

La Jolla, Placentia Executive Summary

Community Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Training

The Community Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Training (CPBST) is a statewide project of California Walks (Cal Walks) and the University of California at Berkeley's Safe Transportation Research and Education Center (SafeTREC). The CPBST program engages residents and safety advocates to develop community-driven action plans to improve walking and biking safety in their communities.

La Jolla is a neighborhood within the City of Placentia. The La Jolla, Placentia CPBST was collaboratively planned and facilitated by The City of Placentia, the Planning Committee, Cal Walks, and SafeTREC (Project Team) to:

1. Improve walking and biking in the La Jolla Community; and
2. Empower the La Jolla youth to develop and implement walking and biking safety plans and educational events in their community.

The virtual training on September 17, 2020 consisted of:

- Walking and biking assessments along three (3) key routes;
- An overview of the 3 E's strategies to improve walking and biking safety using the intersectional 3 E's framework including: Equity, Engineering, and Education; and
- Action-planning sessions to prioritize and plan for community programs, and infrastructure projects.

Data

The Project Team and Planning Committee reviewed data which demonstrated a safety concern in the area. Over the 10-year period, 2009 to 2018, pedestrian injuries and bicycle injuries appeared to be stable. From 2014 to 2018, there were 11 pedestrian victims and five bicycle victims in the La Jolla neighborhood of Placentia. A full discussion of pedestrian and bicycle crashes can be found in the CPBST report.

Walking & Biking Assessment

Workshop participants conducted walking and biking assessments along three (3) key routes that residents in La Jolla travel to access schools, parks and business. Participants were asked to:

- Identify community assets;
- Assess infrastructure conditions; and
- Observe how road users are engaging with the built-environment.

Participants shared the following reflections:

- There is enough street lighting along the North Placentia Avenue overpass to feel safe walking and biking at night;
- The fluorescent pedestrian crossing sign, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) and speed feedback sign at the West La Jolla Street/Lawrence Street intersection has helped improve pedestrian safety;
- Community organizations like LOT318 and the Whitten Center's community services staff are connected and trusted members of the La Jolla community, making them an asset to the community;
- Participants cannot cross Orangethorpe Avenue, an 8-lane corridor within the signal timing phase;
- Drivers fail to yield to pedestrians at marked and unmarked crosswalks throughout the community;

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The planning committee consisted of representatives from OC Health Care Agency, Community Action Partners of Orange County, LOT318, Latino Health Access, and the City of Placentia Community Services Department.

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Workshop participants were community members, parents and students of Melrose Elementary School, Fletcher Elementary School, Valadez Middle School Academy, Valencia High School, LOT318 and/or representatives from the Planning Committee.

For a more detailed discussion of the workshop, please download the full report on [SafeTREC's](#) or [Cal Walks'](#) websites.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Participants shared the following reflections: (continued from above)

- Drivers appear to be driving above the 35 m.p.h. posted speed limit along West La Jolla Street and above 40 m.p.h. posted speed limit along South Placentia Avenue and Orangethorpe Avenue
- Participants fear for their safety on the West La Jolla Street overpass because drivers appear to be speeding in the downturn.
- Parents and students expressed concern about gang activity and police presence in the La Jolla neighborhood.
- The lack of bike lanes, bike facilities, or parks in the La Jolla community forces residents onto streets and sidewalk,
- Residents expressed concern about driver speed;
- Participants say it is difficult to travel with a stroller or side-by-side along Orangethorpe because electrical boxes and poles narrow the sidewalks along both sides of the street and the cracked pavement is common;
- The lack of shade trees makes it uncomfortable to walk during high summer temperatures; and
- Students shared that they are not allowed to walk or bike to and from school because their parents feel West La Jolla Street is unsafe.

Community Recommendations

During the action planning sessions, participants prioritized and outlined preliminary plans for the following community programs and infrastructure projects aimed at increasing the health and safety of the community:

- Cell Phone Use Community Educational Campaign;
- Traffic Calming Along South Melrose Street and West La Jolla Street; and
- Placentia Bicycle Club.

Cal Walks & SafeTREC Recommendations

The following are recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements:

- Conduct a community tree and landscaping assessment;
- Develop a bicycle violation diversion program to reduce financial burden and barrier to bicycle transportation and recreation;
- Establish a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC);
- Consider installing pedestrian safety improvements at the intersection of South Melrose Street and La Jolla Street;
- Design a road safety campaign that provides safety messaging to reduce unsafe driver behaviors near schools, parks, community centers, and other areas with high pedestrian activity;
- Develop a skatepark student advisory board to consider constructing a skatepark in the La Jolla neighborhood; and
- Collaborate with the City of Anaheim on the West La Jolla overpass Improvements.