

Spring Lake Middle School

Wednesday, November 12, 2025



In attendance: Christina Panza (SRTS Director), Sarah Hadler (SRTS Program Manager /Educator), Alexander Oceguela (City of Santa Rosa Active Transportation Planner), Mike Vanmidde (City of Santa Rosa Associate Traffic Engineer), Hannah Bates (Principal), Ethan Cosgrove (teacher) Luis Torres (8th Grade student), Dillon Sande (8th grade student)

Route: Began at school main entrance in front of the school and observed drop off. Headed northeast on Mayette Ave toward Wyoming Drive, then continued northeast on Wyoming Drive to Summerfield Road. Headed back to the school in the opposite direction, then walked southwest on Mayette Avenue to the western parking lot entrance of the Friedman Center, then walked through the parking lot to the pathway connecting Mayette Avenue with Hoen Avenue. Then headed back in the opposite direction to the school.

Pick up/Drop off: Morning drop off and afternoon pick up for the school takes place in front of the school on Mayette Ave. The main, front entrance is the only entrance to the school. The majority of parents drop off/pick up on either side of Mayette Avenue. A teacher monitor is stationed in front of the school between 8:20-8:40am to monitor drop off. The teacher primarily makes sure parents in cars move along in the loading/unloading and bus zones, and that kids use one of the two crosswalks that are currently a few hundred feet east and west of the main entrance, rather than crossing in front of the school where there is no crosswalk.

Three full size buses drop off in front of the school. Two pick up Spring Lake students at various Rincon Valley elementary schools, and one has a regular neighborhood bus route. The bus zone is directly in front of the school's main entrance. The buses dropped off before the bulk of the school drop-off traffic, and parents appear to respect the bus zone.

A crossing guard (funded by the school district & SRPD) is stationed at the crosswalk east of the school on Mayette Avenue. There is also a crossing guard stationed at the intersection of Mayette Avenue & Yulupa Avenue.

Drop-off was observed to be fairly smooth and no significant behavioral concerns were mentioned other than students and parents crossing in front of the school instead of the east-west crosswalks. The teacher monitor shared that parents/kids “trickle in” in the morning because there is a fairly wide arrival window, but that congestion is much worse in the afternoons when everyone is dismissing at once.

School Information:

Address	4675 Mayette Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95405
Morning Bell(s)	8:45am
Afternoon Bell(s)	3:10 (M, T, Th, F); 2:10 (W)
Grade levels	7-8
Enrollment	352
School type	Charter
Student's proximity to school	2025-26 GIS Map Data 352 Geocoded Students 195 live within 2 miles of the school (55%) 38 live within 1 mile (11%) 110 live within ½ mile (31%) 17 live within ¼ mile (5%)
Participating School in Sonoma County SRTS program?	Yes
Student Travel Mode info (data collected in September 2025)	Walk – 8% morning, 18% afternoon Bike – 5% Other – 7% morning, 9% afternoon Carpool – 9% morning, 15% afternoon School bus -1% morning, 3% afternoon Transit – 0% morning, 1% afternoon Single Family Vehicle – 70% morning, 50% afternoon
Safe Routes to School Non-Infrastructure Programming (2024-25)	7 th grade “Drive Your Bike” lessons After-school bike ride(s) Youth engagement with Leadership class Multiple Walk/Roll to School Events annually

CONCERNS &/or POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:

Please note that all recommendations on the following pages are meant to capture potential solutions to issues or ideas raised during the walk audit. Each of these recommendations are subject to additional design, analysis, outreach, funding, prioritization, and approval by the City and/or Santa Rosa City School District prior to implementation.

Concerns & Observations:

- As referenced above, there are two crosswalks near the school on Mayette Avenue, one a few hundred feet from the main entrance to the east, and the other a few hundred feet from the main entrance to the west. Both mid-block crosswalks have accessible ramps and are marked

with school crossing' warning signs in addition to high visibility yellow school paint striping. One of the signs at each crosswalk is faded. Both crosswalks appear to have been installed to enable families to cross to/from the school/neighborhood to/from the Friedman Event Center and Congregation Beth Ami. An assessment of drop-off behavior conducted by SRTS in 2017 indicates that "the large parking lots across Mayette Avenue from the school for the Friedman Event Center and connected Congregation Beth Ami are heavily used by school parents dropping off and picking up children during peak times."

- Parents are no longer permitted to pick up/drop off in the Friedman Event Center parking lot, therefore the placement of the east and west crosswalks no longer serves the school community. School staff indicated that students/parents frequently cross mid-block in front of the school rather than walking to either crosswalk. Furthermore, as mentioned above, reminding students to use the appropriate crosswalk is a focus of the teacher monitor at drop off/pick up. School staff expressed a strong preference to have a crosswalk directly in front of the school.
- Participants expressed serious concerns about unsafe conditions at the intersection of Wyoming Drive and Summerfield Road. Cars parked on the northwest corner of the intersection, significantly block sightlines for drivers turning left onto Summerfield Road from Wyoming Drive, and for drivers heading south on Summerfield Road and turning right onto Wyoming Drive. A teacher shared that she "can't see a thing" when trying to turn from Wyoming Drive onto Summerfield Road at that location. The visibility issue (not to mention the crossing distance) also creates a hazard for bicyclists and/or pedestrians traversing that intersection.
- The school principal indicated that drivers appear to exceed the 25mph speed limit on Mayette Avenue. There is one speed limit sign on Wyoming Drive heading west after turning off of Summerfield Road and there is another on Mayette Ave. heading west a few hundred feet after Princeton Way. Heading eastbound on Mayette Avenue, there is one speed limit sign next to the La Casita Day School, before Caribou Court. She shared that recently the SRPD placed their speed trailer near the school frontage, to slow down cars heading east on Mayette Avenue, and that this was very effective. She expressed that she would love for it to be placed at her site more often.
- Mayette Avenue is a fairly narrow road, with parking on both sides of the road. Bicyclists must "take the lane" to ride safely along that corridor. A student participant who frequently bicycles to school expressed that he prefers to ride on the sidewalk during school commute time.
- Participants expressed concerns about the speed of cars traveling on Hoen Avenue, the difficulty crossing Hoen Avenue, as well as the "long stretches" between crosswalks between Summerfield Road and Yulupa Avenue.
 - In January of 2023, a Spring Lake Middle School student was hit by a car (and later passed away) while crossing Hoen at the crosswalk at Sierra Creek Lane. That crossing connects to a pathway/shortcut to Spring Lake Middle that students utilize. In July of 2023 the city improved that crosswalk with high-visibility signage and a pedestrian-activated flashing beacon.
 - There is a signalized intersection at Hoen Avenue & Summerfield Road, and another signalized intersection at Hoen Avenue & Yulupa Avenue, which are a ~1/2 mile apart. The crosswalk and pedestrian-activated flashing beacon at Sierra Creek Lane is .2 miles from Summerfield Road and .4 miles from Yulupa Avenue.
 - There is a dirt pathway along the Sierra Park Creek just east of Mariposa Drive, about .2 miles from Yulupa Ave that could be a good location for an additional mid-block crossing on Hoen Ave. Currently, the path is fenced off on the north side of Hoen Avenue but could be a good place for a future crosswalk, keeping in mind there will be upcoming planning for the Santa Rosa Southeast Greenway.

- The intersection of Yulupa Avenue and Mayette Avenue, as well as the intersection of Hoen Avenue and Yulupa Avenue, are both heavily utilized by Spring Creek, Village Elementary School, and Montgomery Junior/Senior High School students. Participants expressed that these busy intersections, combined with crossing distances, can be a barrier to safety or comfortable active transportation.

Potential Solutions:

City of Santa Rosa

- Remove the two crosswalks on Mayette Avenue east and west of the school main entrance, and replace them with a single high-visibility crosswalk and signage directly in front of the school main entrance.
 - Consider a pedestrian-activated flashing beacon for the new mid-block crossing. When mid-block crossing is added, shift bus loading/unloading zone/s so there is plenty of visibility for the mid-block crossing.
- Restrict parking at the northwest corner of the Summerfield Road and Wyoming Drive intersection, and add curb extensions (aka bulb-outs) to shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians. In future, city to look into curb extensions at the other corners at that intersection..
- Move the city bus-stop, currently located about ½ a block south of the Summerfield Road and Wyoming Drive intersection, on the west side of Summerfield Road, to the northwest corner of Summerfield Road and Wyoming Drive (will have added benefit of further restricting parking at that location and being more convenient for students to get to the bus).
- Review speed limit/school zone signage on Mayette Avenue and add/replace signage if necessary.
- Consider lowering speed limit on Mayette Avenue to 20mph when children are present during school hours.
- Continue rotating the SRPD speed trailer on Mayette Avenue.
- Consider sharrows and/or “share the road with bicyclists” signage on Mayette Avenue.
- Look into feasibility of adding an additional crosswalk/pedestrian activated flashing beacon on Hoen Avenue between Sierra Creek Lane and Yulupa Avenue, perhaps near the dirt pathway just east of Mariposa Drive utilized by students/neighborhood residents, even though the pathway appears to be fenced off on the north side of Hoen, keeping in mind the planning for the Santa Rosa Greenway.
- Consider adding curb extensions to shorten crossing distance at the intersection of Yulupa Avenue and Mayette Drive.
- Consider adding curb extensions to shorten crossing distance at the intersection of Hoen Avenue and Yulupa Avenue.

District/School SRTS Considerations:

- Continue enrolling in/participating in the County SRTS program to participate in ongoing Walk/Roll initiatives (including but not limited to International Walk & Roll to School Day and Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day), and to be eligible to receive SRTS services such as Middle School “Drive Your Bicycle” education programming, and more. Continue to maintain a “school team” consisting of site admin, staff (teacher and/or classified staff), and even a parent or parent(s) who can assist with implementation and communications.
- Continue to assist the SRTS program in data and information to maintain understanding of travel behavior and barriers to travel at Spring Creek.
 - Conduct student arrival/departure tallies in September/October (not on a Walk/Roll Day) to gather data on the number and percentage of students who walk, bike,

scooter/skateboard, carpool, transit, yellow bus and travel in single-family vehicles in both the morning and afternoon on a typical day.

- Distribute parent surveys, as requested, to collect more comprehensive feedback on the barriers to walking & bicycling as well as preferred routes to school.
- Work with SRTS to develop and promote recommended walking and/or bicycling routes to Spring Lake Middle, or even alternative “drop-off locations”. School administration and teacher(s) can also continue to encourage students to meet up and walk or bicycle to/from school together, whether or not it is a Walk & Roll to School Day event.
- Pursue opportunities to provide free bicycle education as well as adult “Smart Cycling” to parents who may not feel comfortable or knowledgeable about bicycling.
- Pursue opportunities to educate parents and neighbors about California’s Daylighting law. SRTS has created materials that schools can share re: the daylighting law here: [English Flyer](#) [Spanish Flyer](#) [English Social Media Infographic](#) [Spanish Social Media Infographic](#)
- Share information with students and parents about bus routes as well as students being able to ride the City Bus and SMART Train for free.
- Consider sharing the following SRTS tip-sheet(s) and videos to support safe walking, bicycling, drop-off, and parking & walking:
 - Walking Safety Tip Sheet [English](#) [Spanish](#)
 - Bike Safety Tip Sheet [English](#) [Spanish](#)
 - Driver Awareness for Safe Arrival/Dismissal [English](#) [Spanish](#)
 - E-Bicycles Tip Sheet [English](#) [Spanish](#)
 - Park & Walk Video [English](#) [Spanish](#)
- Report incidents to Santa Rosa Police Department when they occur (i.e., if someone is hit in a crosswalk but not hurt, etc), as well as ongoing concerns, near misses, etc.

Santa Rosa Police Department or CHP:

- Monitor traffic on Mayette Avenue, Summerfield Road, Yulupa Avenue, and Hoen Avenue and provide enforcement of illegal behaviors.
- Respond to school or city requests for targeted enforcement or speed trailer placement as indicated above.
- Partner with SRTS to educate community members about California’s new daylighting law.

Transit Information/Options:

- All students at the school can ride CityBus, Sonoma County Transit and SMART free of charge.
- If the school needs assistance planning school trips on transit, please use the tools on our website or contact me directly. If staff at the school need training passes in order to train students on riding the bus, we can make those available to staff at any school in Sonoma County.
- Transit infrastructure related to Spring Lake Middle School:
 - The SRTS Study Map reveals students geocodes dispersal, showing that a significant number of students/families are served by CityBus.
 - CityBus primary routes serving the school are.

- [Route 8](#)– currently operates southbound on Summerfield Rd, every 30 minutes from Montgomery Village arriving at bus stop # 80320, on Summerfield just south of Wyoming Dr., on the hour and on the half hour.
- Feasible improvement if the school would like to advocate for improved transit.
 - Changes/additions to bus stop.
 - Moving of the bus stop closer to Wyoming Dr. (recommended)
 - Additional shelter or bench seating at the bus stops
 - Any other ideas that the school has
- More dialogue with CityBus staff regarding any matter of concern that the school may have.
- City short / long term transit planning
 - Improvements at Montgomery Village Transit Hub

Safe Routes to School Program Information

- The SRTS program coordinates a Safe Routes to School Task Force to bring together representatives from schools/school districts (school administration, staff and/or parents), city planning/engineering, law enforcement, and SRTS program staff. The goal of the Task Force is to:
 - Seek input from Task Force members and the public, in order to identify barriers to active transportation (including Transit), opportunities for improvement and collaboration, and set priorities for future infrastructure projects within the city of Santa Rosa.
 - Provide a venue for sharing of program initiatives and projects in the city of Santa Rosa, as well as inter-agency collaboration.

Santa Rosa Task Force meeting notices, agendas, and meeting notes & handouts can be found on our SRTS Task Force page [HERE](#).
- Enrollment for participation in the SRTS program takes place in April each year (deadline is April 30th). Schools must enroll each year to be eligible to receive visiting education services & ongoing technical support. Enrolled, comprehensive sites agree to:
 - Meet with SRTS program staff 3x per year to discuss/plan programming
 - Collect student travel tally data in September
 - Provide data for the SRTS program to enable creation of an annual SRTS “study map” showing where students live in relation to the school
 - Engage with/implement a minimum of 5 walk/roll encouragement initiatives per year.
 - Support scheduling & implementation of education programming.
- SRTS encouragement “Walk/Roll” initiatives and promotional materials are emailed to enrolled school contacts every month via our SRTS E-Newsletter, and may also be accessed at www.sonomasaferoutes.org. To request to receive our SRTS E-Newsletter directly, email christina@bikeosnoma.org

Appendix: Walk Audit Pictures:



Drop off on Mayette Ave in front of school in bus loading/unloading zone



Car in unloading zone in front of school on Mayette Ave



Crosswalk and flashing beacons at intersection of Wyoming Drive and Summerfield Road



Crosswalk at intersection of Wyoming Drive and Summerfield Road facing north



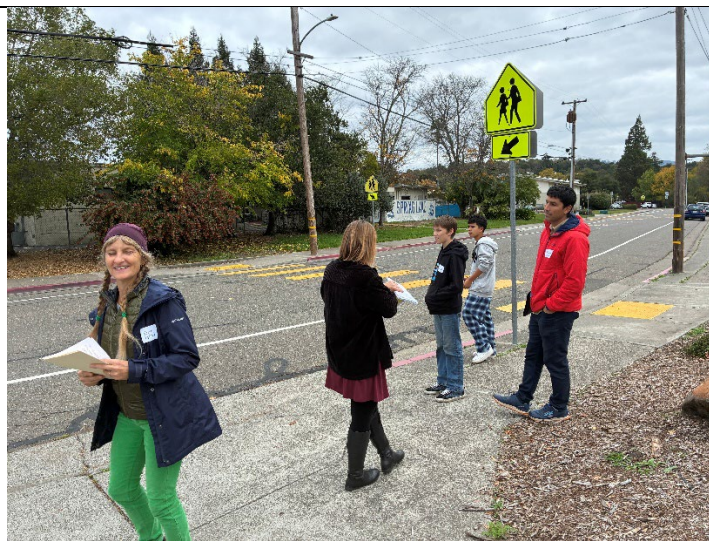
Red curb on Summerfield Road southbound



Dirt walking path that connects Mayette Ave with Hoen Ave



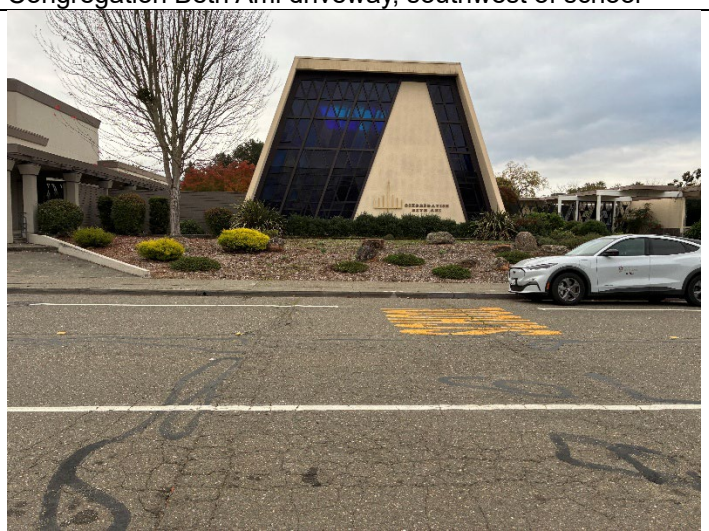
Crosswalk with flashing beacon crossing Hoen Ave at Sierra Creek Lane



Yellow school crosswalk at Mayette Ave and just east of Congregation Beth Ami driveway, southwest of school



Bus loading zone in front of school



Old mid-block crossing across Mayette Ave in front of school; site of proposed future mid-block crossing

Funding for FY 2025-26 Safe Routes to School Walk Audit/Site Assessments is provided in part by the California Department of Public Health's Kids' Plates Program.