

SRTS Empire ES School Zone Adjustments

There are two school zones for Empire Elementary School, one surrounding the school and the other on Fairview for protection of students crossing Fairview at Pheasant Dr. The zone surrounding the school is too large and too heavily signed. Streets with a low volume of students and traffic are signed as school zones, which does not provide any significant benefit to students using those streets. S1-1 five-sided signs are used as advance warning of school zone signs, even though the school zone signs are clearly visible from the location of the advance sign, and so is inconsistent with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD 2003 and 2009 proposed). The result of this over-use of signing and expansive school zone is attention fatigue – drivers pay less attention to the signs because they are everywhere, on streets without a clear connection to the school, and in many cases unnecessary.

As shown on the attached maps, the proposal is to shrink the school zone to higher traffic and higher student use streets, and to reduce signing to the appropriate level.

Specifically, the school zones and associated signing would be eliminated from Woodside Dr, Ladera Dr, Stanford Dr, and Siskiyou Dr, and shortened on Monte Rosa Dr and La Loma Dr. The mis-used advance warning S1-1 signs would be removed. At the same time, school zone signs on Gordonia at Siskiyou Dr would be installed, since they are missing.

The reduction of school zones and signing will be controversial, and will need a school-community meeting to allow input and possibly result in revision.

One of the adult school crossing guards at Empire is assigned to two crosswalks at the T intersection of Gordonia Dr and Cascade Dr. This location misses a great number of students who cross at the Gordonia and La Loma Dr intersection, which has a four way crosswalk and two way stop sign. A small number of students cross east of the staffed crosswalk at two other crosswalks. Though it is not part of this off-campus project to consider the optimal location of the crossing guard, a change in the location would affect to some degree the school signing around the campus. Gordonia street becomes very congested at drop-off and pick-up times, so management of vehicles with drop-off and pick-up zones, appropriately painted and signed, will also influence this proposal.

Related documents:

[Existing Conditions Map West](#)

[Proposed Map West](#)