

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Department Liaison:
San Mateo County Office of
Sustainability
455 County Center, 4th Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063
Phone: (888) 442-2666
www.smcsustainability.org

October 19, 2023

Supervisor Ray Mueller
Hall of Justice
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

RE: Reducing Speed Limits Near Schools in Unincorporated San Mateo County

Dear Supervisor Mueller:

The San Mateo County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) recommends that the County lower speed limits around schools in unincorporated San Mateo County.

According to the [National Highway Transportation Safety Administration](#) (NHTSA), reducing speed limits is a simple, low cost, and quick means of reducing the frequency and severity of crashes. Like other means of speed reduction, lowering speed limits is not a panacea - many will still travel at unsafe speeds. Nevertheless, many people do follow the speed limit and any reduction in average vehicle speeds will save lives. According to the [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%.

Numerous municipalities in San Mateo County have already reduced speed limits near schools, as allowed by [California Vehicle Code 22358.4](#). These include San Mateo, Hillsborough, Burlingame, Menlo Park, South San Francisco, Brisbane, and San Carlos. In addition, San Francisco, San Jose, Oakland, Sacramento, Palo Alto, and [others have done the same](#).

As the County invests in Safe Routes to School programs, it is important that we make the streets around our schools as safe as possible. Only then will we see significant increases in the number of kids arriving on campus via foot or bike. We hope that the Board will take this simple, yet effective step in that direction.

Sincerely,



Elaine Salinger, Chair
San Mateo County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

cc: Carolyn Bloede, Office of Sustainability
Sheriff Corpus, San Mateo County Sheriff's Office
Ann Stillman, Department of Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Elaine Salinger, <i>Chair</i>	Fred Zyda
John Langbein, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Michael Barnes
Susan Doherty	Cristina Aquino (Alternate)

An Advisory Committee to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors