

CCUSD Meeting

DATE & TIME

8/25/2025 2-3PM

LOCATION

CCUSD Office

ATTENDEES

City of Culver City

Andrew Maximous

Culver City Unified School District

Alfonso Jiménez

Ted Ronchetti

Fehr & Peers

Amanda Chapman

Meeting Notes

Project Background

- Project began in part after the City planned to add two additional stop signs along Elenda Street. This effort was paused due to opposition from residents, and further study of the area was requested.
- Instead of the stop signs, for the time being the school crossing guard program was expanded during pick-up and drop-off hours.
- There was also a new crosswalk added on Elenda St and Franklin Ave (not paired with a stop sign).
- Residents have raised some concerns related to school and pick-up/drop-off, and general transportation in the area:
 - Some school gates which were previously open are now closed to pedestrians, like the gate adjacent to the staff parking lot.
 - They do not want the mature tree canopy removed.
 - They don't believe any physical changes are needed to address pick-up/drop-off, noting that there is much less traffic during the rest of the day.
 - They find the crossing guard whistles disruptive.

CCUSD Background

- CCUSD and residents in CC at-large don't always agree on local improvements; for example, CCUSD offered to pave a dirt u-turn area near La Ballona Elementary for use as a pick-up area.
- Previous ideas included turning Elenda into a one-way near La Ballona to block off cut-through traffic, which also did not progress.
- At tri-school campus, CCUSD has noted need for improvements but has not found a workable solution as of yet.
- School History
 - At least one school has been at this location since 1949
 - Significant number of students from Fox Hills in Culver City
 - ~4,000 total students across the three schools
 - About 1/3 of students come from outside the District
 - Start times are already staggered between the three schools
 - There is also challenging pick-up/drop-off in the Lindberg Park area on Ocean.
 - There is a history on Elenda of the angle of the morning sun being distracting for drivers during drop-off time. A student was once hit by a staff member a few years ago and it was considered no fault collision due to the sun.

Previous/Underway Improvements

- There is a plan for a dedicated bike path on the school property as part of the Measure E funding, there is a drawing now for that which can be available to us soon – so improving bike access could help.
- The gate to the student parking lot at Huron/Braddock currently does not allow pedestrians, because when it did it was deemed unsafe. Pedestrians were streaming in, blocking vehicles and there were a lot of conflicts. To address this, CCUSD added a traffic control officer there (not just a crossing guard) and while it made the intersection safer, it backed up traffic from Overland to Sepulveda along Braddock, so the officer was removed, and the gate was closed to pedestrians.
- Police have tried enforcement against bad behavior during drop-off/pick-up hours, but doing so ends up causing more traffic so they don't continue. CCUSD is interested to know why CCPD don't deploy their bike patrol for this effort instead of patrol cars.
- Culver City Parks Department trains the crossing guards so it would be helpful to check-in with them. There have been recent complaints about crossing guards not being fully effective.

Potential Improvements to Consider

- CCUSD is interested in considering a raised pedestrian walkway if it would help reduce conflicts.
- CCUSD is open to the idea of park-and-ride shuttles from key destinations like the Westfield Mall and Veteran's Park, but would need to partner with Transportation Department.
- Police enforcement could be helpful in making the creek path safer. There have been concerns raised about presence of drugs and people being robbed, though this is not pervasive according to the discussion.

Data Available from CCUSD and Partners

- Crossing guard surveys from CCUSD
- Heat map of student's addresses (not actual addresses) from CCUSD
- SRTS survey data can be provided by Jim Shanman

Project Communications with CCUSD

- The project team can partner with CCUSD to push info out using Parent Square app and ask individual schools to email info.
- Info/surveys should be created and distributed in English and Spanish.
- School spaces, like the elementary school cafetorium, could be used for events.