



# School Safety Assessment Technical Memorandum

## PERALTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

460 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Oakland, CA 94609

Oakland Unified School District

January 2019



# PERALTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

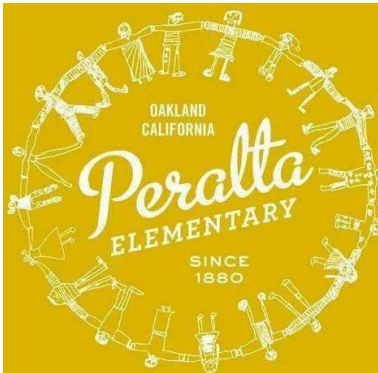
A school safety assessment was conducted at Peralta Elementary School in Oakland during the morning arrival on January 22, 2019. The assessment was attended by representatives from the City of Oakland, Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools staff, and Peralta Elementary School staff and parents.

Participants included:

- Beaver Boonsook, Engineer, Oakland Department of Transportation
- Giselle Hendrie, Principal, Peralta Elementary School
- Aleida Andrino-Chavez, Alameda County SR2S Team
- Carlos Valadao, Engineer, Alameda County SR2S Team
- Beth Martin, Planner, Alameda County SR2S Team
- Peralta Elementary School parents

## School Information

### Location & Enrollment

	<b>Address:</b>	460 63 <sup>rd</sup> Street Oakland, CA, 94609
	<b>Morning Bell(s):</b>	8:30 AM
	<b>Afternoon Bell(s):</b>	2:45 PM Wednesdays: 1:30 PM
	<b>Grade Levels:</b>	Kindergarten - 5
	<b>Enrollment</b>	329
	<b>School Type (neighborhood/magnet/charter):</b>	Neighborhood school with enrollment area

### Student Travel Data

<b>Students' Proximity to School (school estimate):</b>	Less than ¼ mile (5-min. walk): 15% Between ¼ and ½ mile (5-10-min. walk): 20% Between ½ and 1 mile (10 to 20-min. walk): 30% Greater than 1 mile (more than 20-min. walk): 35%
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Student Travel Mode Info:	Recent SR2S Hand Tally Data: Spring 2015
	Walking: 35% Biking: 10% School bus: 0% Transit: 0% Carpool: 3% Family Vehicle: 42% Other: 10%

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

<b>Does the school have bike racks? What is the capacity? Is it secure bike parking?</b>	Inside of the 63 <sup>rd</sup> Street entrance, there is an enclosed space with bike racks that the custodian locks every day during school hours.
<b>On a typical day, what percentage of racks are used?</b>	The bike rack that is within the enclosed space is often used at capacity. However, as the area is locked during school hours, and some student students leave bikes in this area not locked to the bike rack.
<b>Does the school have special pick-up/drop-off policies/procedures?</b>	<p>The school administration alerts parents of its pick-up and drop-off procedures that include a drop-off zone on Dana Street from 8:20-8:35 am every morning, with parent and student volunteers present to open doors. The school asks parents to preserve the North Street entrance as a “walk-in” entrance only.</p> <p>For dismissal, students are picked up in the interior courtyard after dismissal. No sign out is needed. There is an aftercare program which requires parent sign out.</p>

**Frontage Streets**

Street Name	Width	Lanes	Posted Speed Limit	Traffic Volumes	Notes
Alcatraz Avenue	48 feet	2	30 mph; 25 mph school zone	8,831 ADT	Bike Lanes
63 <sup>rd</sup> Street	36 feet	2	25 mph	63rd/Colby 364 [2-hour intersection count] (2007)	Speed bumps
North Street	36 feet	2	25 mph	-	
Dana Street	36 feet	2	25 mph	-	

## Existing Conditions

### Overview

Peralta Elementary is located on Dana Street, just off of Alcatraz Avenue and Telegraph Avenue in North Oakland. The school can be accessed through four entrances, on Dana Street, on Alcatraz Avenue, on 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, and on North Street.

### Observations

The following existing conditions were observed or reported by participants during the school safety assessment (SSA).

#### 1. Telegraph Avenue/63<sup>rd</sup> Street

- ◆ There is an uncontrolled crossing at the intersection of Telegraph Avenue and 63<sup>rd</sup> Street and a crossing guard was posted at the southwest approach of the intersection at the high visibility crosswalk. Drivers were observed yielding to families crossing at this location with the crossing guard. Parents noted that the crossing guard is not always present at drop-off and pick-up times.
- ◆ The eastern approach of the intersection does not currently have a marked crosswalk.
- ◆ There is an overhead flashing beacon at this location.

#### 2. Alcatraz Avenue/Telegraph Avenue

- ◆ The signalized intersection at Alcatraz Avenue and Telegraph Avenue had a high volume of drivers during the observation time, and many families were observed crossing at this intersection to access the Alcatraz Avenue school entrance.

- Most pedestrians were observed crossing Telegraph Avenue (walking east).
- ◆ There is no designated left turning signal for vehicles turning left from Alcatraz Avenue onto Telegraph Avenue, and SSA attendees observed people driving, waiting for a gap in cars and then accelerating to turn.
  - The high volume of pedestrians crossing Telegraph Avenue and cars turning left creates this conflict and leads to the more aggressive driving behavior.

### 3. Alcatraz Avenue/Dana Street

- ◆ Alcatraz Avenue by Dana Street was congested with cars, some drivers were observed turning onto Dana Street and others entering and exiting the parking lot at nearby Escuela Bilingue Internacional.
  - Drivers back up on Alcatraz Avenue, especially as cars traveling westbound on Alcatraz Avenue wait to turn left on Dana Street.
  - Some of the congestion on Alcatraz Avenue is caused by the concurrent drop-off and pick-up periods between these two schools; not all of the congestion is related to Peralta Elementary.
- ◆ Drivers do not always yield to students attempting to cross the uncontrolled crosswalk on Alcatraz Avenue near Dana Street. Parents who attended the School Safety Assessment noted that Peralta Elementary is working to get a crossing guard at this location.
- ◆ At Alcatraz Avenue/Colby Street, there is a school zone/25mph flashing beacon and sign for westbound Alcatraz Avenue traffic. The same type of flashing beacon for eastbound traffic is located directly in front of the campus.



*Above: View of uncontrolled crossing and crosswalk across Alcatraz Avenue at Dana Street*

#### 4. Dana Street School Frontage

- ◆ A parent volunteer coordinates a staffed rolling drop-off at the Dana Street entrance each morning. The principal indicated that information about the rolling drop-off is included in new student orientation materials.
- ◆ School signage on Dana Street is obscured by vegetation and trees and there is a faded existing yellow transverse crosswalk across Dana Street at the school entrance.
- ◆ The curb ramp connected to the crosswalk at the corner of Dana Street and North Street had insufficient drainage and was pooled with water.
- ◆ The pavement on Dana Street is in poor condition; the street is in need of resurfacing.



*Above: School Zone signage (MUTCD - SW24-1) is obscured by trees and vegetation on Dana Street.*

#### 5. 63<sup>rd</sup> Street

- ◆ There is a yellow transverse crosswalk across 63<sup>rd</sup> Street at Canning Street. SSA participants observed that drivers did not always yield for students crossing 63<sup>rd</sup> Street.
- ◆ Families driving to Peralta Elementary were observed pulling into the staff parking lot to drop-off students. Because of the small size of the staff parking lot, cars had to reverse backwards out of the lot to leave, and people walking on the sidewalk had to wait while driver reversed across the sidewalk area and onto 63<sup>rd</sup> Street.

## Recommendations

### Engineering Recommendations

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

### Policy & Program Recommendations

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

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

Jeannette Cooper, [jcooper@alamedacountysr2s.org](mailto:jcooper@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 Peralta Elementary School to increase safety and active commutes to school.

- ◆ Continue to Distribute Drop-off and Pick-up Procedure Information
  - Continue to distribute information about student drop-off and pick-up, especially during the new school year. Include a reminder for parents not to pull into Staff Parking Lot for drop-off or pick-up.
- ◆ 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 School 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
  - WSBs and 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.

- ◆ 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 learning bicycle hand signals, and learning 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.
- ◆ 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 school students and is a two-week contest, both within schools and across the county, which challenges classroom participants 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  
Peralta Elementary,  
Oakland

Site Assessment held JANUARY 2019

- 1**Telegraph Avenue/ 63rd Street**
  - Install high visibility crosswalk on east leg of intersection across 63rd Street
  - Construct a refuge island across Telegraph Avenue at existing high visibility crosswalk
- 2**Telegraph Avenue/ Alcatraz Avenue**
  - Upgrade the existing yellow transverse crosswalks to high visibility yellow crosswalks at all four approaches
  - Conduct traffic warrant study for a protected left turn phase from Alcatraz Avenue onto Telegraph Avenue
- 3**Alcatraz Avenue/ Dana Street**
  - Consider upgrading the existing crosswalk across Alcatraz Avenue to a raised crosswalk. Alternatively, restripe it as a high visibility crosswalk. Install R1-5 Yield Here to Pedestrians signage
  - Install high visibility crosswalk across Dana Street
  - Consider installing a RRFB at the existing high visibility crosswalk to increase visibility of pedestrians
- 4**Dana Street**
  - Increase visibility of School Assembly Signage by either trimming vegetation or relocating signs
  - Restripe existing crosswalk at Dana Street and North Street as high visibility crosswalk
  - Regrade intersection to improve drainage and prevent water pooling at curb ramp locations
- 5**63rd Street**
  - Replace existing crosswalk at Canning Street and 63rd Street with high visibility crosswalk and install advanced yield markings
  - Paint 30 feet of curb red on 63rd Street to reflect no parking curb zone
- 6**On Campus**
  - Install additional secure bike parking



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.