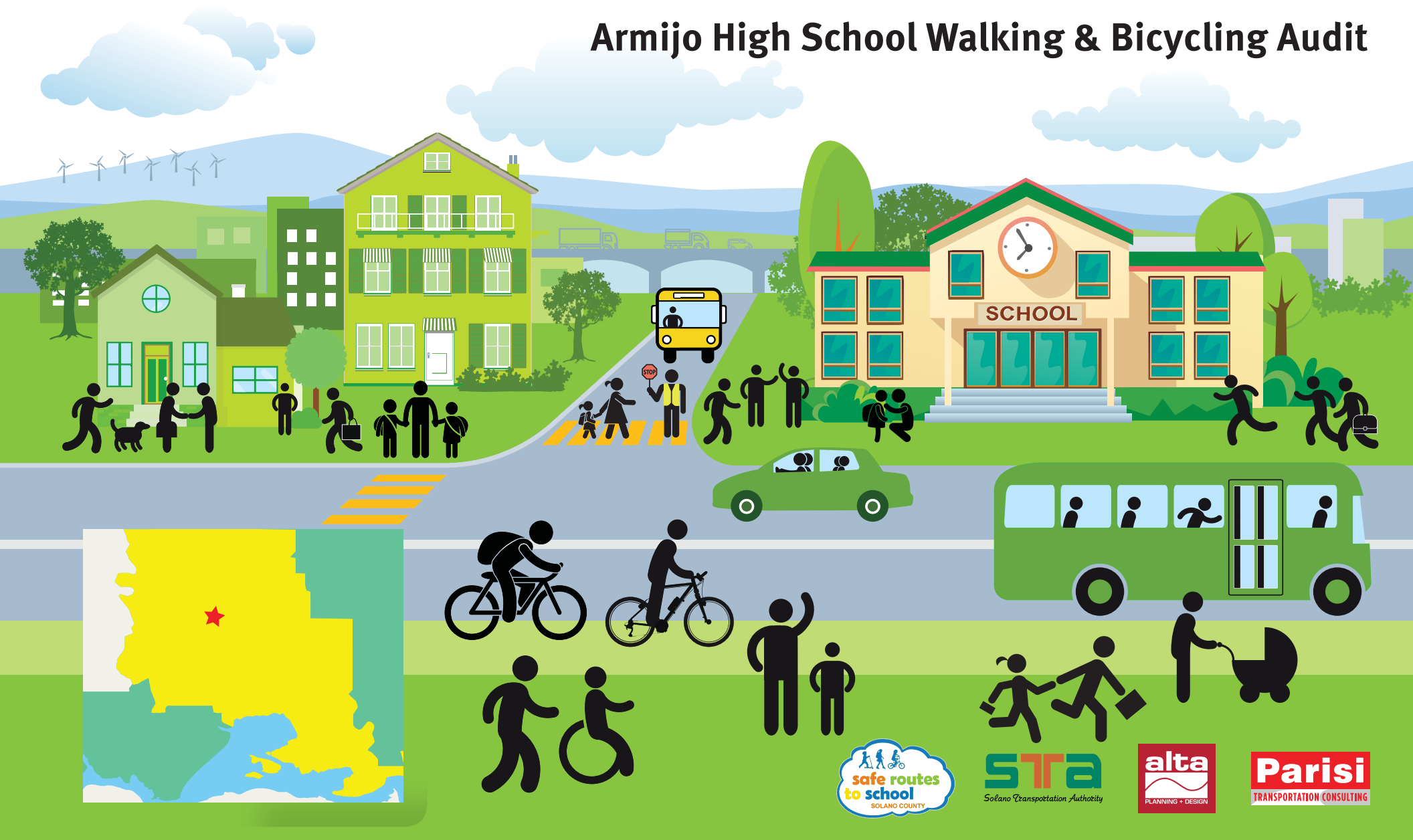


JULY 2019

FAIRFIELD-SUISUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Armijo High School Walking & Bicycling Audit



Armijo High School Walking and Bicycling Audit

School Information



Armijo High School (Armijo) is a high school within the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District.

School Profile

Address: 824 Washington Street, Fairfield, CA 94533

Grades: 9th – 12th

Number of Students: 2470

Access

Pedestrian and bicycle access to and from Armijo is provided via the school entrances along Washington Street and West Texas Street. Skateboard and bicycle parking is provided on-campus in a fenced area.

Primary vehicle access to and from the campus is provided via Washington Street, a two-lane residential street running in the north-south direction. Vehicles can also enter and exit the school parking lot via Carpenter Street, a residential street that runs in the east/west direction. Access to the interior of the campus is provided via a driveway loop.

A multi-use pathway slightly more than a quarter mile south of campus allows students to cross the train tracks separating Suisun City and Fairfield.

There are three primary drop-off and pick-up locations used to access the school.

Driveway Loop with entrances and exit on Washington Street. The driveway provides access to a drop-off and pick-up driveway and on-campus parking lot in the interior of the campus. During the morning drop-off period, students are driven to the interior of the campus where they are let out of their vehicles. In the morning, the entrance is at the Louisiana Street and Washington Street intersection and the driveway is approximately 700 feet long. During the afternoon pick-up period, parents drive on to the campus and wait in their cars for their children to be let out of school. In the afternoon, the entrance is just south of the Kentucky and Washington Street intersection and the driveway is approximately 1000 feet long. The driveway exit is approximately 220 feet north of the Louisiana Street and Washington Street intersection.

Post Office along Kentucky Street. The post office at the intersection of Kentucky Street and Union Avenue is used as an informal alternative off-site drop-off and pick-up location. The post office parking lot is approximately 420 feet west of campus.

Parking Lanes along Washington Street. During the morning drop-off period, students are driven to Washington Street where they are let out of their vehicles. During the afternoon pick-up period, parents park on Washington Street and wait in their cars for their children to be let out of school.



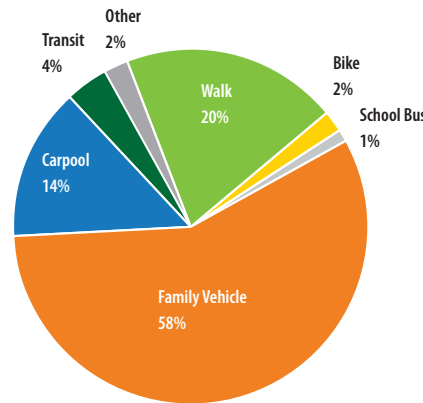
Washington and Kentucky Streets.

Safe Routes to School Survey

As part of the Solano Transportation Authority's Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) program student hand tally surveys are conducted regularly to understand the various travel modes students use to get to and from school. The travel surveys are a useful tool in measuring whether SR2S program goals are being met and identifying program resources that can be used to support walking, bicycling, taking transit, and carpooling as means of transportation to school. Surveys are generally conducted twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. The surveys are done over a three-day period (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday). During each survey students are asked how they traveled to school that morning, and how they plan to travel back home after school. Tally data was received from 55 classrooms.

Results from the most recent survey conducted during the 2009 to 2010 school year are shown below

- Approximately 72 percent of students are driven or drive to/from school. 58 percent of students travel in vehicles carrying a single student, referred to as "family vehicle" trips. 14 percent of students travel to school by carpool. Generally, there are about 1970 students who are driven or drive to school.
- About 22 percent of students travel to/from school in an "active" way. On average 20 percent of students reported traveling either to or from school by walking. Two percent of students travel by bicycling or "other" rolling means (e.g., scooter, skateboard etc.)
- Approximately 40 percent of students travel to/from school using a sustainable mode of travel. In addition to the 20 percent of students walking, bicycling, and rolling to school, and 14 percent of students who carpool, one percent of student ride public transit and four percent take the school bus. These are the travel modes promoted by the SR2S program.



Source: Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District, N=2470 students
Note: Percentages have been rounded and may not add up to 100%.

Walking and Bicycling Audit

A walking and bicycling audit was held on Wednesday, May 2, 2018. In attendance were a facilities planner and staff member from Armijo, five student-government members, and representatives from the Solano Transportation Authority's SR2S program. The walk audit was led by Parisi Transportation Consulting traffic engineers with assistance from Alta Planning + Design staff.

Audit participants made observations during the afternoon pick-up period as students departed from school. Observations included driver, bicyclist, and pedestrian travel behavior as students arrived at school. A follow-up visit was conducted by Parisi staff to review morning before-school conditions around the school area

INFRASTRUCTURE OBSERVATIONS

- Lack of bicycle infrastructure, including bicycle parking, on campus (see photo 2).
- Narrow sidewalks around the campus reduce the comfort of pedestrians and increase travel times (see photo 8). The City should consider widening the minimum from 4.5" wide to 5" or 6" to better facilitate pedestrian travel.
- Union Avenue lacks safe pedestrian crossing infrastructure despite being a major crossing location for students and an area of high vehicle speeds.

BEHAVIORAL OBSERVATIONS

- Vehicles were observed making illegal left-turns out of the school parking lot exit on Washington Street (see photo 9).
- Students cross Texas Street at unmarked midblock locations due to a lack of crosswalks (see photo 10).
- During the peak rush periods, on street parking is often at capacity and vehicles double park along Washington Street as parents wait for students.
- Students were observed crossing Washington Street at locations without crosswalks and at the midblock (see photo 3).
- Students were observed walking along a ditch leading to the pedestrian and bicyclist bridge connecting Fairfield to Suisun City.
- A lack of enforcement of parking traffic violations was observed. An additional School Resource Office trained to conduct enforcement could address parking and traffic violations.



Observations



Walk audit participants discuss safety concerns around the school.



On-site bicycle parking is limited and utilizes outdated racks.



Students cross Washington Street without using a crosswalk, a common choice among students even if a crosswalk exists.



School buses pick students up on Washington Street.



A pedestrian walkway provides access over for students from Suisun City.



There is a designated on-site drop-off and pickup zone.



A parking lot provides student parking on campus for those with parking passes.



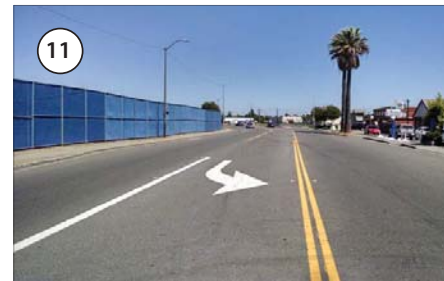
Certain sidewalks near school are very narrow.



Vehicles make illegal left turns out of the school parking lot.



Texas Street lacks crosswalks near southern school exit.



North Texas Street reduces to one lane near school exit.



City bus stops lie on Union Avenue and Washington Street.

Safe Routes to School Improvement Recommendations

An important element of the SR2S program is providing infrastructure improvements that support and encourage safe walking and bicycling to and from school. This Walk Audit Report includes a series of recommendations for transportation infrastructure improvements around Armijo High School. These recommendations are based on observations made during the walking and bicycling audit, a post-audit engineering review, and a review of concerns raised by walk audit participants. The recommendations have been classified based on ease of implementation:

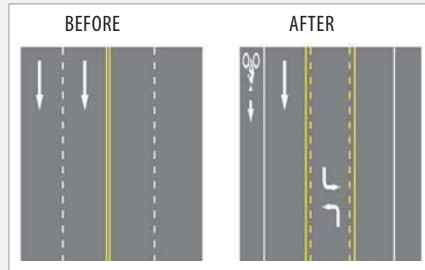
- **Short-term improvements** are lower cost improvements that can typically be implemented within a year.
- **Mid-term improvements** are improvements that may require additional planning efforts and funding and can typically be implemented within a three-year range.
- **Longer-range improvements** are substantial infrastructure improvements that would require additional funding and planning and can typically be implemented in a three to five-plus year range.

These improvements are summarized in the figure on the next page.

TOOLBOX OF POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS



Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons (RRFB) increase yield compliance at uncontrolled crossings.



Road diets calm traffic provide space for bicyclists, and can provide pedestrian refuges.



Stop bars set back from crosswalk provide additional buffer between vehicular traffic and pedestrians.



Replace obsolete or inappropriate school area signs to keep school traffic control up to date.



Red curb paint designates areas where parking is prohibited.

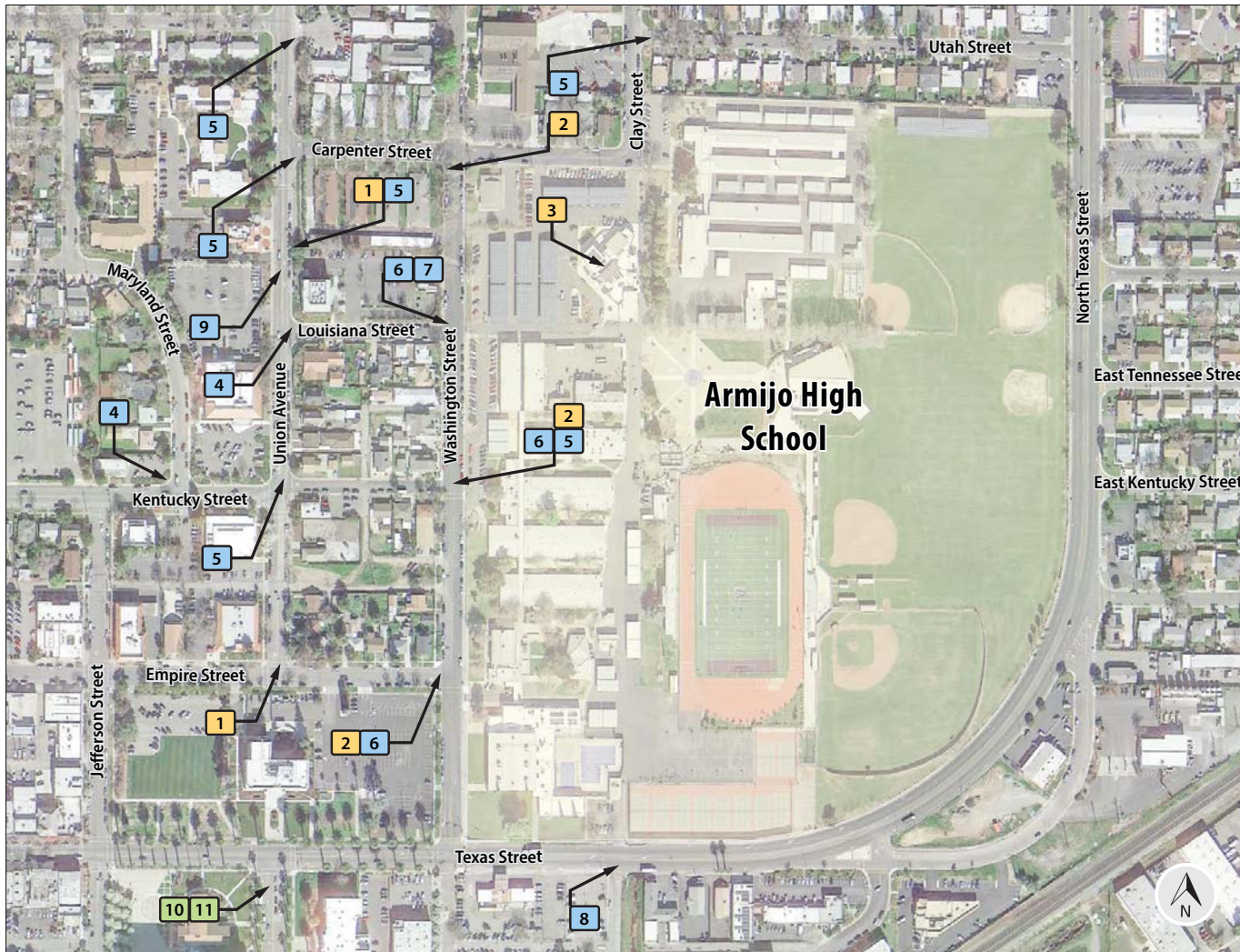


Curb ramps provide access to disabled pedestrians and parents walking with strollers.



Curb extensions shorten pedestrian crossing distance and enhance visibility.

Potential Safe Routes to School Improvements at Armijo High School, Fairfield



LEGEND

Short-term Improvements

- 1** Install double-sided school crosswalk signage
- 2** Install 25' of red zone striping on both sides of crosswalk
- 3** Increase on-site secured bike parking

Mid-term Improvements

- 4** Upgrade curb ramps to meet ADA compliance
- 5** Install ADA-compliant curb ramps
- 6** Consider adding raised crosswalk
- 7** Consider constructing bulb-outs
- 8** Consider construction of pedestrian refuge island
- 9** Consider traffic calming measures along Union Ave, e.g. Striping right edgelines to narrow traffic lanes

Longer-range Improvements

- 10** Consider introducing a bike lane along Union Avenue by replacing existing sharrows with bike lane striping and signage
- 11** Consider designating a preferred walking and bicycling route from campus to bridge leading to Suisun City