

Issue 16: Sharon Road Lack of Pathway/Sidewalks

Overview:

Sharon Road is a narrow 2-lane road with residences spanning both sides of the road from Altschul Ave. to the Alameda (CITY JURISDICTION). It is somewhat wider as it continues westward from the Alameda to Santa Cruz Ave (COUNTY JURISDICTION). It is a primary school route used by children traveling by foot and bicycle to/from La Entrada Middle School (4th-8th grades) where the main school entrance is at 2200 Sharon Road (at the Sharon Road/Altschul Ave. intersection).

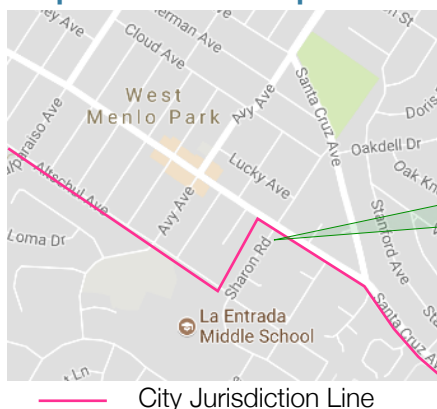
Students from the entire University Park neighborhood converge onto Sharon Road to access the school entrance. It is also the most heavily traveled route in/out of school by vehicles during both the morning drop-off and afternoon departure times (source: La Entrada Transportation Impact Assessment, 2016), yet it has no sidewalks and no marked walking or cycling pathways to create safe zones for children to use as a safeguard. Crosswalks around school are traditional white parallel lines.

On-street parking is allowed on Sharon Road, therefore parked vehicles serve as obstacles for moving vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists all trying to use this narrow roadway. These unsafe circumstances are magnified on days when trash and recycling receptacles are placed along the street and when there has been significant rain which at times creates large puddles along the sides of the road.

The section of Sharon Road west from the Alameda to Santa Cruz Ave. is a known cut-through route for vehicles headed to/from the Alameda and Santa Cruz Ave. Despite the flow of vehicles and the presence of a school bus stop along this route, there is no safe zone for pedestrians and cyclists. Sidewalks or at a minimum, placement of striping (lines down the side of both roadways) are needed with the addition of more prominent signs.

NOTE: Sharon Road from Altschul Ave. to the Alameda is **CITY** Jurisdiction. Sharon Road from the Alameda to Santa Cruz Ave. is **COUNTY** Jurisdiction.

Proposed Solution Option:



- Widen roadway to allow for sidewalks and bicycling lanes OR at a minimum place STRIPING down both directions of traffic to create a safe pedestrian/cycling zone.
- Install Pedestrian & School Children signs to improve motorists awareness
- Update crosswalks to include yellow ladder markings
- Restrict parking
- Restrict placement of trash/recycling receptacles to a location that does not impede pedestrians and cyclists

Problems:

- Narrow road which serves as a primary route into school
- Heavy use by vehicles in both the incoming and outgoing directions during morning drop off and afternoon pickup
- No sidewalks or designated zone for student pedestrians and cyclists
- On-street parking makes available roadway even more narrow
- Problems are magnified on trash day and when puddles form due to rain

Positives of Solution:

- Reduced collisions and near collisions

Considerations:

- impact to residents along Sharon Road
- Potential for increased vehicle speed if roadway widened
- Increased cut-through traffic if roadway widened

Impact:

A significant increase in students traveling by foot or bicycle is projected by enhancing roadway safety; conversely, this would in turn reduce vehicle traffic

Alternatives:

Evaluate viability of placing sidewalk on one side of the street and bicycling lanes on both sides if space is limited

Evaluate viability of placing sidewalk on one side of the street without bicycling lanes on either side if space is severely limited

Create safe pedestrian/cycling zone by placement of STRIPING down both directions of traffic

Scope - Cost:

High if sidewalks are installed.
Low if striping to provide protected zone for pedestrians and cyclists is performed.