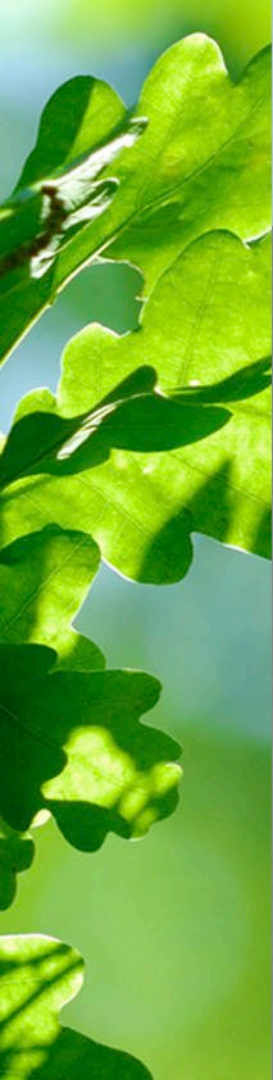




# SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Task Force Meeting

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023



## SRTS TASK FORCE'S OBJECTIVES

SRTS Task Force is a space to share information/ideas on SRTS, engage the community around SRTS, partner on events and activities and support schools and school districts in the implementation of the strategy.

### Roles

- Define and collaborate on objectives, goals, and milestones for the Menlo Park SRTS program;
- Help organize or support different tasks and activities; and
- Be a liaison to share information and market the program to your school community.

# AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. School Updates and Priorities
3. E-bikes and Youth
4. SRTS Program Updates
5. Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day
6. Traffic and Safety Updates
7. Local Road Safety Plan
8. City Project Updates
9. Announcements
10. Next Meetings

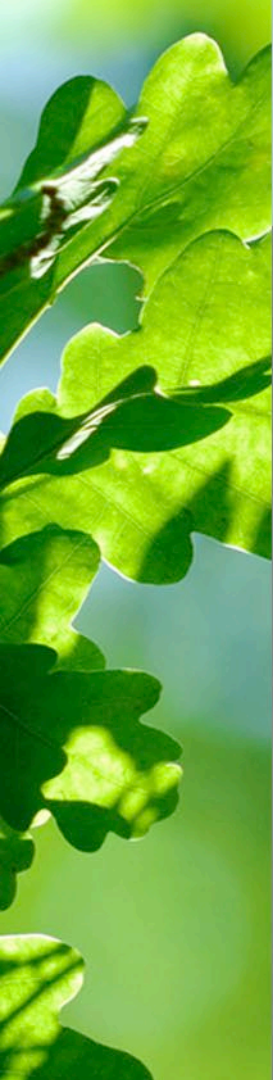


# 1) INTRODUCTIONS

## Introductions

- Name
- Agency / Organization

## 2) E-BIKES AND YOUTH



# E-bikes and Youth



## Expected Outcomes of the Discussion

- Hear the community concerns
- Share real life experiences
- Share ideas for communications with parents, caregivers and residents
- Guide the SRTS team to create targeted materials for school administrators and families

# E-bikes and Youth

## Context

- E-bikes allow riders to go farther and faster than a traditional bike without as much efforts.
- **Same rules of the road apply to e-bikes!**



Image Source:  
*TwoWheelingTots Website*

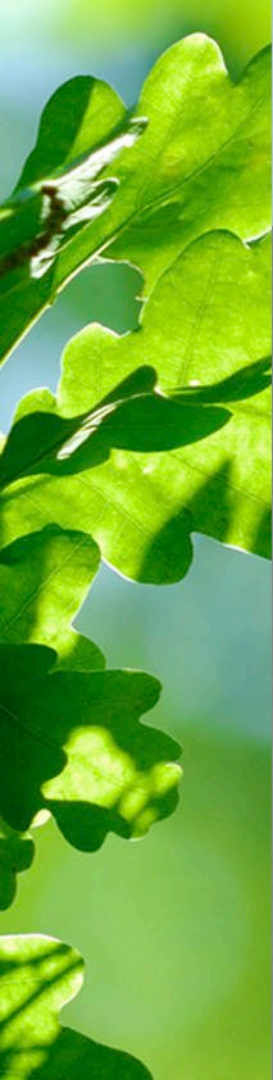


# E-bikes and Youth

## E-bike Classification

Types	Assist Type	Max Assist Speed	Minimum Age	Helmet
<b>Class 1</b>	Pedal	20 MPH	NA	17 and under
<b>Class 2</b>	Pedal / Throttle	20 MPH	NA	17 and under
<b>Class 3</b>	Pedal	28 MPH	16	All Ages

Image Source: *People for Bikes*



# E-bikes and Youth



## Context

- E-bikes sales in the US grew three-fold from 2019 to 2021
- E-bike sales exceeded electric vehicle sales in the US in 2020 and 2021
- Crash data are currently not collected in such a way to accurately assess the number and severity of crashes involving people riding e-bikes and e-scooters (Source: National Transportation Safety Board Report)

## E-bikes and Youth

### Concerns shared by the community

- More than one kids riding on a single bike
- Higher riding speed than traditional bike
- Often no helmet, students don't follow the rules of the road (stopping at stop signs, yield to pedestrians, etc.)
- Speed limit can be hacked

# E-BIKE SAFETY BEGINS AT HOME

- Know the Laws
- Equate Riding e-Bikes to Driving a Car –  
*“It’s an Earned Privilege, Not a Right”*
- Share Responsibility For Keeping e-Bikes in Good Working Condition



# CA CYCLING LAWS

Cyclists have same rights and responsibilities as Motorists

*Must stop at stop signs and red lights*

*Must obey all traffic signage*

*It is illegal to ride facing traffic on local streets*

Everyone Under the Age of 18 Must Wear a Helmet  
(even passengers)

*Parents should set the example –*

*“Would you ride in a car without your seatbelt fastened?”*

*Laws being considered requiring all bike riders to wear helmets*



Know Local Laws About Riding on Sidewalks – *No in MP*

# IMPORTANT ISSUES WITH E-BIKES FOR PARENTS

- ❖ E-bikes Can Approach Moving Vehicles Much Faster Than Traditional Bikes  
*Increases the potential for dangerous consequences*
- ❖ Keep an e-Bike in Proper Working Condition at All Times  
*Always have an e-bike looked at by trained mechanic following a crash*
- ❖ Install Front (white) and Rear (red) Lights on All Bikes For Riding at Night  
*Make sure they are used*
- ❖ Know the Load Limit For Your Child's e-Bike and Enforce its Limit  
*No e-bike, other than cargo bikes, are built for 3 riders*





### 3) SCHOOL UPDATES AND PRIORITIES

## School updates

- Encouragement and education activities
- Priorities related to school travels and transportation safety for next school year?
- Other announcements?





## 4) SRTS PROGRAM UPDATES

## SRTS Program Updates

- School year 2023-24 overview
- SRTS resources

# School Year 2023-24 Overview

## Encouragement & Outreach Events

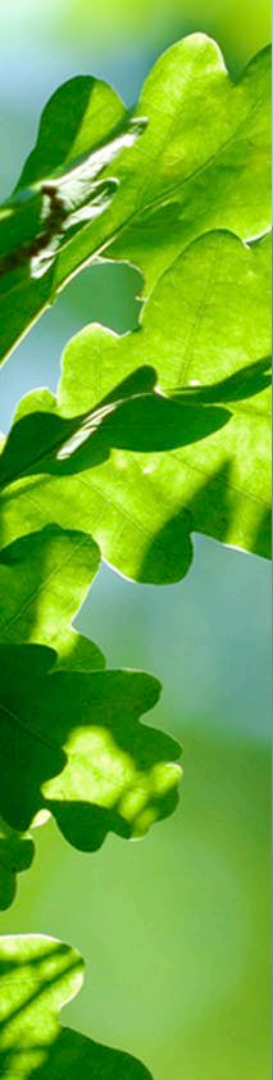
- Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day (November)
- Crossing guard Appreciation Week (March)
- Spring Party
- Video and Poster Challenge (ongoing)

## Data Collection

- Student travel tallies – October 2023  
*Online form, Coordinated with SMCOE.*

## Education

- Pedestrian Curriculum Kits
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Handbook
- Bike Rodeo Kits



## SRTS Resources

- New incentives for school-led events
- Bike Rodeo Kits
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Handbook
- Safe Routes to School Supporter Logo



## SRTS Resources

- Incentives for school-led events  
(*International Walk to School Day, Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, Bike Month, etc.*)



Reflective SRTS Zipper Pulls



Free Slurpee Coupons

# SRTS Resources

## Bike Rodeo Kit – Base list

- Blender Bike and Spin Art Bike can be borrowed by the schools
- Stop signs
- Chalks, chalk liner
- Stop signs
- Cones
- Car costume



*Encinal Elementary Bike Rodeo, June 2023*



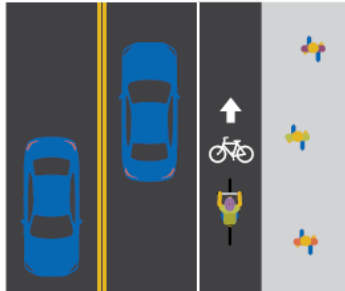
# SRTS Resources

## Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Handbook Available soon.

- *General rules of the road and tips*
- *Examples specific to Menlo Park*

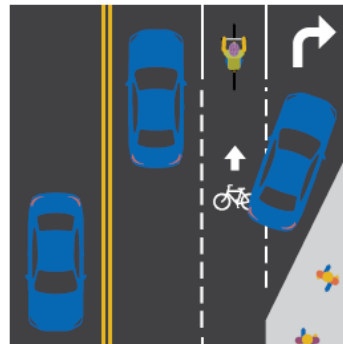
• **Bike lanes** are areas of the road specifically designated for cyclists. They are often marked by painted lines and symbols, providing dedicated space for cycling.

► You may ride on bike lanes on your way to school, for example Oakdell Drive, Valparaiso Avenue, or Encinal Avenue.



• **Dashed conflict zones** often appear in areas where cars may be turning right and have to cross the bike lane.

► Dashed conflict zones can be found on Laurel Street and Ravenswood Avenue.



### Walking Without Sidewalks

Walking without a sidewalk requires an additional level of awareness beyond walking on a sidewalk.



#### FACE ONCOMING TRAFFIC

This allows you to see approaching vehicles and react accordingly. It also increases the chances of a driver noticing you since you're walking against the flow of traffic. Walk on the shoulder when possible and stay as far away from the travel lane as safely possible.



#### WATCH FOR OBSTACLES

Be extra careful on garbage days or if parking is allowed in the street as your route may have obstacles. Cars often park on the shoulder of the road where it may be safest to walk. When possible, walk around the car furthest from the road. If this is not possible, watch closely for traffic and walk on the roadway until the shoulder clears.



#### DRESS BRIGHT, BE SEEN

Wearing high-visibility clothing and bright colors can help drivers notice you, especially in low light conditions.



In the Menlo Park area, particularly in the Encinal Elementary School and Oak Knoll Elementary School neighborhoods, many streets do not have sidewalks. Walking in a group is safer. Finding a friend to walk with or starting a walking school bus are great ways to improve your walk.



# SRTS Resources



- Safe Routes to School Supporter Logo







## 5) RUBY BRIDGES WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

# Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023



## Technical Assistance from the SRTS team

- AAA's free materials and funding
- Volunteer recruitment and training
- Materials and incentives
- Event planning checklist
- Walking school bus / bike bus support



# Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

## Timeline

- **Week of September 18:** Registration form to be filled out by schools
- **Week of October 2:** Share communication materials and event checklist.
- **Week of October 9:** Schedule the volunteer training #1 (to share tips, resources and ideas)
- **Week of October 30:** Schedule the volunteer meeting #2 (to review the logistic of the day-of)
- **Week of November 6:** Materials available for pick up at City Hall.



## 6) TRAFFIC AND SAFETY UPDATES



# 7) LOCAL ROAD SAFETY PLAN



## 8) CITY PROJECT UPDATES

## CITY PROJECT UPDATES

- **Comprehensive Shuttle Study**  
Virtual kick-off meeting 9/14, 6-8 pm
- **Middle Ave Bike Lane Pilot**  
Installed from University to Olive, remaining segment from ECR to University to start this month
- **Middle Ave Undercrossing**  
City Council approved an updated design, outdoor exhibit along Alma at the location of the future tunnel exit



*Middle Ave Bike Lane Improvements*

## CITY PROJECT UPDATES

- **Middle Ave Undercrossing**  
Updated design, outdoor exhibit along Alma at the location of the future tunnel exit
- **Belle Haven traffic calming project**  
Under active construction with work expected over the next 4 months or so
- **Willow Road**  
City applied for a grant for pedestrian crossing improvements and a Class IV bikeway



*Middle Ave Undercrossing Design Update*



## CITY PROJECT UPDATES

- **Ravenswood Repaving Project**  
Is nearing completion – new bike lanes on both sides of the street, interested in student feedback
- **Coleman-Ringwood Avenues Study**  
Alternatives and concept plans were developed. Additional outreach upcoming and plans to bring final options to decision makers late this year or early next year.
- **Middlefield Safe Streets Pilot**  
Outreach and planning for the remaining segments of the corridor will start this Fall or Winter.

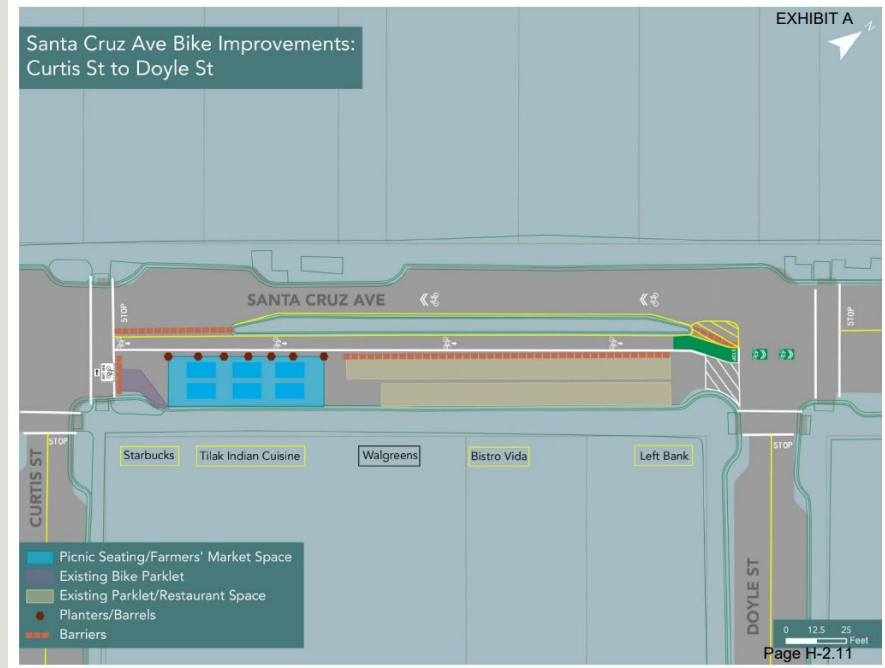


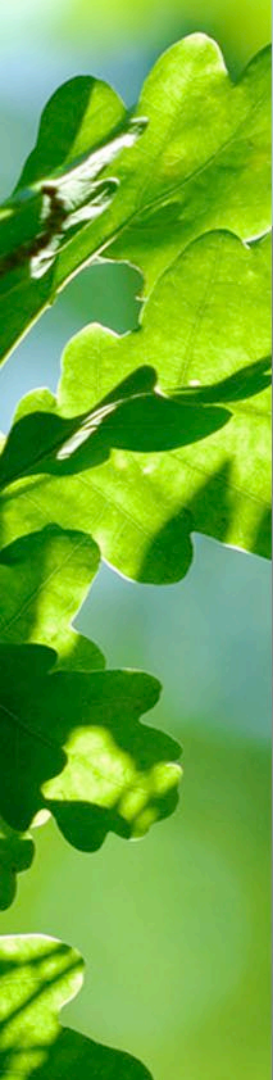
*Middlefield Ave*

# CITY PROJECT UPDATES

## Santa Cruz Ave Bike Improvements

Street closure is permanent.  
New bike lane on the closed portion of the street – Curtis St to Doyle St.



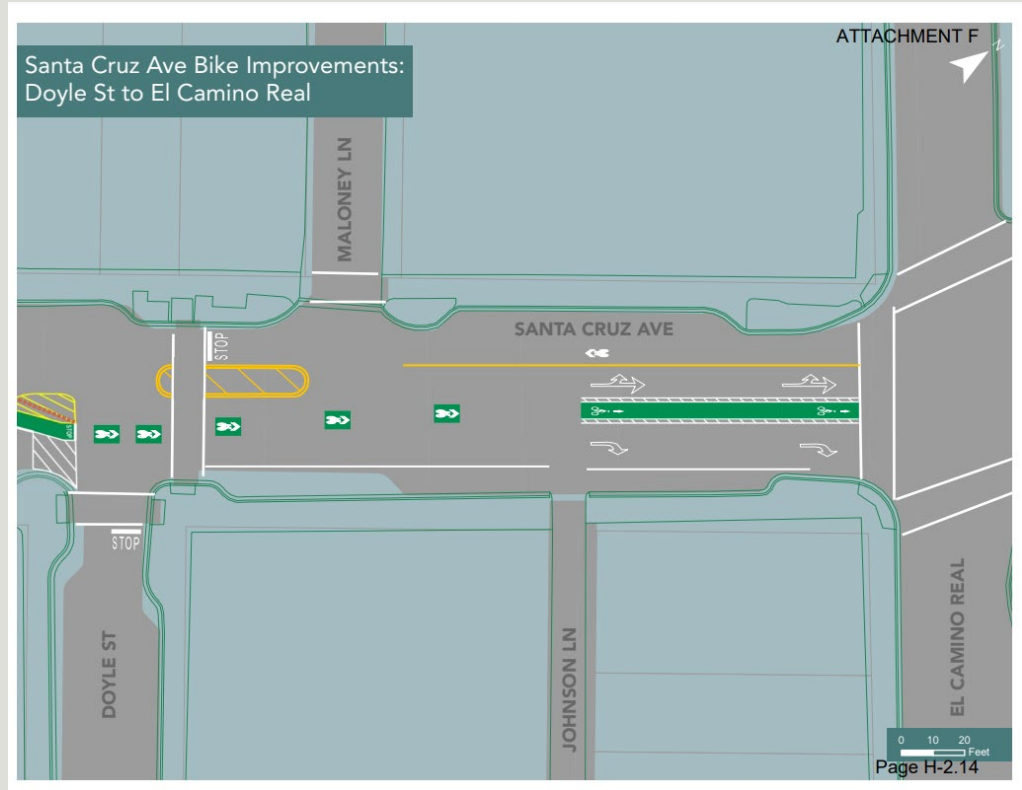


# CITY PROJECT UPDATES

## Santa Cruz Ave Bike Improvements



Restriping the travel lanes at Santa Cruz Avenue and El Camino Real



# CITY PROJECT UPDATES

## Public Works Open House Saturday 9/16, 10 am – 2 pm

- Tree walk with the city arborist
- Petting zoo
- Food from local food trucks
- Family-friendly activities
- Raffle prizes
- Viewing of public works equipment
- Tree carving



## 9) ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Atherton Bike Rodeo**, September 30, 8 am-4 pm at Menlo Atherton High School
- *Neighborhood Group Bike Ride 9/24 at 10 am*
- *Other?*





# 10) NEXT MEETING

## SAVE THE DATE!

- Thursday, December 14, 9 am (virtual)





**THANK YOU!**