

SAFE STREETS LONG BEACH LISTENING SESSIONS

- ▶ **GENERAL MEETING**
SEPT 10, 2018
- ▶ **LB SCHOOLS**
OCT 16, 2018
- ▶ **POLICE & FIRE**
OCT 18, 2018
- ▶ **CARMELITOS HOUSING**
OCT 23, 2018
- ▶ **27**
ATTENDEES

OVERVIEW:

During the fall of 2018, the Safe Streets team assembled “listening sessions” with small groups of invited Long Beach stakeholders. The goal was to talk through issues surrounding street safety - what behaviors and roadway designs promote unsafe conditions? What can the City do to improve safety? What is most important to focus on and what is the best way to address concerns? Four listening sessions were held: a general session with community stakeholders; a session that focused on issues faced by school children, families, teachers, and administrators; a session with Long Beach Police and Fire; and a session at Carmelitos Housing in North Long Beach.

The small group settings allowed for candid and personal conversations. Top themes are listed below (came up at each session). The following pages summarize the conversations with key takeaways from each session.

TOP THEMES:

UNSAFE BEHAVIORS

- ▶ Speeding vehicles
- ▶ Distracted drivers
- ▶ General lack of education about safe streets behaviors
- ▶ Lack of yielding for pedestrians at crosswalks

UNSAFE ROADWAY DESIGN

- ▶ Low visibility crosswalks
- ▶ Conflict points between modes
- ▶ Sub par bicycle facilities



**Safe Streets
Long Beach**

A Vision Zero Project



**TOOLE
DESIGN**

CITY OF
LONG BEACH ▶ Here LA

GENERAL SESSION

▶ **SEPT 10, 2018**
BIXBY PARK

▶ **8**
ATTENDEES

Problematic Behaviors

- ▶ “Getting-to-work” mentality
- ▶ Speeding vehicles
- ▶ Distracted drivers
- ▶ Cyclists riding in wrong direction
- ▶ Drivers not stopping at intersections
- ▶ Drivers who don’t understand bike rules
- ▶ Drivers who don’t understand how to navigate traffic circles
- ▶ Gender disparities in regards to how people are treated when riding a bike
- ▶ Drivers of shared ride vehicles stopping in inappropriate locations
- ▶ Skateboarders traveling unsafely

Problematic Street Design

- ▶ Overly-wide travel lanes that encourage speeding
- ▶ Low visibility areas for people on bikes (e.g. locations with grade issues, obstacles, blind turns, etc.)
- ▶ Low visibility areas for people who are walking (e.g. blind driveways and alleys)
- ▶ Sharrows – bike facilities should be more visible and more protected
- ▶ Low quality of pavement
- ▶ Truncated domes can be difficult for people in walkers and in wheelchairs
- ▶ Lack of bike signals
- ▶ Lack of bus cut-outs
- ▶ Difficult transitions in and out of cycle tracks
- ▶ Lack of bicycle signage
- ▶ Incomplete bicycle network

Preferred Solutions

- ▶ Education for people about bicycle rights
- ▶ Education for youth to understand the rules of the road
- ▶ Streets that are exclusively for pedestrians and cyclists
- ▶ Programs and policies that consider gender, cultural, language, age, and class differences
- ▶ Facilities that are joined via a complete network, without gaps

Top Priorities for the Project

- ▶ Driver education (x2)
- ▶ Creating a full network of bicycle facilities
- ▶ Dedicated bicycle boulevards
- ▶ Speed reduction for vehicles
- ▶ Programs and policies that address the most dangerous intersections



LONG BEACH SCHOOLS

▶ **OCT 16, 2018**
LBUSD OFFICES

▶ **8**
ATTENDEES

Problematic Behaviors

- ▶ Double parking parents during drop-off and pick-up
- ▶ Parents waiting in the bus loading zone
- ▶ Distracted students walking while looking at cell phones
- ▶ Students riding their bikes on the sidewalk because they don't feel safe riding on the street
- ▶ The shift changes of some police officers occur during school drop-off and pick-up times
- ▶ Lack of police to support ongoing efforts
- ▶ Lack of yielding for pedestrians at crosswalks

Problematic Street Design

- ▶ Lack of crosswalks
- ▶ Lack of crosswalk signage and visibility
- ▶ Lack of crossing guards
- ▶ Lack of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons
- ▶ Lack of street lights around schools
- ▶ Lack of designated left hand turn signals, which make crossing dangerous
- ▶ Inadequate ADA drop-off and pick-up areas around schools

Preferred Solutions

- ▶ Add high visibility crosswalks around schools
- ▶ Education – have police officers engage with parents to educate them about safe behaviors (and ticket people when necessary)
- ▶ Creative student campaigns (e.g. 'Don't let your feet touch the hot lava / stay on the sidewalk')
- ▶ Create one way streets at certain times
- ▶ Support ongoing initiatives that parents and community members are already doing (e.g. Dads of Great Students, Walk/Bike Long Beach, etc.)
- ▶ Learn from Culver City's "Walk Three Blocks" program to encourage kids to walk to school
- ▶ Follow Las Vegas' model (25 MPH school zones around schools and bright fluorescent signs)
- ▶ Train crossing guards

Top Priorities for the Project

- ▶ Public education, positive, motivational PR (x6)*
- ▶ Enforce current laws (x2)
- ▶ Improved/bright lighting and signage
- ▶ Lower the speed limit around schools
- ▶ Provide staffing, personnel, and resources
- ▶ Have a dedicated resource / point of contact for safety concerns relating to schools
- ▶ Install crosswalks and left turn arrows

* Use messaging that works (e.g. NextDoor app, Nixle messages, and face-to-face conversations. Need to go to places where people are already gathering. (e.g. Back to School night, carnival, open houses).



POLICE & FIRE

▶ **OCT 18, 2018**
CITY HALL

▶ **2**
ATTENDEES

Problematic Behaviors

- ▶ “Me first” attitude
- ▶ Lack of situational awareness

Common Phone Calls / Complaints

- ▶ Collisions
- ▶ Congestion
- ▶ Calls regarding unsafe street behavior (e.g. enforcement, jaywalking, speeding, etc.)

Problematic Street Design

- ▶ Some residential streets are too narrow
- ▶ Lane reductions and lane width reductions in some places make it difficult for emergency response
- ▶ Traffic slowing devices can hinder emergency response
- ▶ Most streets are designed to meet the mobility needs of the past

Preferred Solutions

- ▶ Enforcement is critical and effective, but must be ongoing. One study cited by participants showed that new driver behavior lasted only for about 6 months following a citation.
- ▶ Red light cameras were removed, but participants were open to revisiting re-installation
- ▶ LB Police are working with the non-profit organization, National Safety Council to implement educational training and programming
- ▶ We need to change people's perspective on what's important

Top Priorities for the Project

- ▶ Enforcement (need more funding)
- ▶ Education (but must be coupled with enforcement)
- ▶ Education especially needed in high schools



CARMELITOS HOUSING

▶ **OCT 23, 2018**
CARMELITOS HOUSING

▶ **9**
ATTENDEES

Problematic Behaviors

- ▶ Speeding vehicles
- ▶ Drivers not looking out for people in wheelchairs
- ▶ Ice cream trucks stopping in the middle of the road causing cars to swerve around them
- ▶ Conflicts between skateboarders and people using wheelchairs
- ▶ People who are riding bicycles on the sidewalk
- ▶ Buses driving too close to the sidewalk
- ▶ Lack of yielding for pedestrians at crosswalks

Problematic Street Design

- ▶ Lack of crosswalks
- ▶ Lack of flashing beacons & other elements to raise pedestrian visibility
- ▶ The areas that need improvements the most, are often the area with the least investment / improvements
- ▶ Unprotected bicycle lanes (especially problematic for children)
- ▶ Lack of sidewalk lighting
- ▶ Short crosswalk timing
- ▶ Utilities in sidewalk, which make people walk and 'roll' in the street
- ▶ LB Transit stop benches and shelters sometimes likewise prohibit people from walking and 'rolling' on the sidewalk
- ▶ Bicycle lanes that are separated but have poor visibility
- ▶ Lack of multi-lingual signage

Preferred Solutions

- ▶ Focus on areas where people are transferring from the bus to another mode
- ▶ Consider people with different mobility abilities
- ▶ Visibility and the lack of it, along sidewalks, at corners, and other key points, is a critical thing to address. Two participants have been hit by cars, while in wheelchairs.

Top Priorities for the Project

- ▶ Enforcement (x3)
- ▶ Reduce vehicular speeds (x2)
- ▶ Improve visibility at crosswalks
- ▶ Educate drivers, especially about people in wheelchairs

