



School Safety Assessment Technical Memorandum

MOHR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Pleasanton Unified School District

February 2019

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A school safety assessment was conducted at Mohr Elementary School in Pleasanton during the morning arrival on Wednesday, February 20, 2019. The assessment was attended by representatives from the City of Pleasanton, Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools staff, and Mohr staff and parents.

Participants included:

- Eric Kurz, Engineer, City of Pleasanton
- Julie Berglin, Principal, Mohr Elementary School
- Andre Huff, Engineer, Alameda County SR2S team
- Courtney Wood, Planner, Alameda County SR2S team
- Four Mohr Elementary School parents
- Three Mohr Elementary School teachers/counselors

School Information

Location & Enrollment



	Address:	3300 Dennis Drive Pleasanton, CA 94588
	Morning Bell(s):	Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten: 8:10 AM Grades 1- 5: 8:15 AM Wednesday (all grades): 9:15 AM
	Afternoon Bell(s):	2:50 PM
	Grade Levels:	Pre-Kindergarten –Grade 5
	Enrollment:	629
	School Type (neighborhood/magnet/charter):	School has enrollment boundary

Student Travel Data

Students' Proximity to School (school estimate):	Less than ¼ mile (5-min. walk): 10% Between ¼ and ½ mile (5-10-min. walk): 20% Between ½ and 1 mile (10 to 20-min. walk): 60% Greater than 1 mile (more than 20-min. walk): 10%
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Student Travel Mode Info:	Recent SR2S Hand Tally Data: Spring 2017
	Walking: 21% Biking: 3% School Bus: 3% Transit: 0% Carpool: 7% Family Vehicle: 66% Other: 0%

Bikes, Buses, and Drop-off/Pick-up

<p>Does the school have bike racks? What is the capacity? Is it secure bike parking?</p> <p>On a typical day, what percentage of racks are used?</p>		<p>Mohr has secure bicycle parking on campus. There are two bike racks within the gated area of campus.</p>
<p>Does the school have special pick-up/drop-off policies/procedures?</p>		<p>There were few bikes parked on the day of the safety assessment.</p> <p>The frontage along Dennis Drive is used as the school's drop-off lane. The area is coned off and staffed by volunteers.</p>

Note: Mohr Elementary School is not served by school buses nor are there AC Transit stops within close proximity to the school. Vans for after-school programs utilize the parking lot on the west side of the school.

Street Profiles

Street Name	Width	Lanes	Average Daily Traffic (ADT)	Posted Speed Limit	Notes
Dennis Drive	50 feet	2 lanes	Not available	25 mph	None
Stoneridge Drive	82 feet	4 lanes	Stoneridge/Guzman: AM Peak: 1,246 ADT School PM: 1,435 ADT PM Peak: 1,420 ADT	35 mph	Median Bike Lanes

Collision Summary 2014-2018

Radius from School	Fatal Collisions	Severe Injury Collisions	Visible Injury Collisions	Complaint of Pain Collisions	Pedestrian Collisions	Bicycle Collisions	Total Collisions
< ¼ mi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
¼ mi – ½ mi	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Total	0	0	1	0	1	0	1

Source: UC Berkeley – Transportation Injury Mapping System

Existing Conditions

Overview

Henry Mohr Elementary is located in Pleasanton near the intersection of Dennis Drive and Snowdrop Circle. The school is located next to Amaral Park. Most pick-up and drop-off activities occur along the school frontage of Dennis Drive; however, some vehicles drop-off and pick-up students at Martin Court, which provides access to the school via a pathway through Amaral Park. The nearest arterial roadway is Stoneridge Drive to the north of the school campus.

Observations

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

1. Dennis Drive (School Frontage)

- ◆ The frontage of the school along Dennis Drive is used as a drop-off and pick-up lane for students in the mornings and afternoons. The drop-off lane is staffed by both parent and student volunteers who help students into/out of the car and try to keep the cars moving.
- ◆ Many students and families were observed walking along Dennis Drive coming from both the east and west.
- ◆ Assessment participants reported that drivers will sometimes make U-turns out of the drop-off lane, disrupting the flow of vehicles.
- ◆ Instead of utilizing the drop-off lane, some motorists were observed parking in driveways on the north side of the street to let students out of vehicles.
- ◆ There is a yellow ladder crosswalk near Solandra Court staffed by a crossing guard and a yellow ladder crosswalk near Carissa Court allowing students to cross Dennis Drive.
- ◆ Vehicles are not allowed to enter the school parking lot during drop-off and pick-up hours.
- ◆ SSA participants indicated that cars frequently speed on Dennis Drive.



Left: Ladder crosswalk on Dennis Drive near Solandra Court



Right: Ladder crosswalk on Dennis Drive near Carissa Court

2. Dennis Drive/Carissa Court/Guzman Parkway

- ◆ Dennis Drive and Carissa Court is a T-intersection.
 - The west approach on Dennis Drive has yellow transverse crosswalks.
- ◆ Dennis Drive and Guzman Parkway is a T-intersection with all-way stop-control.
 - Two of the approaches have yellow transverse crosswalks.
- ◆ Cars were observed queuing in the parking lane as they waited to enter the drop-off area.
- ◆ SSA participants noticed a large volume of parents walking students to school along Dennis Drive.
- ◆ SSA participants observed cars making U-turns and dropping off students in the crosswalks along Dennis Drive.
- ◆ Participants noted that vehicular traffic often backs up onto Stoneridge Drive.



Left: Cars parking to drop-off students on Martin Court

Right: Path through the park to rear entrance of school

3. Martin Court

- ◆ Cars were observed parking in Martin Court to drop-off students.
 - Students enter the school via a paved path through the park.
 - Both pedestrians and bicyclists were observed using the off-street path.
 - The cars observed during the safety assessment did not pull forward to the pathway entrance along the white curb in order to allow other cars to park behind them causing traffic to back up in this area.
- ◆ SSA participants indicated that cars frequently speed on Martin Court.

4. Newton Way/Dennis Drive

- ◆ Sidewalk gaps exist on the north side of Newton Way as well as the west side of Dennis Drive requiring pedestrians to cross the street in order to access the school.
- ◆ SSA participants noted that cars traveling along Newton Way often travel at high speeds, making the street crossing difficult for pedestrians.

Recommendations

Engineering Recommendations

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

Policy & Program Recommendations

The Alameda Safe Routes to Schools Program, in addition to engineering improvements, has many encouragement and educational activities that can benefit students and campus community at Mohr Elementary.

The School Site Coordinator for Mohr Elementary is Jennifer Ledet. The site coordinator can help schedule, organize, and promote many of the program offerings of Alameda SR2S. The contact information for the Site Coordinator is below:

Jennifer Ledet, jledet@alamedacountysr2s.org

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the site coordinator if you have any questions, concerns or wish to move forward with additional programming activities.

Programs

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

- ◆ Develop Walk and Bicycle Route Maps
 - The SR2S Program can create recommended Walk and Bicycle Route Maps. These maps illustrate preferred routes to school for walking and biking. Maps also provide safety tips to encourage better travel behavior. These maps can also be used as a part of Walking Schools Bus (WSB), Bicycle Train (BT), or other Walk and Roll to School activities. Park and Walk, WSB, and BT meeting locations are also shown on these maps where appropriate.
- ◆ Encourage and Help Facilitate Carpooling
 - The SR2S Program can assist schools in working with parents to connect them with other families who live nearby to increase the number of students carpooling. This can reduce congestion by reducing the number of vehicles coming to campus.
- ◆ Facilitate Walking School Buses and Bicycle Trains
 - Walking School Buses (WSBs) and Bicycle Trains (BTs) are groups of students, led by parent chaperone(s), that meet at designated locations and times to gather and walk and/or bike to school together. WSBs and BTs can be regular events, occurring daily, weekly, or monthly or occur in coordination with other events like International Walk and Roll to School Day or the Golden Sneaker Contest. SR2S staff can assist schools with the planning, coordination, and execution of the WSBs and BTs. Walking and biking in groups with parental supervision can not only increase the visibility of these road users, but can reduce barriers to walking or biking for some families while making it fun and exciting for the students.

- Partner with school and local community groups like the Boy Scouts and volunteers from the local senior center to help sponsor and support WSBs and BTs.
 - Coordinate WSBs and BTs with on-going monthly walk-and-roll events.
- ◆ Schedule Pedestrian Rodeos/Bicycle Rodeos
 - These interactive rodeos are great educational opportunities to teach and refresh safe walking and bicycling behavior. These workshops cover a wide range of relevant topics from understanding traffic signals and signs, to bicycle hand signals, to how to safely cross the street. Pedestrian Safety Rodeos and Bicycle Safety Rodeos are geared towards elementary school students.
- ◆ Schedule Rock the Block
 - Rock the Block is a fun, interactive assembly that teaches lessons about safely walking and bicycling to and from school. The Rock the Block assembly is geared towards elementary school students.
- ◆ Participate in International Walk and Roll to School Day (IRW2SD), the Golden Sneaker Contest (GSC), and Bike to School Day (B2SD)
 - These are the three main countywide encouragement events that occur throughout the academic year. All schools can participate in International Walk and Roll to School Day, held in October every year. The Golden Sneaker Contest, held in spring, is for elementary and middle schools and is a two-week contest both within schools and across the county challenging classrooms to travel to/from school using active and shared modes. All schools can also participate in Bike to School Day, held in tandem with Bike to Work Day, which encourages schools to sponsor Energizer Stations and students and families to bike to school.

Safe Routes to Schools Improvement Plan
Mohr Elementary
Pleasanton

Site Assessment held February 2019

- 1
- Dennis Drive/Carissa Court**
 - Extend the existing red curb area west of Carissa Court by 20 feet (restricting one parking space) on the north side of Dennis Drive, west of the mid-block crossing to improve visibility
 - Mohr Elementary should work with the City to study the possibility of an additional crossing guard
- 2
- Dennis Drive**
 - Install R3-4 No U-turn Signs on Dennis Drive
- 3
- Martin Avenue**
 - Install a R2-5 Speed Limit 25 MPH Signs on Martin Avenue
 - In the cul-de-sac, stripe a lane line to clearly demarcate the curb-side parking/loading area from the travel area
- 4
- Dennis Drive/Huff Drive**
 - Install a curb extension at the northeast and southeast corner
 - Install advance yield markings on Dennis Drive before the crosswalk
 - Install Yield to Pedestrian Signs (R1-5)
 - Install "PED XING AHEAD" pavement markings
 - Install red curb at corners around both crossings at this intersection
- 5
- Newton Way**
 - LONG TERM: The City should work with property owners to close to sidewalk gap on the northern side of Newton Way between Dennis Drive and Picard Avenue/Wilde Avenue



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.