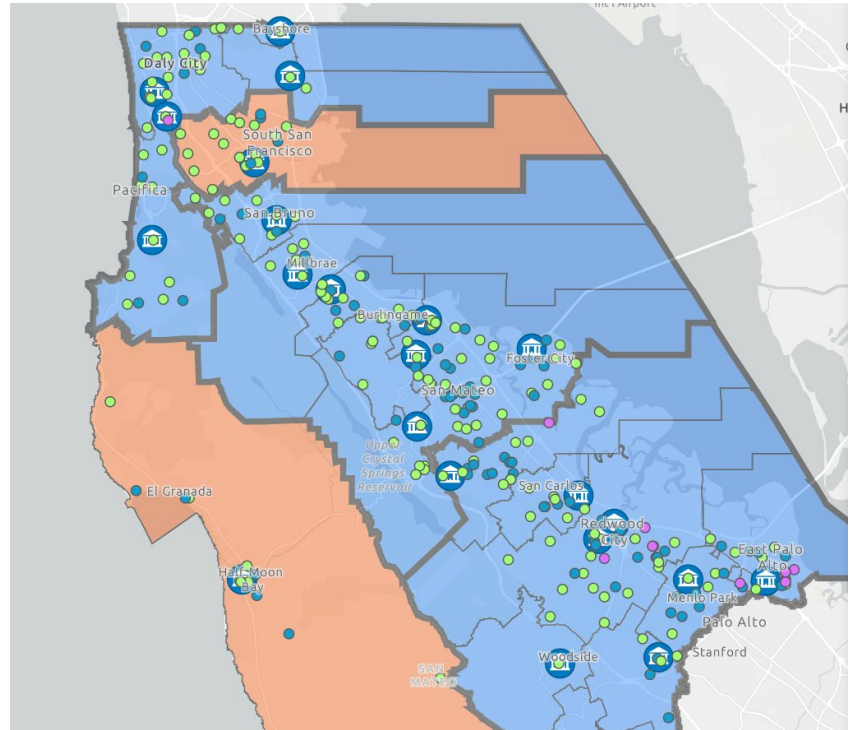


# Slow Streets Around Schools in Unincorporated San Mateo County

*Fast, inexpensive, simple . . . and effective*

Mike Swire for SMC BPAC  
8/17/2023



# Outline

- Opportunity is large for getting more kids to walk and bike to school
- Lower speed limits are cheap, easy, and fast
- Lower speed limits improve safety
- Next steps

# San Mateo County has a large opportunity in increasing the # of kids that walk & bike to school.

- [20+ schools](#) in unincorporated SM County
- SMCOE Safe Routes to School program - education & some infrastructure
- Active transportation rates are as high as [67% at Palo Alto](#) schools
- SMC schools have been [less successful](#)
- Speeding traffic is the #1 challenge cited by SM County parents regarding transportation to school ([p. 12](#))
- Teach them early - young kids who walk or bike to school are [more likely](#) to continue the habit when they are older
- Too many student deaths and serious injuries discourage parents from letting their kids bike or walk - [RWC](#), [San Mateo](#), [HMB](#), [unincorporated SMC](#)
- Kids who walk or bike to school [do better in class](#)

# Lowering speed limits around school is relatively inexpensive, fast, and easy.

- [California Vehicle Code 22358.4](#)
  - Exception to arcane 85% percentile rule
  - On the books for 15+ years
  - As low as 15 mph in some situations
- Process
  - Identify schools and roads that qualify (e.g., [City of SM map](#))
  - Design & quantify new or replacement speed limit signs
  - Install or replace signs
  - Educate residents, parents, and PD/CHP
- Far less expensive than traditional infrastructure projects
- Politically attractive
  - Dave Canepa will champion - several impacted schools in SSF
  - [Several cities](#) have implemented -
    - SM County - City of San Mateo, Hillsborough, San Carlos, Menlo Park, Burlingame
    - Norcal - SF, SJ, Oakland, Palo Alto, Sacramento, Sunnyvale, Mountain View

# Speed limits do slow traffic and prevent crashes.

- [National Highway Transportation Safety Administration](#) (NHTSA) - lower speed limits reduces the frequency and severity of crashes
- [National Association of Transportation Officials](#) (NACTO), even a 1 mph reduction in operating speeds can result in a 17% decrease in fatal crashes. A 10% reduction in average speeds can reduce injury crashes by 19%, severe crashes by 27%, and fatal crashes by 34%.
- [NACTO](#) - speed limit changes have big impacts; Toronto & Seattle case studies
- [Insurance Institute for Highway Safety](#) (IIHS) - lower speed limits make safer streets

# The BPAC can help move this simple, but important change forward.

- Write letter to Board recommending implementation
- Provide input and support to Board as necessary
- Promote new program through local bike/ped, school, and other networks
  
- Encourage other cities in SMC to do the same