

# SAN DIEGO COUNTY WALK AUDIT

## AUDITOR NAME & ORGANIZATION

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## AUDIT LOCATION

Southcrest, San Diego

## AUDIT DATE

03/01/2024

### MAP OF AREA AUDITED



S 40th St between Gamma St and Alpha St, San Diego 92113  
Time of day 1:45 - 2:30 pm

Cesar Chavez Elementary School sits in the community of Southcrest in the southeastern section of the City of San Diego. Notable for its Southcrest Trails Park and major thoroughfares include National Avenue and S 40th St.

### WALKING ASSETS: WHAT IS HELPFUL TO PEDESTRIANS?

- There is a 4-way stop with painted crosswalks at the intersection of S 40th St and Alpha near the entrance of Cesar Chavez Elementary School
- Heading westbound on Alpha St, from the corner of Alpha St & S 40th St, there is a crosswalk mid-block with a radar speed sign placed ahead to alert cars to slow down

### WALKING CHALLENGES: WHAT MAKES IT DIFFICULT OR UNSAFE TO WALK?

- School crosswalks are very sparse on S 40th St. If students don't use the crosswalk directly in front of the school at S 40th St & Alpha St, they must walk two blocks (about 0.2 miles) up a hill to get to the next crosswalk at the intersection of S 40th St & Gamma St. As a result, students are seen crossing S 40th St mid-block on their way to and from school
- At the intersection of S 40th St & Gamma St, there are unlabeled crosswalks
- North of S 40th St is a hill, increasing the speed of cars traveling from Gamma St to Alpha St without any signs announcing a school zone. The hill also hides the visibility of the school and pedestrians. The 25mph speed limit signs are not very close to the school on S 40th St



No mid-block crosswalks on S 40th St between Alpha St & Gamma St



Unlabeled crosswalks at the intersection of S 40th St & Gamma St

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## WALKING CHALLENGES: WHAT MAKES IT DIFFICULT OR UNSAFE TO WALK?

- The crosswalks on S 40th St & Alpha Street in front of the school do not have pedestrian crossing road signs
- School signs are present only on Alpha Street along with a speedometer in an area that is far from the school's one entrance/exit
- Some vehicles park in the red zone, obstructing the sight of drivers coming from up the hill on S 40th St
- Multiple cars were seen parked illegally obstructing traffic, in handicapped parking with no placard, or in the 15-minute green zones for more than the allotted time, making illegal U-turns in the middle of the street
- At the corner of S 40th St and Z St, the curb ramp needs maintenance and the gutter area has an exposed pipe
- A tree shades one of the crosswalks at the intersection of S 40th St & Alpha St in the afternoon. Cars turning into this intersection don't easily see pedestrians on the shaded crosswalk and sometimes come very close to pedestrians



Crosswalk in front of Cesar Chavez Elementary without pedestrian crossing road sign



Curb ramp at the corner of S 40th St & Z St needs maintenance

## NOTES AND PHOTOS

- Cesar Chavez Elementary serves 355 students ranging from PreK-5 and is across from Southcrest Park, which holds the Southcrest Recreation Center and Southeastern Little League
- A parent mentioned that she now leaves her baby at home when she walks her 3 year old child to school because she is scared to take the baby in the stroller as they have almost been hit multiple times by cars. She also stated that the cars will honk at pedestrians and go, even when it is the pedestrian's right of way. The parent also mentioned that San Diego Police Dept. used to patrol the area of Alpha St but has not been around for months
- Another parent mentioned unsafe crossing for children and families and mentioned a pothole close to a crosswalk
- Coming down the hill from Gamma St to Alpha St on S 40th St, two dogs bark at pedestrians – one on either side of the street. One is a large German Shepherd behind a wood fence. The other is a smaller dog but since the page-fenced yard is elevated and directly adjacent to the sidewalk, the dog barks at about head level for an adult.



Car on the right parked partially on the sidewalk



Shaded crosswalk on S 40th St & Alpha St makes it difficult for cars to see crossing pedestrians



Vehicle parked in the red zone and obstructing the sight of drivers in observing crossing pedestrians

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adding at least one crosswalk with pedestrian crossing road signs along S 40th St between Alpha St and Gamma St to prevent children and families from crossing the street mid-block, especially since S 40th St is on a hill
- Adding a speedometer on S 40th St
- Installing pedestrian crossing road signs at the main school intersection of S 40th St & Alpha St
- Label crosswalks at the intersections 1-2 block away from the entrance/exit of the school, including the intersection between S 40th St and Gamma St
- Fixing and maintaining sidewalks leading to Cesar Chavez Elementary