

Pedestrian Audit #10: Lilian J. Rice Elementary

Address: 915 4th Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91911

Date: April 15, 2025

The purpose of the audit was to identify safety concerns, gaps and deficiencies in the pedestrian network around Lilian J. Rice Elementary. This activity was coordinated with staff from Lilian J. Rice Elementary. Participants provided input on issues that make walking and biking unsafe or uncomfortable along the route. The group specifically observed conditions shortly after the school's drop-off hours. The pedestrian audit was attended by Circulate San Diego, Lilian J. Rice Elementary families, City of Chula Vista's Engineering Department, and staff from Lilian J. Rice Elementary.

Lilian J. Rice Elementary is located in the Castle Park neighborhood of the City of Chula Vista. This pedestrian audit took place along Fourth Avenue, Naples Street, Third Avenue, and L Street. Between 2019-2023, there were 16 pedestrians injured, 2 pedestrian fatalities, and 6 bicyclists injured within a quarter mile of the audit route (see Figure 1). On June 1, 2021 a 32-year-old pedestrian was killed by a hit-and-run driver while walking along the 900 block of Third Avenue.

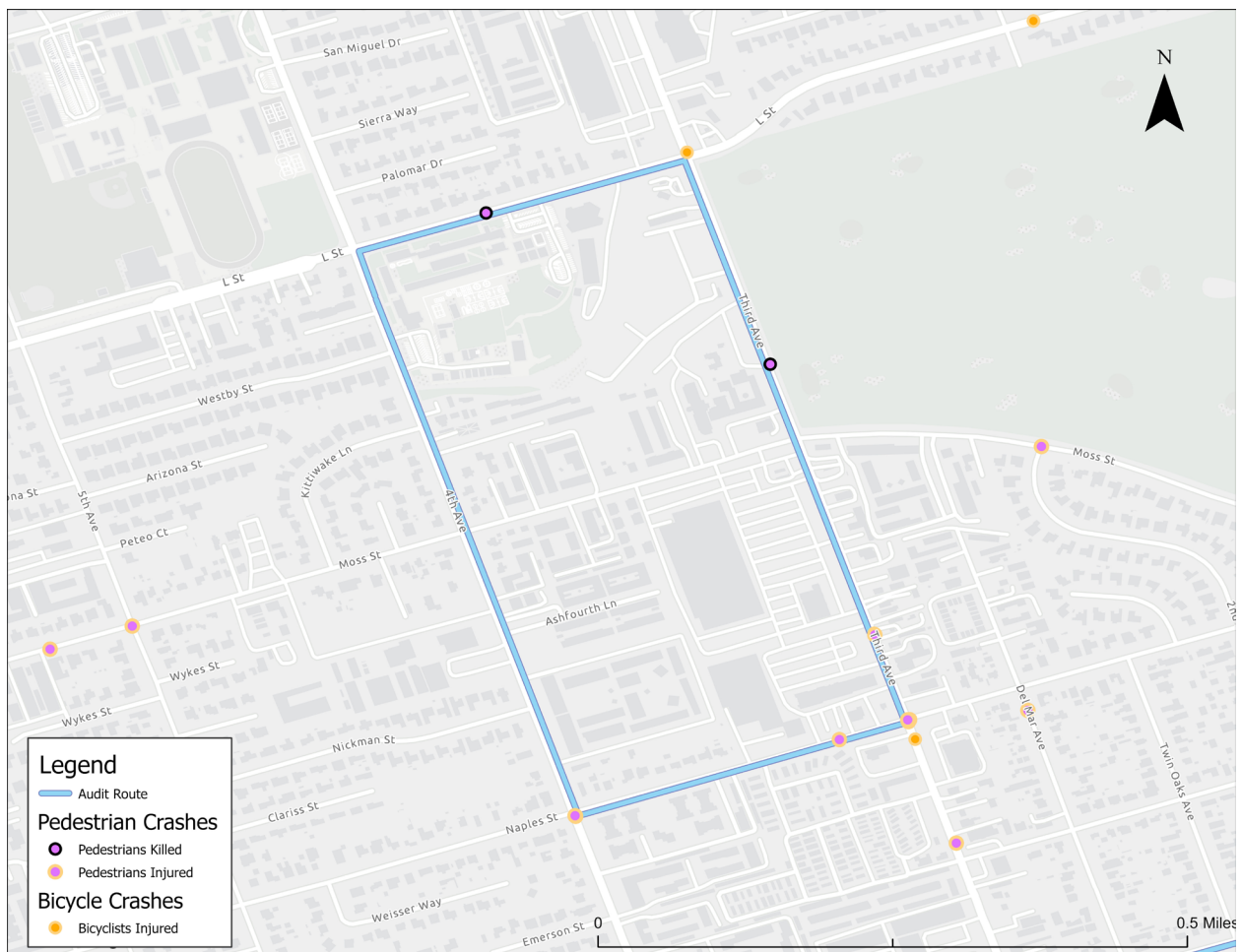


FIGURE 1. PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE FATALITIES AND INJURIES PROXIMATE TO LILIAN J. RICE ELEMENTARY (2019-2023)

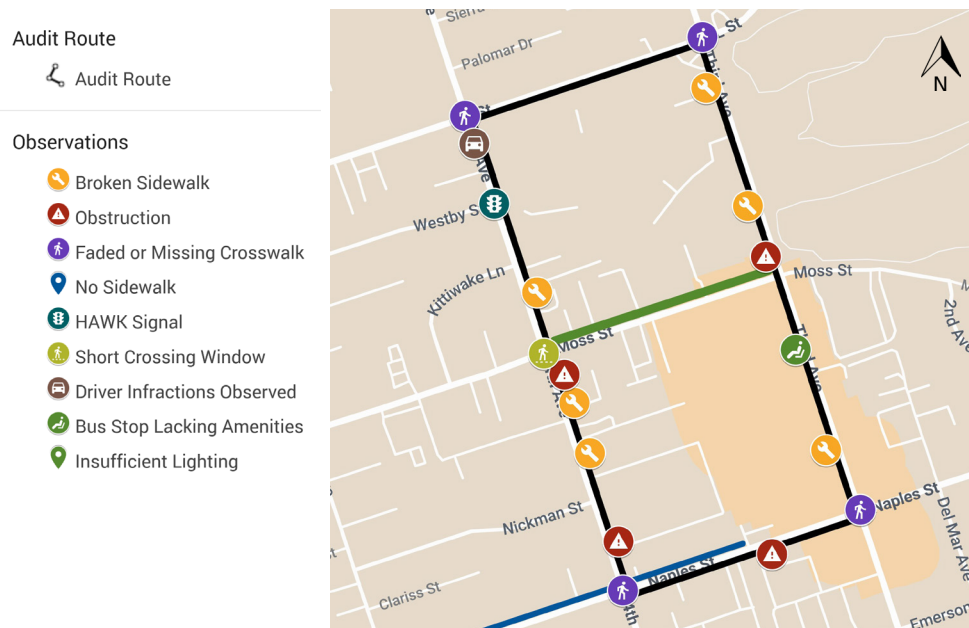


FIGURE 2. LILIAN J. RICE ELEMENTARY PEDESTRIAN AUDIT RESULTS



FIGURE 3. THE AUDIT GROUP EVALUATING THE INTERSECTION OF L STREET AND THIRD AVENUE WHICH WAS NOTED TO BE A DANGEROUS INTERSECTION BY THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY



FIGURE 4. THE SIDEWALKS ON FOURTH AVENUE WERE NARROW, ESPECIALLY THIS SECTION OF SIDEWALK NEAR THE INTERSECTION WITH MOSS STREET

The audit took place shortly after the drop-off hours of Lilian J. Rice Elementary. According to the Rice Elementary community, traffic conditions during the drop-off and pick-up windows create unsafe conditions for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. The intersection of Fourth Avenue and L Street bottlenecks due to the large line of vehicles that forms as families drop their students off. The school community notes that drivers travel at high speeds along the L Street and Fourth Avenue corridors. The group had a close look at the intersections along these corridors such as the one on L Street and Third Avenue (see Figure 3). This intersection, and other intersections along the route were generally in adequate condition as they were equipped with pedestrian countdown signals, audible signals, and truncated domes. Some of the intersections were noted to be in need of crosswalk restriping. Families requested an increase in crossing times. The sidewalks along Fourth Avenue were noted to be narrow. This was especially an issue as the group was large and contained multiple members pushing strollers (see Figure 4). Naples Street had large segments with no sidewalk and portions of sidewalk along the route had obstructions or breaks. Families would like improvements to the sidewalk conditions which in turn would incentivize them to allow their students to walk to school.

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