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March 12, 2021

Principal Staci Ross-Morrison  
Dewey Academy  
1111 Second Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94606

**RE: School Safety Assessment at Dewey Academy**

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Dear Principal Morrison,

In January 2020 Dewey Academy participated in a school safety assessment (SSA) with the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program. This packet contains an Existing Conditions Memo and Improvement Plan Map. The memo summarizes the existing conditions and what the SR2S team heard from stakeholders during the observation period and discussion. The document also contains educational and encouragement programmatic recommendations that the schools can pursue with the SR2S Program. The Improvement Plan Map contains infrastructure recommendations that Oakland and Oakland Unified can implement.

If you have questions, comments, or wish to follow-up with the Program on the SSA or recommended programmatic recommendations, please contact your school site coordinator:

Darrell Davis  
[ddavis@alamedacountysr2s.org](mailto:ddavis@alamedacountysr2s.org)

To follow-up with City of Oakland staff about implementing improvements within their jurisdiction, please contact the City's SR2S contact or local City Council representative:

Lucas Woodward  
Assistant Engineer II, Bureau of Great Streets, OakDOT  
[lwoodward@oaklandca.gov](mailto:lwoodward@oaklandca.gov)

Sincerely,

*Denise Turner*

**Denise Turner** | Alameda County SR2S Program Manager

**Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools**  
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# School Safety Assessment Technical Memorandum

Dewey Academy

1111 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Oakland, CA 94606

Oakland Unified School District

January 2020



The Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program is a program of the Alameda County Transportation Commission ([alamedactc.org](http://alamedactc.org)) and is funded with Alameda County's local sales tax Measure B, regional, state and federal funds.



# Dewey Academy


A school safety assessment was conducted at Dewey Academy in Oakland during the morning arrival on Tuesday, January 28, 2020. The assessment was attended by representatives from the City of Oakland, Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools staff, and Dewey Academy staff.

Participants included:

- Beaver Boonsook, Transportation Engineer, Oakland Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Darrell Ross, Principal, Dewey Academy
- Gabriela Tapia, Assistant Principal, Dewey Academy
- Andre Huff, Engineer, Alameda County SR2S team
- Mauricio Hernandez, Planner, Alameda County SR2S team
- Ben Frazier, Planner, Alameda County SR2S team

## School Information


### Location & Enrollment

	<b>Address:</b>	1111 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue Oakland, CA 94606
	<b>Morning Bell(s):</b>	8:30 am
	<b>Afternoon Bell(s):</b>	2:58 pm (normal dismissal) 1:10 pm (minimum days)
	<b>Grade Levels:</b>	9 - 12
	<b>Enrollment:</b>	270
	<b>School Type (neighborhood/ magnet/charter):</b>	Continuation high school

### Student Travel Data

Student travel data is not currently available for Dewey Academy.

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

Does the school have bike racks? What is the capacity? Is it secure bike parking?	Dewey Academy does not currently have on-campus bicycle parking.	
Is the school served by local transit agencies? Are there stops within ¼ mile?		Many Dewey students use AC Transit to reach campus. Most students use buses along E 12 <sup>th</sup> Street or International Boulevard. Students will be able to take advantage of East Bay BRT when completed.
Does the school have special pick-up/drop-off policies/procedures?	Pick-up and drop-off at Dewey Academy is atypical compared to most schools as not all students arrive by the first bell in the morning, or depart following the last bell in the afternoon. Their schedules vary based on their academic standing.	

*Note: Dewey Academy is not currently served by school buses.*

**Street Profiles**

Street Name	Width	Lanes	Posted Speed Limit	Traffic Volumes	Notes
2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue	40 feet	2 lanes	25 mph	-	-
E 11 <sup>th</sup> Street	38 feet	1 lane	25 mph	-	Angled parking on side
E 12 <sup>th</sup> Street	72 feet	4 lanes	25 mph	10,962 ADT	BRT route/construction

**Pedestrian- and Bicycle-Involved Collision Summary 2014-2018**

The collision summary table shows all bicycle- and pedestrian-involved collisions within one-half mile of the school. These collisions may or may not be school-related travel.

## Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program

Radius from School	Total Collisions	Fatal Collisions	Severe Injury Collisions	Visible Injury Collisions	Complaint of Pain Collisions	Pedestrian Collisions	Bicycle Collisions
< ¼ mi	32	1	3	13	15	15	18
¼ mi – ½ mi	100	2	6	27	65	59	100
Total	132	3	9	40	80	74	118

Source: UC Berkeley – Transportation Injury Mapping System, Safe Transportation Research and Education Center, University of California, Berkeley, 2019

## Existing Conditions

### Overview

Dewey Academy is a continuation high school located at the northwest corner of E 11th Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, just south of Lake Merritt. It has roughly 270 students that attend from different parts of Oakland. Since Dewey Academy is located diagonally across the intersection of E 11<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue from La Escuelita Elementary School, traffic patterns are affected by La Escuelita's operations. Dewey Academy is a continuation school and students are not required to be present on campus for the entire day. There is an undeveloped parcel adjacent to Dewey Academy along E 12<sup>th</sup> Street, which currently houses a homeless encampment. Two residential towers are scheduled to begin construction in Summer 2020 on that site and the homeless encampment will be relocated. Homeless people also live and congregate in the area near the Lake Merritt channel and at the end of E 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

Dewey Academy is a gated campus and a security guard attends the gate. There is only one access point for the school, located on E 11<sup>th</sup> Street. There is no dedicated parking lot for Dewey Academy; students and staff park on E 11<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Around one-fifth of Dewey Students drive to campus. Many students take public transit (AC Transit and BART) to reach campus. The most common bus routes used by students run along E 12<sup>th</sup> Street and International Boulevard.

Many roadways around Dewey Academy are on the Alameda County Transportation Commission's High Injury Network (HIN). Lake Merritt Boulevard/1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, E 10<sup>th</sup> Street, and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue are on the Bicycle HIN. E 12<sup>th</sup> Street, International Boulevard, and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue are on the Pedestrian HIN.

### Observations

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

#### 1. E 10<sup>th</sup> Street at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

- ◆ E 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue is a T-intersection. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue approach is stop-controlled.
- ◆ There are yellow high-visibility crosswalks across the northern and eastern approaches.
- ◆ This intersection is critical for Dewey Academy, La Escuelita, Laney College and other nearby educational sites around the area. A high volume of vehicles and pedestrians were observed at this intersection.
- ◆ Drivers were observed failing to yield to pedestrians crossing E 10<sup>th</sup> Street at the marked crosswalk. Pedestrians included some Dewey students and members of the general public.
- ◆ Many of the corners at this intersection already have red paint to prohibit parking. Despite this, drivers parked too close to the corners, limiting intersection visibility and occasionally encroaching into the crosswalk.



## Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program

- ◆ Multiple drivers, believed to be associated with all the surrounding campuses, performed U-turns after pick-up or drop-off activities in close proximity to and at the intersection.



*Left: E 10th Street, looking south at queuing vehicles waiting for a crossing pedestrian.*

*Right: A vehicle about to perform a U-turn on 2nd Avenue while a pedestrian crosses E 10th Street.*



*Above: Vehicles failing to yield to pedestrians crossing E 10<sup>th</sup> Street.*



## 2. E 11<sup>th</sup> Street at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

- ◆ E 11<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue is a four-way intersection. The E 11<sup>th</sup> Street approaches are stop-controlled.
- ◆ There are yellow, high-visibility crosswalks marked across three approaches. There is not a marked crossing across the eastern approach of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.
- ◆ A crossing guard serves this intersection during the morning and afternoon peak periods.
- ◆ La Escuelita's primary drop-off area on E 11<sup>th</sup> Street filters out into this intersection.
- ◆ A high number of pedestrians were observed using all three marked crosswalks, especially during La Escuelita's peak periods.
- ◆ Dewey Academy staff reported aggressive driving behaviors (failing to yield, unsafe passing, stopping too close to the crosswalk, and speeding etc.) through this intersection.

## 3. E 11<sup>th</sup> Street (north of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue)

- ◆ E 11<sup>th</sup> Street dead-ends at the Lake Merritt channel, one block north of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.
- ◆ Parallel parking is available on the west side of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and angled parking is available on the east side of the street.
  - Staff noted a need for additional parking as there is not enough parking for staff and students in the immediate area around the school. While all parking on the western segment of E 11<sup>th</sup> Street is public parking, none of it is dedicated for school use. Staff and students share existing on-street public parking.
  - School staff reported that most of the street spots are time-limited. Students must leave class to move their vehicles to avoid getting parking tickets.
  - There are two handicap parking spaces on the east side of the street. School staff reported these spots being occupied by the general public from time to time, leaving the school with no handicap accessible parking spaces.
  - School staff stated that Dewey Academy has an agreement with the La Escuelita and MetWest campuses to use a select number of parking spaces in their parking lot for staff. The parking lot can be accessed at E 11<sup>th</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Dewey staff reported these spaces being typically occupied by non-Dewey users.
- ◆ There is a fenced-off area near the end of E 11<sup>th</sup> Street, on the west side of the street near the small building. School staff reported that they routinely ask homeless people to move away from this fenced off area because of its proximity to the school. Staff also reported encountering homeless people performing lewd acts, discovering drug paraphernalia, and finding trash and debris on and around the campus.

- ◆ Staff also reported that sometimes the homeless will intentionally throw items onto campus.
- ◆ School staff reported that E 11<sup>th</sup> Street is not well lit, especially on the west side of the street.



*Left: Street parking near Dewey Academy, including the public handicap stall.*

*Right: The fenced off area near the end of E 11<sup>th</sup> Street, where some of the homeless activity occurs.*



*Above: E 11<sup>th</sup> Street, looking towards the Lake Merritt channel.*

#### 4. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

- ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue is a two-lane road with street parking on both sides of the street.
- ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue experiences high vehicle and pedestrian traffic from both Dewey Academy and La Escuelita Elementary School.
- ◆ School staff reported double loading/parking regularly occurring along 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue; this activity is related to both schools.

- ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue is the most common route students use to walk to and from AC Transit services along International Boulevard and E 12<sup>th</sup> Street.
- ◆ Staff reported 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and International Boulevard as the stop most commonly used by students.
- ◆ On the day of the assessment, both International Boulevard and E 12<sup>th</sup> Street were undergoing construction related to the East Bay BRT project.



*Left: East Bay Bus Rapid Transit-related construction at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and International Boulevard.  
Right: One of the sidewalks on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, approaching E 12<sup>th</sup> Street.*

#### 5. E 12<sup>th</sup> Street/1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and E 12<sup>th</sup> Street/2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

- ◆ The crosswalks at E 12<sup>th</sup> Street/1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and E 12<sup>th</sup> Street/2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue were upgraded to high-visibility crosswalks as part of the East Bay BRT project.



## Participant Comments

During the SSA at Dewey Academy, staff noted that the school's biggest concerns were related to the homeless encampments that are near the campus, more than any direct transportation-related issues.

## Recommendations

### Engineering Recommendations

Recommendations to improve infrastructure or operations surrounding Dewey Academy can be seen on the conceptual improvement plan found following this memo.

### Policy & Program Recommendations

In addition to engineering improvements, the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program has many encouragement and educational activities that can benefit students and the campus community at Dewey Academy.

The School Site Coordinator for Dewey Academy is Darrell Davis. 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:

Darrell Davis, [ddavis@alamedacountysr2s.org](mailto:ddavis@alamedacountysr2s.org)

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

### Programs

The following are policy and program recommendations that should be considered for implementation at Dewey Academy 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.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Encourage parents to drop-off from designated locations

- Potential additional drop-off locations have been identified on the Improvement Plan Map.
  - E 12<sup>th</sup> Street
  - E 10<sup>th</sup> Street
- The school should encourage parents to utilize these locations to reduce congestion near E 11<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.
- ◆ Participate in International Walk and Roll to School Day (IRW2SD), Cocoa for Carpools (C4P), 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. Cocoa for Carpools, held in the winter, is a fun event for high schools that rewards carpoolers with free hot chocolate when they arrive to school. 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.



*Above: The unopened far-side southbound stop at E 12<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue for East Bay BRT and other AC Transit lines.*

## Transit Recommendations

- ◆ Many Dewey Academy students take public transportation to and from campus. Most of these students use AC Transit routes along International Boulevard and E 12<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - These streets are currently under construction for the East Bay Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project. That project included pedestrian amenities and stop improvements along segments of both corridors.
- ◆ Some students also use BART to reach Dewey Academy; Lake Merritt is the closest station and is about a 10-minute walk away.

## Non-transportation Related Recommendations

Many factors contribute to transportation decisions that students and families make about traveling to and from school. Transportation infrastructure is an important factor in that decision-making process, but there are also other factors including personal safety and environment that may be identified through the School Safety Assessment process. The SR2S Program will work closely with the City of Oakland to ensure that these non-transportation recommendations are directed to appropriate city departments.

### 1. Homelessness around Dewey Academy

- ◆ The homeless encampment behind the campus (on the vacant parcels) is very close to campus and it is a source of concern for school staff, parents and students. Classroom windows overlook the encampment and students have observed homeless individuals using the area as restrooms, doing drugs, and other lewd and illicit acts.
  - An orange mesh fence has been installed to help space the encampment from campus buildings, but it does not block any sightlines of the inhabitants.
  - Multiple large barrels of soil samples from a construction site have also been dumped near the homeless encampment. The barrels did not appear to contain any hazardous or dangerous materials.
  - Future construction this summer will shift this population to another location.
- ◆ The area near the end of E 11<sup>th</sup> Street is another hot spot for activity related to the school's homeless neighbors. This area is accessed both by the street and the Lake Merritt channel.
  - Staff have found drug paraphernalia, used condoms, trash, and other debris in this area.
  - Homeless in this area have thrown items over the campus fence.
  - School staff has caught homeless people performing lewd and other illicit acts at this location.
- ◆ The City of Oakland and Oakland Unified School District should work with the appropriate agencies, departments, and partners to relocate and clean up the area around campus to create a safe environment for students.



Safe Routes to Schools Improvement Plan  
Dewey Academy  
Oakland

School Safety Assessment held January 2020

- 1

**E 10th Street/2nd Avenue**  
1a. Conduct a stop sign warrant study and implement the prescribed control treatment. If a stop sign is not warranted, install an RRFB on the E 10th Street crossing
- 2

**E 11th Street/2nd Avenue**  
2a. Construct paint-and-post curb extensions on the two southern corners  
2b. Conduct a stop sign warrant study and implement the prescribed control technique. If a stop sign is not warranted, install an RRFB for the 2nd Avenue crosswalk  
2c. Consider implementing pedestrian crossing enhancements and traffic calming (potentially including vertical elements such as speed humps or a raised crosswalk) on 2nd Avenue
- 3

**E 11th Street north of 2nd Avenue**  
3a. The City and Oakland Unified should work together to develop suitable parking options (a permit system, adjusting the time restriction, etc.) for students and staff
- 4

**On Campus**  
4a. Install bicycle parking on campus. The bike parking should have a capacity for at least five bicycles and should allow for the bicycles to be secured in two places to the rack

Existing Conditions



Existing Crossing Guard



Existing Curb Colors/  
Restrictions



Existing AC Transit/East Bay  
BRT stops

Recommendations



Recommended CAMUTCD  
W11-2 & W16-7P Signage



Recommended  
Stop Sign



Recommended School  
CAMUTCD Assembly  
B & D signage



Recommended Curb Colors/  
Restrictions



Recommended Rectangular  
Rapid Flash Beacon



Recommended Advance  
Yield Pavement Markings



Recommended Advance  
Stop Pavement Markings



Recommended Paint-and-  
Post Curb Extension



Recommended Lane Markings



Recommended Pavement  
Markings



Recommended Alternative  
Drop-off location

Implementing Agency



City of Oakland



Oakland Unified School District

\*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.  
\*\*Red curb and/or parking restriction signage should be provided between advance stop/yield markings and the crosswalk. Exact red curb distance should be determined in accordance with the CA-MUTCD and City policies/standards. Red curb not symbolized on map.

0

200 ft



Improvements not to scale





The Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program is a program of the Alameda County Transportation Commission (alamedactc.org) and is funded with Alameda County's local sales tax Measure B, regional, state and federal funds.