



## City Schools Liaison Committee Staff Report

**From: City Manager**  
**Lead Department: Transportation**

**Meeting Date: April 1, 2025**  
Report #:2503-4345

### **TITLE**

Safe Routes to School Annual Report for 2022-2025 and Endorsement of Consensus Statement;  
CEQA Status – not a project

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Committee receive City and PTA presentations about the Safe Routes to School Partnership for 2022-2025 and endorse the updated Safe Routes to School Consensus Statement and City/School Transportation Safety Committee bylaws.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The City of Palo Alto, the Palo Alto Unified School District, and the Palo Alto Council of Parent Teacher Associations support a Safe Routes to School program to reduce risk for students and encourage more families to use alternatives to driving to school more often. The 2022-2025 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Presentation provides a three-year summary of program accomplishments and school commute travel mode share outcomes. Additionally, to recognize 30 years of partnership and to support continued collaboration, the partners are endorsing the updated Partnership Consensus Statement and the updated Bylaws for the City/School Transportation Safety Committee (CSTSC). It is requested that the Committee recommend to the Board of Education as well as the City Council to endorse the updated Partnership Consensus Statement. The updates are explained in this staff report.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2005 and 2006, the City, the Palo Alto Unified School District, and the Palo Alto Council of PTAs endorsed the Safe Routes to School National Partnership Consensus Statement. The Consensus Statement was developed by a national coalition of partners working to address historic declines in walking and biking to school. Nationally, the Statement served as a guiding document to support the launch of the federally funded Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. In Palo Alto, which at the time had a 10-year-old collaboration, through the endorsement the partners renamed the collaboration to the Palo Alto Safe Routes to School Partnership. This

year, the Partnership celebrates 20 years of this official recognition and 30 years of in-school bicycle and pedestrian safety educational programs and other accomplishments.

## **ANALYSIS**

This item provides an updated Partnership Consensus Statement and Bylaws for the City/School Transportation Safety Committee (CSTSC). The proposed and redlined Consensus Statements are included as Attachments A and B. Proposed edits by the CSTSC re-align the current local Consensus Statement's five program pillars with the National Safe Routes Partnership Consensus Statement's six program pillars: Education, Engineering, Engagement, Encouragement, Equity and Evaluation by adopting *Equity* as a sixth program pillar, and by changing one of the six program pillars from *Enforcement* to *Engagement*. Palo Alto CSTSC informally adopted the proposed changes into their communications in 2017 (Equity) and in 2020 (Engagement).

Proposed and redlined CSTSC Bylaws are included as Attachments C and D. Draft Bylaws officially rename the City/School *Traffic* Safety Committee to the City/School *Transportation* Safety Committee to more clearly identify that the work of the CSTSC extends beyond traffic considerations. Minor changes proposed around the appointment of PTA representatives have no impact on the constitution of the CSTSC voting partnership members.

The Executive Board of the Palo Alto Council of PTAs approved the draft Consensus Statement and Bylaws on February 19, 2025, followed by CSTSC approval on February 27, 2025. An equivalent recommendation has been forwarded to the Board of Education for the Palo Alto Unified School District for review and approval. The item is being brought to the City Schools Liaison Committee for the opportunity to discuss it with members of both, the Palo Alto Unified School District as well as the Palo Alto City Council. Upon recommendation for endorsement from the City Schools Liaison Committee, the recommendation will be taken to the full Board of Education and separately to the full City Council for approvals.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A: Safe Routes to School Partnership Consensus Statement - Proposed

Attachment B: Safe Routes to School Partnership Consensus Statement - Redlined

Attachment C: City School Transportation Safety Committee Bylaws - Proposed

Attachment D: City School Transportation Safety Committee Bylaws - Redlined

## **APPROVED BY:**

Lily Lim-Tsao