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The City of Los Angeles Announces Safe Routes to School Action Plan

LOS ANGELES, CA (10, January 2017)

Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation unveil the City of Los Angeles Safe Routes to School Action Plan and Progress Report.

This plan outlines the actions and benchmarks that build off the accomplishments of Safe Routes to School (SRTS) since the City Council and Mayor adopted a data-driven strategic plan in 2011. The plan will guide investments for engineering, education, encouragement and enforcement activities around schools in the City. This inaugural plan was developed in partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District.

“Every child should have safe, walkable streets on their way to school — and we can make that happen with strong partnerships, thoughtful planning, and wise investments,” said Mayor Eric Garcetti. “We are taking tremendous steps — like a tuition-free year of community college and all-access library cards — to give our students what they need to succeed, and this report will guide some of the most important work we can do to make life better for young people and families in Los Angeles.”

Over the next three years, nearly \$23 million from the Caltrans’s Active Transportation Program will fund construction of street improvements at nine schools, the development of infrastructure improvement plans at an additional 41 schools, and implementation of safety campaigns and education that target student populations.

“We are excited to partner with the City of Los Angeles to improve the safety of our students walking and biking to school,” said Superintendent Michelle King. “Making sure our students have safe and healthy ways to get to school helps them be poised to learn and contribute in the classroom.”

Every three days, at least one youth is involved in a fatal or severe injury crash. They are also twice more likely to be hit during their travel to and from school than other times of the day. Redesigning streets, educating the public and enforcing laws are strategies to improve the safety of travel in school neighborhoods. A key desired outcome is to reduce vehicle speeds, a lead contributor to traffic deaths.

To protect more children walking and biking to school, LADOT recently installed School Safety Zones at 11 schools to reduce vehicle speeds limit to 15 miles per hour when children are present. In the last year, LADOT has also upgraded yellow school crosswalks to the bolder, higher visibility pavement markings at more than 150 intersections.

As part of the Action Plan, LADOT, in collaboration with the Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles School Police, will expand Safety Zones to high priority school neighborhoods, and launch a School Safety Patrol Program to increase the visibility of students crossing in crosswalks. Enforcement activities bundled with education and encouragement programs seek to build awareness of the importance of traffic safety with the goal of changing behavior.

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"Like many parents, I am reminded when I walk my children to school of all of the ways that we can and should create a safe, welcoming way for all students to arrive ready to learn. We are proud of how much we've accomplished, and we have a long way to go. This plan will help get us there."

One of the most visible successes of the program has been [the City of Los Angeles Walk to School Day](#). Bringing communities together to walk to school help reinforce the responsibilities that people walking, bicycling and driving have to adhere to the rules of the road. Events have expanded two-fold over the past 3 years with over 170 schools and 65,000 students participating in 2016.

SRTS is also funded by Measure R Local Returns dedicated to pedestrian and bicycle improvements to promote alternative modes of transportation.

Download the Safe Routes to School Action and Progress Report at www.saferoutes.lacity.org.

Safe Routes to School is a key strategy of the Los Angeles Vision Zero goal to eliminate all traffic deaths by 2025. For more information about Vision Zero, please visit www.visionzero.lacity.org,

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