

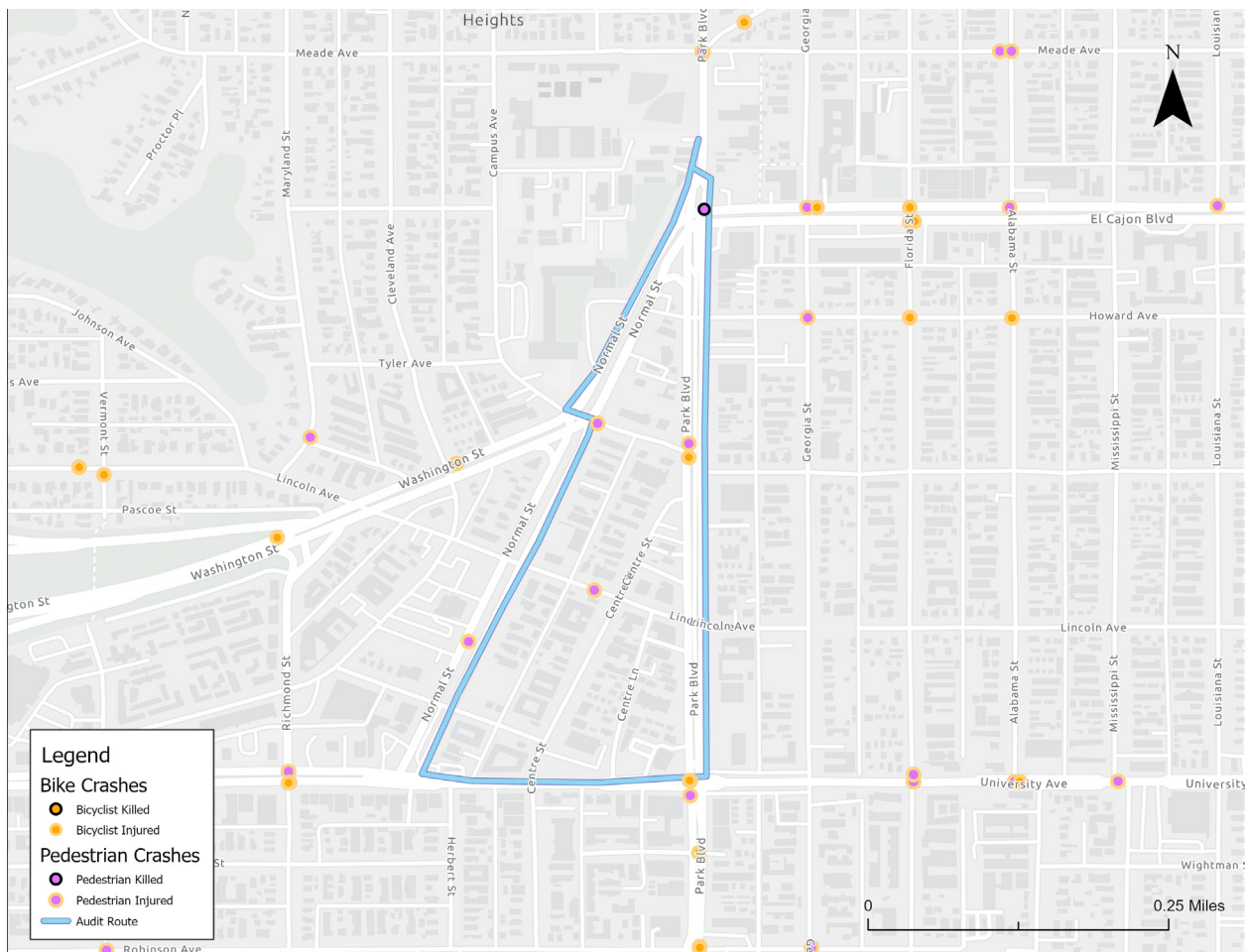
# Pedestrian Field Trip #3: Uptown San Diego

Address: 4304 Normal Street, San Diego CA 92103

Date: June 1st, 2025

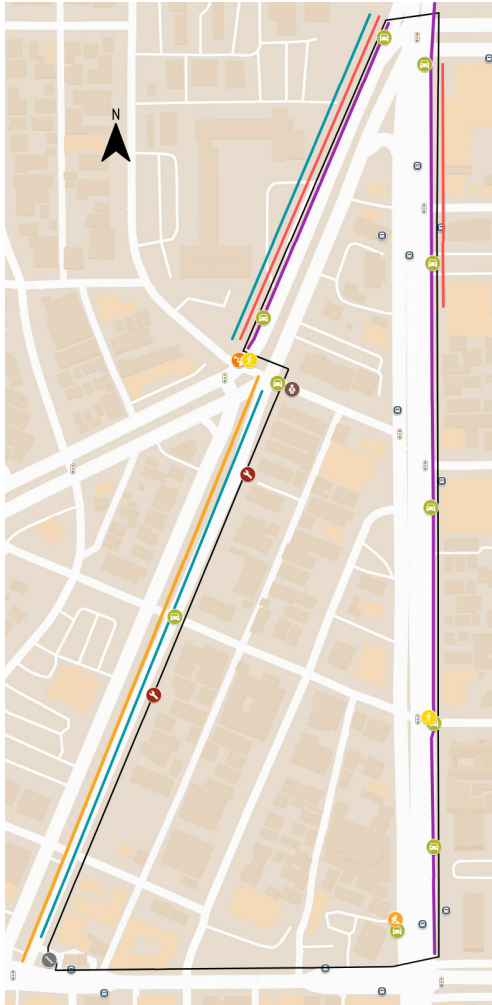
The purpose of the pedestrian audit was to identify safety concerns, gaps, and deficiencies in the pedestrian and bicycle network surrounding Uptown San Diego. The audit was conducted in coordination with Vibrant Uptown and Uptown Community Planning Group. During the audit, participants provided input 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 audit was attended by representatives from Circulate San Diego, Vibrant Uptown, the Uptown Community Planning Group, and interested participants. The audit route took place along Normal Street, University Avenue, and Park Boulevard. Between 2019 and 2023, there were 30 pedestrian injuries, 1 pedestrian fatality, and 23 bicyclist injuries reported within a quarter-mile radius of the route (see Figure 1). On June 10, 2023, 47-year-old Josh Gilliland was killed by a hit-and-run driver while crossing the intersection of El Cajon Boulevard and Park Boulevard.



**FIGURE 1. PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE FATALITIES AND INJURIES PROXIMATE TO NORMAL STREET AND PARK BOULEVARD (2019-2023)**

**FIGURE 2. UPTOWN AUDIT RESULTS**



- |                             |                       |                            |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Route</b>                | Construction          | Faded Crosswalk            |
| Pedestrian Route            | Broken Sidewalk       | Long Pedestrian Wait Times |
| <b>Observations</b>         | No Shade              | No Audible Crossing        |
| Driver Infractions Observed | Class IV Bicycle Lane | No Curb Ramp               |
|                             | Insufficient Lighting |                            |



**FIGURE 3: A DRIVER WAS OBSERVED DRIVING ALONG THE ENTIRE BIKE LANE ON PARK BOULEVARD BETWEEN UNIVERSITY AVENUE AND LINCOLN AVENUE**



**FIGURE 4: DRIVER FAILING TO YIELD TO PARTICIPANTS WITHIN THE FADED CROSSWALK**

Throughout the pedestrian audit, participants raised concerns about several streets in Uptown, pointing to inadequate pedestrian infrastructure and unsafe driver behavior. On Normal Street in particular, we noted a lack of shade, insufficient lighting, and broken sidewalks (Figure 2). The construction along Normal Street added to the existing challenges, particularly near University Avenue, where the absence of curb ramps made it even harder for pedestrians to navigate. The most significant concerns involved frequent driver infractions, especially on Park Boulevard. Participants observed broken delineators near bicycle lanes, drivers failing to yield to pedestrians at intersections, vehicles parked in restricted areas, speeding, and drivers encroaching into bike lanes. As shown in Figure 3, one driver was seen driving entirely within the bike lane, while others were speeding near a facility serving older adults. Shortly after, another driver was observed encroaching over a faded crosswalk (Figure 4). While Uptown does have some pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure—such as audible pedestrian signals at all but one observed intersection—unsafe driver behavior continues to pose serious risks for non-motorized users. The audit highlights the need for traffic calming improvements such as extended crossing times, shade trees, improved lighting, refuge islands, and protected bike lanes to create a safer and more accessible community.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration