

SAN DIEGO COUNTY WALK AUDIT

AUDITOR NAME & ORGANIZATION

David Barber-Dunham, COI Community Council;
Jose “Pepe” Luis, Barrio Logan resident; Kristin
Haukom, Alta Planning + Design; Deirdra Kleske,
County SD HHS; Lan Nguyen, COI; Jackie
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AUDIT LOCATION

Barrio Logan, San Diego

AUDIT DATE

03/04/2024

MAP OF AREA AUDITED



Within the boundaries of National Ave & Main St and S 16th St & Beardsley St in Barrio Logan, San Diego 92113

Primary focus on Newton Ave in front of Perkins Elementary and Monarch School.

Perkins Elementary and Monarch School sit in Barrio Logan near the San Diego downtown area and the Port of San Diego.

WALKING ASSETS: WHAT IS HELPFUL TO PEDESTRIANS?

- In front of Monarch School on Newton Ave between S 16th St & Sigsbee St, there are wide sidewalks, adequate street lighting, 15-minute parking, and trimmed trees

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

- About 40% of Perkins Elementary students pass the corner of Newton Ave and Beardsley St to get to school. At this intersection, there is a lack of school zone (yellow) high visibility crosswalks, with only 1 out of the 4 crosswalks painted on the street without clear stop lines for cars.
- In front of Perkins Elementary’s main entrance on Newton Ave, there is congested traffic and minimal space for cars, let alone enough space for students who are dropped off to safely walk onto the school sidewalk. This portion of the street contains slanted rows of parked cars that leave a small corridor for cars to pass in both directions.
- The sidewalk in front of Perkins Elementary also lacks pedestrian-scale lighting and, in general, has inadequate street lighting. According to Barrio Logan residents, this section of Newton Ave becomes very dark after 6pm and creates a high level of concern, especially for students.



4-stop intersection between Newton Ave and Beardsley St lacks labeled crosswalks



Only one streetlight in front of Perkins Elementary on Newton Ave for the entire block

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

- Between Newton Ave and Sigsbee St, there is another 4-stop intersection that lacks labeled crosswalks (1 out of 4) and a bus stop without a bench or shade cover. About 15% of students walking to Perkins Elementary pass this intersection, and this corner is a hotspot for families dropping off their children at Monarch School.
- Students and families who walk down S16th St between National Ave and Newton Ave, on route to Monarch School or Perkins Elementary, are met with a narrow and underdeveloped sidewalk adjacent to the empty lot. Pedestrians walk on the side of the street to avoid the sidewalk.
- Though not a structural issue, there are usually a high number of unhoused individuals blocking sidewalks, parking, and engaging in illegal activities. All these factors create major safety concerns and barriers to active travel to and from school.



Intersection between Newton Ave and Sigsbee St lacks labeled crosswalks



Underdeveloped sidewalk causes pedestrians to walk onto the street to get to school

NOTES AND PHOTOS

- Perkins Elementary and Monarch School are both located in the Barrio Logan neighborhood, known for its rich history deeply rooted in Chicano culture and activism.
- Barrio Logan is situated between major transportation corridors including the I-5, the Coronado Bridge, and the Port of San Diego including the Navy shipyards and manufacturing plants that has brought substantial pollution and other environmental concerns to the community.
- Perkins Elementary (K-8) has a student population of about 400 students, with 1 out of 3 students experiencing homelessness and 2 out of 3 students chronically absent.
- More than 90% of the school's families are Latino or Black
- For some students, getting to school is the hardest part of the day. Some of them wake up at 3 a.m. to cross the border because their families had moved to Tijuana to find somewhere affordable to live. Some walk from a shelter past homeless encampments without an adult to accompany them. Others take the trolley or bus to school.
- Monarch School is a K-12 transitional school run by a public-private partnership between the San Diego County Office of Education and the nonprofit Monarch School Project.
- Students at Monarch School are met with a trauma-informed and strength-based community as they persevere through the trauma of homelessness.
- Monarch School neighbors the Alpha Project homeless shelter that sits at the corner of Newton Ave and S 16th St. This corner is also known for having a significant amount of trash including used needles, condoms and wrappers, alcohol bottles and cans, human waste, and bloody clothes.

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NOTES AND PHOTOS



Alpha Project Temporary Bridge Shelter at the corner of Newton Ave & S 16th St



The corner of Newton Ave and Sigsbee St with congested traffic & unlabeled crosswalks



Small corridor for cars to pass on Newton Ave between Sigsbee St & Beardsley St

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Label crosswalks at 4-way stop intersections on Newton Ave & Beardsley St and Newton Ave & Sigsbee St with car stop lines
- Implement 15-minute parking in front of Perkins Elementary on Newton Ave or designate drop-off and pick-up zones to minimize congestion and improve traffic flow
- More street lighting along Newton Ave, especially in front of Perkins Elementary
- Improve and maintain sidewalk leading to Monarch School and Perkins Elementary on S 16th St between Newton Ave & National Ave