

MALIBU SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL: MORNING VIEW DRIVE

Students at Malibu High School and Juan Cabrillo Elementary School can walk to school easier and more safely, thanks to a new walkway on Morning View Drive. This walkway is the result of a cooperative effort between community leaders, school officials, and City Hall.

In 2000, community leaders asked the Malibu City Council to improve safety for children who walk to school. Staff began working with the Malibu Trails Master Plan Committee, and they drafted a Safe Routes to School Plan. The City Council adopted the plan on April 10, 2000. This plan identifies locations where Malibu intends to improve pedestrian safety and create Safe Routes to School.

The first route chosen to be improved was Morning View Drive. This street presented several problems for pedestrians. In many areas, pedestrians had to walk on unpaved shoulders which became muddy in wet weather. Also, people had to walk uncomfortably close to traffic for long stretches. Even worse, in many areas, overgrown shrubbery blocked the shoulder so that children had to walk out in the traffic lanes to travel to school.

The Malibu Public Works Department built Phase I of the project in the summer of 2000. This phase of the Morning View Drive Walkway extended from the Pacific Coast Highway to Juan Cabrillo Elementary School. However, the City did not have enough funding to build the rest of the walkway until a grant was obtained from Caltrans under AB 1475, the California Safe Routes to Schools Program. Since less than 1 out of 5 project applications were funded, the State of California clearly agreed that improvements were urgently needed on Morning View Drive. The Department of Public Works and Engineering Services prepared plans and specifications, and the Phase II improvements were completed in January, 2003.

"We need to ensure that there is a safe route to school for kids, that it is safe to walk from your house to the drug store."
-Assemblyman Joe Nation
(Marin County)

"Children are not acquiring traffic skills critical to their own safety along roadways."
-Transportation Tools to Improve Children's Health and Mobility,
California Office of Traffic Safety

Brought to you by the City of Malibu Department of Public Works and Engineering Services

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“Thirty years ago, the sight of children walking and biking was common – 66 percent of all children did so. Now, however, 87 percent of all trips to and from school are by car or bus.

-Transportation Tools to Improve Children’s Health and Mobility, California Office of Traffic Safety

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“13 percent of children and adolescents are overweight or obese, more than twice the percentage two decades ago.”

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“In many instances, we’ve become too rigid with historic standards and traditional project designs. To best meet the needs of our communities, we must listen to them and offer choices. And those choices may very well include alternative and innovative project designs.

-Jeff Morales, Caltrans Director