

Sandburg Elementary School Pedestrian Audit

Address: 11230 Avenida del Gato, San Diego, CA 92126

Date: January 6th, 2026

The purpose of the pedestrian field trip was to identify safety concerns, gaps, and deficiencies in the pedestrian and bicycle network surrounding the Sandburg Elementary School. The activity was conducted in coordination with Sandburg Elementary School, and 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, Sandburg Elementary School staff, and Sandburg's safety patrol students. The school is located in Mira Mesa, and the audit route included Avenida del Gato, Zapata Avenue, Teresa Drive, Camino Ruiz, and Calle Morelos. Between 2020 and 2024, there was 1 pedestrian injury and 1 bicyclist injury reported within a quarter-mile radius of the route (see Figure 1). On December 17th, 2025, 14 year old Jayden Stewart was killed by a driver while crossing the intersection of Camino Ruiz and Hydra Lane with a group of friends.

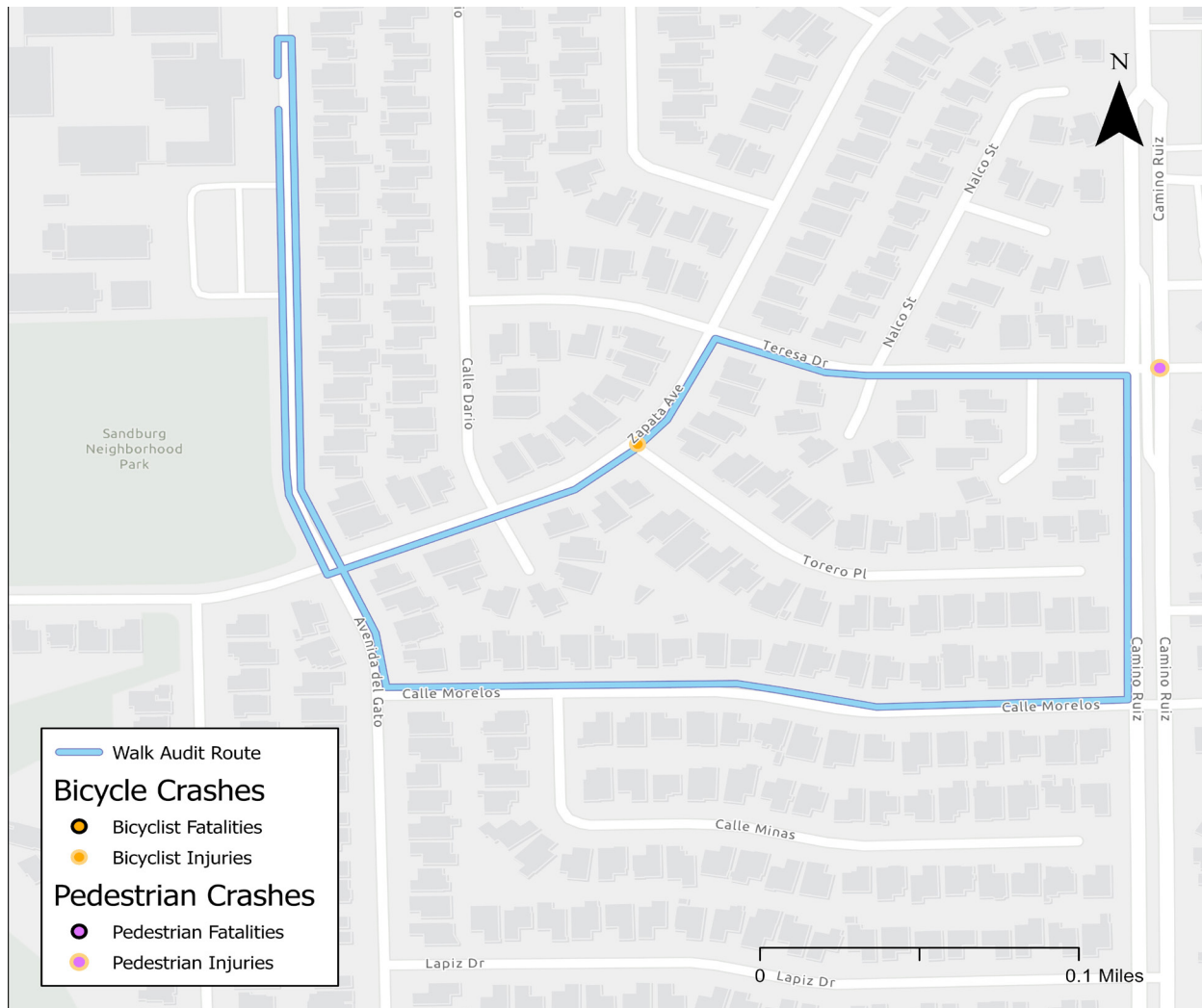
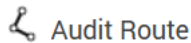











FIGURE 1. PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE FATALITIES AND INJURIES PROXIMATE TO SANDBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (2020-2024)

Walking Route



Observations

-  No Crosswalk
-  Narrow Sidewalk
-  Missing Curb Ramp
-  Faded Crosswalk
-  No Right Turn On Red Sign
-  Flooding
-  Bus Stop Lacking Amenities
-  Park
-  Obstruction

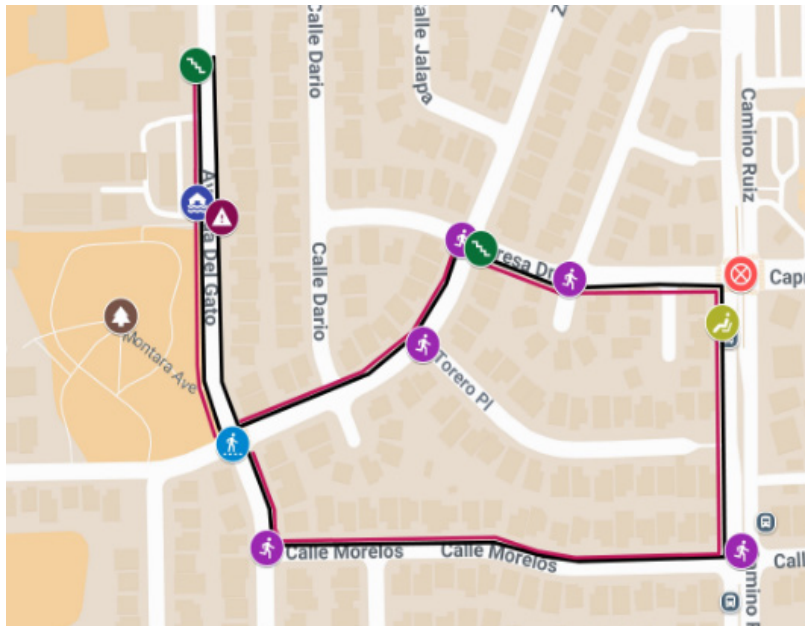


FIGURE 2. SANDBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDIT RESULTS



FIGURE 3: STUDENTS POINTING OUT FADED CROSSWALKS ON ZAPATA AVENUE, ONE BLOCK AWAY FROM THEIR SCHOOL



FIGURE 4: UNMARKED CROSSWALK ON CAMINO RUIZ, WHICH HAS A 40MPH SPEED LIMIT

The pedestrian field trip was conducted in the area surrounding Sandburg Elementary School (see Figure 2). Along Avenida del Gato and Zapata Avenue, participants identified pedestrian infrastructure deficiencies, including narrow sidewalks, faded crosswalks, and missing curb ramps (see Figure 3). Conditions worsened beginning at Zapata Avenue and continuing along Teresa Drive toward Camino Ruiz, where the audit was frequently disrupted by absent curb ramps, missing crosswalks, and consistently narrow sidewalks. On Camino Ruiz, the group noted positive features such as protected bike lanes and a No Right Turn on Red signal. However, further along Camino Ruiz, the audit revealed multiple unmarked crosswalks along a high-speed roadway with a posted speed limit of 40 miles per hour and heavy vehicle traffic (see Figure 4). Overall, the audit highlights the need for wider sidewalks, high-visibility crosswalks—particularly near schools—improved curb ramp accessibility, clearer school zone signage, and better traffic management during school drop-off and pick-up. Safety Patrol students claimed more visible crosswalks and curb ramps would help students get to school safely, which would support a safer, more inclusive environment for the Sandburg Elementary community.

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