

WALK, BIKE or DRIVE to SCHOOL?

No doubt that 2020 has been a strange and challenging time for all of us – SIP, online learning, fires, work at home -- and know that all of you are putting extra thought into your child's upcoming school experience, including the commute question – walk, bike or car?

Safe Routes would ask that you strongly consider having your student walk or bike - great exercise much needed, great start and end to school day, and can be done taking necessary precautions to socially distance from others. See below for some information on safety basics, modifications made for one of our busiest thoroughfares, and what you need to know about Sir Francis Drake (SFD) project construction.

SOCIAL DISTANCING BY BIKE OR WALK([click here for flier](#))

- Make sure to keep at least 6 feet away from other bikers or walkers unless in your family or pod
- Give other bikers and walkers a wide berth when passing and put your mask over your face when you do so.
- If less than 10 feet to safely pass, ask if it's OK to ride past. Make sure you're a good distance away when asking to you don't startle anyone
- And for bikers, don't forget: follow rules of the road, watch out for cars, don't ride too quickly, slow or stop when passing others, wear a helmet, bike in the same direction as cars, obey stop signs and traffic lights, use your hand signals, and always Stop, Look and Listen before entering or crossing a road

COVID MODIFICATIONS – ACACIA AS “SLOW STREET”

The County worked with Safe Routes and School administration to identify streets that didn't allow enough room to proper social distancing. To that end, starting the week of November 16, Acacia (between McAllister and Rosebank) will be temporarily closed to through traffic on school days during school start and end times (approximately 7:45-9am and 12:15 to 2pm). This closure will remain in place until health officials determine that social distancing is no longer required by students due to health risks. Note that residents on Acacia will be able to get in and out of their homes.

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE PROJECT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Although many of the improvements have been completed, work continues on the [SFD Corridor Rehabilitation Project](#) in the vicinity of Bacich Elementary School. **The crosswalk at Sir Francis Drake/Laurel Grove and the sidewalk on the south side of Sir Francis Drake between Laurel Grove and McAllister will be closed November 12 and 13.** With the crosswalk at Laurel Grove closed, pedestrians will be

directed to cross Sir Francis Drake at the Wolfe Grade pedestrian bridge. In addition, the Laurel Grove intersection will be closed for pedestrians and vehicles all day on Wednesday, November 18th for asphalt paving. The work is being scheduled on a distance-learning day to limit impacts. A Metal Beam Guardrail will be installed between Manor Road and Wolfe Grade the week of November 16th but there will be a safe concrete path maintained for pedestrians around the work area during construction. The project is projected to be out of the vicinity of Bacich Elementary School by Thanksgiving.

CHALK 'N WALK, STENCILS AND SIGNS!

Stay tuned and keep your eyes out for some super fun sidewalk messaging from our Safe Routes team! Chalk N Walk turns public sidewalks into a fun-filled, colorful adventure on routes to school. Kids who hop, skip, and smile will get their wiggles out before sitting in a structured classroom. Chalk and Walk messaging encourages students to walk along popular routes to schools. Weather permitting, we hope to “chalk” the sidewalks in these coming weeks and hope you’ll get involved in adding to our safety messages as well!

In addition, look out for some new pavement stencils and Social Distancing signage popping up on popular routes as well. We can never have too many reminders.

SAFE ROUTES MAPS

Don’t forget to visit the [Safe Routes website](#) to see your Neighborhood route map with recommended ways to school.

REMINDERS FOR DRIVERS

- Slow down - The simplest thing any driver can do when there are new driving hazards is slow down.
- Allow More Time - As in-person learning begins allowing yourself more time to get where you are going until you can figure out the effects of increased traffic.
- Learn the Rules – Make sure you’re dropping and picking up your child in a designated area (more important than ever during this COVID time!)
- Yield to Pedestrians - Remember to yield to children/parents in crosswalks as they have the right-of-way.