHARTER SCHOOL

A school safety assessment was conducted at Yu Ming Charter School in Oakland during the morning arrival on March 29, 2018. The assessment was attended by representatives from the City of Oakland, Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools staff and Yu Ming Elementary School staff and parents.

Participants included:

- Aleida Andrino-Chavez, Alameda County Transportation Commission
- Eric Tuvel, Alameda County SR2S Planner
- Beth Martin, Alameda County SR2S Planner
- Andre Huff, Alameda County SR2S Engineer
- Beaver Boonsook, City of Oakland Engineer
- Yu Ming Charter School staff
- Yu Ming Charter School parents

School Information

Address	1086 Alcatraz Ave, Oakland, CA 94608
Morning Bell(s)	8:15 AM
Afternoon Bell(s)	3:00 PM (1:00PM on Wednesday)
Grade Levels	K-4 (Grades 5 and 6 at Herzog Site)
Enrollment	357 students; school is a Mandarin immersion charter.
Students' Proximity to School (Percentage of students)	School Estimate: Less than ¼ mile (5-minute walk): 2% Between ¼ and ½ mile (5-10-minute walk): 5% Between ½ and 1 mile (10 to 20-minute walk): 5% Greater than 1 mile (more than 20-minute walk): 88%
Student Travel Mode Info (Percentage of students)	School Estimate: Walking: 1% Biking: 1% School bus: 0% Transit: 1% Carpool: 7% Family Vehicle: 90%
Does the school have bike racks? What is the capacity? Is it secure bike parking?	No, the school does not have bike racks on campus or surrounding the campus.
How do school and transit buses interact with the school?	School buses do not serve Yu Ming Charter School. A small percentage of students take AC transit; route 72 runs on nearby San Pablo Avenue.

Does the school have special pick-up/drop-off policies/procedures?	<p>Families can park nearby and walk to drop-off or pick-up students at the Alcatraz Avenue blacktop gate. Parents can also use the curbside drop-off/pick-up.</p> <p>The City of Oakland has designated the entire block in front of the school (on Alcatraz Avenue between Herzog Street and Salem Street) as a drop-off zone 7am-4pm and parents are reminded they may not park at this curb.</p>
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Yu Ming Charter School has two campuses. For the school safety assessment (SSA), Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) audited the K-4 campus on Alcatraz Avenue, just two blocks west of San Pablo Avenue. Yu Ming Charter staff and parents also met with the City of Oakland and Alameda County SR2S representatives in 2017 to discuss safety measures. Since that time, the City has installed school speed zone and crossing signage.

Alcatraz Avenue serves as a main east-west connection in Oakland and nearby Berkeley. Around the school, it has a daily volume of around 4,300 cars, and two blocks east of the school, a City of Berkeley traffic study recorded that the 85th Percentile Speed on Alcatraz was 32 mph, 7 mph over the posted speed limit.¹

Within a quarter mile of the school, there were six pedestrian collisions and 15 bicycle collisions between 2012 and 2017, mainly on San Pablo Avenue. There was one bicycle fatality on San Pablo Avenue between Alcatraz Avenue 65th Street. Between 2012 and 2017 there was one bicycle collision on Alcatraz Avenue, two blocks east of the Yu Ming campus.

Existing Conditions

Participants observed and reported the following existing conditions during the School Safety Assessment (SSA).

1. San Pablo Avenue / Alcatraz Avenue

- ◆ SSA participants observed a number of families walking along San Pablo Avenue to go to Yu Ming Charter School.
- ◆ The signalized intersection has transverse crosswalks and SSA participants noted that families had trouble finishing crossing during the allotted countdown pedestrian phase.
- ◆ Many vehicles turned left from San Pablo Avenue onto Alcatraz Avenue. SSA participants observed that drivers turning left had the sun in their eyes as they drove east on Alcatraz Avenue. In addition, drivers seemed distracted when turning left, as participants observed that drivers were distracted after waiting at the long light (texting, eating, etc).

¹ City of Berkeley Public Works. Memorandum Re: Evaluation of Speed Tables and Use of Traffic Calming Tools. https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level_3_-_City_Council/2011/11Nov/2011-11-08_Item_32_Evaluation_of_Speed_Tables.pdf



San Pablo Avenue and Alcatraz Avenue intersection.

2. Alcatraz Avenue / Salem Street

- ◆ The intersection of Alcatraz Avenue and Salem Street collects water and had poor drainage, especially across the transverse crosswalk.
- ◆ Parents and families used Salem Street to park and walk, and SSA participants observed vehicles doing u-turns at the dead end of Salem Street and sometimes parking partially within the crosswalk.



Water pools on crosswalk across Salem Street

3. Alcatraz Avenue

- ◆ The City of Oakland has recently installed school speed limit and school crossing signs on Alcatraz Avenue around the campus. The school speed limit zone sign when driving eastbound on Alcatraz Avenue is skewed to the left. Driving eastbound on Alcatraz Avenue, the school crossing sign on the right is largely obscured by a nearby tree.



Left: School speed limit sign is bent to the left

Right: When traveling eastbound on Alcatraz Avenue, school crossing sign on right is almost entirely obscured by a tree.

4. Alcatraz Avenue School Frontage

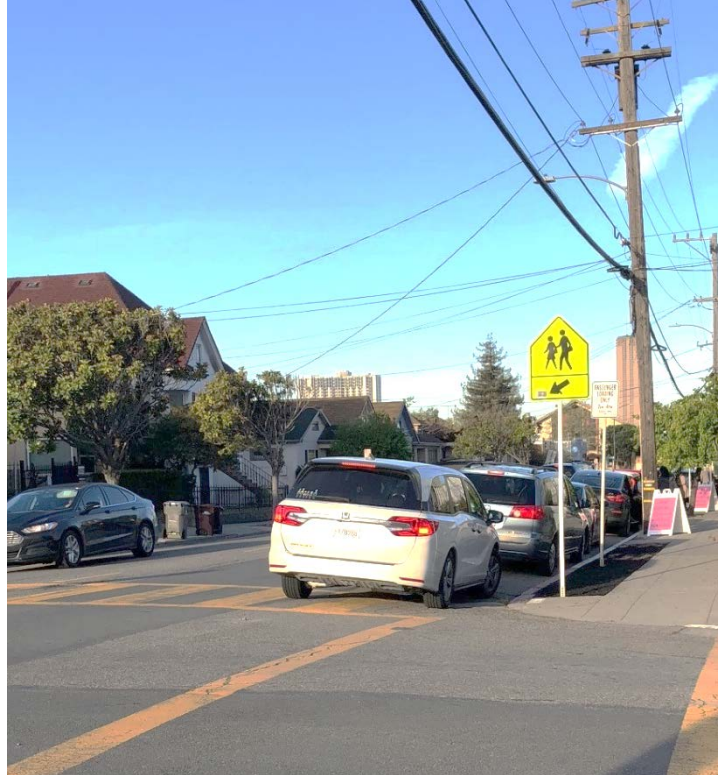
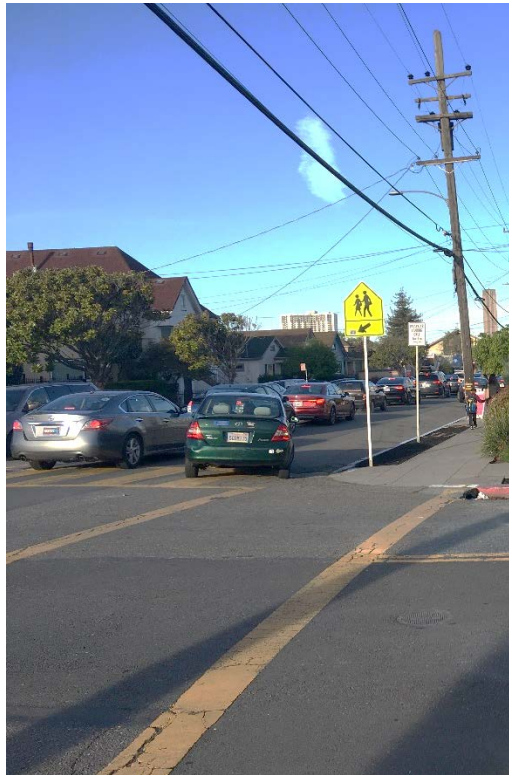
- ◆ Yu Ming Charter School staff and parents help facilitate an attended rolling drop off along the Alcatraz Avenue school frontage. Most families followed the drop-off guidelines, and school volunteers helped open doors for students to get out allowing parents to remain in their vehicles.
- ◆ The SSA team observed cars scraping bottom on an exposed drainage area when pulling into the drop-off queue.



Signs on Alcatraz Avenue instruct families to stay in their car and pull forward

5. Alcatraz Avenue / Herzog Street

- ◆ Many families and students use the marked crosswalks at the Alcatraz Avenue and Herzog Street intersection to cross to school. SSA participants observed several instances of cars travelling at high speed on Alcatraz Avenue and having to yield abruptly for pedestrians in the crosswalk. The parked cars on either side of Alcatraz Avenue make it challenging for vehicles to see pedestrians crossing Alcatraz Avenue.
- ◆ The school places a portable in-street pedestrian yield sign at the crossing of Alcatraz Avenue during drop-off and pick-up times. Yu Ming staff reported that this sign gets knocked over by vehicles frequently, but they believe increases visibility of people crossing there.
- ◆ Many vehicles turned right on Alcatraz Avenue from southbound Herzog Street. SSA participants observed that cars would encroach into the crosswalks in order to see oncoming vehicles on Alcatraz behind the parked cars, but they often did not see pedestrians crossing Alcatraz Avenue or Herzog Street.
- ◆ Vehicle traffic backed up from the intersection of Alcatraz Avenue/Herzog Street intersection, sometimes obstructing the crosswalk.
- ◆ Families parked and walked on Herzog Street south of Alcatraz Avenue. SSA participants observed several parents parking in front of a red curb, reducing the sight lines for other vehicles approaching the intersection.



*Left: Through vehicle traffic on Alcatraz Avenue sometimes obstructs the crosswalk at Herzog Street.
Right: Vehicles waiting for drop-off sometimes obstruct the crosswalk at Herzog Street.*



Parent biking with their students to Yu Ming Charter School.

6. On Campus

- ◆ There are currently no bicycle racks on the Yu Ming campus. One parent who often bikes to school said that it would be helpful to have bike parking options that accommodate cargo bikes at the school.

Recommendations

Recommendations to improve infrastructure or operations surrounding Yu Ming Charter School are shown on the conceptual improvement plan found on the following page.

The following improvements are recommendations for policy and program implementation at Yu Ming Charter School to increase safety and active commutes to school.

Policy & Program Recommendations

- ◆ Distribute Recommended Walk/Bike Maps to students and their families in an effort to promote walking and biking to school on suggested routes. Maps should include potential “Park and Walk” locations a couple of blocks from the school where families can park and walk away from drop-off traffic. Safety tips are also included on these maps to promote good behavior among bicyclists, pedestrians, and drivers. SR2S resources would be very useful in creating these documents.
- ◆ Work with parents to connect them with others who live nearby to increase the number of students carpooling, which may reduce the number of vehicles coming to campus.
- ◆ Participate in more SR2S events, including Pedestrian Safety Rodeos and the Rock the Block Assembly.
- ◆ Participate in SR2S evaluations each fall and spring to monitor progress on mode shift goals.

Yu Ming Charter, OAKLAND

Safe Routes to Schools Improvement Plan

Site Assessment held MARCH 2018

- 1 San Pablo Avenue / Alcatraz Avenue**
 - Install high visibility crosswalks on all three approaches.
 - Study pedestrian signal phasing to ensure crossing time across San Pablo Avenue is adequate for students and families. Install pedestrian heads with countdown.
- 2 Alcatraz Avenue / Salem Street**
 - Install a high visibility crosswalk across Salem Street.
 - Study infrastructure solutions to improve drainage at this intersection.
- 3 Alcatraz Avenue School Frontage**
 - Re-install school speed limit sign on south side of Alcatraz Avenue. Consider moving other school signs to increase their visibility to drivers.
 - Evaluate drainage solutions to address flooding concerns in crosswalk.
- 4 On Campus**
 - Install bike parking by front stairwell on Alcatraz Avenue and in school yard that can accomodate family-friendly bikes, such as cargo bikes.
- 5 Alcatraz Avenue / Herzog Street**
 - Install high visibility crosswalks across both legs of Herzog Street.
 - Refresh high visibility crosswalk across Alcatraz Avenue.
 - Recommend posting a crossing guard during school drop-off and pick-up times.
 - Consider installing Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon to further increase visibility of crossing families.
 - Consider installing paint and post (bollard) curb extensions at the western approach
- 6 Alcatraz Avenue / Herzog Street**
 - School will continue to place in street pedestrian sign in crosswalk across Alcatraz Avenue during drop-off and pick-up times.
- 7 Alcatraz Avenue / Essex Street**
 - Install a high visibility crosswalk across Essex Street.
 - Evaluate drainage solutions to address flooding concerns in crosswalk.



The above items are recommendations only and based on Safe Routes to Schools site assessment best practices. Feasibility determination, final design, accessibility, funding, and implementation of any recommended improvements is the responsibility of the appropriate governing agency.

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Improvements not to scale

