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May 9, 2011

Dear Buena Vista Elementary School Walking Audit Participants:

Thank you for your participation in the Buena Vista Elementary School walking audit on October 27, 2010. The San Francisco Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Coalition and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) are pleased to work together with the Buena Vista School community. This coalition assists us in better understanding the safety concerns for students walking or biking to and from Buena Vista School and assists us in the consideration of improvements that may increase the number of students walking and biking to school.

The notes recorded by the SFMTA at the walking audit were ranked by the participants from the Buena Vista SRTS team. The notes are attached for your reference. This ranking helps SFMTA staff concentrate efforts in addressing the areas of greatest concern at the school.

The SFMTA developed the following recommendations to address the safety concerns ranked by the Buena Vista SRTS team. While some concerns could be relatively easy to resolve, other concerns will require additional time and funding to study and potentially implement the recommended improvements. See notes column for information on actions taken by the SFMTA.

Below are the top six ranked concerns at Buena Vista with SFMTA's recommendations:

Buena Vista Elementary School - Safe Routes to School Walking Audit				Notes
#	Concern	Location	Recommendations	
1	Congestion during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up.	25th Street front of Buena Vista	Current signage currently reads "1 Hour Non-school Days" – Change sign to "No Parking, Passenger Loading School Hours"	Not recommended: current signage meets SF standards for school zones. Referred to SFPD for enforcement.
2	Faded crosswalks	25th St. & San Bruno Ave	Repaint faded crosswalks	Pending funding, to be repainted in school year 11-12.
3	Cracks in pavement on Potrero cause children to trip	25th Street & Potrero Ave	Repave Potrero Ave to fix cracked pavement	The next repaving is scheduled for 2016. A spot repaving has been requested through 311.
	No "Yield to Ped" or "School Crossing" signage at Potrero	25th Street & Potrero Ave	Consider installing "Yield to Pedestrian" sign on Potrero	No recommended: "Yield" signs are not allowed at controlled intersections.
		25th Street & Potrero Ave	Evaluate for painting advance stop line.	SFMTA Transportation Engineering will follow up with this recommendation within 6 months. For additional information, please contact Darcie Lim at 701-4545.

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#	Concern	Location	Recommendations	
4	Faded crosswalks	24th St. and San Bruno Ave	Repaint faded crosswalks	To be repainted in school year 2011-12 pending funding.
5	Faded crosswalks	24th St. & Utah St.	Repaint faded crosswalks	To be repainted in school year 2011-12 pending funding.
6	Faded crosswalks	25th Street & Utah Street	Repaint faded crosswalks	To be repainted in school year 2011-12 pending funding.

Not Recommended

Extending signal time at 25th Street this traffic backup may reduce the traffic that backs up on 25th Street at Potrero Ave, but this could have implications for pedestrians, vehicle traffic and transit traveling along Potrero Ave. A four second pedestrian head start was added to Potrero Ave. in 2006, allowing people crossing Potrero four seconds of WALK before vehicles have green light. Potrero Ave is a transit priority route for Muni and any change to signal timing at 25th Street will affect bus scheduling along this corridor. The traffic backup on 25th Street during drop-off and pick-up times is exacerbated by General Hospital traffic which is outside the regulatory jurisdiction of the SFMTA.

The SFMTA recognizes that congestion issues in front of Buena Vista during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up could benefit from increased enforcement. SFMTA staff will work with the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) to develop a program for enforcement. Additionally, the SFPD is copied on this letter.

Buena Vista Elementary is fortunate to have an active school community. The SFMTA encourages the SRTS team at Buena Vista to engage in the programmatic opportunities supported through the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Coalition including "Walking School Bus", "Walk to School Day" and "Bike to School Day" to promote walking and biking to school.

Once again, thank you for participating in the Safe Routes to School walking audit at Buena Vista Elementary School. The SFMTA hopes that it was an enriching experience for all participants who share the common goal of increasing the number of students walking and biking to school by increasing safety around Buena Vista Elementary School.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeffrey Banks of my staff at 415.701.5331, or via e-mail at jeffrey.banks@sfmta.com.

Sincerely,



OLIVER GASON
FOR BBS

Bridget Smith
Manager, Livable Streets

bbs:mg:og:jb

cc: Captain Al Casciato, Traffic Company, SFPD
Captain Greg Corrales, Mission Station, SFPD
Ana Validzic, SF Dept of Public Health