

SRTS Empire ES Existing Conditions Report (Off-Campus)

School Zone and School Crossing Signs

There are two essentially separate school zones for Empire, one along Fairview Dr at Pheasant Dr, and another surrounding the school.

Fairview Dr

- this area is shown on the Empire ES Existing Conditions Map East
- the intersection of Fairview Dr and Pheasant Dr has a regular traffic control signal, which user-actuated pedestrian crossing signs for both crosswalks
- there are flashing light school zone signs along Fairview Dr northbound just north of Desatoya Dr, southbound just south of Walker Dr, both on mast arms; a flashing light school zone sign for westbound Pheasant Dr at Fairview, on a post (the visibility of this sign is poor since it is installed well above the street level and offset from the curb some distance), as well as a regular time placard school zone sign east of the intersection; and a multiple flashing light school zone sign at Stanton Dr and Fairview which is visible for eastbound Stanton Dr and northbound and southbound Fairview Dr, on a post; and a regular time placard school zone sign on Edmonds drive southbound before Fairview Dr
- there are signs for school zone approach northbound on Fairview and southbound on Fairview, but the southbound sign is not compliant with MUTCD 2003
- it is not clear whether the Fairview Dr “when flashing” school zone and the time placard school zone surround the school are separate or not, and this is probably confusing for drivers

School Area

- there are way too many school signs (never thought I’d say that!), and the school zone extent is unnecessarily large; there is really no reason to have school zones on Woodside Dr, Ladera Dr, and Stanford Dr since they are not protecting heavily used crosswalks
- S1-1 & W16-9P assemblies are being used both as advance warnings of crosswalks and advance warning of school zones, which leads to confusion
- school signs are present where they do not need to be, and missing where they need to be; recommend a complete revision of the school zone to shrink it, and a complete review of school zone and school crossing signs

Crosswalks and Crossing Guards (Off-Campus)

Fairview Dr

- the crosswalks at Fairview Dr and Pheasant Dr are staffing by an adult school crossing guard; about 10 students are crossed here, most across Fairview and very few across Pheasant; there are a lot more students who live in the neighborhoods to the east, but they are apparently being driven to school by their parents to avoid crossing Fairview
- the crossing guard starts at 7:30AM, the flashing light is already on at that point (probably set for the middle school as well); at 8:25AM, which is the school entry bell, the flashing lights stopped
- on Edmonds Dr, there is a school crossing crosswalk signed at Brown St; it is not clear why this particular crosswalk is signed since use of this crosswalk does not seem any higher or more hazardous than other crosswalks in the school walk zone
- if the crosswalk over Fairview were south of the Pheasant Dr intersection, it could have a refuge island, since there is no need for a left turn lane as Pheasant does not extend westward; it is not clear whether students are on the north side here because the crosswalk is or because they come

from the north side, but in any case, the safety of this crosswalk could be improved by moving it south and installing an island

School Area

- the school area crosswalks and crossing guards are covered in the on-campus existing conditions report

Sidewalks and Bikeways

- there are no bikeways within the Empire walking zone that are practical for use by students; the Route 6 multi-use path and extensions along Fairview end at Butti Way and Lepire Dr northbound; the route 50 multi-use path is discontinuous and the bicycle lane along Hwy 50 is not appealing for elementary students due to the high speed and high volume traffic
- the neighborhood streets are wide enough for bicycle riding, though they are not marked in any way
- most neighborhood streets have sidewalks on both sides, except the north side of Stanton Dr between Woodside Dr and Monte Rosa Dr, which should have a sidewalk because it is a main walking route to school
- some sidewalks are missing in the neighborhoods east of Fairview Dr, though at this time there is not much student pedestrian traffic in this area (for Empire - there is more for Eagle Valley) due to the perceived hazard of crossing Fairview

General