



# School Safety Assessment Technical Memorandum

Dougherty Elementary School

Dublin Unified School District

January 2018



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# Dougherty Elementary School

The Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools team conducted a School Safety Assessment (SSA) at Dougherty Elementary School in Dublin during the morning arrival on Tuesday, January 30, 2018. The Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools team included planners, traffic engineers and the site coordinator. Staff from the City of Dublin, Dougherty Elementary School staff and parents also attended the assessment.

Participants included:

- Brett Nelson, Principal Dougherty Elementary School
- Tabitha Revak, Dougherty Elementary School Campus Supervisor
- David Harleman, Dougherty Elementary School Custodian
- Kim McNeely, Dublin Unified School District Facilities
- Jennifer Holmes-Ledet, SR2S Site Coordinator
- William Lai, City of Dublin Engineer
- Dara O'Byrne, SR2S Planner
- Eric Tuvel, SR2S Planner
- Nick Blich, SR2S Engineer
- 3 Dougherty Elementary School parents

## School Information

Address	5301 Hibernia Drive, Dublin, CA
Morning Bell(s)	8:35 am
Afternoon Bell(s)	Monday & Tuesday 2:00 pm, Wednesday-Friday 3:00 pm
Grade Levels	K - 5
Enrollment	956
School Type (neighborhood or magnet)	Neighborhood
Student Travel Mode Info (Percentage of students)	<b>Recent SR2S Hand Tally Data (Spring 2016):</b> Walking: 39% Biking: 11% School bus: 0% Transit: 0% Carpool: 8% Family Vehicle: 40% Other: 2%
Does the school have bike racks? What is the capacity? Is it secure bike parking?	Yes, approximate capacity for 20 bikes on school campus.
How do school and transit buses interact with the school?	Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority operates three routes (Bus Routes 1, 2, and 30R) with stops within ¼ mile of the school along Hacienda Drive, Central Parkway, and Dublin Boulevard.

Dougherty Elementary is located in a residential neighborhood in central Dublin. The school site is bounded by Summer Glen Drive on the north, Central Parkway on the south, Aspen Drive on the east, and Hibernia Drive on the west. Summer Glen Drive and Central Parkway are collector streets, and Aspen Drive and Hibernia Drive are local residential streets. The school is surrounded by single-family residential to the north, south, and east, and by multi-family residential to the west.

The main school entrance gate faces the parking lot and onsite drop-off/pick-up zone are on the northwest corner of the site. The parking / loading areas are accessed via a one-way circulation pattern with entry on Hibernia Drive and exit onto Summer Glen Drive. Primary pedestrian access to school buildings is via walkways along the parking lot, also accessed from Hibernia Drive and Summer Glen Drive. A secondary entrance gate is located on Aspen Street, and is open only during the morning drop-off and afternoon dismissal.

Between 2011 and 2016, there were six reported collisions (four involving someone biking and two involving a pedestrian) within a half-mile of the school. Four of the collisions occurred on nearby major arterials, Hacienda Drive and Dublin Boulevard, while the other two were on smaller residential streets, Broder Boulevard and Asterwood Drive. According to school officials there were also three collisions in 2017 (data not yet in the collision database) adjacent to the school, one at intersection of Aspen Street and Summer Glen Drive involving a kindergarten student riding a bike and the other two at the intersection of Aspen Street and Central Parkway where the existing crossing guard is posted.

## Existing Conditions

The following existing conditions were observed or reported by participants during the School Safety Assessment.

### 1. Summer Glen Drive

- ◆ The intersection of Hibernia Drive and Summer Glen Drive experiences heavy pedestrian volumes during the school commute.
- ◆ Participants reported speeding as an issue on Summer Glen Drive. During the site assessment during the peak drop-off period, speeding was not observed. Speeding may be more of a problem during off-peak periods.
- ◆ Many drop-offs occur on the south side of Summer Glen Drive, adjacent to the school.
- ◆ Some parents drop off children on the north side of the street leading to mid-block crossings near the driveway where there is not a marked crosswalk.
- ◆ Motorists were observed taking high-speed right turns from eastbound Summer Glen Drive onto southbound Hibernia Drive.

### 2. Hibernia Drive

- ◆ Immediately west of the school there is a gated multi-family residential development with several pedestrian gates to exit the development onto Hibernia Drive. Most people walking from this development used these gates and often directly cross Hibernia Drive at unmarked mid-block locations to get to the school.
- ◆ The team observed students being dropped off along both sides of Hibernia Drive. This results in some backing up of traffic and some mid-block crossing.

### 3. Aspen Street

- ◆ Significant drop-off activity was observed along the west (school) curbside on Aspen Street. This caused occasional double parking and a backup of vehicles along southbound Aspen Street which blocked access to driveways along Aspen.
- ◆ A pedestrian access path from the residential development east of the school connects to the east sidewalk of Aspen Street at a mid-block location, resulting in some mid-block crossings to the school by students and parents.
- ◆ Along Aspen Street the team observed numerous U-turns by vehicles going in both directions.

### 4. Central Parkway



*Children crossing with parents across Central Parkway at Hibernia Drive*



*Vehicles were observed turning right quickly off of Central Parkway westbound onto Hibernia Drive northbound*

- ◆ At the intersection of Aspen Street and Central Parkway there is a marked, uncontrolled crosswalk, with a crossing guard stationed during the school drop-off and pick-up. The crossing has a partial curb extension on the north side, but the turning radius is wide and there is only a single diagonal curb ramp. There is a raised center median, but it does not extend to the crosswalk and does not provide a refuge island
- ◆ At Hibernia Drive and Central Parkway there is an existing traffic signal. The crossing of Central Parkway is approximately 90 feet across, and the team observed some pedestrians having difficulty making it all the way across before the countdown completed due to not having enough time.
- ◆ Central Parkway has a center planted median, but it does not extend all the way to the crosswalks to provide a pedestrian refuge function.
- ◆ The highest vehicle speeds visually observed during the site assessment were traveling northbound on Hibernia Drive and eastbound along Central Parkway.
- ◆ The team observed motorists taking high speed right turns from westbound Central Parkway onto Hibernia Drive northbound; wider corner radius may have contributed to these higher speed turn movements.



## Recommendations

Recommendations to improve infrastructure or operations surrounding Dougherty Elementary School can be seen on the conceptual improvement plan found on the following page.

The following improvements are recommendations for policy and program implementation at Dougherty Elementary School to increase safety and active commutes to school.

### Policy & Program Recommendations

- ◆ Distribute and update recommended Walk/Bike Maps to students and their families in an effort to promote walking and biking to school on suggested routes. Include safety tips on these maps to promote good behavior among people biking, walking, and driving as well as suggest vehicle circulation and drop-off/pick-up locations.
- ◆ Work with City Traffic Engineer to provide vehicle circulation map to improve circulation for drop offs and pick ups
- ◆ Work with parents to connect them with others who live nearby to develop Walking School Buses and Bike Trains.
- ◆ Dougherty Elementary previously hosted monthly Walk and Roll to School Days. The school should begin to host these days again (in conjunction with any Walking School Buses and Bike Trains) to encourage more students to walk and bike.
- ◆ Continue pedestrian and bicycle training to reach more students and parents.
- ◆ During next year's safety night, show the safety video made by Dublin High School students.
- ◆ Send regular reminders to parents regarding the drop-off and pick-up location options and encourage parents to have their kids backpacks and other belongings ready when they pull up for drop off.



Dougherty Elementary School, Dublin

Safe Routes to Schools Improvement Plan  
School Safety Assessment held January 2018

- 1
- Central Parkway and Hibernia Drive**

  - Extend median to provide pedestrian refuge island at Hibernia Drive
  - Evaluate crosswalk signal timing to allow additional time for pedestrians as well as Leading Pedestrian Interval to cross at Hibernia intersection
- 2
- Aspen Street and Central Parkway**

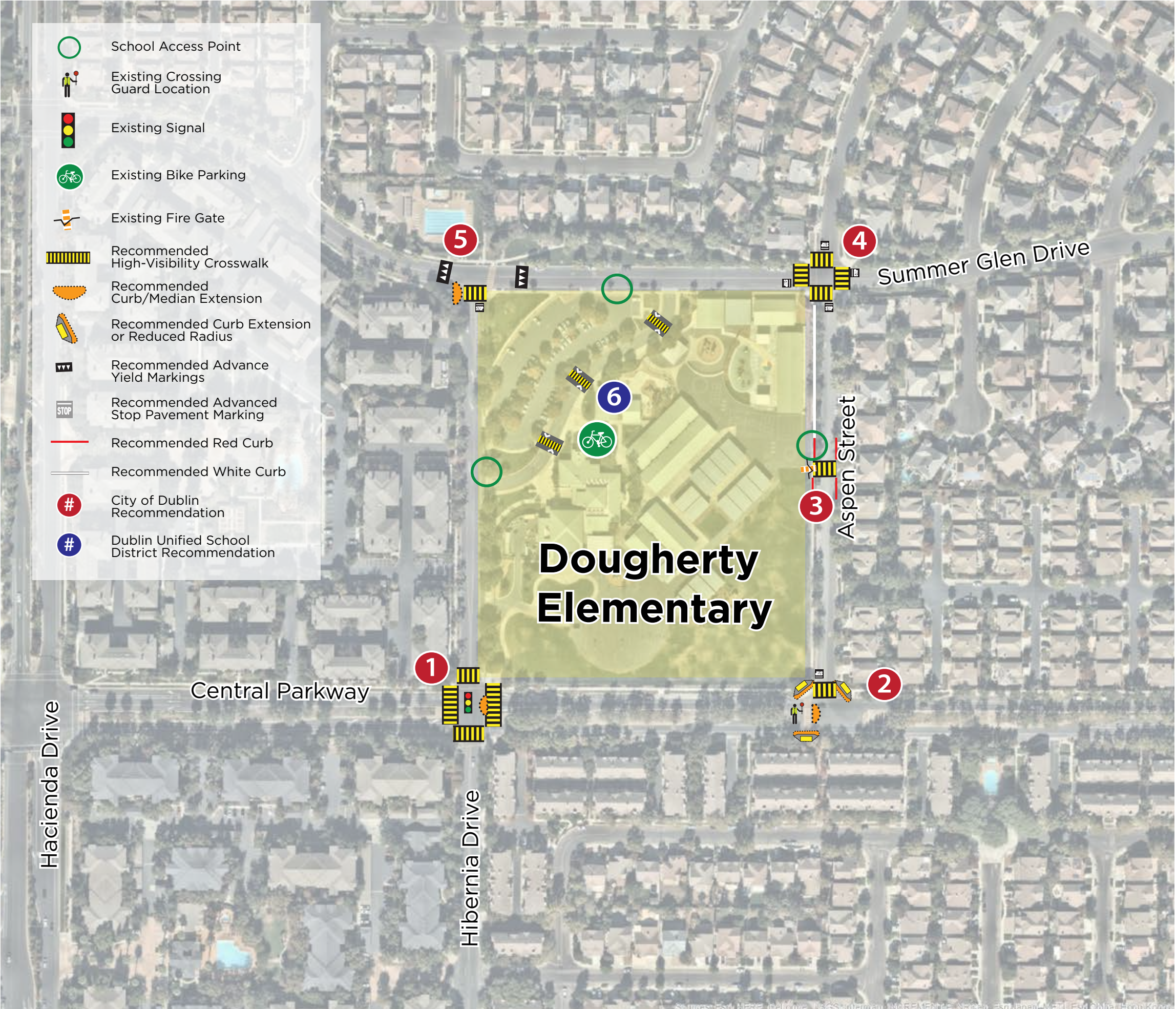
  - Upgrade existing crosswalk to high visibility crosswalk (already included in City's updates)
  - Extend median to provide pedestrian refuge island at Aspen Street intersection
  - Install curb extension or painted curb to prevent parking close to crosswalk and shorten crossing distance on south side of crosswalk across Central Parkway
  - Install curb extensions or reduce radius for vehicles turning onto Aspen Street from Central Parkway northbound and turning onto Central Parking from Aspen Street heading westbound
- 3
- Aspen Street**

  - Consider installing loading zone on northern section to prevent vehicles from parking and allow drop-offs
  - Add signage at fire gate to prevent vehicles from parking and blocking access
  - In coordination with the school, consider installing a midblock crossing with a curb extension and curb ramp on each side to connect the school access point with the residential development. If installed, consider flashing beacon at this location. Install red curb to daylight crosswalk and prevent vehicles from parking too close to crosswalk
- 4
- Summer Glen Drive and Aspen Street**

  - Upgrade existing crosswalks to high visibility crosswalks at intersection with Aspen Street and ensure stop bars are properly marked (already included in City's updates)
- 5
- Hibernia Drive and Summer Glen Drive**

  - Upgrade existing crosswalk to high visibility crosswalk (already included in City's updates)
  - Consider curb extension or shorter radius heading eastbound at Hibernia Drive to reduce speed of vehicles making right turns onto Hibernia Drive
  - Add advanced yield markings approaching the crosswalks from each direction on Summer Glen Drive
  - Trim vegetation heading eastbound on Summer Glen Drive to ensure visibility of School Assembly sign
- 6
- School Drop Off Loop**

  - Short term: Update crosswalks to high visibility crosswalks
  - Long term: Consider installing raised crosswalks



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.