

Pedestrian Field Trip #8: Balboa Avenue and Genesee Avenue

Address: Balboa Avenue & Genesee Avenue, San Diego, CA 92117

Date: May 20th, 2025

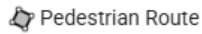
The purpose of the pedestrian field trip was to identify safety concerns, gaps, and deficiencies in the pedestrian and bicycle network surrounding Clairemont. The field trip was conducted in coordination with High Tech High Mesa and Serving Seniors. During the audit, participants provided input on factors that make biking and pedestrian travel unsafe or uncomfortable, as well as suggestions for improvements they would like to see implemented in their neighborhood.

The field trip was attended by representatives from Circulate San Diego, Serving Seniors staff, residents of Paul Downey Senior Residence, and High Tech High Mesa students and deans. The school and senior residence are located in Clairemont, and the audit route included Balboa Avenue, Genesee Avenue, Mount Everest Boulevard, Mount Acadia Boulevard, Mount Etna Drive, Mount Castle Avenue, Mount Alifan Drive, and Mount Blanca Drive. Between 2019 and 2023, there were 10 pedestrian injuries and 3 bicyclist injuries reported within a quarter-mile radius of the route (see Figure 1). On January 1, 2022, a 77-year-old woman was severely injured after being struck by a driver while crossing the intersection of Mount Alifan Drive and Mount Everest Boulevard.



FIGURE 1. PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE FATALITIES AND INJURIES PROXIMATE TO BALBOA AVENUE AND GENESSEE AVENUE (2019-2023)

Pedestrian Route



Observations

- Driver Infractions Observed
- Faded Crosswalk
- No Crosswalk
- No Shade
- Narrow Sidewalk
- Audible Crossing
- Class II Bicycle Lane
- Obstruction
- Class IV Bicycle Lane
- High Visibility Crosswalk
- Short Crossing Window

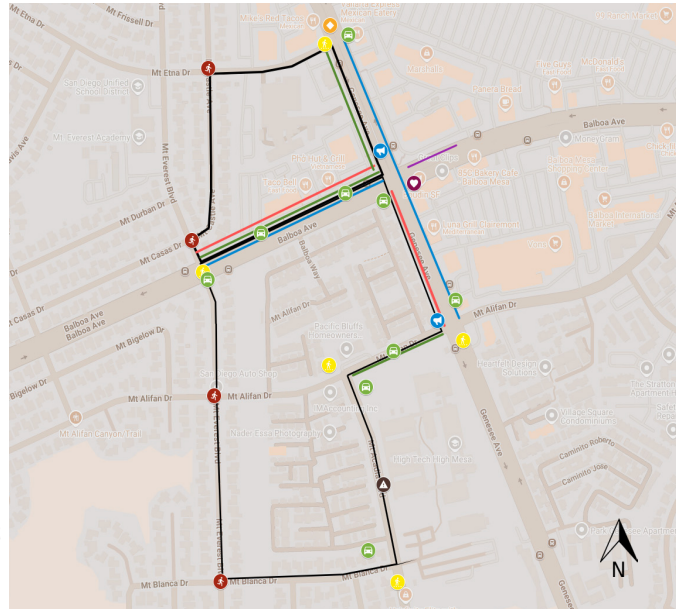


FIGURE 2. BALBOA AVENUE AND GENESSEE AVENUE AUDIT RESULTS



FIGURE 3: STUDENTS NAVIGATING INTERSECTION OF MT. ALIFAN DRIVE AND MT. ACADIA BOULEVARD WHERE THE CROSSWALKS NEAR THEIR SCHOOL ARE FADED.



FIGURE 4: THROUGHOUT THE AUDIT, PARTICIPANTS OBSERVED DRIVER INFRACTIONS SUCH AS SPEEDING AND ENCROACHMENT INTO CROSSWALKS AND BIKE LANES.

Prior to the audit, participants expressed concerns about several intersections in Clairemont, citing inadequate pedestrian infrastructure and unsafe driver behavior. These concerns were further explored during the pedestrian audit (see Figure 2). The most significant issues were identified near High Tech High Mesa, where crosswalks were either faded or missing (see Figure 3), and around the Paul Downey Senior Residence, which lacked pedestrian-scale lighting and shade. At the intersection of Mount Etna Drive and Genesee Avenue near the senior residence, participants noted short crossing windows, missing crosswalks, no audible signals, and the absence of countdown signals—making it impossible for pedestrians to know how much time they had to cross. Although Clairemont has the potential to be a bike- and pedestrian-friendly area with many walkable destinations, unsafe driver behavior—such as speeding and failure to yield—creates serious risks for non-motorized users (see Figure 4). The audit highlights the need for improvements such as high-visibility crosswalks, longer crossing times, shade trees, lighting, refuge islands, wider sidewalks, and protected bike lanes to support a safer, more accessible community.

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